

# HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO.17 ISSUE NO.: 19 RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-  
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



### Tilak-Shardul Shine Against PBKS

STADIUM 11

### PRAGYA STUNS IN ELEGANT COCOA-BROWN COUTURE LOOK



BOX-OFFICE 12



## Protest Organized in Hyderabad Against NEET UG Paper Leak

HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Disha Students' Organization and Naujawan Bharat Sabha organized a protest demonstration in Narayangudda, Hyderabad, over the paper leak in NEET UG 2026. Students and activists participated in the protest, opposing the paper leak and the negligence of the NTA.

Speaking on behalf of Disha Students' Organization, Mahipal highlighted that the repeated failures of the NTA reveal the anti-student and profit-driven nature of the present examination system. He pointed out that after a guess paper significantly matched the NEET UG 2026 paper, the exam was cancelled and a re-examination was announced, affecting over 22 lakh students. He added that increasing privatization and outsourcing of examinations have strengthened corruption, weakened accountability, and enabled paper leaks through the collusion of private companies, officials, politicians, and education mafias.

Speaking on behalf of Naujawan

Bharat Sabha, Suhas pointed out that repeated paper leaks and examination scams, including the 2017 leak case, the Vyapam scam, and the NEET and UGC NET leaks of 2024, expose a deep nexus between politicians, officials, private contractors, and education mafias. He argued that such scams are not isolated acts of negligence but are rooted in the privatized and profit-driven structure of the present examination system. He stressed that these failures place immense financial and psychological burdens on poor, rural, and working-class students. He raised the demands for the dissolution of the NTA, an end to private outsourcing, strict punishment for all those responsible for the paper leak, and compensation for affected students.

Students and aspirants listened to the activists with curiosity and tried to understand the root causes behind the repeated negligence and paper leaks. Disha Students' Organization and Naujawan Bharat Sabha are committed to raising more issues affecting students, youth, and working people.

## Satheesan to Lead Kerala



HYDERABAD, MAY 14

V. D. Satheesan has been named the 13th Chief Minister of Kerala after the Congress high command ended 10 days of political uncertainty following the UDF's victory in the 2026 Assembly elections.

The UDF returned to power with 102 seats, ending the 10-year rule of the CPM-led government headed by Pinarayi Vijayan.

Satheesan, a six-time MLA, emerged as the final choice after intense discussions within the party. K. C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala were also in the race, but Venugopal reportedly withdrew at the last minute.

The decision was finalised after consultations by Congress leaders including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi.

# NEET-UG 2026 Cancelled... Modi Government Has Failed

93 exam papers leaked during Modi's tenure

Two crore students left anxious

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expresses anger over the Centre's approach

HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy criticized the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026, calling it an authoritarian and dictatorial decision by the Modi government. He said the unilateral cancellation by the Central Government would severely affect the future of the youth. He expressed anger that 93 examination papers had allegedly been leaked during Prime Minister Modi's ten-year tenure, leaving nearly two crore students distressed. The Chief Minister also criticized the government for failing to take action even against the concerned ministers whenever paper leaks occurred.

Revanth Reddy said the cancellation of NEET was comparable to demonetisation, which had shocked the people of the country. He stated that the Centre's



thoughtless and negligent decision had put the future of the nation's youth into uncertainty. According to him, systematic paper leaks and government failures had pushed young people into in-

security and disappointment. He expressed concern that students who had worked hard for years under immense pressure now saw their dreams shattered due to the negligence of the Modi

government. He said many parents had taken loans, while some had even sold their jewellery to prepare their children for the NEET examination, making the situation deeply painful for families.

The Chief Minister recalled that since 2019, question papers for major recruitment examinations had leaked across 15 states, yet not a single Union Minister had resigned. He alleged that BJP-ruled states had become major centres for such leaks, noting that Gujarat alone witnessed 14 paper leak incidents.

He further said that since Narendra Modi came to power in May 2014, systematic flaws in India's public examination system had been exposed. Referring to the Congress party's white paper titled "The Paper Leak Decade," Revanth Reddy

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## HC Defers Orders on Bhagirath Plea

HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bhagirath sought anticipatory bail before the Telangana High Court on Wednesday, with senior advocate Niranjani Reddy presenting detailed arguments in his defence.

During the hearing, the defence argued that the alleged victim is not a minor and therefore the provisions of



the POCSO Act do not apply in the case. The counsel told the court that in an earlier case involving the complainant, police records and the charge sheet showed her as a minor. It was also argued that multiple date-of-birth certificates carrying different dates had surfaced, creating serious doubts that required judicial scrutiny.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## Digital Pathology Milestone at Basavatarakam

HYDERABAD, MAY 14



Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute has launched India's first Roche Ventana DP 600 Digital Pathology System equipped with a 240-slide scanner, marking a major advancement in cancer diagnostics.

The cutting-edge system was inaugurated by its chairman and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna with support from ICICI Foundation during a special ceremony held at the hospital.

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## ACB Court Summons KTR in Formula E-Race Case

HYDERABAD, MAY 14

K. T. Rama Rao has been summoned by the Special ACB Court in connection with the alleged Formula E-race irregularities during the previous BRS government's tenure. The court directed KTR to appear on July 31. Notices were also issued to senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar and former HMDA Chief Engineer BLN Reddy. The Anti-Corruption Bureau alleged that nearly Rs.55 crore in foreign payments were made in violation of rules and that HMDA funds were diverted without mandatory approvals. After completing the probe, the ACB filed a chargesheet naming KTR as the main accused. The court has asked all respondents to appear and present their arguments on July 31.

# MODI'S HYDERABAD VISIT AND THE POLITICAL QUESTIONS DELHI CANNOT EASILY DISMISS

Why one meeting with AP CM Chandrababu Naidu has triggered unease in Telangana and speculation across the Telugu political landscape

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Hyderabad visit was officially projected as a development focused tour centred around infrastructure projects worth nearly ₹9,400 crore and a politically significant BJP rally in Telangana. Yet, by the end of the visit, the conversation had moved away from roads, railways and investment announcements to

one politically loaded meeting at the Jubilee Hills residence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The optics of Modi spending considerable time with Naidu and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan immediately sparked speculation in Telangana political circles, especially because the meeting came close on the heels of BJP MP Tejasvi Surya's controversial remark

in Parliament comparing the handling of Andhra Pradesh bifurcation to the trauma of Partition. Telangana leaders reacted sharply to the statement, seeing it as insensitive to the emotional and political history of the statehood movement. Against that backdrop, Modi's Hyderabad engagement with Naidu has inevitably generated questions about whether

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**THE CONTROVERSY**  
BJP MP TEJASVI SURYA SAYS BIFURCATION "WORSE THAN PARTITION"

THEN MODI MEETS CHANDRABABU IN HYDERABAD

COINCIDENCE OR CALCULATED POLITICAL SIGNAL?

"The loudest sound in Hyderabad was not the roar of the rally. It was the silence surrounding one meeting behind closed doors"

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# “Anything Is Possible” Title Launched in Hyd



HYDERABAD, MAY 14

The title launch of the upcoming spiritual drama Anything Is Possible was held at the Film Chamber in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The film is being produced under the banner of Sri Adi Lakshmi Pictures with the tagline, “If God Stands By You...”.

Directed by Madduri Raja and produced by Anil Munaganuri, the film is inspired by the teachings of Sri Arma Bhagavan and focuses on spirituality, inner transformation and human relationships.

The makers said the story is built around five key teachings

— individuality, inner truth, personality, relationships and the connection between inner and outer worlds. The film aims to portray how faith in one's chosen deity can help overcome sorrow and despair.

Speaking at the event, Anil Munaganuri, who has also written the story, dialogues and lyrics, said the movie seeks to inspire youth struggling with stress and depression by highlighting the power of spirituality and devotion. The technical team includes cinematographer Ramesh and editor Phaneendra. The makers said further details about the project will be announced soon.

## RPF RESCUES 120 CHILDREN UNDER "OPERATION NANHE FARISHTHE"

Hyderabad, May 14: Railway Protection Force under South Central Railway rescued 120 children during April 2026 as part of “Operation NANHE FARISHTHE”, aimed at protecting children found separated from families or in distress during railway travel. The rescued children included 96 boys and 24 girls, who were later handed over to Child Welfare Committees. The RPF also reported major achievements under multiple security operations during April: Under “Operation YATRI SURAKSHA”, 79 offenders were arrested and stolen property worth Rs.54.52 lakh recovered. Under “Operation AMANAT” helped return 319 lost passenger belongings valued at Rs.83.35 lakh. Under “Operation NARCOS”, ganja worth Rs.86.17 lakh was seized and 16 persons arrested. Under “Operation AAHT” rescued five boys from human trafficking and led to the arrest of two traffickers. Under “Operation SATARK” - resulted in seizure of illegal liquor worth Rs.2.47 lakh transported through trains. “Operation UPLABDH” led to 24 cases against railway ticket touts and arrest of 26 persons.

# DGP Anand Reviews Greyhounds Operations

HYDERABAD: MAY 14

Director General of Police Sri CV Anand visited the Greyhounds Headquarters on Thursday. During the visit, DGP conducted a comprehensive review meeting on various operational and administrative aspects of the elite anti-insurgency force. The Director General of Police reviewed the operational activities carried out by Greyhounds and assessed their performance in dealing with anti-Maoist operations and other assigned duties. DGP also reviewed the existing training standards, curriculum, and training modules

being imparted to personnel, emphasizing the need for continuous upgradation in line with evolving operational requirements.

During the review, the DGP instructed the Greyhounds leadership to further enhance operational efficiency and maintain a high level of combat readiness. DGP stressed the importance of conducting regular firing practice and ensuring rigorous training standards to keep the force mission-ready at all times. The Director General of Police also reviewed issues relating to the reduction in Greyhounds strength in view of the declining

Maoist activities. He informed officers that the proposal concerning 708 surrendered posts of Greyhounds is currently pending with the Government. He further stated that the notified repatriations would be carried out after receiving the necessary orders from the Government.

The DGP appreciated the efforts and commitment of Greyhounds personnel and emphasized the need to maintain the force's reputation as one of the country's premier anti-insurgency units through continued professionalism, discipline, and operational preparedness.



## High-Level Meeting Between KTR and Philip Green



HYDERABAD, MAY 14

K. T. Rama Rao, Working President of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), met today with Philip Green, the Australian High Commissioner to India, and Hilary McGeachy, the Australian Consul-General for Karnataka and Telangana. The meeting was held at Nandinagar, where they held extensive discussions on matters of mutual interest and strategic importance.

The discussions mainly focused on opportunities for Australian investments in the Telugu states, mutual cooperation in the technology sector, and new partnerships in the field of education. Drawing from his previous experience as the Industries and IT Minister, KTR discussed

several important aspects related to these sectors.

The leaders also spoke about the rapid development taking place in Hyderabad in areas such as IT, green energy, pharmaceuticals, and innovation. They expressed optimism that stronger cooperation between Telangana and Australia would create more international opportunities for local youth in the future. The talks were aimed at further strengthening the strong friendship between India and Australia and taking bilateral relations to greater heights. Expressing happiness over the meeting with the Australian representatives, KTR stated that this partnership would further strengthen the economic ties and cultural relations between the two countries.

## Uttam directs officials to ensure seamless logistics for paddy procurement

NALGONDA / KHAMMAM, MAY 14

As Telangana's Rabi (Yasangi) 2025-26 season is set to become a pivotal period for agricultural production and procurement in the state, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, has instructed officials to keep the momentum strong in the Minimum Support Price initiatives and to guarantee that every farmer receives support. The Minister on Thursday visited different paddy purchase centres and rice mills as part of an on-ground stock taking exercise in erstwhile Nalgonda and Khammam districts.

He reaffirmed that the government is fully committed to buying every quintal of paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), including grain exposed to untimely rains.

At the Chetla Chennaram procurement centre in Kanagal mandal, the Minister personally inspected the paddy purchase operations and interacted with hamalis (loading workers) who had come from West Bengal to assist in the season's heavy lifting.

He appreciated their contribution and instructed officials to provide better facilities and welfare support to all hamalis engaged in the procurement drive.

The Minister also inspected the Balaji Rice Mill in the same mandal, reviewing milling operations and



the movement of procured paddy to storage points. He visited the paddy purchase centre at Nayakungudem in Khammam district and assured the farmers of steps for speeding up the purchases and paddy movement to all collectors of the paddy producing districts to requisition all available lorries and DCMs for transport of paddy from the purchase centres to the mills and storage points while insisting that they must operate in coordination with police and transport officials to ensure seamless logistics.

He insisted on requisition of trucks, if needed forcibly, engaged for sand transport and other non-priority activity. The Minister appealed to the management of cement factories to spare the lorries engaged by them for paddy transport in view of the ongoing special drive to address the issues of Rabi farmers.

The Minister reiterated that procurement will continue until the last grain is lifted and described this as

a blanket assurance to farmers. Collectors were told to address all transport issues immediately and ensure that hamali concerns are handled with priority.

Accompanied by Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister for SC Development, Tribal welfare and Minorities, Adhuri Lakshman Kumar, and State Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy, Civil Supplies Commissioner, Stephen Ravindra, he conducted a special review meeting with the Collectors of Nalgonda, Suryapet, and Yadadri Bhongir districts at the Nalgonda Collectorate.

In Khammam district, Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Pongulati Srinivas Reddy joined him for the on-ground inspection of paddy procurement centres. The Minister also held a detailed review with MLAs, MLCs, and collectors of Khammam and Bhadrachalam districts to ensure seamless procurement operations.

### CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

## NEET-UG 2026 Cancelled... Modi Government Has Failed

FROM PAGE 1  
stated that 93 paper leak incidents had occurred in central and state-level examinations, affecting around two crore students.

He pointed out that in 2024 alone, four major national examinations were cancelled within just eight weeks — NEET-UG (24 lakh candidates), UGC-NET (9 lakh candidates), CSIR-NET, and NEET-PG. He also recalled that the Uttar Pradesh Police

Constable examination, which had around 48 lakh applicants including 16 lakh women candidates, was cancelled within days. He added that Gujarat, the Prime Minister's home state, had witnessed 14 major leak incidents, while other BJP-ruled states such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana were also linked to such scandals.

Revanth Reddy further alleged that although the Central Government passed the Public

Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act in February 2024, it delayed issuing the notification until June 2024, even after major scandals had already surfaced.

As Telangana Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy offered reassurance to students and parents. He urged them not to panic over the NEET cancellation and assured them that the Telangana Government would stand firmly with every student and their family.

## Digital Pathology Mileston...

FROM PAGE 1

Hospital officials said the advanced digital pathology platform enables blood and tissue sample slides to be digitally scanned and viewed at nearly 80X magnification, allowing doctors to perform faster and highly accurate diagnoses.

Speaking on the occasion, Balakrishna said the hospital has consistently focused on bringing world-class medical technologies to the patients at affordable costs since its inception.

He thanked the donors, governments, industrialists, NRIs and the ICICI Foundation for supporting advanced healthcare initiatives. He appealed for continued support towards the expansion of the Hyderabad facility and the proposed upcoming cancer hospital project at Thullur in Andhra Pradesh's capital region.

Dr. Sushila Kodandapani, Head of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, said the Roche Ventana DP 600

is the first 240-slide scanner-based digital pathology system installed in India and would significantly improve diagnostic precision and efficiency.

The event was attended by senior doctors, trust board members, hospital staff, and representatives from the ICICI Foundation. The event was attended by Dr. Nori Dattatreyaudu, Trust Board Member, BIACH&RI, Mr. J.S.R. Prasad, Trust Board Member, BIACH&RI; Dr.

T.S. Rao, Medical Director, BIACH&RI; Dr. Sushila Kodandapani, Head of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, BIACH&RI; Dr. Phani Koteswara Rao, Medical Superintendent, BIACH&RI; Dr. Kalpana Raghunath, Associate Director — Academics, BIACH&RI along with doctors, paramedical staff, technicians from laboratory medicine and pathology department, hospital staff, and representatives of the ICICI Foundation.

## HC Defers Orders..

FROM PAGE 1

The defence further submitted that Bhagirath possesses additional evidence to establish his innocence and sought permission to place the material before the court in a sealed cover. Counsel argued that Bhagirath was not seeking special treatment, but requested interim protection to ensure a fair opportunity to cooperate with the investigation and present evidence before the police.

# MODI'S HYDERABAD VISIT AND THE POLITICAL QUESTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

this was simply alliance management within the NDA or whether there is a larger political recalibration underway in the Telugu states.

At one level, Narendra Modi's Hyderabad visit followed a familiar political template. The Prime Minister inaugurated infrastructure projects, addressed a public rally and attempted to reinforce the BJP's narrative that Telangana remains a serious target for future political expansion. The messaging was carefully crafted around governance, investment and development. However, politics often shifts from the official stage to the spaces where symbolism becomes more powerful than speeches. That is exactly what happened once Modi travelled to the residence of Chandrababu Naidu in Jubilee Hills. There is nothing unusual in a Prime Minister meeting an important NDA ally. Naidu remains a key pillar of the coalition after the 2024 elections and Pawan Kalyan has emerged as an influential political partner in Andhra Pradesh. Modi and Naidu also share a political relationship that goes back decades. In that sense, the meeting could

easily have been interpreted as a routine political courtesy. The problem, however, was timing. Be-

cause just days earlier, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya had made remarks in Parliament that instantly reignited emotional fault lines in Telangana politics. By describing the Congress handling of Andhra Pradesh bifurcation as “WORSE THAN PARTITION”, Surya triggered a strong backlash from Telangana leaders who viewed the comparison as deeply insensitive and politically provocative.

For many in Telangana, the statehood movement was not simply an administrative exercise. It was tied to decades of regional aspirations, political mobilisation and emotional struggle. That is why the reaction was immediate and intense.

In normal circumstances, the BJP might have dismissed Surya's comments as an individual opinion. But when Modi then met Chandrababu Naidu in Hyderabad in a highly visible and politically warm setting, speculation naturally intensified.

**THE QUESTION NOW BEING ASKED IN TELANGANA POLITICAL CIRCLES**

Was Tejasvi Surya merely expressing a personal view in Parliament or did his remarks unintentionally reveal a larger political thinking that became visible

through Modi's Hyderabad meeting with Chandrababu Naidu?

### WHY THE MEETING HAS CREATED UNEASE IN THE TELANGANA BJP

Interestingly, the strongest discomfort after the visit may not have come from opposition parties alone. Sections of the Telangana BJP also appeared uneasy with the political optics that emerged from Hyderabad. The Telangana BJP has spent years trying to establish itself as the principal alternative in the state. The party's workers expected Modi's visit to energise cadre morale and reinforce confidence in the BJP's organisational push against the Congress government led by A. Revanth Reddy. Instead, the most discussed images from the visit became those of Modi sharing a relaxed and visibly warm interaction with Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan. For local BJP leaders, the issue was not

that Modi met alliance partners. Coalition politics inevitably requires such engagement. The discomfort came from the perception that the Prime Minister appeared politically more comfortable with his Andhra allies than with his own Telangana unit, which continues to struggle with internal factional-

ism and leadership tensions.

That perception may not entirely reflect reality, but perceptions in politics often become more influential than official explanations. “The most politically consequential moment of Modi's Hyderabad visit may not have been the public rally or the infrastructure announcements, but the quiet symbolism of one closed door meeting in Jubilee Hills.”

### HYDERABAD REMAINS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TERRITORY

Part of the reason this controversy escalated so quickly is because Hyderabad continues to occupy a unique place in the political imagination of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Officially, the city belongs entirely to Telangana. But economically, culturally and politically, Hyderabad still carries deep emotional significance for many in Andhra Pradesh as well. Business networks, media influence and political relationships developed over decades of united Andhra Pradesh continue to shape the city's role in regional politics. That is why every symbolic gesture involving Andhra and Telangana leadership inside Hyderabad acquires added political meaning. Critics of the BJP and TDP have attempted to use the meeting

to suggest that Delhi may be more interested in managing Telugu politics through alliance arithmetic than through sensitivity to Telangana's emotional history. Whether that criticism is fair or exaggerated is open to debate, but it has clearly gained traction in certain political circles. At the same time, supporters of Naidu argue that the meeting simply reflected his renewed importance within national coalition politics and the centrality of the TDP to the NDA's current stability. Both interpretations now coexist simultaneously.

### WHY TEJASVI SURYA'S REMARK STRUCK SUCH A RAW NERVE IN TG

Tejasvi Surya's comparison between Andhra Pradesh bifurcation and Partition became controversial because it touched one of the most emotionally sensitive chapters in Telangana's political history. For many supporters of Telangana statehood, bifurcation represented the culmination of a long democratic struggle for political recognition and regional justice. The movement involved years of protests, public mobilisation and emotional sacrifice. As a result, any suggestion that bifurcation itself was a political mistake or a national tragedy is likely to provoke a strong reaction with-

in Telangana. When Modi then met Chandrababu Naidu in Hyderabad almost immediately afterward, opposition parties and sections of civil society inevitably linked the two developments together, even though there is no official indication that the meeting involved any discussion on revisiting bifurcation related issues.

### THERE MAY ALSO BE A LARGER SOUTHERN POLITICAL CALCULATION

The BJP's southern strategy remains unfinished and that reality cannot be ignored while analysing the Hyderabad episode. The party has faced challenges in expanding independently across several southern states. Telangana was once projected as the BJP's next major breakthrough region, but internal divisions and changing political dynamics have complicated that ambition. In contrast, Andhra Pradesh currently offers the BJP strategic value through alliances

with the TDP and Jana Sena. From Delhi's perspective, maintaining strong relationships with Naidu and Pawan Kalyan is politically important not just for Andhra Pradesh but for broader coalition stability at the national level.

That may ultimately be the simplest explanation for Modi's Hyder-

abad meeting. The difficulty is that in emotionally charged regional politics, simple explanations are rarely accepted at face value.

### WHN POLITICAL OPTICS BEGIN TO OTRUN OFFICIAL VERSION

Narendra Modi's Hyderabad visit was intended to showcase governance, development and the BJP's ambitions in Telangana. Instead, it reopened unresolved political sensitivities linked to bifurcation, regional identity and the BJP's evolving relationship with its allies in the Telugu states. There is, however, no evidence to suggest that the Modi Naidu meeting involved any hidden plan regarding bifurcation or constitutional questions. But politics is often shaped less by formal facts and more by political atmospheres. And the atmospheres after Hyderabad have clearly generated suspicion, debate and speculation. For Chandrababu Naidu, the meeting reinforced his national relevance within the NDA. For the BJP, however, the episode has also highlighted the delicate balancing act required in managing alliances while simultaneously expanding its own organisational base in Telangana. That balancing act is likely to become even more politically sensitive in the years ahead.

## Do Not Believe Rumours on Srivani Darshan Tickets: TTD

TIRUMALA

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has appealed to the devotees not to fall prey to misconceptions arising from certain reports being circulated recently in some newspapers and on social media platforms regarding the booking of SRIVANI Trust tickets. TTD introduced the SRIVANI Trust ticket booking system in May 2019.

Based on the shortcomings observed in the earlier system and the suggestions and feedback received from devotees, TTD significantly strengthened the SRIVANI ticket booking process from June 2024 onwards to provide transparent and secured services to devotees. It is not possible to hack the SRIVANI ticket booking website or intrude into the system under any circumstances. However, some brokers are attempting to misuse advanced technology such as AI-based auto-filling and auto-copying methods to rapidly enter details and book tickets.

TTD's technical team is continuously monitoring such suspicious activities, identifying related IDs and illegal booking methods, and immediately blocking them. The software is also being updated regularly to strengthen security measures.

# GDC Women Hussainialam Advances Health Awareness

Career Guidance Under Pragati Pranalika 2026

HYDERABAD

As part of the Education Week celebrations under the "Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika 2026" programme, Government Degree College for Women, Hussainialam, organized a series of meaningful and student-oriented activities on Day 4, focusing on health awareness, academic exposure, parent-teacher interaction, alumni engagement, career opportunities, and innovation.

A free Medical Camp was conducted in the college library from 10:00 AM onwards. The camp was jointly organized by the NSS Units and Red Ribbon Club of the college, with the support of Vijaya Diagnostics. The primary objective of the programme was to promote awareness about health, hygiene, preventive care, and the importance of regular medical check-ups among students, parents, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff.

During the camp, participants availed themselves of various health services, including dental check-ups, BMI assessment, blood pressure monitoring, and blood sugar testing. Medical professionals examined the participants and offered useful advice on maintaining good health, following hygienic practices, and adopting healthy lifestyle habits. A total of 33 members, including students, par-



ents, and staff, actively participated in the camp and benefited from the free medical services.

The health camp was conducted under the guidance of Principal Prof. Ch. Appiya Chinnamma. The programme was coordinated by RRC Convenor K. Shailaja, NSS Programme Officers Dr. M. Pranitha, Dr. K. Shobha Rani, and Dr. Jesse Lingam, along with WEC Convenor Dr. Anitha Saka. The initiative proved to be informative and useful in strengthening health awareness within the college community.

As part of the Education Week activities, a walkthrough of classrooms, laboratories, and the library was also organized to familiarize students with the academic facilities available on campus. Students were introduced to the classroom learning environment, laboratory equipment, safety measures, and library resources, including books, journals, and digital facilities. The activity helped students gain confidence in using institutional

resources effectively for their academic growth. An Alumni Meet and Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting were also conducted as part of the programme. These sessions were organized by Mohammed Julfequar and P. Manjula respectively, with the active involvement of all departments. Faculty members, parents, and alumni participated enthusiastically and discussed important academic matters related to student progress, learning outcomes, and overall development. The interaction created a valuable platform for strengthening communication between the college, parents, and former students.

A job drive was organized by TSKC Convenor Dr. Anitha Monga for final-year and passed-out students of B.Com., B.A., and B.Sc. courses. HR representatives Ms. Bhagya Sri and Ms. Deepa from AXIS Services attended the drive and interacted with the students. A total of 23 students participated, out of which 3 students

were shortlisted for the next stage of the selection process. The drive provided students with practical exposure to recruitment procedures and opened up career opportunities.

In addition, Jignasa projects were displayed under the supervision of V. Sunitha as part of the Praja Palana activities. The exhibition encouraged creativity, innovation, scientific thinking, and academic curiosity among students. It also offered a platform for students to present their ideas and learn from different project models.

The "Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika 2026" programme was organized with great enthusiasm and active participation across the college. The Day 4 activities were successfully conducted under the able guidance of Principal Prof. Ch. Appiya Chinnamma, with the active support of Vice Principal Dr. Mohd. Ghouse, IQAC Coordinator Dr. K. Sreedevi, Academic Coordinator Dr. P. Latha, all Heads of Departments, faculty members, NSS Units, RRC, Alumni Committee, and various departments.

Overall, the programme reflected the college's commitment to holistic education by combining health awareness, academic orientation, parent and alumni involvement, career guidance, and innovation-based learning. The day's activities were highly successful in promoting student welfare, institutional engagement, and community awareness.



## Contractors in Municipalities Must Ensure Quality in works & Worker Safety

\*2 day Training for Municipal Government Contractors at ESCI

HYDERABAD

State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department Superintending Engineer Vishwanadh Raju stated that in the coming five to six years, there is significant scope for undertaking several civil works worth hundreds of crores in various municipalities and corporations under urban development programmes funded by the Central and State Governments. He said that several new projects are expected under schemes such as AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission, Urban Challenging Funds, and others. Since the responsibility for executing these construction works lies with municipal contractors, he emphasized the need for maintaining quality standards in every project along with implementing adequate safety measures for workers at construction sites.

The second batch of the two-day training programme for government civil contractors working in Telangana Urban Local Bodies commenced on Thursday, 14 May 2026, at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Gachibowli. Civil contractors working in municipalities such as Siddipet, Luxettipet, Jagtial, Korutla, Mulugu, Ashwaraopet, Mancherial, Manthani and others participated in the programme.

Senior officials provided training on various aspects related to civil works including procedures to be followed, precautions, planning,

execution, and documentation involved in construction activities undertaken by contractors.

CDMA Regional Director R. Srinivasa Rao stated that this is the first time in Telangana that such training is being provided specifically for contractors. He informed that around 276 contractors across the State would be trained in seven phases under this programme.

Joint Director B. Sandhya said that capacity building has become an essential toolkit for every profession in the present day. She observed that with the rapid expansion of technology, engineering works have also become increasingly challenging. She added that engineering marvels are visible across the world and that contractors working in municipal areas can also undertake innovative projects that provide long-term benefits to the public.

Director of the Engineering Staff College of India, Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, advised contractors to adopt best practices and study modern technologies while executing public works, in addition to ensuring quality standards.

Retired Engineer-in-Chief Ziauddin, Venkatgishwarlu, Anita Agarwal, V. Mohan Kumar, Anil Kumar, Nagamalleswara Rao, Prakash and others participated in the programme.

As part of the training, contractors will also visit Durgam Cheruvu and, on the following day, inspect the execution of works at the AMRUT Park, Sewage Treatment Plant, and Elevated Level Service Reservoir in Siddipet Municipality.

## VJS Demands Justice for NEET Students; Seeks Abolition of NTA

HYDERABAD

Strongly condemning the repeated paper leaks in national entrance examinations, Vidyarthi Jana Samithi (VJS) state president Masampalli Arun Kumar on Wednesday demanded that the National Testing Agency (NTA) be scrapped immediately and the responsibility of conducting entrance examinations be handed

back to the state governments. In a statement, Arun Kumar alleged that the NEET examination introduced by the Central Government was destroying the dreams of nearly 22 lakh students across the country. He accused the NTA of repeatedly failing to conduct examinations transparently and responsibly.

Expressing serious concern over the alleged leak in the NEET exam-

ination conducted nationwide on May 3, he said lakhs of students who prepared day and night were left distressed due to the failure of the examination system.

Arun Kumar criticized the Centre for centralizing the examination process and depriving states of their authority, stating that the move had weakened transparency and accountability. He alleged that contin-

uous paper leaks were exposing the inefficiency of the present system.

Referring to the controversies surrounding the NEET and NET examinations in 2024, he said the Central Government had failed to introduce meaningful reforms despite widespread criticism from students, parents and educational experts.

The VJS leader demanded a comprehensive judicial inquiry into the

latest NEET paper leak and strict action against those responsible. He also sought justice for students who suffered due to the alleged irregularities. Arun Kumar urged the Central Government to abolish the NTA and restore the powers of conducting entrance examinations to the respective state governments to ensure transparency and protect students' futures.

## NAIP Concluded at GITAM

HYDERABAD

The Television Broadcasting Courses, Experimental Animation and Media Management Practices at GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), GITAM Deemed to be University, organized the valedictory ceremony of the two-week 'National Academic Immersion Program' (NAIP) on 14 May 2026, marking the successful conclusion of an academic initiative designed to nurture the next generation of media professionals. The program was conducted in association with MIT-WPU World Peace University.

The immersion program, held from 1 to 14 May 2026, provided students with intensive exposure to contemporary media practices, communication strategies, digital storytelling, and industry-oriented training. Through expert lectures, workshops, interactive sessions, and practical learning experiences, the initiative aimed to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and professional media industry requirements.



Faculty members and dignitaries from both institutions appreciated the collaborative effort and highlighted the significance of experiential learning, interdisciplinary exposure, and academic partnerships in shaping socially responsible and industry-ready media professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar, Head of the Department of Media Studies, said that the true value of the program lay not only in academic exchange but also in the spirit of curiosity, collaboration, and interaction among participants. He expressed

gratitude to MIT-WPU for its warm hospitality and for creating a platform that encouraged innovation and meaningful academic engagement. He added that the initiative marked the beginning of a stronger collaboration between the two institutions.

Dr. Anu Nair, Program Director at MIT-WPU, appreciated the enthusiastic participation of all 71 students and said the institution looks forward to more collaborative programs with GITAM. She noted that the students actively engaged in the sessions and particularly enjoyed the practical learning

experiences.

Students shared positive feedback about the program, especially appreciating the experimental animation classes, motion graphics sessions, audio production and sound design workshops, and hands-on experience in the PCR room, where they produced three projects. The event also featured the screening of two short videos created by the students during the program. The valedictory ceremony concluded with participants reflecting on their learning experiences, followed by a group photograph session.

## Launch of Theme 10 Week of 99 Days Action Plan

HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana is organizing a series of tourism, heritage, culture, hospitality and youth engagement activities under Theme-10 of the 99 Days Action Plan Week, scheduled from 18th May 2026 to 24th May 2026, through the coordinated efforts of the Department of Tourism, National Institute of Tourism & Hospitality Management (NITHM), Department of Heritage, Department of Language & Culture, and Department of Youth Advancement.

The week-long programme aims to strengthen Telangana's position as a vibrant tourism destination while promoting heritage conservation, youth participation, cultural preservation, hospitality skill development and public engagement across all districts of the State. The activities will com-

mence on 18th May 2026 with Heritage Walks across all districts and a Tourism Activation Drive at Raymond's Tombs, along with the release of an Action Plan for Revamping Heritage Tourism. On the same day, the Department of Heritage will celebrate International Museum Day at the State Museum, Hyderabad, while the Department of Culture will organize cultural performances at Ravindra Bharathi. NITHM will also conduct Career Guidance Workshops focused on Tourism & Hospitality sector opportunities.

During the week, Tourism Activation Drives will be organized at important tourist destinations including Khajana Building, while Local Tourism Influencers and YouTube Meets will be conducted in all districts to promote Telangana Tourism through digital outreach. The Department of Tourism will also

roll out the Yuva Tourism Club Activity Plan for identifying the best Yuva Tourism Clubs across the State. The Department of Heritage will undertake monument and museum conservation activities including vegetation clearance and cleanliness drives at heritage sites such as Gunfoundry, Paigah Tombs, Pungal and Centenary Heritage Museum. Brochures for Site Museums and Heritage Museums will also be released during the week.

The Department of Language & Culture will organize a wide range of cultural programmes every evening at Ravindra Bharathi featuring folk dances, classical dances, music concerts, literary programmes, theatre performances and devotional music presentations by amateur artists from across Telangana.

NITHM will conduct Faculty Development Programmes, Tourism Career Guidance

Workshops at various hospitality institutes, and the prestigious "Tourism Conclave 2026 - Destination Telangana: Strategies for the Next Frontier of Tourism" at Hyderabad to deliberate on future tourism opportunities and strategies for the State.

The week will conclude with Swachhata Drives at tourist destinations and heritage monuments across all districts and the release of the Telangana Tourism Brand Kit by District Collectors, reinforcing the Government's commitment towards sustainable tourism development, cleanliness and destination branding. Through these coordinated initiatives, the Government of Telangana reiterates its commitment to promote tourism-led economic growth, preserve cultural and heritage assets, empower youth participation and enhance Telangana's identity as a premier tourism destination.

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## SHORT TAKES

Felicitated Basavaraj Srinivas on his appointment as Telangana Brahmin Parishad Chairman  
Parishad Chairman



**HYDERABAD:** Today we felicitated Sri.Basavaraj Srinivas Garu on his appointment as Telangana Brahmin Parishad Chairman. The felicitation program was held at Vasanth Vihar Function Hall. On this occasion, Nagole Division BJP Senior Leader A.S Charan Reddy Garu and Nagole Division BJYM General Secretary N.Taral participated in the program. Wishing him great success in his new responsibility and service to society.

## CM Revanth Assures Stronger Support for Ex-Servicemen Welfare

**HYDERABAD:** Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy assured proactive measures for the welfare of ex-servicemen during a meeting with Director of Sainik Welfare department, Brigadier N. R. Babu (Retd) here on Wednesday. A key proposal discussed during the meeting was the establishment of a Telangana Ex-Servicemen Corporation aimed at strengthening welfare initiatives and creating better support systems for the retired armed forces personnel in the state. Responding positively, the Chief Minister directed the officials to prepare the required framework and study similar models functioning successfully in other States. Brigadier Babu also urged the government to convene the long-pending Rajya Sainik Board meeting, for which the Chief Minister of Telangana is the Chairman.

# Singareni Prepares for Recruitment of Women Dumper Operators



- Following State Government Directions
- Women Workers to Operate Heavy Dumpers for the First Time in 13-Decade History
- Singareni Responds to Government's Call to Promote Women Empowerment
- Opportunities for Women Interested in Handling Challenging Responsibilities
- Women to be Included in Upcoming Dumper Operator Recruitment
- 13 Women Employees Successfully Complete Heavy Motor Vehicle Training

### HYDERABAD (SINGARENI BHAVAN)

Following the directions of the Telangana State Government, which has been giving high priority to women's development and empowerment, Singareni Collieries Company Limited has initiated steps to provide opportunities for women to work as heavy dumper operators for the first time in the company's history. Acting upon the instructions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, the Singareni management has launched the process

for recruitment of women dumper operators.

In open cast mines, the company uses massive dumpers ranging from 60 to 100 tonnes capacity for transporting coal and overburden from quarry pits to the surface. For nearly five decades of open cast mining operations in Singareni, these heavy dumpers have been operated exclusively by male operators. This is because operating such dumpers requires physical endurance, driving skills, and the ability to work under harsh conditions including scorching heat, heavy rains, severe cold, and round-the-clock three-shift operations. Traditionally, only male operators have been undertaking this demanding responsibility.

However, the number of women employees in Singareni has been steadily increasing in recent years. The State Government directed Singareni management to effectively utilize women's capabilities, skills, and efficiency by providing them suitable opportunities. In this context, the company invited applications from interested women employees willing to work as dumper operators in open cast mines.

Initially, around 35 women employees came forward. Since operating heavy dumpers requires not only a regular driving licence but also a Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) licence, the management arranged specialized training through the Telangana Institute of Driving Education and Skills (TIDES), Siricilla. The company provided free heavy vehicle driving training at its own expense to

interested women employees. Out of those trained, 13 women employees successfully completed the training and informed the company of their readiness to work as dumper operators.

The management stated that these women would be considered in the upcoming recruitment process for dumper operators. With the Telangana Government placing special emphasis on women empowerment, Singareni is also taking significant steps in that direction. By extending opportunities to women in traditionally male-dominated and physically demanding roles, the company has initiated a revolutionary change by enabling women to work as dumper operators for the first time. Officials expressed confidence that in the near future, women employees would be seen operating heavy dumpers in large numbers across Singareni mines. They stated that, for the first time in the history of the company, a women's rescue team has also been constituted. Speaking on the occasion, some of the trained women operators stated that although they initially felt apprehensive about whether they could handle such physically demanding and skill-oriented work, they gained confidence once they started operating the dumpers themselves. They said that in today's modern era, when women are excelling in all fields including space exploration, operating mining dumpers is certainly achievable. They thanked the State Government and Singareni management for providing such a valuable opportunity.

# Family - Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development

(On the occasion of "International Day of Families" on 15 May)

Families are the heart of any society - a bond that nurtures, protects, and empowers each member. Family is the strongest pillar in one's life. The most precious and exquisite gift of God is our family. Family influence every aspect of life - from child education to sustainable consumption - and play a crucial role in achieving global goals like gender equality, climate change, and poverty reduction. A happy family is a treasure that brings peace and strength. The foundation of every great society is a loving family. Family is a compass that

Families-2026 is "Families, Inequalities, Child Wellbeing", to celebrate the value of love, respect, and support that binds families together. This theme encourages households to adopt eco-friendly habits, reduce carbon footprints, and become climate champions within their communities. It is also an occasion to reconnect families and strengthen their bonds through shared experiences and quality time spent together.

### 80% of Families linked to Farming

Family farms make up about 80% of farms worldwide, playing a vital role in food security, rural jobs, and ecosystem sustainability - especially in developing countries. Family farmers in developing countries face decline crop yields from climate change, increasing poverty and food insecurity as extreme weather reduces both food production and purchasing power. Low-income families in developing countries are hit hardest by climate change due to their reliance on natural resources and weak infrastructure, leaving them less able to cope with extreme weather. Families can cut their carbon footprint by saving energy, reducing waste, and eating less meat and dairy - potentially lowering food-related emissions by up to 73%. It is clear that the older generation has failed, and it is the young who will pay in full - with their very futures.

The significance of the day is to celebrate love, care, unity within families. It highlights family-related global challenges, promote policies for family well-being, encourages global unity and sustainable family practices. May love and harmony always surround our families. The love of a family is life's greatest blessing. Rejoice with your family in the beautiful land of life. Let's focus up on the importance of families like health, wealth, work-life balance, women's rights, etc.

- Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy  
994700037



guides us. No success is complete without family. Home is where love resides, memories are created, and laughter never ends. Life's most beautiful moments are spent with family. Families are like branches on a tree - we all grow in different directions, yet our roots and stem remain the same. Family - where life begins and love never ends.

### Families, Inequalities, Child Wellbeing

United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to observe "International Day of Families" annually from 1994 on 15 May to provide opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic, technological, transformative, urbanisation, migration, climate change, and demographic processes affecting families. The theme of International Day of

# Telangana ICET-2026 Conducted Successfully

### HYDERABAD

Telangana Integrated Common Entrance Test (TG ICET-2026) was conducted successfully under the con-venorship of Prof. Aluvula Ravi, with smooth arrangements and disciplined conduct across 69 examination centres throughout the State. The examination was held in three sessions in a fair, orderly and secure environment, reflecting the high standards maintained by the conducting authorities. Out of a total of 56,206 registered candidates, 51,146 candidates appeared for the examination, while 5,060 candidates were absent, recording an impressive overall attendance of 91%. This robust participation underscores the aspirations of stu-

dents seeking admission into MBA and MCA programmes through TG ICET-2026. In the morning session, Prof. Khaja Althaf Hussain, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) and Chairman, TG ICET-2026, formally released the Question Paper Set Code "C", in the presence of officials and observers, marking the commencement of the examination process for the day. For today's session out of 18711 registered, 17056 (91.17%) were present and 1652 were absent. The Con-venor and Co-Convenor of TG ICET-2026 operated from the TG ICET office at Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda, and closely monitored the conduct of the examination across all centres. Constant communication, real-time

monitoring and adherence to prescribed protocols ensured that the test was conducted in a peaceful, efficient and transparent manner. Prof. Aluvula Ravi, Convenor, TG ICET-2026, stated that the examination had been completed successfully without any untoward incidents, thanks to the effective coordination among the examination authorities and the wholehearted cooperation of candidates, staff and all stakeholders. He expressed his sincere appreciation to TCS Personnel for their technical support, to the Press and Media for their responsible coverage, and to the RTC and Electricity departments for their timely and uninterrupted services, which collectively contributed to the smooth conduct of TG ICET-2026.

# CM Revanth Reddy congratulates V. D. Satheesan

### HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, today extended his warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to Sri V. D. Satheesan on being appointed as the Chief Minister of Kerala. In his message, the Chief Minister described Sri Satheesan's appointment as a well-deserved recognition of decades of dedicated public service, principled politics and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Kerala. He observed that the people of Kerala have, through the recently concluded Assembly elections, reaffirmed their faith in the values of democracy, social justice and inclusive development by entrusting the United Democratic Front, led by the Congress, with the mandate to govern the state. Sri Revanth Reddy noted that Kerala has long been a beacon for the rest of the country in matters of human development, public health, literacy and grassroots democracy.

He expressed confidence that, under Sri Satheesan's stewardship, the state will scale even greater heights in education, healthcare, employment generation and equitable growth, while continuing to set benchmarks that inspire sister states across the Union. The Chief Minister affirmed that the Government of Telangana looks forward to working closely with the new Government of Kerala on matters of mutual interest, particularly in the areas of investment promotion, skill development, tourism, knowledge exchange and cooperative federalism. "On behalf of the Government and the people of Telangana, I extend my best wishes to Sri V. D. Satheesan and the people of Kerala for a tenure marked by progress, prosperity and the further deepening of Kerala's proud democratic traditions," the Chief Minister said.



## VH OATH SWEARING...

Telangana state IT Minister dudhilla Sridhar Babu attended oath swearing ceremony of Congress senior leader V . Hanumanth Rao and presented a bouquet , DSB conveyed heartfelt congratulations to Hanumantha Rao on assuming charge as the State Government Advisor (BC Welfare) at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Thursday. Telangana state IT Minister dudhilla Sridhar Babu attended oath swearing ceremony of Congress senior leader V . Hanumanth Rao and presented a bouquet , DSB conveyed heartfelt congratulations to Hanumantha Rao on assuming charge as the State Government Advisor (BC Welfare) at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Thursday.

# BJP Telangana Hosts Special Event on PM Modi's "Sapta Sutras"

### Releases Awareness Pamphlet

### HYDERABAD

Telangana state BJP unit today organized a special programme and released a pamphlet focusing "seven sutras" ( seven points) outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged people to contribute their share in protecting the national interest and face challenges arise in view of West Asia crisis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing a public meeting here recently has suggested some austerity measures and appealed people to follow it which include reduce petrol and diesel consumption, avoid buying gold, prioritize work from home, usage of public transport, cut down usage of cooking oil, move towards natural forming avoiding usage of chemical fertilizers, adopt swadeshi products and avoid foreign tours to help to make national economic self-reliance.

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao attended the event as the chief guest and officially released pamphlet in English and Telugu featuring guidelines suggested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the citizens of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Rao emphasized that every citizen must act responsibly to strengthen the nation's economy. "Public participation is vital in achieving the goals of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India). Factors such as consuming indigenous prod-



ucts, conserving energy, and encouraging domestic investments will further strengthen India's economic future," Rao said.

Elaborating further during his address, BJP State President called upon citizens to partner with the government in fortifying the national economy. "Patriotism does not just mean sacrificing one's life for the country, living and serving the nation is also a profound act of patriotism," Rao asserted. He clarified that the Prime Minister's suggestions are not political gimmicks but were deeply rooted in national economic security and social responsibility. He underscored the urgent need to protect the domestic economy by championing local products under the "Vocal for Local" initiative.

In light of global economic conditions and inflation, Rao advised the public to practice austerity in their spending. He

pointed out that the Prime Minister set a personal example by downsizing his own convoy vehicles.

Rao urged citizens to use personal vehicles only when necessary and encouraged residents of Hyderabad to utilize the Metro and other public transport systems. He further stated that corporate practices like carpooling in the IT sector and the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) would go a long way in conserving fuel.

Drawing a historical parallel, Rao reminded critics that previous Prime Ministers, including Manmohan Singh and Indira Gandhi during the Congress regimes, had also implemented strict austerity measures during times of economic distress. Therefore, he noted, criticizing the current PM's suggestions is unjust.

Rao shared a personal anecdote, mentioning that he recently chose pub-

lic transport to attend an event, noting that top officials abroad regularly follow similar practices.

He appealed to the people of Telangana to draw inspiration from the Prime Minister's call and actively participate in building the nation. Renowned economist Professor Dr. Krishna Reddy provided a comprehensive analysis of the "Sapta Sutras" during the event. Utilizing statistical data, he explained the current global challenges facing the Indian economy and the dynamics of foreign exchange utilization.

Professor Reddy noted that the Seven Principles outlined by the Prime Minister were not merely government policies, but a national economic movement that requires active public participation. He remarked that ordinary citizens could significantly boost the nation's economic strength by making minor adjustments in their daily lives.

He highlighted how specific practices can significantly contribute to national economic stability including promoting the consumption of local, indigenous products, exercising responsibility in fuel and energy consumption, regulating the consumption of cooking oil, adopting natural farming practices and encouraging 'Work from Home' models where applicable. The event saw the participation of BJP Telangana State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash, along with state office-bearers, official spokespersons, and media panelists.

# Vakkati Srihari conveyed his Congratulations to Saritha

### HYDERABAD

State Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services, and Sports Minister Vakkati Srihari conveyed his congratulations to Saritha Tirupati Yadav on assuming charge as the Chairperson of the Telangana State Sheep and Goat Development Corporation. He expressed special thanks to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for appointing Saritha, who has awareness and understanding in the field of animal husbandry.

He stated that the government would move forward with the goal of creating live-



lihood opportunities for people engaged in sheep and goat rearing.

The people's government is progressing with the commitment to provide employment opportunities to occupational communities.

# Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Voter List in Telangana – Phase III

### NEW DELHI

According to the latest schedule released by the Election Commission of India, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Phase III program for the voter list in Telangana will be conducted based on the eligibility date of October 1, 2026.

As per the schedule announced by the Election Commission, preparatory activities, training, and printing processes in Telangana will take place from May 20, 2026 to June 29, 2026. Following this, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct a door-to-door survey from June 30 to July 29, 2026. The rationalization of polling stations will be completed by July 29, 2026. After that, the draft voter list will be released on August 5, 2026, and

objections and claims will be accepted from August 5 to September 4, 2026.

The process of resolving claims and objections will continue until October 3, 2026. The Election Commission stated that the final voter list will be published on October 7, 2026. In Telangana, a total of 35,985 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and 25,886 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) will participate in this process. According to the Election Commission, the state currently has 33,920,705 voters. The Election Commission has advised political parties to appoint BLAs for every polling booth without fail. The ECI also appealed to all political parties and voters to cooperate in conducting this process transparently and comprehensively.



**Holy Buddha Relics Exposition in Leh Draws 1.18 Lakh Devotees**

LEH/JAMMU: (MAY 14)

The 14-day sacred grand exposition of the holy Buddha relics concluded on Thursday in Ladakh's Leh district during which more than 1.18 lakh devotees paid obeisance to Lord Buddha, officials said. Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, attended the closing ceremony of the exposition, which witnessed participation from people belonging to different walks of life. On Thursday, thousands of devotees gathered at the Dharma Centre in Choglamsar to pay their final respects to Lord Buddha.

**AIADMK faction clash erupts in Karur as EPS supporters break Karur office lock**

Supporters of the AIADMK faction led by Edappadi K Palaniswami broke open the lock of the party's Karur office and entered the premises, triggering clashes and protests amid a deepening leadership tussle within the party.



Supporters of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam faction led by Edappadi K Palaniswami broke open the lock of the party office in Karur and entered the premises on Wednesday, triggering a ruckus and exposing the deepening factional divide within the party.

The confrontation unfolded after former minister and Karur MLA MR Vijayabaskar, who supports the faction led by SP Velumani, was removed from his party post by EPS. The AIADMK chief replaced him with Kamalakannan as the new Karur District Secretary. The political tension escalated after 27 AIADMK MLAs led by Velumani voted in support of the TVK party in the Assembly. Following the vote, EPS removed several

leaders from party posts and announced new district secretaries, effectively splitting the AIADMK into two factions — one led by Palaniswami and the other by Velumani.

When Kamalakannan arrived in Karur, AIADMK cadres gave him an enthusiastic reception. He garlanded the statues of MGR and J Jayalithaa before proceeding to the district party office. Finding the office locked, Kamalakannan and his supporters broke the lock, entered the premises and garlanded the MGR statue inside. Police later asked the supporters to vacate the office, leading to a heated argument between police personnel and

Palaniswami supporters. The cadres then staged a sit-in protest in front of the office.

The situation turned more tense when Vijayabaskar arrived at the office. Supporters from both factions engaged in a heated argument before police intervened and brought the situation under control.

Amid the growing factional crisis, senior AIADMK leader CV Shanmugam addressed concerns over increased security at the party headquarters and asserted that genuine party workers would never desecrate the office premises.

"We hear that security has been increased in the AIADMK head office. We want to

tell you all one thing: this is AIADMK blood. We are common people who were made MPs and MLAs by the AIADMK party. AIADMK Head Office is seen as a temple by our cadres. We will not go to our party's head office. We, in a legal way, after proving that we are real cadres of AIADMK, will set foot in the AIADMK head office. Nobody needs to fear," Shanmugam said.

The internal crisis within the AIADMK intensified further after Shanmugam launched a sharp attack on EPS, accusing him of weakening the party and silencing dissenting voices. He said the AIADMK had suffered continuous electoral defeats since the death of former Chief Minister J Jayalithaa in 2016.

"The defeat faced by the AIADMK in the recently concluded Assembly elections must be discussed. We need to deliberate and analyse the reasons behind these continuous defeats," Shanmugam said. He also claimed that 26 party functionaries had been removed from organisational posts. Invoking the legacy of AIADMK founder MG Ram-

achandran and Jayalithaa, Shanmugam alleged that the party's ideology had been diluted under EPS leadership. "The basic policy of AIADMK is diluted by Edappadi Palani Sami," he said, adding that the party's founding objective was to defeat the DMK.

Meanwhile, the EPS faction initiated disciplinary action against leaders accused of violating the party whip during the floor test. Several senior leaders, including Velumani, Shanmugam and Vijayabaskar, were removed from organisational posts. Natham Viswanathan was also stripped of his roles as Deputy General Secretary and Dindigul East District Secretary. The EPS-led faction also submitted a petition to the Assembly Secretary seeking action against 25 MLAs who allegedly voted in favour of the TVK government in violation of the party whip. The intensifying infighting within the AIADMK has further escalated the political temperature in Tamil Nadu, raising questions over party unity and leadership control ahead of future electoral battles.



**CM Chandrababu Reduces Vehicle Convoy**

Chief Minister cuts down convoy following Prime Minister Modi's call

**Amaravati, May 14:** Following the appeal made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has reduced the size of his vehicle convoy. The convoy, which previously consisted of 12 vehicles, has now been reduced to 4 vehicles. The Chief Minister has issued instructions to implement this reduction starting today itself.

Accordingly, the CM traveled from the camp office in Undavalli to the Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat with a convoy of only four vehicles. The Chief Minister has decided to continue traveling with this reduced four-vehicle convoy from now on.

The CM also advised ministers and public representatives to similarly reduce the size of their convoys and help save fuel. In line with these instructions, ministers too have reduced the number of vehicles in their convoys.



**Andhra Pradesh sets Rs 1.27 lakh crore own revenue target**

AMARAVATI, MAY 14

The government of Andhra Pradesh has set a target of ₹1.27 lakh crore revenue during the current financial year. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday directed all revenue-earning departments to intensify efforts to increase the state's own revenues while aggressively pursuing pending central funds. Reviewing the performance of key revenue departments at the Secretariat in Amaravati, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh must convert growing investments into higher tax revenues and sustainable economic growth. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the State Own Revenue rose from ₹1,04,345 crore in 2024-25 to ₹1,10,643 crore in 2025-26, registering 6 per cent growth. Major contributions included ₹33,679 crore from Goods and Services Tax, ₹10,300 crore from the Mines Department, and ₹11,047 crore from the Stamps and Registration Department. For 2026-27, the state has set an ambitious revenue target of ₹1,27,506 crore. According to an official release, the Chief Minister stressed that every revenue-earning department, including Commercial Taxes, Excise, Mines, Transport, and Registration, must operate at full capacity and prevent any revenue leakage. He noted that resolving land disputes, particularly issues related to Section 22A properties, could

significantly increase registration revenues. "As investments increase, tax revenues must rise proportionately," he said, adding that the state had already recorded nearly 38 per cent revenue growth in the first 42 days of the current financial year. Calling districts "growth centres", the Chief Minister said economic expansion at the district level would help Andhra Pradesh achieve statewide revenue targets faster. He urged departments to adopt innovative systems, improve the Speed of Doing Business, and use technology to eliminate tax evasion and irregularities. Emphasising the role of Artificial Intelligence, the Chief Minister directed departments to implement Artificial Intelligence-driven Goods and Services Tax scrutiny systems, strengthen analytics, and use technology to identify leakages and improve compliance without harassing taxpayers. He also asked officials to create awareness among taxpayers about the benefits of tax payments and ensure transparency in collections. The Chief Minister further highlighted the need to add value to minerals and red sand exports to improve revenues. He called for faster vehicle registrations within 24 hours, rationalisation of municipal taxes, and wider use of Geographic Information System mapping, drone surveys, and satellite imagery to detect unauthorised constructions and improve tax assessments.

**TN CM Vijay urges PM Modi to scrap cotton import duty amid textile sector crisis**

CHENNAI, MAY 14

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately remove the 11 per cent import duty on cotton, warning that the state's textile and apparel sector was facing a severe crisis due to spiralling raw material costs. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, Vijay said the sharp increase in cotton and yarn prices had put immense pressure on garment manufacturers and threatened the livelihoods of lakhs of workers dependent on the sector. Describing Tamil Nadu as India's largest textile and apparel exporting state, the Chief Minister added that the industry provided direct and indirect employment to lakhs of people, particularly women from rural and semi-urban areas. "The textile and apparel industry in Tamil Nadu is undergoing a severe crisis because of the unprecedented rise in cotton and yarn prices," Chief Minister Vijay said in the letter.



textile manufacturers.

He added that continuous supply of raw materials could now be ensured only through imports, but the existing 11 per cent import duty on cotton was making imports expensive and unviable for the industry.

"Permitting duty-free cotton imports will help the industry meet increasing export commitments and remain globally competitive," the Chief Minister said.

Emphasising the importance of the textile sector in employment generation, Chief Minister Vijay noted that after agriculture, the textile and apparel industry remained one of the country's largest job creators.

"Hence, there is a significant responsibility on the government to safeguard the employment of lakhs of people and ensure the sustainability of the textile value chain," he said.

Chief Minister Vijay urged the Centre to reduce the cotton import duty from the existing 11 per cent to zero, saying the move would help stabilise raw material availability, protect jobs, boost exports, and enhance the global competitiveness of India's textile industry.

**Ex-TMC MLA among 3 named by RG Kar victim's family in fresh court plea**

The victim's parents asked a Kolkata court to order the arrest and custodial interrogation of three people over the hurried cremation. The plea also raised concerns about possible evidence destruction as the CBI sought time to file its response.



The parents of the RG Kar Medical College rape-murder victim have moved a court in Kolkata seeking the arrest and custodial interrogation of three individuals, alleging they played a key role in the hurried cremation of their daughter's body and possible destruction of evidence. In a fresh application before the Sealdah court, the family named former Panihati MLA Nirmal Ghosh, Somnath Das and local TMC functionary Sanjib Mukhopadhyay. The victim's parents alleged that the trio

had effectively "hijacked" the body from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital after the incident and rushed the cremation process.

According to the plea, there were attempts to prevent a second post-mortem examination and the family was allegedly not provided all necessary documents before the cremation took place. The family's lawyer argued in court that the conduct of the accused individuals immediately after the crime raised

suspicion and warranted custodial interrogation. During the hearing, counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation told the court that the agency could not be directed on whom to arrest, but agreed to file a formal response in the matter. The agency has sought time until June 5 to submit its report.

The development came on the same day a division bench of the Calcutta High Court headed by Justice Rajasekhara Mantha recused itself from

hearing matters related to the RG Kar case after the CBI submitted a sealed report before the court. Justice Mantha observed that a state judicial commission was likely to be formed in connection with the matter and said there was no immediate need for the bench to continue hearing the case. The matter has now been referred back to the Chief Justice for reassignment.

Meanwhile, the Joint Platform of Doctors West Bengal, has written to the state chief secretary of the state expressing concern that crucial files and evidence linked to alleged irregularities in the state health department could be destroyed. The organisation demanded immediate preservation of records, citing allegations of corruption in appointments, procurement and infrastructure projects across the health sector. The date of the next hearing is fixed for 5th June.

**Woman Allegedly gang-raped in Delhi Bus**

Driver, conductor Arrested

**New Delhi :** A woman was allegedly raped by the driver and conductor of a sleeper bus in Delhi on the night of May 11. Police sources confirmed the arrest of the two accused. The incident, which occurred while the bus was moving, has drawn strong condemnation from the opposition AAP, who likened it to the 2012 Nirbhaya case. A woman was allegedly raped by the driver and the conductor of a sleeper bus inside the vehicle in Delhi, po-



lice sources said on Thursday. The two accused have been arrested in connection with the incident that took place on the

night of May 11, the sources said. Delhi Police has not yet issued an official statement on the incident. The opposition AAP likened the incident to the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape-murder case and said it was a "big shame". Based on the woman's statement, an FIR was registered under sections 64(1) (rape), 70(1) (gang rape) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Rani Bagh police station on May 12, the sources said. "The accused have been arrested and

further investigation is underway," a police source said, adding that the bus has been seized. According to the police sources, the woman was returning home after working at a factory. When she reached near the B-Block bus stand in Saraswati Vihar, she saw one of the accused standing near the bus door and asked him the time. The accused then allegedly dragged her inside the bus and raped her. In a post on X, Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj condemned the incident.

**DGP Sri C.V. Anand reviews OCTOPUS activities at Ibrahimpatnam campus**

HYDERABAD, MAY 14:

Director General of Police Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, visited the Commando Training Centre of OCTOPUS at Ibrahimpatnam on Thursday and reviewed the functioning, training activities, and operational preparedness of the elite counter-terror force.

During the visit, the DGP inspected the Administration Block, Training Block, operational facilities, and newly developed infrastructure at the campus. He interacted with officers and commandos, reviewed the preparedness of the force to respond to any untoward terror-related

incidents, and assessed the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams and training wing. Dr. Anil Kumar, IPS, DGP Operations (OCTOPUS & Greyhounds), briefed the DGP on the regular activities of operational teams, periodic mock exercises being conducted at vulnerable installations and sensitive locations, counter-terror preparedness drills, and specialized training in handling advanced weapons and equipment during operations. Addressing the officers and commandos, Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, emphasized the importance of conducting mock operations in diverse building structures

and real-time scenarios to enhance operational effectiveness. He stressed the need for maintaining the highest standards of physical fitness, alertness, sharpness, and round-the-clock readiness to effectively respond to counter-terror situations whenever required. The DGP also reviewed the requirements for modern equipment and infrastructure enhancement aimed at strengthening the counter-terror teams to effectively handle all types of crisis situations. He further advised the force to plan and strengthen operational strategies for existing airports as well as upcoming

airport facilities. During the interaction, Sri C.V. Anand stated that Greyhounds and OCTOPUS are among Telangana's most prestigious forces and have earned recognition across the country for their professionalism and operational excellence. He assured that both elite forces would continue to receive maximum support from the Government and Police Department for further strengthening their capabilities. Sri M. Venkateshwarlu, SP (Administration), Sri Ch. Raghunandan, Adtl. SP (Operations) and Octopus officers were present during the review meeting.

**Udhayanidhi Stalin clarifies 'Sanatan' remark, says fight is against caste bias**

**Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Thursday clarified his remarks on "Sanatan," saying his comments were aimed at caste discrimination and social inequality, and not against religion or temple worship.**



Responding to criticism over remarks he made in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Udhayanidhi said his statement posted on X, "Sanatan, which divides people, must certainly be eradicated" had been misunderstood by opponents. "Saying that Sanatan should be eradicated does not mean that

upper and lower castes must be abolished," he said, while adding that the Dravidian movement had historically grown through opposition and criticism. "I am not someone who fears such criticism," Udhayanidhi said. "The Dravidian movement has grown through opposition." Invoking Dravidian and social justice icons, he said his views reflected the principles advocated by Periyar EV Ramasami, BR Ambedkar, CN Annadurai and M Karunanidhi. "We are not against anyone's belief in God. But we strongly oppose inequality and oppression," he added. Quoting Tamil philosopher-poet Thiruvalluvar, Udhayanidhi con-

cluded with the line "Pirappokkum ella uyirkkum," meaning all beings are equal by birth, and said that remained the guiding principle of the Dravidian movement. Days earlier, the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly again advocated for the "eradication of Sanatan" on the floor of the House, triggering reactions from multiple quarters. However, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, who was present in the Assembly, did not respond to the remarks. "Sanathanam, which separated people, should be eradicated," Udhayanidhi had said on the first day of the Assembly session after the 2026 state elections.

EDITORIAL

International Family Day - 15 May 2026

THE UGLY BOUT:  
WHY THE WFI'S CHARGES  
AGAINST VINESH PHOGAT  
SMELL OF RETRIBUTION

Double World championships bronze medalist Vinesh Phogat's comeback bid after a sabbatical following the Paris Olympics hit a roadblock when the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) found her ineligible as per a United World Wrestling (UWW) rule, which requires retired athletes to inform the world body six months prior to their intended return to competition. With an eye on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, Phogat — a prominent face in the 2023 wrestlers' protest and one of the six women who brought allegations of sexual harassment and started a legal battle against former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh — was aiming for a brave comeback in the Open Ranking tournament at the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya; Brij Bhushan, also a Gonda strongman and former BJP Member of Parliament, owns it. The National Federation, which is headed by Brij Bhushan's close aide Sanjay Singh, also issued a show-cause notice to Phogat on three separate, prominent grounds. Firstly, that she did not adhere to the 50kg weight limit and was disqualified after reaching the final at the Paris Olympics. It resulted in her disqualification, a loss of medal and negative publicity. Second, as an athlete in the registered testing pool, who is required to give a time slot every day and be available for dope tests, she had multiple whereabouts failures, including on December 18, shortly after announcing her comeback. Third, Phogat violated a UWW rule by competing in two weight categories, 50kg and 53kg, at a selection trial in March 2024 for an Olympic qualifying event.

But the timing of the show-cause notice and the charges, which Phogat has rubbished, raises doubts about the intentions behind it. As for the Paris fiasco, it happened two years ago. Under World Anti-Doping Agency rules, three missed tests and/or filing failures within a 12-month period constitute an anti-doping rule violation. It is, however, not applicable in Phogat's case. Moreover, the UWW and National Anti-Doping Agency are the authorities concerned to deal with doping issues. The trials, in which Phogat participated in two weights, were held by an ad hoc body as the WFI was not recognised by the government at the time. As a parent body, the WFI should have shown maturity in handling Phogat's comeback. Instead, it clubbed together different matters spanning two years to thwart the 31-year-old's return. Phogat, who is a Congress legislator from Haryana, has shown her strong temperament and is working with her legal team to respond to the show-cause notice within 14 days. Meanwhile, the UWW should step in to stop the ugly bout between a decorated wrestler and the WFI. India can do without further embarrassment on this score.

Strong Families: Humanity's  
Last Hope in a Fragmented World

Observed every year on 15 May, the International Day of Families is not merely a celebration of human relationships; it is also an occasion to reconnect humanity with its deepest roots. This day reminds us that no matter how modern, technological, or economically advanced the world becomes, the family continues to remain the primary need of every human being. Established by the United Nations, this year's observance gains even greater significance as the world faces mounting crises of inflation, unemployment, war, violence, mental stress, loneliness, and the erosion of trust among people. In such difficult times, the family emerges not merely as a place to live, but as the strongest shelter for human existence, security, values, and emotions.



Today, the greatest crisis confronting the world is not merely economic; it is emotional and moral. The dazzling culture of the marketplace has turned people into consumers, but it has failed to make them more compassionate human beings. Self-interest has entered relationships, and suspicion has replaced trust. People are becoming increasingly connected to machines while drifting away from their loved ones. Wars are no longer confined to borders alone; they are now visible within families as well—between husband and wife, between generations, and even between siblings. Dialogue is breaking down, tolerance is diminishing, and the ego of "I" is swallowing the spirit of "We." Under such circumstances, the role of

the family becomes more important than ever before.

A family is not merely a group bound by blood relations; it is the first school of life's values. It is within the family that a person first learns love, sacrifice, cooperation, discipline, patience, and coexistence. If families remain healthy, society will remain healthy; and if society remains healthy, nations and the world will also remain balanced. Therefore, the need today is not merely to preserve families, but to make them value-oriented and morally strong. At a time when inflation is continuously rising, basic necessities are becoming more expensive, and unemployment is shattering the dreams of youth, the concept of the joint family once again appears highly relevant. A joint family is not merely an economic arrangement; it is also a source of emotional security. Resources are shared, responsibilities are distributed, and crises do not fall upon one individual alone. Problems of depression arising from loneliness are comparatively less visible in joint families because communication and emotional warmth continue to survive there.

Modern civilization has undoubtedly granted greater freedom, but that very freedom has often made individuals detached from relationships. Thousands living in small apartments in metropolitan cities may appear economically prosperous, yet internally they remain deeply lonely. Elderly parents are neglected, children are drifting away from values, and warmth in marital relationships is steadily declining. This is one of the major reasons behind the rising cases of mental illness, stress, insecurity, and suicides. These are not merely personal failures; they are signs of the weakening of the institution of family itself. Today, there is an urgent need to transform the family from a center of consumption and convenience into a "laboratory of non-violence." Non-violence does not merely mean refraining from physical harm.

Avoiding harsh words, refraining from humiliation, respecting one another's emotions, controlling anger, maintaining dialogue, and practicing forgiveness are also forms of non-violence. If violent language, bitterness, insult, and intolerance prevail within

families, how can society ever dream of peace?

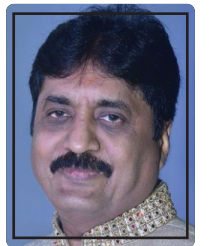
The family must become the first place where a child learns tolerance and compassion. It should be a space where children are taught that life is not a competition, but coexistence. A place where elders are not treated as burdens, but as invaluable treasures of experience. A place where women receive dignity, children receive values, and youth receive trust and confidence. Much of the growing violence in today's world stems from the weakening of dialogue and sensitivity within families. Children are speaking to mobile phones, but not to their parents. Families may be living together physically, yet emotionally they are falling apart. Climate change, wars, and economic instability have made the entire world insecure. Whether it is the Russia-Ukraine war or the conflicts in West Asia, the greatest impact of these crises falls upon families. Millions are displaced, children become orphans, and women face insecurity and exploitation. Amid these global crises, the family remains the one institution that gives broken human beings the courage to live again. This is why the United Nations is placing special emphasis this year on family-centered policies. Sustainable development cannot be achieved through economic growth alone; it is possible only through strong, value-based families.

The greatest strength of Indian culture has always been its family system. In India, the family is not merely a social arrangement, but a spiritual and cultural institution. Epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata are not merely tales of war; they are profound narratives of family values, relationships, duties, and sacrifice. The Indian philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world is one family—offers a vision that can eliminate war, violence, terrorism, and hatred if truly practiced. Unfortunately, consumerist culture has now entered families as well. Relationships are increasingly measured on the scale of profit and loss. Tolerance is decreasing while expectations are rising. Relationships breaking over trivial issues indicate that while we have increased comforts, we have lost sensitivity. The true strength of a

family lies not in wealth, but in trust. Where trust survives, even scarcity turns into celebration; but where trust is broken, even luxury becomes a burden.

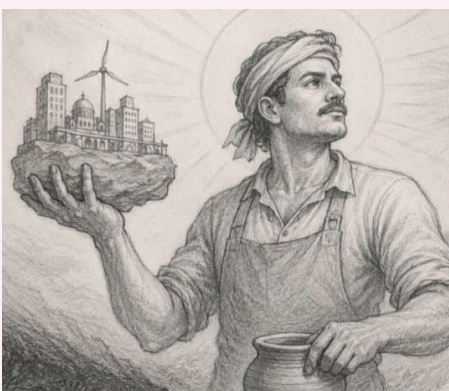
Today, families need a new direction. The tradition of shared meals must return. Time should be reserved for meaningful dialogue. The experiences of elders should be valued. Children should receive not only career-oriented education but also lessons in character-building. Families must nurture compassion instead of anger, cooperation instead of competition, and duty instead of entitlement. Only then can the family truly become a laboratory of non-violence. In reality, the greatest battle of the future will not be fought with weapons, but with values. A society whose families disintegrate cannot retain social stability. Therefore, the International Day of Families is not merely a day of celebration; it is an opportunity for introspection. We must ask ourselves what kind of world we wish to leave for our children—a world of hatred and loneliness, or a world of love and trust.

If families cultivate an atmosphere of love, dialogue, tolerance, non-violence, and mutual support, then even the gravest global crises can be overcome. The family is not merely a social institution; it is the shelter of the human soul. It is cool shade in the scorching heat of life, support in times of struggle, and the final ray of hope amidst collapsing trust. Therefore, the greatest need today is not merely to save the family as a structure, but to preserve the human values within it. That alone can secure the future of humanity, and that is the true message of the International Day of Families.



LALIT GARGG  
Writer, Journalist,  
Columnist

NO NEED



Crushed by life, yet standing tall,  
A warrior who fights for all.  
With hands that toil, with hearts so true,  
They shape the world in colors new.

Men of honor, hands of clay,  
Molding wonders every day.  
The wise must see, the great must cheer,  
For such bright souls deserve to steer.

A mirror now, a guiding light,  
A beacon shining through the night.  
For those to come, for days ahead,  
A legacy in gold is spread.

No more requests, no desperate plea,  
Let talent shine, let merit be!  
Like gems that gleam in hidden stone,  
Their worth is clear, their light well known.

Yet whispers crawl, the virus spreads,  
Of favors won by bows and heads.  
A table, a bed, a wedding, a feast,  
A bribe to the highest, a gift to the least.

Shame! Oh shame! In every place,  
A plague that stains, a deep disgrace.  
This old disease still lingers on,  
Yet hope must rise with every dawn.

If tomorrow changes, what a sight!  
Like shadows fleeing from the light.  
No more chains of greed and gain,  
Let honor rise and truth remain.

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

The NEET Paper Leak: When an Exam  
System Loses Its Moral Authority

The NEET paper leak is not just another controversy dominating television debates for a few days. For millions of students and parents across India, it has become a moment of deep emotional and moral rupture. In countless homes, NEET preparation is not treated like an ordinary academic exercise. It becomes the center around which an entire family reorganizes its life. Teenagers spend years inside classrooms, coaching centers, rented hostel rooms, and libraries, often cutting themselves away from festivals, friendships, and even sleep. Parents quietly reshape household budgets around coaching fees, travel expenses, and study material. In many families, the dream of becoming a doctor is not merely personal ambition—it is seen as a path toward dignity, stability, and social mobility.

That is why a paper leak does not feel like a technical failure alone. It feels like betrayal.

More Than a Failed Examination:

Competitive examinations survive on one invisible but essential foundation - trust. Students accept pressure, competition, uncertainty, and sacrifice because they believe the system will ultimately remain fair. The moment that belief weakens, the damage extends beyond a single examination cycle. For many students from ordinary backgrounds, exams like NEET represent one of the few remaining pathways through which effort can still change the course of a life. When allegations of leaks, manipulation, or organized malpractice emerge, students begin to question not only the examination, but the meaning of hard work itself. A society should be deeply concerned when its young people begin to feel that honesty is naive and integrity is powerless.

The Unequal Reality Behind "Merit": The present controversy has also reopened an uncomfortable national conversation about merit and inequality. India often speaks of competitive exams as "equal opportunities," but the



THE MOST WORRYING CONSEQUENCE OF THE PRESENT CRISIS IS NOT SIMPLY ANGER. IT IS EMOTIONAL FATIGUE. THERE ARE STUDENTS TODAY WHO ARE NOT MERELY DISAPPOINTED; THEY ARE MENTALLY EXHAUSTED FROM CARRYING EXPECTATIONS THAT FEEL LARGER THAN THEIR AGE.

preparation landscape is profoundly unequal. A student studying in a metropolitan coaching ecosystem with digital access, private mentorship, test-series culture, stable electricity, and English-medium schooling competes against another student who may come from a rural government school with limited infrastructure and little academic support outside the classroom. Yet both are judged by the same narrow metric on a single day. This does not diminish talent or hard work. It simply acknowledges reality. Merit does not emerge in a vacuum; it is shaped by access, exposure, language, financial security, and educational environment. The examination may be common, but the journey toward it is not.

When Education Turns Into Survival:

The NEET ecosystem has also accelerated the transformation of education into an industry driven by fear and relentless performance pressure.

Across many cities, students now begin preparation years before adulthood. Their lives become structured around mock tests, rankings, cut-offs, and comparison charts. In some coaching hubs, children leave their hostels before sunrise and return late at night, carrying the exhaustion of a full-time profession before they are even old enough to vote. Learning itself slowly becomes secondary. Students are trained to eliminate wrong answers quickly, optimize scores, and survive competition. Schools increasingly function as extensions of examination systems rather than spaces of curiosity or intellectual growth. The tragedy is not only academic exhaustion, but emotional narrowing. Childhood begins to disappear under the weight of constant evaluation.

The Silent Mental Health Crisis:

Behind every rank list lies a quieter story that rarely receives equal attention. Many students preparing for high-stakes examinations live in prolonged states of anxiety, isolation, and self-doubt. When an entire year—or sometimes several years—of effort appears dependent on a few hours inside an examination hall, fear becomes unavoidable.

The most worrying consequence of the present crisis is not simply anger. It is emotional fatigue.

There are students today who are not merely disappointed; they are mentally exhausted from carrying expectations that feel larger than their age. An education system cannot call itself successful if achievement comes at the cost of psychological well-being.

Beyond Re-Examinations and Arrests:

Conducting another examination may address the immediate crisis, but it will not resolve the deeper institutional damage. Restoring credibility requires transparency, accountability, and structural reform. Investigations into malpractice must inspire public confidence rather than suspicion. Examination security systems require modernization, independent oversight, and continuous auditing. At the same time, India must seriously debate whether the future of millions should depend so heavily on a single high-pressure examination.

Equally important is rebuilding respect for school education itself. As long as learning remains secondary to rank production, coaching culture will continue to dominate young lives.

The students sitting in examination halls are not statistics in a national competition. They are young people carrying the ambitions of families, the anxieties of social expectation, and the hope that effort still matters in this country. Question papers can always be printed again. But once an entire generation begins to lose faith in fairness, rebuilding that trust becomes far more difficult.



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## Hema Malini launched the Mero Mathura app

MATHURA

Mathura MP Hema Malini launched the Mero Mathura app, the newly built app of Mathura Vrindavan Nagar Nigam, today.

The app has digitized most of the citizens' services, which will enhance convenience, empower people, and promote accountability. "Locals have access to a wide range of on-demand services, can file complaints, can ask for help in emergencies, and can serve their statutory liabilities, without visiting Nagar Nigam offices, sitting comfortably at their home," Hema Malini said. This will eventually speed up the process.

Nagar Aayukt Jag Pravesh said that Citizens can register and track the status of their problems regarding Road, Water, and Waste, and may contact the concerned officer in need. They can pay property tax and apply for and receive verified certified copies of Birth and Death certificates on their mobile phones.

"Information on contact details of officers, location of public conveniences on a map, and access to informa-

tion about facilities for women, men, and specially abled citizens are some other features on the app," He added.

Apart from this, the app also has comprehensive information on the city's temples and Ghats, their locations, timings, and Festival calendar, and may be used by citizens in case of emergencies, with the option of sending live locations for immediate help. Police, Hospital, and Fire Brigade emergency numbers can be accessed with one touch. Jag Pravesh noted that residents can also register their pets online and get digital registration certificates. He said complete care is taken to ensure the confidentiality of stored data. The data is fully encrypted and secure. Moreover, login to the app required the use of one's biometric fingerprint and a PIN code. The app is developed and run in collaboration with HDFC Bank and is available on the Google Play Store, and can be downloaded freely, he added. Nagar Aakukt is hopeful that the app will cater to the needs of locals and a large number of visitors coming to the city.

## 100 Killed As Heavy Rain, Storms Hit Uttar Pradesh; 21 Dead In Prayagraj



The weather changed suddenly last evening, with clouds of dust covering large parts of Uttar Pradesh.

**Lucknow:** A hundred people were killed in heavy rain and storms across Uttar Pradesh yesterday. Trees and electric poles were uprooted, and several houses were also damaged across the state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has consoled the deaths and ordered disbursement of financial assistance within 24 hours. Prayagraj witnessed the highest number of deaths at 21, while 18 died in Bhadohi, 15 in Mirzapur, 10 in Fatehpur, six each in Unnao and Badaun, four each in Pratapgarh and Bareilly, and two each in Sitapur, Raebareilly, and Chandauli. Two deaths have also been reported from Kanpur Dehat, Hardoi, and Sambhal;

one died each in Kaushambi, Shahjahanpur, Sonbhadra, and Lakhimpur. The weather changed suddenly last evening, with clouds of dust covering large parts of Uttar Pradesh. Many had to take shelter under trees and flyovers as high-speed winds ripped hoardings and tin sheds and uprooted trees. Several roads were blocked, and vehicles were crushed due to fallen trees. Many houses were also damaged in storms. The rescuers had to dig through the debris with their bare hands to save those who got trapped. Several videos have been shared from across the state capturing how powerful the storms were. One from the Bamiyana village in Bareilly shows a man being flung into the air along with a tin shed and thrown 50 feet away into a field by strong winds. Nanhe Miyan,



who had his hands and legs fractured in the incident, said that he was holding a rope when the winds sent him and the metal structure flying. "I don't know where I fell. I was at least 50 feet away," he told NDTV.

### Lightning Strikes, Wall Collapse

There are also reports of several people falling into the Ganga after a pontoon bridge was damaged in Bhadohi's Rampur. In another incident, a pontoon bridge was damaged in Mirzapur's Gaura Pramanpur, cutting access to 20 villages. In Fatehpur, out of the 10 deaths, eight occurred in Khaga tehsil. This included five women. Besides, a woman died in Sadar tehsil due to a wall collapse, stated Additional District Magistrate Avinash Tripathi. Separate incidents of wall and shed collapse and lightning

strikes claimed four lives in Pratapgarh, while two others died in rain-related incidents in Kanpur Dehat district. Two deaths due to lightning strikes were also reported from Deoria.

### Chief Minister's Relief Order

The Relief Commissioner's office has said that the chief minister has taken cognizance of the deaths and injuries, livestock losses, and damages to houses due to unseasonal rain and thunderstorms across the state. Divisional commissioners and district magistrates have been asked to be sensitive while verifying incidents and ensure that financial assistance reaches the affected families within 24 hours, it said. The chief minister has also sought updates on storm- and rain-related damages from all districts every three hours.



## Sitaram Sinku, Addl. Member (Production Units), Railway Board visits Rail Coach Factory

KAPURTHALA 14 MAY 2026:

Shri Sitaram Sinku, Addl. Member (Production Units), Railway Board, today visited Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. On arrival at RCF, Shri Sinku inspected the coach manufacturing processes in the workshop. He examined manufacturing of various types of coaches especially Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Coaches built for Bangladesh Railways etc. being made by RCF, besides inspecting the coach shells in Shell Assembly Shop. He also examined manufacturing of shell components in CNC Machines, Press and other machines. He praised RCF infrastructure for speedy manufacturing of coaches and also gave valuable tips in the process.

Later, a presentation on RCF was made before him

elaborating on production output and manufacturing of new types of coaches in RCF in the current financial year. Sh. Sinku held an elaborate meeting with Shri Ajay Nandan, General Manager and Senior Officers on core issues and he assured of full support from Railway Board. In the meeting, he advised RCF to follow the best practices to enhance the quality of coaches to the ultimate satisfaction of the passengers. He also appreciated RCF for the record production of coaches in the financial year 2025-26.

Sh. Sitaram Sinku also held meeting with recognized Union / Associations of RCF in which he stressed upon the importance of cordial relations between unions and administration and at the same time reaching out to them to cooperate in increasing the production of coaches.



## Regular service of Amrit Bharat Express between New Jalpaiguri and Amritsar introduced

MALIGAON, 14 MAY, 2026:

Indian Railways has introduced the regular service of the Amrit Bharat Express train between Amritsar and New Jalpaiguri, providing enhanced connectivity between North India and North Bengal. The Amrit Bharat Express Train (Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri) from Amritsar Junction has been flagged off today by Shri Ravneet Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries from Amritsar station. Train no. 14664/14663 (Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar) will run on weekly basis departing every Thursday from Amritsar and every Saturday from New Jalpaiguri. The introduction of this regular weekly service is expected to significantly benefit passengers traveling between Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal by improving rail connectivity and providing a convenient travel option. Train no. 14664 will depart from Amritsar every Thursday at 12:45 hrs w.e.f from 14th May, 2026 and will reach New Jalpaiguri at 04:15 hrs on every Saturday. In the return direction, train no. 14663 will depart

from New Jalpaiguri every Saturday at 08:00 hrs w.e.f from 16th May, 2026 and arrive at Amritsar at 02:20 hrs on every Monday. During its journey in both directions, the train will halt at Siliguri Junction, Bagdogra, Arariya, Raghupur, Sakri Junction, Raxaul Junction, Narkatiaganj Junction, Gorakhpur, Barhni, Gonda Junction, Sitapur Junction, Bareilly, Saharanpur Junction and Ludhiana Junction apart from other stations. The Amrit Bharat Express will consist of 22 coaches, offering comfortable and affordable travel facilities to passengers. The train will pass through the newly constructed Araria - Galgolia route providing rail connectivity for a vast section of population for North Bengal and Bihar. The train is also expected to strengthen trade, tourism and cultural exchange among the states along its route, thereby contributing to regional economic growth and development. Enhanced rail connectivity between North India and eastern parts of the country will facilitate easier movement of people, agricultural produce, commercial goods and small businesses, further boosting economic activities across the connected regions.

## With Reforms, Railways Carries 170 Per Cent More Cement in Last Four Months; Eyes Fly Ash Market Now

Environment-Friendly New Container Wagons Simplify Loading & Unloading, while Reducing Material Cost and Turnaround Time  
Turnaround Brings Silent Revolution in Construction Industry; Cheaper Cement Cost Helps in Affordable Housing for Poor & Middle Class  
More Cement Moving by Railways Reduces Truck Load on Roads, Lowers Congestion and Improves Freight Efficiency  
Railway Minister Urges Officials to Realise the Vast Potential in Fly Ash Transportation Market and Help Convert The Waste of Power Plants into National Wealth

In a major success for railway reforms, Indian Railways has recorded a 170 per cent rise in cement movement in the last four months. The increase comes after Railways introduced a series of reforms in cement transportation last year in November. These reforms are based on innovative bulk cement tank containers for seamless end-to-end logistics. The Union Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnav reviewed container sector reforms and their implementation today.

The cement reforms were introduced to increase rail-based movement of bulk cement and encourage a shift from road transport to cleaner and more efficient rail logistics. Railways introduced customised tank containers and bulk cement terminal policy to support multimodal handling of cement. The Union Minister said the new system

has made loading and unloading easier and is also reducing material loss. Cement manufactured at one place can now move directly to consumption centres in specialised tank containers, reducing multiple handling processes and improving plant-to-market efficiency. Since the containers are of standard shape and compatible with Ready-Mix Concrete (RMC) machines, cement reaches construction sites in ready-to-use form. This has reduced two stages of handling, leading to lower logistics cost and faster turnaround. The improved turnaround in cement logistics is bringing a silent revolution in the construction industry. By reducing handling stages and logistics costs, the overall delivered cost of cement is expected to come down, which can translate into more affordable construction inputs. This cost efficiency is particu-

larly significant for housing demand, as it supports the goal of making housing more affordable for the poor and middle class by easing pressure on construction costs across the value chain. The innovative "Make in India" tank containers are designed for seamless movement from train to trailer and back to train, enabling efficient door-to-door logistics solutions. Each container supports mechanised loading and unloading, while also reducing spillage and packaging losses compared to conventional bagged cement transportation.

The Union Minister said the reform is also environment friendly as dust generation during loading and unloading has been significantly reduced. The shift towards bulk movement through containers is lowering fuel consumption, reducing emissions and pro-

moting cleaner logistics while also reducing congestion on roads. After the success in cement transportation, Railways is now working on a similar reform for fly ash transportation. Reviewing the sector with senior officials, Shri Vaishnav urged officials to tap the vast potential in the fly ash transportation market and convert the waste generated by thermal power plants into national wealth. The Union Minister noted that nearly 300 million metric tonnes of fly ash is produced in the country, but only about 13 million tonnes is currently transported by Railways. He asked officials to significantly increase Railways' share and facilitate movement of fly ash to brick kilns, cement industries and construction sites across the country. Calling it a major "waste to wealth" opportunity, he said fly ash, often treated as waste by power

plants, is actually a valuable resource for road construction, cement manufacturing and brick production. Wider transportation and utilisation of fly ash will help reduce pollution, promote recycling of industrial waste and lower the cost of construction materials such as bricks and cement. It can also be used in several construction activities, supporting sustainable infrastructure development.

The reforms in cement transportation, coupled with the rollout of innovative container wagons, mark a significant step towards more efficient, cost-effective and scalable freight logistics in Indian Railways. Building on this momentum, the focus on fly ash is expected to further strengthen the "waste to wealth" approach, while expanding sustainable freight movement across key infrastructure sectors.

## Saini Lauds BJP's Big Civic Poll Victory

CHANDIGARH, MAY 14

Haryana Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini said that the Bharatiya Janata Party's historic and decisive victory in the civic body elections reflects the people's wholehearted support for the politics of development, good governance, transparency, and nationalism under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He thanked the people of Haryana for giving the BJP this overwhelming mandate. The Chief Minister was addressing a felicitation ceremony in Panchkula on Thursday as the Chief Guest, organized to honour the newly elected Mayors, Chairpersons, and Councillors of the urban local bodies. He also expressed gratitude to the dedicated BJP workers who, despite the scorching heat, worked tirelessly to take the government's welfare policies to every household. The Chief Minister said that the people of Haryana, through these civic body elections, have firmly rejected the Congress party's politics of dynasticism, falsehood, misinformation, and neg-

Public rejects Congress's negative politics in civic body elections: Nayab Singh Saini  
Mandate is a message of service, not of Power: Chief Minister



ativity, while endorsing the BJP's development-oriented governance model. Taking a sharp dig at the Congress, the Chief Minister said the election results have sent a clear message that people now expect performance, not mere rhetoric; delivery, not hollow promises. He added that, with development as their priority, the people of the state have chosen to establish a "Triple-Engine Government" in the urban local bodies. Shri Nayab Singh Saini said that the overwhelming support extended to the BJP by the people of Haryana is a victory for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's pro-poor welfare policies, the spirit of Antyodaya, and the guiding mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas." He said that today, the poor, farmers, youth, women, traders, and employees across the country feel a sense of security and confidence under the leadership of the Prime Minister. He added that this growing trust among the

people is the key reason behind the BJP's continuous electoral success across the nation. The Chief Minister said that after securing decisive victories in the municipal corporation elections in Hisar, Gurugram, Yamunanagar, and Faridabad, the BJP has now also received one-sided support from the people in the municipal elections of Panchkula, Ambala, and Sonapat. He stated that public trust in the BJP's development-oriented policies continues to grow steadily across elections to municipal corporations, councils, and committees.

He said that the past 11 years have witnessed remarkable and positive transformations across the country. While India has achieved new milestones on the global stage, Haryana has also set new benchmarks in various sectors. The welfare initiatives of both the Central and State Governments have strengthened the poor and farmers, while bringing meaningful and positive changes to the lives of women. Referring to the recent electoral victories in Assam and West Bengal, the Chief Minister said that the people of West Bengal had also acknowledged and appreciated the development works carried out by the double-engine government in Assam, and consequently expressed their faith in the BJP. He expressed confidence that, in the upcoming elections, the people of Punjab would also repose their trust in the policies of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and ensure the victory of the Lotus. Congratulating the victorious candidates

in the local body elections, the Chief Minister urged them to live up to the hopes and aspirations of the public. He said that this mandate is not a call for power, but a message of service. He stressed that it is their responsibility to prioritize and resolve basic civic issues in their respective wards, including roads, electricity, water supply, and other public utilities. He added that they should work with a spirit of public service, keeping the mantra "Nagarik Devo Bhava" (the citizen is God), given by the Prime Minister, as the guiding principle of governance. He affirmed that the election manifesto released during the campaign would be implemented in letter and spirit. Taking a jibe at the opposition parties, the Chief Minister said that previous governments were known for making announcements but failed to translate them into ground reality, whereas the present government is committed to fulfilling every promise made.

## Over 60 pc of 'Advantage Assam 2.0' investment proposals in advanced implementation stage: CM Sarma

GUWAHATI, MAY 14

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday that more than 60 per cent of the investment commitments received during the Advantage Assam 2.0 business summit are now in advanced stages of implementation, with several projects already becoming operational. The Chief Minister reviewed the status of the proposed investments and added that the state government is working to ensure faster execution of

projects that were announced during the summit held in February this year. Taking to social media platform X, Chief Minister Sarma said: "Advantage Assam 2.0: In February 2025 under this initiative, Assam received investment commitments of over Rs 5 lakh crore. Today, I examined the status of these projects and I'm happy to report that over 60 per cent of investment commitments are in advanced stages of implementation, with some already operationalised."

## BRICS to work on building more inclusive world order under India's chairmanship: PM



### NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that, under India's Chairmanship, BRICS will work together to strengthen multilateralism, promote sustainable development, enhance economic resilience and build a more inclusive world order.

Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of BRICS countries called on PM Modi on the first day of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in the capital.

"Glad to interact with Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of BRICS

countries. BRICS has emerged as an important platform for advancing cooperation among emerging economies and giving voice to the aspirations of the Global South," PM Modi posted on X.

"Under India's Chairmanship this year, we will work together to strengthen multilateralism, promote sustainable development, enhance economic resilience and build a more inclusive world order," he added.

Earlier, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called on Prime Minister Modi, discussing the various regional and global issues of mutual interest,

including the situation in Ukraine and West Asia.

During the meeting, PM Modi reiterated India's consistent stance of dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward, a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) detailed.

Lavrov briefed PM Modi on the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation since the meeting of the two leaders in December 2025 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

"Pleased to receive Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Thanked him for an update on the progress on various

facets of our Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership. We also exchanged views on various regional and global issues, including situation in Ukraine and West Asia. Reiterated our consistent support for efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of conflicts," PM Modi wrote on X after the meeting.

The two-day BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting began in New Delhi on Thursday under India's chairship. The high-level gathering is chaired by EAM Jaishankar and is witnessing participation of foreign ministers and senior representatives from BRICS member countries and partner nations.

## US authorities likely to drop case against Adani Group chief soon

### NEW DELHI

The US authorities are moving to resolve the allegations of fraud against Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani and bring to an end the case, which has been lingering for more than a year, according to sources. The US Justice Department may announce the dropping of charges as early as this week. Besides, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is also moving to settle a parallel civil fraud case it brought against the billionaire industrialist and others in November 2024, according to people in the know of the matter.

While the Justice Department could effectively move to drop the charges with the defendants out of the country, a resolution to the SEC would likely involve a monetary penalty, sources said.

The case brought by the SEC, alongside a criminal complaint by the Department of Justice, alleges that the Adanis sought to pay over \$250 million in bribes to Indian officials to secure solar energy contracts and concealed the scheme from US investors and banks when they raised funds. The counsel for Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani stated in court that there was no credible evidence supporting the alleged bribery scheme.



## UAE condemns terrorist attack on Indian vessel as PM Modi heads to Abu Dhabi

### NEW DELHI

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has issued a sweeping condemnation on Friday of what it called a "terrorist attack" targeting an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Gulf nation later today for a high-stakes bilateral visit.

In a sharply worded statement released on its official social media channels, the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said the assault on the vessel, operating under the Indian flag near Omani waters, represented a grave threat to the security of international navigation.

The Ministry described the incident as a "dangerous escalation" aimed squarely at undermining the stability of critical waterways.

The statement, attributed to MoFA, affirmed the Emirates' full solidarity with India and expressed unwavering support for all measures aimed at protecting the safety and security of Indian vessels and maritime interests.

The UAE said the attack amounted to a flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which up-

holds the freedom of navigation and explicitly rejects the targeting of commercial ships or any obstruction of international maritime routes.

Without naming any specific actor, MoFA added that using the Strait of Hormuz as an instrument of "economic coercion or blackmail" constituted acts of piracy and a direct threat to regional stability, its people, and global energy security.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which carried its own reaction earlier in the day, has not yet publicly identified the vessel or any casualties.

The official Spokesperson's statement said that the attack on an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman is unacceptable and India deplors the fact that commercial shipping and civilian mariners continue to be targeted.

"All Indian crew on board are safe, and we thank the Omani authorities for rescuing them," the ministry said. It added that India reiterates that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members, or otherwise impeding freedom of navigation and commerce, should be avoided.

## Pakistan-UAE relationship faces growing strain amid Islamabad's diplomatic missteps: Report

### WASHINGTON

The diplomatic strain between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) appears to be more than a minor setback, with the damage to the bilateral partnership now increasingly seen as enduring. The trust that once underpinned the relationship, based on the expectation of Pakistan's support for Abu Dhabi during critical moments, appears to have eroded, a report has highlighted.

According to the US-based think tank, Middle East Forum, the UAE has long supported Pakistan during economic crises and remained a major destination for Pakistani workers, warning that any long-term deterioration in ties would heighten Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities.

The UAE reportedly asked Pakistan to repay a USD 3.5 billion loan, which Islamabad was able to clear only with Saudi Arabia's support. Subsequently, Emirati authorities deported nearly 15,000 Pakistanis, while Etihad Airways dismissed several employees and ordered them to leave the country within 48 hours. While each incident alone raised questions about the trajectory of the bilateral ties, the report said, together, these developments suggest a serious deterioration in the relationship. "Such a crisis has been a long time coming. For decades,



Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates maintained deep strategic, economic, and people-to-people ties. The United Arab Emirates was among Pakistan's closest Persian Gulf partners, repeatedly extending financial assistance during periods of economic instability, investing in key sectors, and hosting millions of Pakistani expatriate workers whose remittances became a crucial pillar of Pakistan's economy," the Middle East Forum report detailed.

"Military cooperation, intelligence coordination, and labour migration reinforced the partnership, with leaders

in both countries routinely describing one another as 'brotherly states'. This began to unravel after Pakistan signed a mutual defence pact with Saudi Arabia in September 2025, in which an attack on one is considered an attack on both. The Pakistani move offended Abu Dhabi, whose rivalry with Riyadh peaked after Saudi-backed forces pushed into southern Yemen," it added.

The report highlighted that Gulf Arab tensions with Iran have deepened the drift, with Emiratis believing Pakistan showed sympathy towards Iran during and after the recent conflict. Given years of

Emirati financial support for Pakistan,

Abu Dhabi had expected stronger diplomatic alignment from Islamabad, especially amid Iranian missile and drone attacks. "That the Emiratis believed that Pakistan did not adequately address their concerns during peace negotiations added to the sense of grievance. Pakistan's decision to open six land routes into Iran while Gulf Arab countries faced an Iranian blockade themselves, compounded the problem. Emirati strategic commentary reflects the growing tension with Pakistan," the report noted.



## AU, UN leaders denounce external interference in Africa's security crisis

### ADDIS ABABA

African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Yousouf and United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have warned that external interferences are fueling the security crisis in Africa.

The two leaders made the allegation during a joint press conference on Wednesday at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, after signing a new declaration to enhance the AU-UN partnership.

"Most of the security crises on the continent are fueled from abroad. Financial resources, ammunition, sometimes even fighters come to fight another war from other continents," Yousouf told the press conference. He said the interference goes to the extent

of disrupting mediation and resolution processes, causing a serious challenge for the AU and UN to address the security crisis on the continent, including in the Sahel, Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Xinhua news agency reported.

Yousouf said the interferences are requiring the AU, UN and other partners to deploy more efforts to contain the crises. "The AU must lead any peace negotiations on the continent, based on the principle of African solutions to African conflicts." Guterres, for his part, said it is absolutely intolerable that countries that are external to Africa interfere in African conflicts, providing weapons and political support to serve their strategic or economic interests.

## Pakistani duo, Hong Kong resident charged in US drug case

### WASHINGTON

Two Pakistani nationals and a Hong Kong resident of Indian origin have been charged in the United States in connection with an alleged dark web narcotics trafficking operation that shipped counterfeit pills and controlled substances into New Jersey and other parts of the country, according to federal prosecutors in New Jersey.

A federal grand jury indictment unsealed this week charged Waleed Shamim, 33, Sameer Shamim, 41, and Shaheef Beig, 52, with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to import controlled substances. Prosecutors alleged the accused used dark web marketplaces, encrypted messaging services and international shipping channels to move narcotics into the United States.

According to the indictment, Beig is "a national of India residing in Hong Kong", while Waleed Shamim and Sameer Shamim are citizens of Pakistan. "As alleged, these defendants used dark web marketplaces and international shipping networks to move narcotics and counterfeit pills



into the United States and target customers in New Jersey," U.S. Attorney Robert Frazer said.

"Individuals who believe they can hide behind online aliases while trafficking dangerous drugs across international borders are mistaken; this Office and our law enforcement partners will identify them, disrupt their operations, and hold them accountable," he added.

Federal investigators alleged that between November 2021 and June 2022, Waleed Shamim and Sameer Shamim operated vendor accounts on illicit dark web marketplaces under the names "Horsemen" and "Horsemen1".

The indictment alleged the pair recruited individuals in the United States to act as "re-shippers" who would receive narcotics shipments and distribute them locally.

The indictment included a dark web advertisement allegedly posted by the group on February 22, 2022.

"Hi, we are Horsemen, your Adderall plug since Silk Road. After years of services on DNM [darknet marketplace] with more than a hundred thousand orders in transactions, our team had finally decided to step up the game with more products, and we are looking for an experienced drop shipper to receive the product and distribute it locally in the US,"

the post said. Authorities alleged the accused coordinated shipments of narcotics in pill form from Hong Kong and other international locations to re-shippers in the United States.

The indictment said investigators traced shipments that included about 556.78 grams of counterfeit Adderall pills containing amphetamine and multiple consignments of isotretinoin pills sent from Hong Kong to New Jersey.

Court filings alleged that approximately 495, 1,500 and 877 isotretinoin pills were shipped in separate consignments to New Jersey.

Investigators also alleged that Beig maintained tracking information for shipments sent from Hong Kong to New Jersey, including one shipment involving 877 isotretinoin pills.

"The indictments of these foreign nationals highlight the grave dangers posed by transnational organisations who aim to distribute and import controlled substances into the United States," said Michael S. McCarthy, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Newark.

Postal Inspection Service

official Christopher A. Nielsen said investigators would continue targeting dark web marketplaces suspected of selling illegal pills through the U.S. mail system.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$1 million. Prosecutors noted that the allegations in the indictment are accusations and that the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

The investigation was led by Homeland Security Investigations in Newark and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Philadelphia Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Levin, chief of the Cybercrime Unit in Newark.

Dark web marketplaces have increasingly become a focus of U.S. law enforcement agencies as criminal groups use encrypted platforms, cryptocurrency payments and international shipping networks to move narcotics across borders. American authorities have repeatedly warned about the growing spread of synthetic opioids and counterfeit prescription pills sold online.

## South African youth bear brunt of rising unemployment, warns expert

### JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's worsening unemployment is driven by weak economic growth and systemic shortcomings in education and skills development, leaving young people the hardest hit, according to Ravi Naidoo, chief executive officer of the Youth Employment Service (YES).

The YES program is a business-led initiative launched in 2018 by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to tackle youth unemployment, Xinhua news agency reported.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Naidoo said that sluggish economic expansion, poor work readiness and limited job creation are excluding millions of young South Africans from the formal economy.

On the demand side, South Africa has been struggling with its economic growth, Naidoo said. According to Statistics South Africa, the country's gross domestic product increased by 1.1 per cent in 2025. He said that despite significant public spending on education and training, many young people remain inadequately prepared for the



workplace. "Education and skills development have not generated sufficiently work-ready youth." "Young people face severe competition from more experienced workers for what are in essence entry-level jobs," Naidoo noted. "They also lack work readiness, as neither education nor families have been able to prepare them for formal sector employment."

While university graduates generally fare better in the labour market, most young South Africans do not hold tertiary qualifications, which further limits their opportunities, according to Naidoo.

"Over time, we expect new technology to accelerate labour

shedding and further constrain the creation of new jobs," he added. According to Statistics South Africa, the country's official unemployment rate rose to 32.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, up from 31.4 per cent in the final quarter of 2025. The economy shed 345,000 jobs during this period, pushing the total number of unemployed individuals past 8.1 million.

Youth unemployment remains particularly severe. The expanded youth unemployment rate reached 45.8 per cent, underscoring the deepening challenges facing young job seekers in Africa's most industrialised economy.

## Tata Motors Reports Resilient Q4 FY26 Performance Amid Challenging Year

MUMBAI, MAY 14, 2026

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (TMPVL) announced its results for quarter and year ending March 31, 2026.

**Performance:** Consolidated: In Q4 FY26, TMPVL delivered revenues of ₹105.4K Cr (up 7.2%) and EBIT of ₹8.9K Cr (down ₹0.6K Cr). The performance significantly improved QoQ on account of normalized JLR production and record domestic volumes, leading to healthy Q4 FCF of ₹11.4K Cr. FY26 revenues stood at ₹335.6K Cr (down 8.3% yoy); EBITDA and EBIT margins were 6.8% and 1.1% respectively. The PBT (bei) stood at ₹2.5K Cr and post the exceptional items of ₹4.1K Cr, the PBT from continuing operations stood at ₹(1.6)K Cr. On a full year basis, the profitability was impacted by several headwinds at JLR, including cyber incident, tariffs, China luxury tax, VME pressures and adverse commodities. The Consolidated Net Debt stood at ₹30.7K Cr, on account of adverse free cash flows primarily owing to production stoppages at JLR.

**Dividends:** The Board of Directors have recommended a final dividend of ₹ 3/- per share subject to approval by the shareholders

**Looking Ahead:** Global geopolitical and regulatory challenges will need to be monitored for supply-chain risks and cost headwinds. We will leverage on healthy demand and continue to deliver profitable and industry-beating growth in domestic business, whilst mitigating the margin headwinds through structural cost reductions. We will continue to step-up growth at JLR, by leveraging House of Brands in focused markets, with flawless delivery of exciting launches over next 18 months.

**Dhiman Gupta, Chief**



**Financial Officer, TMPVL said:**

"Overall, FY26 was a tale of two halves. While domestic business witnessed a strong momentum post GST 2.0, at JLR we witnessed several headwinds including tariffs and the cyber incident. In Q4 FY26, all the consolidated financial metrics improved significantly as JLR operations recovered post the cyber incident and domestic business continued its positive trajectory. Going ahead, we will continue to build on our resilience through a slew of product interventions, and cost-side actions, while the global geopolitical environment and commodity prices continue to remain key monitorable"

**Financial Highlights**

- Q4 FY26 Revenue at ₹6.9bn (-11.1%), EBITDA Margin 14.0% (-130 bps), EBIT Margin 9.2% (-150 bps), PBT (bei) ₹458mn
- FY26 Revenue at ₹22.9bn (-20.9%), EBITDA Margin 6.7% (-760 bps), EBIT Margin 0.7% (-780 bps), PBT (bei) ₹14mn
- Volumes rose significantly QoQ as production returned to normal; full year volumes impacted by US tariffs, China market challenges and planned wind down of outgoing Jaguar models ahead of new Jaguar launch, in addition to production stoppages following the cyber incident
- Free cash flow for the quarter was ₹829mn and ₹(2.2) bn for the full year
- Closing Cash balance was ₹2.8bn and Net Debt ₹2.6bn, with gross debt of ₹5.4bn
- Total liquidity as at March

31, 2026 was ₹6.9bn, including the undrawn ₹1.7bn RCF, an undrawn ₹1.0bn bridge facility and an undrawn ₹1.5bn UAEK guaranteed commercial loan

**Business Highlights**

- Defender OCTA saw a four-fold YoY sales uplift in Q4, supported by brand and product activities such as Defender Trophy, Oasis tour and victory for the Defender DX7-R in the Stock Class at January's Dakar Rally, the world's toughest off-road endurance race
- Range Rover returned to Milan Design Week with an installation that celebrated Range Rover Bespoke, the pinnacle personalisation service
- The first all-electric Jaguar, to be called Type 01, received critical acclaim ahead of its unveiling later this year after being driven by global media on frozen lakes in the arctic circle and on test tracks in the UK
- The Jaguar TCS Racing Formula E team celebrated multiple race wins in Miami, Jeddah and Madrid during Q4 and the team unveiled its prototype next generation race car
- JLR's revenue for the quarter was ₹6.9bn, down 11% versus Q4 FY25 and ₹22.9bn for FY26, down 21% YoY. Volumes and profitability were impacted YoY by the continued planned wind down of outgoing Jaguar models ahead of the new Jaguar launch, and the competitive environment the automotive industry is facing in China. Profit before tax and exceptional items was ₹458mn in Q4 and ₹14mn for the full year, down from a

	Consolidated (₹Cr, Ind AS)		Jaguar Land Rover (₹m, IFRS)		Tata Passenger Vehicles (₹Cr, Ind AS)	
	FY26	YoY	FY26	YoY	FY26	YoY
Revenue	105,447	7.2%	6,870	(11.1)%	18,742	+45.4%
EBITDA(%)	13.1	(130)bps	14.0	(130)bps	9.4	+150bps
EBIT (%)	8.4	(120)bps	9.2	(150)bps	4.7	+310bps
PBT(bei)	7,187	₹(5,091)Cr	458	₹(493)mm	1,102	+₹710Cr
Revenue	335,582	(8.3)%	22,911	(20.9)%	58,465	+20.7%
EBITDA(%)	6.8	(660)bps	6.7	(760)bps	6.9	+50bps
EBIT (%)	1.1	(660)bps	0.7	(780)bps	1.4	+50bps
PBT(bei)	2,519	₹(26,131)Cr	14	₹(2,475)mm	1,437	+₹354Cr

profit of ₹875mn and ₹2.5bn respectively a year ago. Adjusted EBIT Margin was 9.2% for the fourth quarter, down from 10.7% a year ago, and 0.7% for the full year FY26, down from 8.5% for FY25. In addition to the above, profitability was impacted by ongoing incremental US tariffs and increased VME.

PAT in the quarter was ₹365mn, compared to a profit of ₹640mn in the same quarter a year ago. For the full year, the loss after tax was ₹(244)mn compared to a profit of ₹1.8bn last year.

**Looking ahead**

Looking ahead, JLR remains resilient and well placed to address the geopolitical, inflationary and regulatory challenges the industry faces. Investment spend is planned to remain at ₹18bn over the five-year period from FY24. We will reduce break-even volumes towards 300K in two years by focusing on ₹1.7bn of savings from Enterprise Missions.

**PB Balaji, Chief Executive Officer, said:**

"JLR faced a challenging year with revenue and profit impacted by multiple headwinds, including a pause in production following the cyber incident. We recovered well in the fourth quarter as production returned to normal levels, demonstrating the commitment of our people, suppliers and retail partners.

As we look ahead into FY27, we are focused on driving growth through our well-differentiated House of Brands and reducing our break-even volumes, whilst we launch a slew of exciting products starting with the New Range

Rover Electric, the unveiling of the first of our EMA products and the eagerly awaited new Jaguar."

**Financial Highlights**

- Q4 FY26 revenue at ₹18.7K Cr (+49%), EBITDA Margin 9.4% (+150 bps), EBIT Margin 4.7% (+310bps), PBT (bei) ₹ 1.1K Cr
- FY26 revenue at ₹ 58.5K Cr (+20.7%), EBITDA Margin 6.9% (flat yoy), EBIT Margin 1.4% (+50 bps), PBT (bei) ₹ 1.4K Cr
- Domestic PV + EV business reported FCF of ₹1.7K Cr in Q4 FY26
- Closing Cash balance for domestic business at ₹9.6K Cr with gross debt of ₹2.9K Cr, resulting in Net Cash of ₹6.7K Cr

**Business Highlights**

- Vahan market share grew to 14.2% in Q4 FY26, secured #2 position in H2 FY26
- Overall Vahan market share at 13.6%; EV Vahan market share steady at 40.2% in FY26
- Alternative powertrains mix continues to be healthy. EV penetration at 14%, CNG at 27% in FY26
- Tata.ev surpassed 250,000 cumulative EV sales, reaffirming leadership in India's Electric Mobility charge
- New Manufacturing facility in Panapakkam to support long-term growth aspirations. Nexon and Punch emerged as #1 and #3 selling PV models in H2, underscoring the strength of our SUV portfolio
- A year of Intense product actions
- Launched all new SIERRA, retaining its legendary heritage and distinctive DNA

while embracing modernity

Introduced Harrier and Safari in petrol powertrains, with all new all-new 1.5L HYPERION Turbo-GDI engine

Launched New Tata Punch, enhancing desirability of the popular nameplate

- Expanded our EV portfolio with Harrier.ev launch, India's most capable SUV
- Rolled out New Punch.ev, accelerating mainstream EV adoption by addressing barriers to adoption
- Re-entered South Africa market with Bold, Future-Ready Range of Passenger Vehicles

In Q4 FY26, PV and EV volumes were 201.8K units (+37% YoY), with quarterly revenues of ₹18.7K Cr (+49% yoy), EBITDA and EBIT margins of 9.4% (+150 bps yoy) and 4.7% (+310 bps yoy), respectively, driven by favourable volumes, mix and operating leverage, despite a challenging pricing and cost environment. In FY26, the business achieved revenues of ₹58.5 K Cr (+21% YoY), while EBITDA and EBIT margins remaining steady at 6.9% (flat yoy) and 1.4% (+50 bps yoy) as adverse pricing and commodities offset the favourable impact of volumes and mix.

**Looking ahead**

Looking ahead, domestic demand continues to sustain, led by growth in SUVs, CNG and EV. However, geopolitical developments remain a key monitorable to mitigate potential supply-side and commodity price risks. We will ramp up production to meet demand. We expect to build on the strong momentum of H2 and continue to deliver profitable and industry-beating growth in FY27, supported by a robust demand pipeline, planned pipeline of new products, and established multi-powertrain strategy.



## Sensex ends 790 points higher, Nifty above 23,600; IT stocks tumble

**Benchmark stock market indices ended sharply higher on Thursday, extending gains for a second straight session, as optimism around progress in US-China trade talks and strong earnings in select heavyweights lifted investor sentiment despite the rupee hitting another record low.**

The S&P BSE Sensex surged 789.74 points, or 1.06%, to close at 75,398.72, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 277 points, or 1.18%, to settle at 23,689.60.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said that equities staged a counterintuitive recovery from intraday lows and ended higher despite the rupee hitting a record low and crude remaining elevated. "Investor confidence was bolstered in anticipation of potential government measures to mitigate INR weakness, including consideration of bond tax relief for foreign investors and potential tightening of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme to stem capital outflows. Sentiment was further anchored by positive cues from the Trump-Xi summit, which raised hopes of expanding economic cooperation," he added. Global sentiment remained positive after China's President Xi Jinping said trade discussions with US President Donald Trump were making progress. According to a White House readout, both leaders also agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies. Broader markets also ended higher, with the Nifty Midcap 100 index rising 1.12%. The Nifty

Smallcap 100 index ended largely flat, slipping 0.01%. India VIX, the volatility index, declined 4.18%. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Pharma emerged as the top gainer, rising 2.74%, followed by Nifty Healthcare Index, which advanced 2.56%. Nifty Metal climbed 2.04%, while Nifty Financial Services and Nifty PSU Bank gained 1.44% and 1.37%, respectively. Nifty Private Bank rose 1.16%, while Nifty Auto, Nifty Realty and Nifty Consumer Durables also ended in the green. However, Nifty IT dropped 1.99%, extending its four-session decline to nearly 6.9% amid concerns that artificial intelligence-led disruption could hurt earnings growth for technology companies. On the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel jumped 5.32% after reporting a rise in quarterly profit. Eternal Ltd gained 3.32%, while HDFC Bank rose 2.67% to snap a five-session losing streak. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone climbed 2.14%, while Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Mahindra and Mahindra also ended higher.

On the losing side, Infosys fell 2.46%, Tech Mahindra declined 2.16%, HCL Technologies slipped 1.63%, Tata Consultancy Services dropped 1.18%, and Hindustan Unilever fell 0.84%.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee weakened further to hit another record low amid persistent foreign outflows and elevated crude oil prices. Foreign investors have pulled out nearly \$23.2 billion from Indian equities so far this year. Brent crude traded near \$105.5 per barrel, while WTI crude hovered around \$100.7 per barrel, keeping concerns around inflation and India's import bill elevated.

## ED freezes Rs 526-cr bank deposits in PMLA case against Gameskraft

NEW DELHI: (MAY 14)

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has frozen Rs 526-crore bank deposits and seized gold jewellery worth Rs 3.5 crore along with Rs 11 lakh in cash after it concluded searches in a money laundering case against online gaming platform Gameskraft and its founders, officials said Thursday.

The searches against the Bengaluru-based company were launched on May 7 in Delhi-NCR and the capital city of Karnataka. The raids concluded on May 13, the agency said in a statement.

## Massive Food Industry to Come Up in Sangareddy with ₹650 Crore Investment Across 44 Acres

SANGAREDDY, MAY 14

Another major industry aimed at generating large-scale employment opportunities for women is set to be established in the Sangareddy constituency. Under the aegis of KJS India Private Limited, a comprehensive food and beverages manufacturing facility named "KJS Unit-II" will be launched in the Thogaripally-Aliabad area of Kondapur mandal. Ministers Sridhar Babu, Damodar Rajanarsimha, and TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy will perform the groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow. The industry will be constructed across 44 acres with an investment of approximately ₹650 crore. Company representatives stated

that the project is expected to generate direct employment for more than 1,500 people, with special preference being given to women. Notably, hundreds of women are already employed at the company's existing Pashamylaram unit. Industry representatives said



that TPCC Working President Jaggareddy and TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy had specifically requested the company to establish the unit in Sangareddy to create employment opportunities for women in the constituency. They added that the project

materialized due to their efforts. They further stated that the establishment of the industry gained momentum due to the encouragement extended by the government of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, which is prioritizing industrial development in Telangana, along with the support of District Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha and In-charge Minister Vivek Venkataswamy.

**Step Towards Transforming Sangareddy into a Food & FMCG Hub**

The upcoming unit, which will include confectionery, beverages, coffee, nutraceuti-

cal, and food processing divisions, is expected to play a key role in Telangana's industrial development while creating employment opportunities for local youth and women.

"It is a Matter of Pride for Me as a Woman That This Industry Is Coming to Provide Jobs for Women in Sangareddy" — TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy

"I am happy that this industry will provide employment to 1,500 women in the Sangareddy constituency. As a woman, this is a matter of pride for me. This became possible only because of the support extended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Ministers Sridhar Babu, Damodar Rajanarsimha, and Vivek Venkataswamy," she said.

## Study Offers New Hope for Bypass Surgery in Diabetic Patients

HYDERABAD—

Continuous studies are being conducted on the results and effects of heart bypass surgeries. Specifically, a recent study is underway regarding the long-term results and benefits of coronary artery bypass surgery in diabetic heart patients. This study, funded by ICMR (ICNMR), is led by renowned cardiac specialist Dr. Lokeswara Rao Sajja, Senior Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Star Hospitals and Founder & Chairman of the Sajja Heart Foundation. He recently unveiled this study and its findings at the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting in Chicago. Here are the interesting facts revealed in this study so far.

**The Standard vs. New Approach**

When blockages occur or blood vessels are damaged, the standard practice in bypass surgery involves grafting mammary

arteries from both sides of the chest, along with radial arteries from the leg or forearm, and the gastroepiploic artery from the stomach. Mammary arteries are the same size as the blood vessels that carry blood to the heart; therefore, they are given first priority in bypass surgery. Doctors usually choose mammary arteries for bypass because they last longer. This artery, which is a main branch going to the hand, splits into micro-vessels and also supplies blood to the breastbone.

However, it was previously believed that using two such mammary arteries for bypass in diabetics would increase the risk of breastbone infection. Generally, in diabetics, even small incisions can lead to severe consequences. Since an infection in the cut breastbone is dangerous, standard bypass practice globally has relied on using only the left mammary artery.

**The PRODIGY Trial**

The recent study, known as the



PRODIGY Trial, was undertaken to specifically target the benefits of using mammary arteries from both sides despite diabetes, the advantages of using the radial artery and leg veins, long-term results, and the actual risks of breastbone infection. In this five-year study, interesting facts have emerged from observations made over the first year.

**Avoiding Risks**

Commonly, only one mammary artery is used in bypass surgery, and veins from the leg are used as grafts by attaching them to the aorta. However, when

infection can also be controlled. Therefore, by keeping diabetes under control before and during surgery, and by performing the bypass with two mammary arteries or one mammary and one radial artery, patients can achieve long-term surgical benefits. Even using veins from the hand if necessary, alongside two mammary arteries, provides long-term advantages.

**Randomized Trial Details**

This study compared the traditional method of using one mammary artery and other veins with the results of bypasses performed using two mammary arteries (multi-arterial) or one mammary and one radial artery graft (single arterial). As part of this research, 950 diabetic patients under the age of 70 were examined. When angiograms were performed on these patients, doctors observed that the arteries remained 98% open. It was found that the arteries of diabetic patients remained as

well-dilated as those of non-diabetic patients after bypass. This Randomized Control Study Trial was conducted collectively by 17 medical experts from 15 hospitals across the country. Dr. Lokeswara Rao Sajja served as the Principal Investigator for this study.

**Bypass in Youth**

Heart attacks are also increasing among today's youth. When performing a bypass on young people with a long life expectancy, it must be ensured that the effect of the surgery lasts long-term. If a situation arises where another bypass is needed in five or ten years, the chances of bleeding and bypass failure are higher. Therefore, a bypass that provides lifelong protection and long-term impact should be chosen, which is why more than one artery is often selected. This leads to better long-term results, higher survival rates, and may eliminate the need for a second bypass.

# World Cocktail Day

How Cocktail Bars, Zero-Proof Drinks And Bar Takeovers Are Changing The Way Indians Drink

India is experiencing a cocktail revolution with over sixty five thousand bars and rising demand for craft cocktails using local ingredients. Not long ago, the average Indian night out looked pretty predictable. A bottle of whiskey on the table, maybe some soda and ice, and if you were feeling fancy, a glass of wine. Cocktails, when they appeared at all, were the sugary kind, lurid coloured things with fruit skewers and far too much syrup. Nobody was talking about fermentation profiles or house-made bitters or locally sourced kokum. But something has shifted. Walk into any good bar in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, or even a city like Indore or Kolkata today, and the experience is almost unrecognisable from what it was five years ago. India is in the middle of a full-blown cocktail revolution, and it is moving fast.

## The Numbers Tell The Story

Consider the scale of India's bar scene. A March 2026 report by the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) reveals over 65,000 bars in India, despite complex and state-varying alcohol regulations. The Indian cafes and bars market is expected to grow from USD 20.51 billion in 2026 to USD 31.47 billion by 2031, as per a 2025 Mordor Intelligence report. Bars and pubs have grown by approximately 23% compared to 20% in cafes between 2015 and 2017, with growth accelerating beyond metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Goa to cities like Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Pune. Urbanisation, rising disposable incomes, and evolving social norms embracing alcohol among younger generations drive this growth. Trained mixologists and craft cocktail bars enhance quality and creativity, while social media, travel influencers, and curious Indian drinkers fuel this boom.



## From Hotel Lounges to Standalone Stars

For most of India's drinking history, the best bars were in hotels. The five-star hotels had the licences, the budgets, and the bartenders. Everything else was somewhat of an afterthought. What changed the game was the rise of the standalone cocktail bar, places built around craft rather than convenience, where the menu was a statement, and the bartender was the point.

Yangdup Lama, along with a handful of others, helped shape India's craft cocktail culture. His bars, often called "bartender's bars", are creative hubs prioritising craft over spectacle, drawing on Himalayan heritage and local produce. He co-owns award-winning venues like Sidecar, The Brook, and The Old House in Nepal. Sidecar's ascent is emblematic of the whole movement: Delhi's Sidecar became the first Indian bar to rank on Asia's 50 Best Bars in 2020, entering at number 40. In 2021, it made its debut on the World's 50 Best Bars at number 47. That single moment of global recognition changed how international mixologists viewed India and opened a door that has never quite shut since.

Today, India has five bars on Asia's 50 Best Bars 2025: Lair in New Delhi at number eight, Soka in Bengaluru at number 28, Boilermaker in Goa at number 30, ZLB23 in Bengaluru at number 31, and Bar Spirit Forward in Bengaluru at number 37. Five bars. On a global list. That is not a fluke; that is a scene.

## What's Actually in the Glass

The cocktail culture boom is not just about more bars. It is about a fundamentally different approach to what gets made and served. There is a visible shift toward celebrating Indian-grown ingredients and homegrown brands rather than relying only on imported products. The modern Indian palate appreciates heat, acidity, and complexity, and that is directly influencing what is being created behind the bar. Guests are increasingly drawn to drinks that feel vibrant, layered, and slightly adventurous, especially when they incorporate green chilli, kokum, curry leaf, tamarind, or regional citrus.

Techniques have also evolved dramatically. Bartenders are embracing traditional and modern methods of flavour extraction, preservation, and application, fermentation, pickling, distillation, cold-pressing, infusion, and sous vide, to craft distinctive syrups, tinctures, and bitters from local, seasonal ingredients. Techniques like fat-washing and smoking add depth, while fermentation brings

tangy notes and intriguing textures.

The revival of regional spirits such as feni and mahua further enables bartenders to create innovative cocktails that celebrate India's cultural heritage. Indian craft spirits like Amrut and Stranger & Sons have introduced unique flavours rooted in local ingredients, embedding Indian culture into mixology through storytelling. These are no longer novelties on a menu. They are the main event.

## The Bar Takeover: How India's Scene Went Global

One of the most interesting developments in Indian drinking culture over the past few years has been the rise of the bar takeover, or guest shift. The concept is simple: a visiting bartender or team takes over a venue for one evening with a special, limited-edition menu. What began as a friendly exchange between industry colleagues has become one of the cocktail world's most effective marketing formats.

PCO Delhi hosted 25 to 30 bar takeovers in 2025, a number founder Rak-

shay Dhariwal says has tripled since 2021 and 2022. Across his portfolio, three to four takeovers took place in April 2026 alone. In Kolkata, AMPM has hosted one every month since 2023.

The financial logic is real. A standalone bar can make around ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 more during a bar takeover than on a regular night. Hotel bars typically see a 20 to 30 per cent uplift in beverage revenue, alongside higher average check sizes and incremental footfalls from new audience segments. But the benefits are not only transactional. At PCO Delhi, a successful bar takeover has led to a sustained 10 to 20 per cent uplift in overall sales for two to three weeks, driven by recall, word of mouth, and repeat visits from guests who couldn't attend but want to experience the menu or the buzz around it.

International talent has also started flowing in. Loya at Taj Palace in New Delhi hosted international bars, including Hope & Sesame from Guangzhou, The Cocktail Club from Jakarta, The Aubrey from Hong Kong, El Lequio from Okinawa, Aruba from Mexico, and Hemant Pathak from New York, in 2025 alone. The flow goes both ways: Indian bars are doing takeovers abroad, and the bar takeover format has become a quiet engine for cross-cultural flavour education on both sides.

## Zero-Proof: The Biggest Shift of All

The rise of zero-proof cocktails marks a significant evolution in India's cocktail culture, moving beyond the outdated

mocktail. These drinks are crafted with the same care and precision as traditional cocktails, often requiring more skill. At Barbet & Pals in Delhi, co-founder Jeet Rana emphasises, "We don't treat zero-proof cocktails as mocktails. For us, they're proper drinks, just without alcohol." The structure, including balance, acidity, and finish, remains intact. Bars are using house ferments like kombucha and mead to add dryness and acidity, avoiding overly sweet drinks. This trend aligns with younger consumers, particularly Gen Z, who drink more mindfully, alternating between alcoholic and non-alcoholic options. In India, where many abstain from alcohol for cultural or religious reasons, strong non-alcoholic offerings make bars more inclusive and boost revenue. A well-curated zero-proof menu now sets apart exceptional bars.

## Where It Goes From Here

India's cocktail scene is rapidly evolving, raising sustainability concerns. City-level saturation is evident when ten new bars open in six months, overwhelming communities with frequent events. As the scene matures, maintaining identity and quality amidst numerous new openings is crucial. However, the foundations are strong, driven by passion over profit, focusing on customer experience and social connection. Local flavours add a unique touch, reflecting India's culinary diversity. This blend of craft, curiosity, and cultural roots distinguishes trends from lasting phenomena. Indian drinkers have evolved beyond the bottle-on-the-table era, engaging with menus, seeking zero-proof options, and appreciating diverse experiences.



# If You Love Kala Khatta These Popsicles Will Be Your New Obsession



There is something about kala khatta that instantly brings back memories of childhood summers, street-side gola and that perfect sweet-tangy kick. The deep purple hue, combined with its bold

flavours, makes it a favourite during the hot months. Now imagine turning that nostalgic taste into a cooling popsicle you can enjoy at home. Made with jamun and a mix of spices, these popsicles are

refreshing, vibrant and incredibly easy to prepare. Perfect for beating the summer heat, they are a fun twist on a classic flavour. The recipe was shared by the Instagram page @platesbyprachi.

## What Ingredients Are Needed For Kala Khatta Popsicles?

To make kala khatta popsicles, you will need fresh jamun (deseeded), sugar, black salt and lemon juice for that perfect tangy base. Spices like roasted cumin powder and a pinch of red chilli powder help recreate the classic kala khatta flavour.

## How Long Do Homemade Kala Khatta Popsicles Take To Freeze?

Homemade kala khatta popsicles usually take about 6 to 8 hours to freeze completely. For best results, it is ideal to leave them in the freezer overnight. Make sure the moulds are kept undisturbed so the popsicles are set evenly. Once firm, they are ready to enjoy.

## Can You Store Kala Khatta Popsicles For Later Use?

Yes, kala khatta popsicles can be stored in the freezer for later use. Once fully set, you can keep them in airtight containers or covered moulds to prevent ice crystals from forming. They stay fresh for up to 1-2 weeks when stored properly. Just unmould and enjoy whenever you like.

## How To Make Kala Khatta Popsicles At Home (Easy Jamun Popsicle Recipe)

**Prepare the jamun:** Deseed the jamun and transfer the pulp to a blender.

**Add the flavours:** Add red chilli powder, roasted cumin powder, black salt, sugar and lemon juice. **Blend smoothly:** Blend everything into a fine, smooth mixture.

**Fill the moulds:** Pour the mixture evenly into ice cream moulds.

**Freeze properly:** Cover and freeze over-

night until fully set.

**Ready to enjoy:** Unmould and enjoy your tangy, refreshing kala khatta popsicles.

## Tips To Make Perfect Kala Khatta Popsicles At Home

Use ripe and juicy jamun: Choose fully ripe jamun for a naturally rich colour and balanced sweet-tangy flavour. Keep a good balance of chilli, cumin and black salt so the popsicles taste flavourful, not overpowering.





# Tilak Varma's unbeaten 75 powers Mumbai Indians to six-wicket win over Punjab Kings

## National Boxing Trials

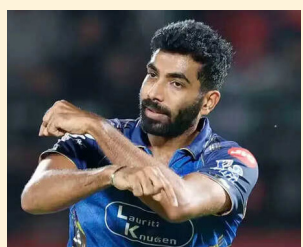
### Boxer Nikhat Zareen set to miss CWG and Asian Games 2026



**NEW DELHI:** Two-time World Championship medalist Nikhat Zareen is all set to miss the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Asian Games to be held in Japan later this year after failing to clinch her berth to the mega events via the qualifying trials in Patiala. Nikhat, who won the World Championships twice and gold in the Commonwealth Games and bronze in the Asian Games, went down to Sakshi Chaudhary in the women's 51 kg semifinals during the national trials at the National Institute of Sports (NIS). Nikhat Zareen went down 1-4 to Sakshi in her semifinal bout, which effectively sealed her fate as she had failed to gain a direct berth to the Asian Games. The result is a huge setback for the 29-year-old Nikhat, who has been going through poor form and was not part of the Indian squad in recent months.

## IPL 2026

### 'Holding length was key,' says Bumrah after MI thrilling win



**DHARAMSHALA:** Jasprit Bumrah said the Mumbai Indians' (MI) plan of consistently bowling hard lengths on a dry Dharamshala surface played a key role in restricting the Punjab Kings (PBKS) and setting up their thrilling chase of 201 in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash on Thursday. Leading the Mumbai Indians for the first time in the IPL in the absence of injured captain Hardik Pandya, Bumrah guided his side to a memorable win with one ball remaining. "Both teams played good cricket, and we really pulled back well. A little bit, but the wicket in this game looked a little bit drier than the previous one. Maybe it wasn't as cold as it was in the last game."

## DHARAMSHALA

Tilak Varma played a brilliant unbeaten knock of 75 runs as the Mumbai Indians (MI) chased down a target of 201 against the Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala on Thursday. Mumbai completed the chase with one ball to spare after losing only four wickets in a high-scoring encounter.

Earlier, Punjab Kings had posted 200/8 in 20 overs, thanks to a half-century from Prabhsimran Singh and a late cameo from Azmatullah Omarzai.

Chasing a big target, the Mumbai Indians began cautiously as openers Ryan Rickelton and Rohit Sharma scored only 13 runs in the first two overs. However, Rickelton soon changed the momentum by attacking Marco Jansen with aggressive strokeplay.

The left-hander smashed boundaries and sixes regularly and dominated the Power-play. He hit four fours and four sixes during his quick innings and helped Mumbai reach 59/0 in six overs, while Rohit

struggled to score freely at the other end.

Punjab finally got the breakthrough in the seventh over when Omarzai dismissed Rickelton for 48 off just 23 balls, denying him a well-deserved half-century. Naman Dhir then played a short attacking cameo with two sixes before falling to Jansen for nine runs. Rohit, who found it difficult to accelerate, was eventually bowled by Yuzvendra Chahal after scoring 25 off 26 balls.

After the two quick wickets, Tilak Varma took control of the chase. He played confidently under pressure, finding boundaries regularly and rotating the strike well alongside Sherfane Rutherford. The pair steadied the innings and slowly pushed Mumbai closer to the target.

Varma shifted momentum completely with a massive 106-metre six off Chahal and followed it with another boundary in the same over. Rutherford also supported him well with a six before being dismissed by Omarzai for 20 off 21 balls in the 17th over.

Despite losing his partner, Varma continued attacking the Punjab bowlers. He reached his half-century in just 25 balls and remained unbeaten on 75. His match-winning innings included six fours and six sixes. Will Jacks provided the finishing touch with a quick 25 off 10 balls as the Mumbai Indians successfully chased down the target in a thrilling contest.



Asked to bat first, Punjab Kings began carefully with openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh

taking time to settle on a pitch that offered some help to the bowlers.

However, Priyansh soon attacked Jasprit Bumrah with a couple of boundaries, while Prabhsimran shifted gears in the fifth over by hitting three fours off Shardul Thakur.

Mumbai got their first breakthrough in the final over of the powerplay when Deepak Chahar bowled

Priyansh for 22 off 17 balls. Punjab ended the powerplay at 58/1.

Punjab's leading scorer this season, Cooper Connolly, started cautiously, but Prabhsimran continued to dominate. The wicketkeeper-batter smashed two sixes in the 10th over and brought up his fifty in only 29 balls. He eventually scored 57 off 32 deliveries, hitting six fours and four sixes before being dismissed

by Shardul. The Mumbai pacer then changed the game by clean bowling Punjab captain Shreyas Iyer in the same over. Connolly also failed to convert his start and was bowled by Raj Angad Bawa for 21.

Punjab lost wickets quickly in the middle overs as Suryansh Shedge, Shashank Singh, and Marco Jansen departed in quick succession. Shardul completed an excellent spell of 4/39 by dismissing Shedge and Jansen. With Punjab under pressure, Omarzai launched a brilliant late assault. The Afghan all-rounder smashed four sixes in his quick-fire 38 off just 17 balls and ensured Punjab crossed the 200-run mark. Towards the end, Vishnu Vinod added 15 runs while Xavier Bartlett remained unbeaten on 18 to give Punjab a strong finish.

## Brief scores:

Punjab Kings 200/8 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 57, Azmatullah Omarzai 38; Shardul Thakur 4-39, Deepak Chahar 2-36) lost to Mumbai Indians 205/5 in 19.5 overs (Tilak Varma 75\*, Ryan Rickelton 48; Azmatullah Omarzai 2-36, Yuzvendra Chahal 1-32) by 6 wickets.

## 'A tough pill to swallow,' says Shreyas Iyer after Punjab Kings' defeat to Mumbai Indians



## DHARAMSHALA

Shreyas Iyer described Punjab Kings' narrow defeat against the Mumbai Indians as "a tough pill to swallow" after his side failed to defend a 200-run total in a thrilling Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 contest at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala on Thursday.

Punjab Kings looked in control after posting 200/8, with Prabhsimran Singh scoring a rapid 57 and Azmatullah Omarzai providing a crucial late push with 38 off just 17 balls. However, the Mumbai Indians chased down the target with one ball remaining, powered by Tilak Varma's unbeaten 75 and an explosive start from Ryan Rickelton.

The defeat left Punjab disappointed, especially after recovering strongly in the final overs to cross the 200-run mark following a middle-order collapse. "Well, absolutely a tough pill to swallow, but I don't want to pinpoint any situation over here because it was a great game of cricket. Well fought game," Shreyas said after the match. The Punjab skipper reserved special praise for Tilak Varma, whose calm and aggressive approach under pressure turned the chase in Mumbai's favour. "He played amazingly, he was selecting his

shots pretty well, and he manoeuvred the field nicely, so credit to him," he added.

Punjab were struggling at one stage and appeared set for a total around 170-180 before Omarzai's late counterattack changed the momentum completely. The Afghan all-rounder smashed four sixes in his quick cameo to lift Punjab to 200.

"Certainly, at a point, we were looking at around 170 to 180, and from there on, he simply changed the momentum towards us. Getting those scoops of sixes, and from 16th or 17th over, from there on, we gained the momentum, and getting to 200 was a commendable performance for him," Shreyas said.

Despite the loss, the Punjab captain remained optimistic about the team's chances in the remaining league matches, including the upcoming afternoon clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. "Definitely excited for the next opportunity. It's an afternoon game, and we've got to win two out of two. It's going to be an exciting two games. Can't wait to play them," he added. Meanwhile, with the fifth consecutive loss, the Punjab Kings (PBKS) are present at fourth position in the points table with 13 points in 12 matches. They will next face Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Sunday.

## Jannik Sinner storms into Rome semi-finals with a dominant win over Andrey Rublev

## ROME

World No.1 Jannik Sinner moved within two victories of winning his first Italian Open title after beating Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semi-finals of the ATP Masters 1000 event on Thursday. Last year's runner-up delivered another strong performance in front of the home crowd, mixing solid baseline play with aggressive shot-making to control the match in the Italian capital.

With the win, Sinner joined Rafael Nadal as the only players to reach the semi-finals at the first five Masters 1000 tournaments of a season. Nadal achieved the feat in 2010 and 2011. Sinner has already won titles this year at Indian Wells, Miami, Monte-Carlo, and Madrid, and another title in Rome would put him alongside Novak Djokovic as the only men to complete the Career Golden Masters.

"He's a very dangerous player," Sinner said of Rublev. "When he plays at his highest level, he's very tough to beat. I felt like we both didn't play at our best today, but the conditions are very tough here. So, I tried to adapt myself in the best possible way. I'm obviously very happy. It's a very special tournament for me."

Sinner, who lost last year's Rome final to rival Carlos Alcaraz, now looks in strong form to challenge for the title again in 2026. The Italian



extended his winning streak to 27 matches and will next face either former champion Daniil Medvedev or lucky loser Martin Landaluce for a place in the final.

Rublev started competitively and showed flashes of quality, but Sinner stayed in control during the key moments. Although the Italian lost serve for the first time in the tournament after leading 4-1 in the second set, he quickly recovered to seal victory and improve his head-to-head record against Rublev to 8-3.

The win also marked Sin-

ner's 32nd straight Masters 1000 victory, breaking Djokovic's previous record of 31 set in 2011. The 24-year-old is now just two wins away from claiming a sixth consecutive Masters 1000 title after winning Paris last season and every Masters event so far in 2026.

"I don't play for records," Sinner said. "I play for my own story. At the same time, it means a lot to me. But tomorrow is another day, a different opponent, different conditions... Emotionally, it takes a lot to play here at home. But at the same time, I definitely try

to do my best. It was a good day today."

Sinner is also chasing a historic home triumph in Rome. Adriano Panatta remains the last Italian man to win the tournament, having lifted the trophy in 1976.

After losing to Djokovic in the Australian Open semi-finals and suffering a quarter-final defeat against Jakub Mensik in Doha earlier this season, Sinner has responded brilliantly. Since starting his winning streak at Indian Wells in March, he has lost only two sets in 27 consecutive victories.

## Zakir Hasan replaces injured Shadman Islam in Bangladesh squad for second Test

## DHAKA

Bangladesh have suffered an injury setback ahead of the second Test against Pakistan as opener Shadman Islam was ruled out of the match with a chest injury sustained during the series opener in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed on Thursday that fellow left-handed opener Zakir Hasan has been drafted into the squad as Shadman's replacement for the second Test, scheduled to begin on May 16 in Sylhet.

According to Bangladesh national team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan, Shadman picked up the injury while attempting a catch during Bangladesh's memorable 104-run victory over Pakistan in the first Test.

"Shadman took a blow in the chest while taking a catch during the first Test in Mirpur. He has a traumatic contusion of the chest and is in pain. He will not be available for the second Test, unfortunately," Bayjedul said in an official BCB statement. The injury comes at an unfortunate time



for Bangladesh, who are currently enjoying one of their most successful runs against Pakistan in Test cricket. The Mirpur triumph was Bangladesh's third consecutive Test victory over Pakistan, and also their first-ever home Test win against the visitors.

Bangladesh sealed the dramatic win on the final day after bowling Pakistan out for 163 while defending a target of 268. Young pace sensation Nahid Rana emerged as the star of the match with a fiery spell of 5/40, dismantling Pakistan's batting lineup during the tense final session.

## Cadillac's long road: no shortcuts as F1's newest team learns the hard way

## BEIJING

The easy part of Cadillac's Formula One project is over. Getting to the grid, securing the entry, assembling the personnel, and building the infrastructure across three continents have all been done. Now comes the harder task, one that has undone plenty of new teams before it, of turning that foundation into something competitive in a championship that rarely forgives inexperience.

Less than two years ago, this was still a nebulous idea rather than a functioning race team. By the time the lights went out in Melbourne to start the 2026 season, it had already become a global operation, stretching from Silverstone to Indianapolis to North Carolina, and pulling in staff from across the paddock to form something entirely new.

What that process would actually feel like, however, only became clear once it started, reports Xinhua. "There definitely was some naivete," team owner Dan Towriss told Xinhua during last month's Japanese Grand Prix weekend. "You can say it's complicated, but until you get in and see all the pieces and everything that's needed, the amount of coordination, the number of complex systems that have to work together in unison, it's another level entirely."



That sense of reality setting in has not altered the direction of the project, but it has sharpened it. When Towriss spoke to Xinhua in Singapore last year, the emphasis was on long-term ambition and carving out a distinct identity. A few races into Cadillac's debut season, the focus is already more pragmatic, centred on processes, systems, and the rate of progress.

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF PRESSURE

There has been no obvious panic in Cadillac's early weeks on track, nor any attempt to dress up its position. Four races into 2026, the MAC-26 is not yet a midfield contender, and both

Towriss and team principal Graeme Lowdon are open about the scale of the gap that needs to be closed. But there is still pressure, even without results to chase. "The pressure that comes is the pressure of Formula One, week in and week out, and it's self-imposed," Towriss said. Seven finishes from a combined eight starts for drivers Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas have offered a degree of early reassurance, particularly given how more established teams like Aston Martin have struggled with the demands of the new regulations, yet Martin is wary of allowing that to become the benchmark. "I actually kind of bristle at that, because finish-

ing a race is not the goal," he said.

## LESSONS CARRIED FORWARD

For Lowdon, there is a familiarity to the process, even if the context has changed dramatically. His last experience of leading a new F1 team came with Manor, an operation that spent its short life battling for survival before eventually folding, and one that stood alongside Caterham and HRT as examples of how difficult it is for new entrants to establish themselves in modern F1.

"The situations are very different, there's no question about that," Lowdon said, referencing the shift in both commercial and regulatory frameworks over the past decade. Cadillac's project carries far greater financial backing and long-term intent than Manor's ever did, with General Motors and TWG Global underpinning a structure designed to grow over time rather than simply endure, but some of the underlying challenges remain the same. "Teams build up intangible intellectual property that is invaluable, and it takes years, if not decades, to build," Lowdon said. "The data we're assembling is a tiny fraction of what other teams have." That lack of accumulated knowledge is not something that can be solved quickly, even with a fresh set of regulations that, in theory,

## National Doubles Squash C'ships: Abhay-Velavan, Rahul-Suraj advance to semifinals

## CHENNAI

Defending champions Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar made a commanding start to their campaign in the men's doubles event at the 3rd National Doubles Squash Championships, cruising into the semifinals with a dominant straight-games victory at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai on Thursday. The top-seeded pair, who received a bye in the opening round, needed little time to settle into rhythm as they overpowered Shubham and Vedant Patel 11-4, 11-2 in the quarterfinals. Their sharp movement and aggressive shot-making ensured complete control throughout the contest as they continued their bid to retain the national title.

Abhay also remained in contention in the mixed doubles category, where he is partnering Rathika Seelan this year following the absence of his reigning partner, Anahat Singh. The second-seeded duo survived a stern challenge from Ravi Dixit and Janet Vidhi before advancing to the semifinals with a gritty 10-12, 11-8.

## PRAGYA JAISWAL STUNS IN ELEGANT COCOA-BROWN COUTURE LOOK

In this glamorous photograph, Pragya Jaiswal exudes sophistication in a stunning cocoa-brown asymmetrical gown with delicate lace and sequin details. She captioned the look "Cocoa couture" – a perfect description for this rich, elegant style. Pragya Jaiswal is a talented actress known for her work in Telugu and Hindi cinema. She made her acting debut in 2014 with the Telugu film Heart Attack. She gained widespread recognition with Radhe Shyam (2022) opposite Prabhas. Her other notable films include Sita, F3: Fun and Frustration, and Bimbisara. She continues to balance commercial and performance-driven roles with several promising projects in her pipeline for 2026.



## Hombale Enters Overseas Market with PEDDI

Popular production company Hombale Films has officially entered the overseas distribution business for the first time. The company has chosen the upcoming pan-India movie PEDDI as its first international distribution project. The film stars Ram Charan in the lead role and has already created huge excitement among movie lovers.

Over the past few years, Hombale Films became one of the biggest production houses in India. The banner earned massive success with blockbuster films like KGF, Kantara, and Salaar. These movies performed strongly not only in India but also in many overseas markets. Because of this success, the company has now decided to expand its reach globally through international distribution.

The makers believe PEDDI is the perfect film to begin this new journey. The movie is directed by Buchi Babu Sana and is said to have a powerful rural backdrop with strong action scenes and emotional storytelling. Ram Charan's intense look and transformation for the film have already become a major talking point on social media.

Another big attraction of the film is the music composed by legendary Oscar-winning musician A. R. Rahman.



Fans are expecting the soundtrack and background score to become one of the highlights of the movie.

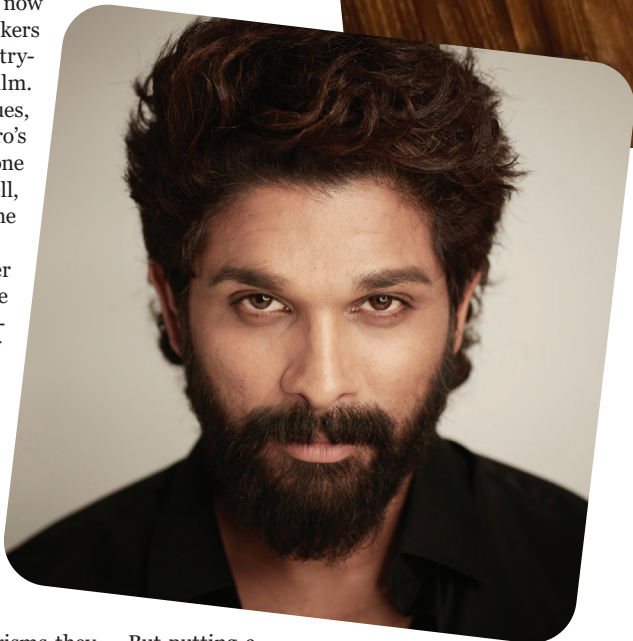
Trade experts feel that Hombale Films joining PEDDI for overseas release will help the film reach a wider audience across the world. The company is expected to plan a massive release in several international territories. This partnership has increased expectations among fans and industry circles. The movie is scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 4.

## Too Much of Commercial Cashing On Raaka

An interesting piece of news is now doing the rounds that the makers of Allu Arjun's "Raaka" are trying to bring a special privilege for the film. They want to copyright all the dialogues, mannerisms, and wild acts of the hero's character in the movie, such that no one would be exploiting it commercially. Well, that's tough to understand, and here's the breakdown of it.

From IPL players like David Warner to Central Ministers of India, many have used the 'Pushpa' Taggedhe Le mannerism, and, based on that, the makers of "Raaka" now want to copyright Allu Arjun's mannerisms from this film for commercial use. Because many commercial TV advertisements, paper ads and other forms of cartoons and online campaigns also used the line "Jukega Nahi Saala" and the hand below beard mannerism of the actor big time. While Mythri Movie Makers never felt that they are giving the right for anyone to exploit the mannerisms they have created for their Pushpa franchise, Sun Pictures is said to be not taking it easily.

However, when a character goes viral, people tend to follow it madly. That's the pure love the audience showers on films, and that audience might include top celebs, politicians, and more.



But putting a commercial cap on such viral stuff is a suicidal move, because unwanted hate will develop in such scenarios. We have to see how Allu Arjun will respond to this anyway. Otherwise, this is looking like too much cashing in on Raaka at the moment.

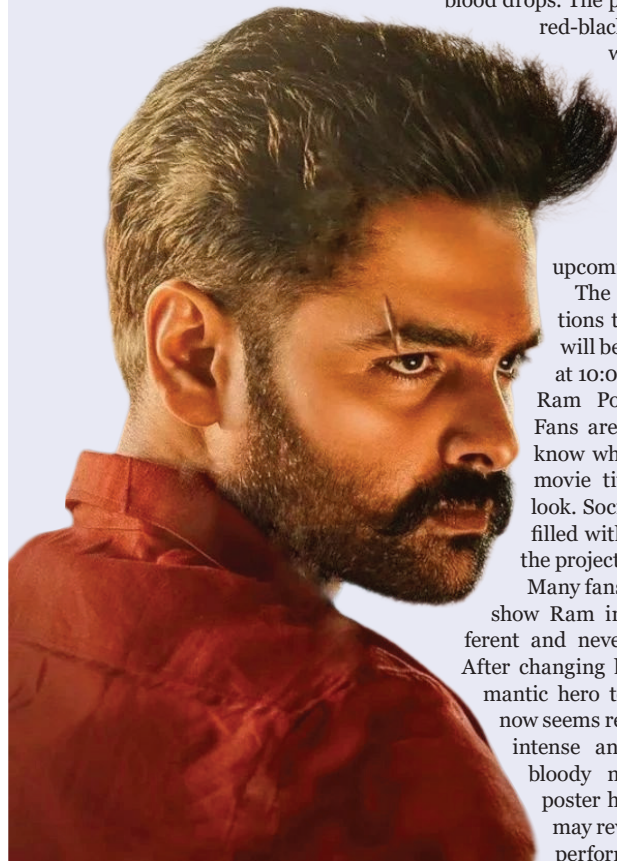
## Ram Turns Wild Again

blood drops. The powerful design and red-black color theme give a wild and violent feel.

Along with the poster, the makers added the line "Get Ready People," making fans even more excited about the upcoming announcement.

The poster also mentions that a major update will be revealed on May 15 at 10:08 AM, which is also Ram Pothineni's birthday. Fans are eagerly waiting to know whether it will be the movie title, teaser, or first look. Social media is already filled with discussions about the project.

Many fans feel this film could show Ram in a completely different and never-before-seen role. After changing his image from romantic hero to action star, Ram now seems ready to enter a more intense and wild zone. The bloody microphone in the poster hints that the movie may revolve around music, performance, rebellion, or a strong emotional conflict.



Tollywood actor Ram Pothineni is once again grabbing everyone's attention with his new mass avatar.

The actor, who was once known mainly for his lover boy roles, has completely changed his image in recent years. With films filled with action, energy, and powerful characters, Ram has become one of the most exciting mass heroes in Telugu cinema today.

Now, his latest pre-look poster has created huge curiosity among fans and movie lovers. The newly released poster shows a dark and intense atmosphere. In the poster, a hand is seen holding a microphone covered with

Another interesting rumor making rounds is that Ram himself has written the story for this project. There are also reports that he may even direct the film. Though there is no official confirmation yet, these rumors have increased excitement among fans. Ram Pothineni has always been known for his energy, dance skills, and screen presence. Over the years, he has worked hard to transform himself into a mass entertainer. With this latest poster, it looks like Ram is preparing to surprise audiences once again.

All eyes are now on May 15 to see what Ram Pothineni has planned for his fans.

## Rs 50 Cr Tension For Suriya's Film

Suriya's film Karuppu, titled Veera Bhadrudu in Telugu, was scheduled to release in theatres today. However, the film failed to arrive in cinemas after running into last-minute financial hurdles.

According to our sources, the film faced a "red card" from financiers. The producers reportedly owe more than Rs 50 crore to financiers from several previous productions. To protect his reputation and ensure the film's release, Suriya has now personally stepped in to resolve the issue. Industry insiders say Suriya is likely to provide a personal guarantee for the pending amount. Once the agreements are signed, the film is expected to make it to theatres. Recently, Karthi's film Vaa Vaathiyar, titled Anna Garu Vostaru in Telugu, also reportedly faced similar financial hurdles. Karthi is said to have reduced his remuneration to help the film secure its release, though it eventually arrived in theatres two weeks late.

Suriya now needs to steady his career and regain his former glory. Once regarded as one of the biggest stars in South India, he has seen his box office pull affected by a string of poor script choices in recent years.



## GV Prakash To Bring Bangaru Pallaki To Irumudi?

Mass Maharaj Ravi Teja is currently undergoing an image makeover after consecutive flops. His upcoming film, Irumudi, directed by Shiva Nirvana, is something that the fans can watch out for. As the promotional activities have not started yet, music director GV Prakash Kumar brought the film to the trending charts online.

GV Prakash Kumar just wrote, "Villadhi veerudu... Veera manikantudu" without giving an indication of anything on X. Soon after he tweeted this, the fans began celebrating that the popular ayyappa remix song is coming to theatre.

Veera Manikantudu is a popular devotional song we get to hear at Ayyappa Temples and Bhajans, which takes the devotees to a trance.

Also, during a recent event, GV Prakash acknowledged the requests being made by the fans about releasing the film's first single, and the current tweet could be a teaser for the same.

GV Prakash is a unique music director who can bring a different vibe to Ravi Teja's film altogether, and once the song comes out, there is no doubt that it could become an instant chartbuster.

On the other hand, GV Prakash's popularity is growing in Telugu as he has a couple of interesting projects in the kitty. Meanwhile, Irumudi is produced by Mythri Movie Makers and has Priya Bhavani Shankar as the leading lady.

