

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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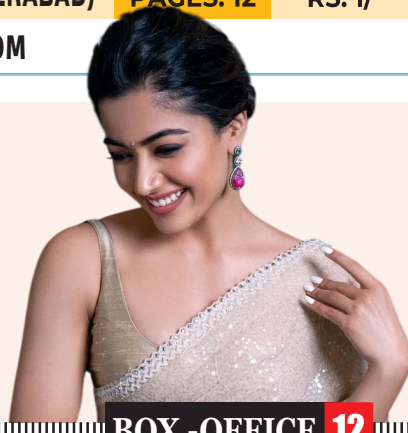
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SRH SECURE PLAYOFF BERTH WITH FIVE-WICKET WIN OVER CSK

STADIUM 11

RASHMIKA'S 'F-BOMB' CREATES NOISE, BUT...



BOX -OFFICE 12



GOVERNOR URGES GROUP-I PROBATIONERS TO SERVE WITH INTEGRITY

HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has interacted with 44 Group-I probationary deputy collectors currently undergoing training at Dr. MCR HRD Institute, led by Vice Chairman & Managing Director Dr. Shanti Kumari.

At a programme held in the Lok Bhavan on Monday, the Governor congratulated the young officers and conveyed his best wishes for their future careers. He warmly interacted with each officer

and appreciated their commitment to public service. Addressing the probationers, the Governor said, "As future administrative leaders, you have the vital responsibility of serving people with integrity, compassion, and dedication. Always remember that public service is not merely a position of authority, but a responsibility towards society and the nation." He expressed confidence that their commitment would significantly contribute to good governance and the development of the State.

Disaster Response System Being Strengthened with World-Class Technology



'Golden Hour' is Crucial During Emergencies
Minister Ponguleti Launches Mega Disaster Management Mock Drill in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

State Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the Government's primary objective is to protect human lives and minimise damage to property during natural disasters. He said that, under the guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Re-

vanth Reddy, the State Government is strengthening the disaster response system with world-class technology. As part of the State-wide Disaster Management Mock Exercises, the Minister on Monday inaugurated the mock drill conducted at the HMDA Grounds, Necklace Road, Hyderabad. Later, he held a review meeting on disaster management with senior officials of various departments at the Command and Control Centre. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said Telangana would further strengthen its disaster management system in line with the best practices

being implemented in various states across the country. He directed officials to immediately examine the best technologies and advanced equipment available globally for effectively handling natural disasters and fire accidents, and submit a comprehensive report along with proposals. He said that the experience gained through these mock drills being conducted with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) would help officials deliver more responsible and efficient services during disasters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Govt to develop SIHM Zaheerabad on par with corporate centres: Jupally

HYDERABAD

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday said the State government was proposing to allocate ₹5 crore for strengthening the State Institute of Hospitality Management (SIHM) at Zaheerabad. Participating in the Tourism Week celebrations organised under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" programme at SIHM, the Minister said the institution would be developed on par with corporate-level hospitality training centres.

Krishna Rao inaugurated newly introduced Bakery and Confectionery courses launched with the support of the SC Corporation. He also formally launched admissions for BBA and MBA courses for the academic year at National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) and unveiled a "Tourist Guide" poster prepared by the Tourism department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Trying for bail doesn't mean absconded: Bjp telangana chief NRR

HYDERABAD

Trying for bail doesn't mean of absconding said telangana bjp chief ramchander rao. Bjp chief on monday speaking to media said, Mos for home affairs bandi sanjay kumar son has undergone allegations and pocso case has been registered, why party must take action on bandi sanjay. bjp chief replied to media personnel for any action been taken on bandi. Bharatha rashtra samithi and congress party targeting on bandi sanjay and making all baseless allegations and demanding resignation of bandi sanjay for his Mos home affairs. Bandi son has already been surrendered before police and he is being remanded. when the issue is in court, its not fair to discuss about that issue, Said NRR.

SC stays tree felling around KBR Park; puts flyover project on hold

HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court of India on Monday issued a stay on the felling of trees in the eco-sensitive zone surrounding KBR Park in Hyderabad. The subsequent hearing has been postponed to July 27. It is widely known that the State government has initiated the construction of a flyover near KBR Park, but these activities are currently paused due to the Supreme Court's stay order.

The GHMC has proposed an ambitious initiative aimed at addressing traffic congestion in the busy Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills neighbourhood of Hyderabad. This initiative, known as the 'Grade Separator Corridor Project,' is set to be developed around KBR Park. Officials have indicated that the project aims to promote a 'Green Hyderabad' by balanc-



ing environmental protection with urban growth. They emphasised that the project is designed to ensure there is no negative impact on the KBR Park Eco-Sensitive Zone. Under a policy termed "Zero Park Intrusion," the construction of flyovers and underpasses will be confined to the existing road medians, avoiding any encroachment on park land. GHMC officials also reassured the public that no trees within KBR Park would be removed for this project, stating that only those situated in the central median would be safely relocated to other areas through a sophisticated transplantation technique. However, the bench, which included Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, issued the interim directive.

SHORT TAKES



TN CM Vijay orders Amma canteen revamp
Tamil Nadu CM Vijay has ordered the renovation and modernisation of Amma Unavagams across the state. The move follows reports about the quality and taste of food served at the subsidised canteens.

NEXT DOOR 05



Sensex recovers to end 77 points up
Benchmark stock market indices recovered to close in green, rebounding over 900 points from the day's low as Dalal Street saw buying after early selloff. IT stocks were major gainers.

MONEY MATTER 09

Revanth, Bhatti attend Kerala CM's swearing-in ceremony



HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, participated in the swearing-in ceremony of VD Satheesan as Kerala's new Chief Minister at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.

The duo traveled together on a special flight to attend the event, where Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to Satheesan along with his 20-member Cabinet. Notable attendees included Con-

gress president Mallikarjun Kharge and prominent party figures such as Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who represents Wayanad in Parliament. The ceremony also saw the presence of Chief Ministers from Congress-led states, former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Left Party leaders, and representatives from the BJP.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister expressed that it felt like a gathering of friends and colleagues when they arrived in Kerala for the day's grand celebrations. Revanth Reddy also shared a photograph

featuring Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh; former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel; Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar; Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka; and others.

"The hope, energy and enthusiasm is palpable in the air. The same energy will strengthen as we will all work together for our biggest common goal - for the day when our leader Rahul Gandhi will take oath as Prime Minister of India," the Chief Minister said.

Amit Shah Felicitates Police Officers Who Made Telangana a Naxal-Free State

JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

Union Home Minister Sri Amit Shah reaffirmed the Union Government's commitment to eliminating Left-Wing Extremism from the country and building a Naxal-free society. As part of this mission, police officers who played a pivotal role in combating Maoist activities in insurgency-affected regions were felicitated at a special event held in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, on Monday.

Senior officers of Telangana Police, who played a key role in completely suppressing Naxalism and making Telangana a Naxal-free state, were among those honoured for their exemplary service and



contribution.

On the occasion, the Union Home Minister felicitated Telangana Director General of Police Shri C.V. Anand, State Security Advisor Shri B. Shivadhar Reddy, DGP Operations (OCTOPUS & Greyhounds) Dr. Anil Kumar, IPS, and Malkajigiri Commissioner

and former SIB IGP Smt. Sumati along with the SIB team led by her. He congratulated them for their outstanding efforts and dedicated service in the fight against Left-Wing Extremism.

Addressing the gathering, Amit Shah revealed that during an internal review meet-

ing held in January 2024, a target date of March 31, 2026, had been set to completely eradicate Naxalism from the country.

"When we took this decision, many privately expressed doubts about whether such a goal could be achieved. However, we moved forward with a clear vision and a well-defined strategy. Today, with the blessings of Goddess Danteshwari, I am delighted to announce that the Bastar region has been declared Naxal-free," he said.

He described Chhattisgarh becoming free from the menace of Naxalism as a historic milestone in India's prolonged struggle against Left-Wing Extremism.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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Southwest Airlines to Launch Hyderabad GCC on May 20



HYDERABAD: Global aviation major Southwest Airlines is set to establish its Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad, further strengthening the city's position as a leading GCC destination. A delegation comprising Lauren Woods, Executive Vice President & Chief Information Officer; Krishna Kallepalli, Vice President & Global Head of Innovation India; and Tom Merritt, Vice President & Chief Technology Officer, met Telangana IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat here on Monday and invited him to the inauguration of the Hyderabad GCC on May 20. Sridhar Babu said the Telangana government is committed to transforming GCCs into Global Value Centers by fostering innovation, attracting international investments, and generating high-quality employment opportunities for the state's youth.

Telangana Procures Record 40.3 LMT Paddy, Rs.6,566 Cr MSP Paid to 5.5 Lakh Farmers

HYDERABAD: The Civil Supplies Department has procured 40.3 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy during the ongoing Rabi 2025-26 season and credited over Rs.6,566 crore in Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments directly into the bank accounts of more than 5.5 lakh farmers. With procurement at its peak, all 8,575 Paddy Purchase Centres (PPCs) are functioning across the state. Of the total procurement, 11 LMT of fine variety (Sannarakam) paddy and 29 LMT of coarse variety (Doddurakam) have been purchased accounting for 92% and 81% of arrivals, respectively. PACS centres led the operations by procuring 24 LMT, while IKP centres handled 14 LMT. To ensure smooth logistics, the government deployed 12,000 transport vehicles and positioned 18.6 crore gunny bags across procurement centres. The top five procurement districts are Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Kamareddy, Suryapet and Peddapalli. Farmers can contact the Civil supplies department's toll-free helpline 1967 for queries, assistance or grievance support.

C. V. Anand visited the Special Intelligence Branch

- Also interacted with the officers and staff
- Vijay Kumar, Addl. DGP, Intelligence and Kartikeya, IGP Intelligence & SIB were also present with the DGP during the visit.

HYDERABAD

During the visit, the DGP reviewed the present Maoist scenario in Telangana and assessed the ongoing anti-extremist operations and intelligence initiatives undertaken by SIB to address the security concerns of Telangana State.

The DGP appreciated the sustained efforts of SIB officers and staff in effectively countering Left Wing Extremism and facilitating large-scale surrenders of underground CPI (Maoist) cadres. Between 2024 and 2026, a total of 820 underground Maoist cadres surrendered before the police in Telangana, including senior level cadres such as Central Committee Members (CCMs) - 04, State Committee Members (SCMs) - 22, Regional Committee Members (RCMs) - 01, Divisional Committee Members (DVCs) - 45, Area Committee Members (ACMs) - 173.

As part of these surrenders, a total of 334 firearms were also surrendered by underground CPI (Maoist) cadres, including AK-47 rifles - 58, INSAS rifles



- 48, SLRs - 50, LMGs - 06 and other sophisticated weapons.

The DGP commended the remarkable contribution of SIB in effectively neutralizing the armed Maoist movement in Telangana through sustained intelligence based operations, confidence building measures and rehabilitation initiatives. He particularly appreciated the proactive role played by SIB in motivating underground Maoist cadres to shun violence and join the mainstream.

The DGP also reviewed the rehabilitation and reintegration measures being extended to surrendered Maoists and assured that the Telangana Police Department would continue to provide all necessary support for their rehabilita-

tion and social reintegration. SIB has to continue watching the surrendered cadre closely, ensure their reskilling and other employment oriented training and job placement, their rehabilitation and integration into society, he said.

Advising officers on the evolving security environment, the DGP stated that in the changing scenario, where we are seeing the fall of Maoism after 4 decades, SIB should adapt to emerging challenges and assume a broader role in policing intelligence, study upcoming patterns and social media and resultant social changes impacting public order and peace, especially involving the youth and support the State Police in addressing future security concerns of Telangana effectively.

VHR to Be Felicitated with Lifetime Achievement Award on Tuesday

HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader and Advisor to the Telangana Government's BC welfare department, V. Hanumantha Rao, will be felicitated with the 'Seal Well-Shruthilaya Lifetime Achievement Award' at a special civic reception to be held at Ravindra Bharathi here on Tuesday evening.

Senior journalist and Awards Committee Chairman Dr. Mohammed Rafi announced that the event, scheduled for 5:30 PM, is being jointly organised by Seal Well Corporation, Shruthilaya Arts Academy and Adarsha Foundation in association with the Telangana department of Language and Culture.

Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar will attend as the chief guest, while State IT and Industries Minister Duddil Sridhar Babu, Legislative Council Opposition Leader S. Madhusudhanachari, and former Telangana Police Housing Corporation Chairman Kolleti Damodar Gupta will partici-



part as guests of honour.

Dr. Rafi said the felicitation recognises Hanumantha Rao's long political and public service career, including his roles as PCC President, AICC in-charge for Karnataka, Minister in the Chenna Reddy cabinet, MLA, MLC and Member of Parliament. Singer and Shruthilaya Founding Secretary Amani said the programme would also feature the 86th edition of the "Seal Well Suswaralu" film music concert and special dance performances choreographed by Rajesh. She appealed to VH's admirers and Congress leaders to attend the event in large numbers.

SANJAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA REVIEWS SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

in View of Ensuing Summer Season

HYDERABAD

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway held a detailed meeting on safety of train operations across the zone today i.e., 18th May, 2026 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions viz., Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded Divisions joined the review meeting through video conference.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava reviewed the precautions undertaken by the zone in view of the summer season. The General Manager advised the officials to focus on fire safety measures and sensitizing the staff regularly. He instructed the officials to reiterate all



the precautions related to prevent fire incidents ensuring strict compliance by the staff. He instructed the officials to be proactive in fire and smoke detection system and its maintenance. Patrolling to be strengthened on track side to avoid any fire incidents. The General Manager while emphasizing on the safety of rolling stock, he instructed officials to adhere to strict guidelines in loading the bulk materials and avoid uneven load-

ing. He also instructed to focus on all points and crossings. The General Manager while discussing on track safety he reviewed the cable damages, trespassing incidents, works related to barricading over the zone. He reviewed on the ongoing infrastructural work such as yard remodeling, signal upgradation works and pathway on the bridges etc., wherein he instructed to speed up the work to be completed as per set target.

UoH named Telangana's lead knowledge institution under NITI Aayog mission

HYDERABAD

University of Hyderabad has been formally nominated as the Lead Knowledge Institution (LKI) for the Government of Telangana under the State Support Mission (SSM) of NITI Aayog, marking a major recognition of the university's multidisciplinary research and policy expertise.

The nomination, communicated by the Telangana Planning department, positions UoH as a key academic partner in supporting evidence-based governance and policy transformation across

the state. The University will provide research-backed policy inputs, technical expertise, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, data analytics, sectoral studies, and capacity-building support to various government departments.

The collaboration is expected to focus on strategic sectors including economics and finance, agriculture, industry and infrastructure, health and education, urban development, technology and entrepreneurship, data analytics, and human resource development. The initiative is aimed at

strengthening Telangana's institutional capacities and aligning developmental priorities with the broader Vision 2047 goals.

Welcoming the development, UoH Vice-Chancellor in-charge Prof. J. Anuradha described the nomination as a matter of immense pride for the university community. She said the partnership would enable faculty and researchers to translate academic knowledge into actionable public policy and contribute meaningfully to inclusive and innovation-driven growth in Telangana.

GHMC clarifies circulating '300 wards reservation list' is fake

HYDERABAD

In response to reports indicating that some websites and social media platforms are sharing a document named "GHMC 2026 - 300 Wards Reservations Proposed List," which allegedly outlines ward reservation information, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has stated that this document is entirely unauthorized, unofficial, and fraudulent.

In a statement here on Monday, it stated that the GHMC neither released nor shared any such reservation list or related data with any private individual, website, organisation, or media platform. "The information being circulated does not have any authenticity or approval



from the competent authority of GHMC or the government publication and dissemination of such unverified content is misleading the public and creating unnecessary confusion," the GHMC said.

The GHMC strongly condemned the unauthorised publication of such fabricated data and reserves the right to initiate appropriate legal and cybercrime action against the persons/entities responsible

for publishing and circulating the same. In this regard a FIR has been booked against such websites Citizens, public representatives, media organisations, and stakeholders are advised not to rely upon or circulate such fake and unauthorised information. Any official information relating to GHMC matters will be communicated only through authorised government/GHMC channels.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Disaster Response System Being Strengthened with World-Class Technology

FROM PAGE 1

He observed that rapid response, inter-departmental coordination and advance preparedness are extremely vital during emergencies such as floods, fire accidents and industrial disasters.

The Minister stated that the first hour after a natural disaster is extremely critical and should be treated as the "Golden Hour". He instructed that all personnel should work in complete coordination during that period and effectively utilise the available advanced equipment to provide immediate services to the public. He called upon all systems to respond promptly during fires and floods so as to minimise loss of life and property.

Minister Ponguleti clarified that once a distress call is received, it is the responsibility of officials to reach the right location without any delay and provide timely medical

and rescue services to affected people.

He said such mock drills are highly useful for evacuating people to safer locations, carrying out swift rescue operations and coordinating emergency services during floods, fire accidents and sudden disasters.

Recalling historical disasters, he referred to the Great Hyderabad Floods of 1908 and the recent floods in the Godavari and Krishna rivers, stating that history has shown the devastating consequences of lack of preparedness during disasters.

The Minister stressed that advanced technology, modern equipment and trained rescue teams must always remain alert and prepared to protect public lives. He expressed concern that forest fires are destroying greenery, while increasing fire accidents in urban areas are causing serious concern. He stated that

Telangana is developing one of the best disaster management systems by studying international rescue practices adopted during disasters across the world.

Rescue Operations Draw Attention

As part of the mock drill, specialised teams demonstrated rescue operations including inflatable life boats, advanced techniques for rescuing people stranded in water, emergency evacuation measures and co-ordinated rescue operations. Later, the Minister visited the Necklace Road Boating Club and personally inspected the rescue activities there. He appreciated the large-scale conduct of mock exercises in Telangana and congratulated the NDRF, SDRF, Disaster Management Department and district officials.

The Minister clarified that the demonstrations being conducted across the State are

only mock drills organised as part of preparedness measures and that the public need not panic. He appealed to the public not to believe rumours and stressed that only responsible and authentic information should be disseminated through media and social media platforms.

Disaster Management Department Secretary Dasari Harichandana, Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services DG Vikram Singh Mann, HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath and NDMA Lead Consultant Major General (Retd.) Sudhir Bell participated in the programme. Officials and personnel from Police, Fire Services, NDRF, SDRF, Revenue, Medical and Health, GHMC, HYDRAA, Industries, Transport, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and other departments also participated in large numbers and made the mock drill successful.

Govt to develop SIHM Zaheerabad on par with corporate centres: Juppally

FROM PAGE 1

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said SIHM had remained inactive for several years and expressed satisfaction over its revival. He said the institution was originally established to provide professional skills and self-employment opportunities to rural youth, particularly students from SC, ST and BC communities.

Stating that the government was committed to supporting economically weaker students, he said efforts were being made to provide stipends for poor students joining SIHM courses.

The Minister observed that tourism and hospitality sectors offered vast employment opportunities and advised students to improve communication and foreign language skills to compete in the global job market.

He also directed NITHM Director Venkata Ramana to introduce market-oriented and modern courses in tune with changing industry demands.

Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar, MLC Anji Reddy, Tourism, Culture Department Special Chief Secretary Vani Prasad, Sangareddy District Collector Prateek Jain, Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankaj and other officials participated in the programme.



Capacity Building Training Expenditure for Employees

■ Should Be Viewed as an Investment, Not a Wasteful Expense

■ Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, Director, ESCI

Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, Director, Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), stated that capacity building training provided to employees at every stage of their professional growth should be considered an investment by the government rather than an unnecessary expenditure.

A five-day training programme, jointly organized by the Power & Energy, Water Resources Development, and Information Technology Divisions of India (ESCI), under the aegis of the Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Government of India, commenced at the ESCI campus on Monday, 18-05-2026.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao said that under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), with the support of the Power Finance Corporation, Government of India, ESCI has been providing training for the past 11 months to 2,500 middle-level management engineers working in DISCOMs across various



states in India, through senior experts and faculty members.

He stated that the training covers critical technical subjects such as Fundamentals of Power Quality, Frequency Stability, Medical Gas Pipeline Systems, Fire Detection, Fire Safety Audit, and Cyber Security, thereby enhancing the technical competence of engineers.

He further informed that ESCI is also conducting specialized training programmes for officials of the Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department (MPPWD) and the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

(MoRTH), Government of India.

Dr. Rao highlighted that for the past four and a half decades, the Engineering Staff College of India has conducted thousands of capacity building programmes while also serving as a Third-Party Quality Control Agency for engineering works across various departments. In recognition of its distinguished services, ESCI has received the prestigious Golden Peacock Award nine times, he added.

He also mentioned that special training programmes for Irrigation Engineers commenced on the same day, focusing on topics such as Dam

Safety Guidelines, Monitoring and Protection Measures, Emergency Action Plans, Seismic Safety, and Flood Disposal, conducted by senior faculty members.

The programme witnessed the participation of 100 middle-level management engineers, including 60 engineers from DISCOMs across various states, 30 engineers from MPPWD, and 10 engineers from other departments. In addition, irrigation engineers from different states attended the training programme organized by the Water Resources Division.

Among those who participated in the programme were Dr. I.S.N. Raju, P. Narendra Kumar, Syed Hussain, Dr. V. Vidyasagar, College Chief S. Lakshminantha Rao, Dr. P. Rajarao, Srikanth, Naresh, Jyothi, and others.

Special Training Programme for MPPWD Engineers

A Professional Development Programme for Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of the Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department (MPPWD) is being conducted at ESCI, Hyderabad, on topics including "Medical Gas Pipeline System, Quality of Power & Harmonics, Building Management System (BMS), Advanced BMS Integration & Analytics, Lift Safety, and

Fire Safety."

On this occasion, Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao emphasized that the role of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers has become increasingly crucial in today's rapidly evolving infrastructure ecosystem.

He stated that Medical Gas Pipeline Systems are vital for ensuring uninterrupted and safe gas supply in hospitals, while Quality of Power & Harmonics is essential for efficient electrical performance.

He further explained that Building Management Systems (BMS) and Advanced BMS Integration & Analytics are transforming modern buildings into smart, energy-efficient, and secure environments.

Dr. Rao also emphasized the importance of Lift Safety and Fire Safety, stating that engineers must continuously update their knowledge of modern technologies, safety standards, and emergency management protocols.

He expressed confidence that the training programme would enhance the technical competencies and professional capabilities of participating engineers, enabling them to contribute more effectively to the development and maintenance of quality infrastructure.

CMC receives 63 grievances at Prajavani

HYDERABAD

(42, engineering (10), sanitation (3), electrical (2), urban biodiversity (2), entomology (1), the Finance and Administration Section (1), projects (1), and vigilance and enforcement (1). Each grievance has been registered with a unique tracking ID to ensure transparency, proper monitoring, and accountability at every stage. The departments have been instructed to take up citizen concerns on priority, update action taken regularly, and ensure continuous follow-up until closure.

As part of the weekly Prajavani grievance redressal programme, the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) on Monday received a total of 63 grievances from citizens on various civic issues. The grievances were reviewed by the respective Heads of Departments (HODs) for necessary action, proper follow-up, and timely resolution. The grievances reported by department are as follows: town planning



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Workshop on Quality Assessment of the Telugu Translation of CSIR-NIScPR

Popular Science Books

HYDERABAD

The Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies (CALTS), School of Humanities University of Hyderabad is organising a five-day Workshop on "Quality Assessment of the Telugu Translation of CSIR-NIScPR Popular Science Books" in collaboration with the National Translation Mission, CII, Mysuru. The workshop commenced on the 18th of May, 2026 and will continue till the 22nd. The workshop aims to evaluate and vet popular science books of CSIR - NIScPR translated into



Telugu from English, which will be published by National Translation Mission. Once published, these books will be made available to Telugu readers.

The coordinator of the workshop Prof. Naresh Anem of CALTS, University of Hyderabad

which was also envisaged in NEP 2020.

Prof. Arulmozi, Head of the department said that CALTS has been involved in translation activities for more than three decades and has contributed significantly to the machine assisted translation in Indian languages. Dr. P. Matthew, Chief Resource Person from National Translation Mission (NTM) said that NTM has been getting the knowledge texts and popular science books translated into 22 scheduled languages. Language, Translation and Subject experts have participated in the workshop to review and finalize the manuscripts.

GITAM Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Physics

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has congratulated Dr. I.S. Ravi Varma on the successful completion of his Ph.D. in Physics under the guidance of Dr. S. Ramesh, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, School of Science.

Dr. Ravi Varma's doctoral research, titled "Study of Sodium Ion Conduction Mechanism in Nano-composite Polymer Blend Electrolytes," focused on the development of advanced nanocomposite polymer electrolyte films for next-generation energy storage applications. The study achieved enhanced ionic conductivity at room temperature by synthesizing a polymer blend electrolyte system incorporating NaPF₆ salt, ethylene carbonate plasticizer, and Al₂O₃ nanofiller.

The research explored the structural, electrical, dielectric, and electrochemical properties of the developed films using advanced characterization techniques including FTIR, DSC, SEM, XRD, and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy. The findings demonstrate the material's strong potential for use in safer and high-performance solid-state



sodium-ion batteries, renewable energy storage systems, supercapacitors, fuel cells, electrochromic devices, and flexible electronics.

The study is expected to contribute significantly to the development of efficient and sustainable solid-state electrochemical devices for future energy technologies. The GITAM community—including Prof. D.S.Rao (Pro Vice-Chancellor), D.V.V.S.R. Varma (Resident Director), Dr. M. Reza (Principal, School of Science), Prof. T. Vishwam (Head, Department of Physics), along with faculty members, researchers, and students—extends warmest congratulations to Dr. Ravi Varma on this remarkable academic achievement.

Fuel, LPG Supply Normal in Telangana: OMCs

HYDERABAD

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on Monday clarified that petrol, diesel and LPG supplies across Telangana remain stable and sufficient to meet the current demand, dismissing rumours of shortages in the state. According to the state-level coordinator for OMCs, public sector oil companies are closely monitoring the supply situation and taking necessary measures to streamline logistics and speed up deliveries. During the first fortnight of May, petrol supplies in the state rose by 14.2 per cent, while diesel supplies increased by 15.7 per cent.

OMCs also stated that domestic LPG bookings have declined due to the summer heat and there has been no panic booking by consumers. So far this month, 20.06 lakh domestic LPG cylinders have been delivered across Telangana, which officials described as normal for the season. Consumers were encouraged to book LPG cylinders through SMS, missed calls, IVRS and online platforms.

OMCs also appealed to customers to support the "Delivery Authentication Code" (DAC) system — an OTP-based cylinder delivery mechanism aimed at preventing diversion and ensuring delivery to genuine beneficiaries. Telangana has already achieved over 95 per cent DAC compliance, with efforts underway to reach 100 per cent. The public was urged to rely only on authentic information sources and avoid spreading or believing fake news and rumours.



"Tara Rum Pum" Strikes a Musical Chord in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Music, nostalgia and entertainment blended seamlessly as AIRO organised Visionary Achievers Alliance (VAA) The OG's "Tara Rum Pum - Celebrity Singers Antakshari" at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium on Sunday evening.

The event drew a massive crowd of music enthusiasts who enjoyed an energetic evening filled with melodious performances, lively interactions, and nostalgic hits. Branded as a "Battle of the Bards", the celebrity Antakshari contest featured renowned singers and performers competing through evergreen classics and chartbuster songs, keeping the audience thoroughly entertained. The crowd enthusiastically sang along, cheered for their favourite teams, and immersed themselves in the vibrant atmosphere created by the performers' spontaneous musical exchanges and stage presence. AIRO organiser Pradeep Kondiparthi said the event was envisioned as a celebration of music, entertainment, and togetherness, expressing happiness



over the overwhelming response from audiences. VAA Director Dr. Neelima Vemula said the event successfully united people from different walks of life through the universal language of music and described the energy at the venue as phenomenal.

The event was creatively curated by The Station, whose seamless execution

and presentation added to the entertainment experience. Organisers thanked performers, partners, participants, and the audience for making the debut edition a grand success and expressed confidence that "Tara Rum Pum" would become a landmark live entertainment property in Hyderabad.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S1/W-II, dated 13.05.2026. Following e-tender is invited online by Divisional Engineer/III, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: Tender No. : TN-34-26-27. Name of the work : Bank protection as a measure of monsoon precaution including repairing of cess at bad bank location with all ancillary works in the jurisdiction of Senior DEN/C/Sealdah in Sealdah Division. Tender Value: ₹ 1,30,52,006.95. EMD: ₹ 2,61,100.00. Date and time of closing of tender : 10.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Completion period for the work : 12 months. Date & time of opening of tender : 10.06.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are at : www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected.

SDAH-44/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.ar.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
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SHORT TAKES

Collector gifts battery-operated tricycles to 2 persons with disabilities



HYDERABAD: On Monday, Uppula Srinivas from Suddala village and Komire Parashuramulu from Gudem village came to the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) for some work. Little did they know they would go with a gift from the District Collector of Rajanna Sircilla. Srinivas and Parashuramulu are persons with disabilities. Daily activities become a challenge for them. When the men were at the IDOC, Collector Garima Agrawal observed them from afar and realised how even a simple task can become difficult for them. She immediately directed the District Welfare Officer, Lakshmirajam, to provide battery-operated tricycles to Srinivas and Parashuramulu. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Collector for understanding their problems with compassion.

Woman falls to death after car door suddenly opens

HYDERABAD: A 45-year-old woman driving a scooter died in a tragic accident on Saturday, May 16, in Murlu village, Mahabubnagar, after a person suddenly opened the door of their parked car, causing her to fall on the road. A video of the incident shows a red car parked under a tree. While one scooter passes safely, Priscilla, who was on the second scooter, is abruptly hit when the door opens. She falls off the scooter and lies still on the ground, with severe head injuries. People from the car and passersby are seen hauling her up before the video cuts off. She died in the early hours of Sunday while undergoing treatment at TX Hospital in Hyderabad.

Hyd Police Launches AI-Powered "Soceye" To Monitor Harmful Social Media Content

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Police has launched "SOCEYE - Social Media Observation and Cyber Intelligence", an advanced AI-driven platform designed to monitor harmful online content, track cyber troublemakers and analyse social media trends that could threaten public order.

The initiative marks a major technology-led step in strengthening cyber surveillance and preventive policing through Artificial Intelligence.

Traditionally, monitoring multiple social media platforms and identifying sensitive or harmful narratives required extensive manpower and continuous manual tracking. With SOCEYE, the process has now been automated through real-time AI-powered surveillance, analysis, and investigation support on a unified platform. During its pilot phase, SOCEYE successfully identified



85 hateful and communally sensitive posts linked to the Puranapul X Road incident and 126 objectionable posts related to the Gudimalkapur issue. Police initiated timely takedown measures, ensuring continuity of peace and harmony and identification of trouble mongers.

KEY FEATURES OF SOCEYE

Intelligent Dashboard - The

platform integrates data from multiple operational sources including Dial-100 alerts, intelligence inputs, and city event feeds to provide real-time situational awareness through a single dashboard.

Automated Social Media Alerts - SOCEYE continuously tracks cyber troublemakers and communal handles while prioritising issues related to narcotics and women's safety.

AI models automatically detect content linked to CSAM, cyberbullying and stalking, categorising posts into High, Medium and Low-risk levels. The system also analyses sharing networks to identify accounts amplifying sensitive content, significantly reducing manual monitoring efforts.

Grievance Tracking System - Public complaints received through official Hy-

derabad City Police social media handles are automatically categorised, assigned tracking IDs, and monitored from receipt to disposal. The feature also helps identify recurring complaints and sensitive locations. Event-Based Monitoring - For protests, religious processions and public gatherings, SOCEYE automatically creates keyword-based monitoring systems and tracks related online activity in real time to detect potential law and order threats early.

Investigation and Analytical Tools - The platform includes integrated SOCMINT and OSINT tools to support cybercrime investigations and digital evidence analysis. Global Search Capability - SOCEYE's high-speed search engine can instantly scan public social media profiles and aggregate posts related to specific keywords, enabling police to quickly assess emerging narratives and online developments.

Land price in Thorrur reaches ₹45,500 per square yard

- In Bahadurpally, price reaches 40,500 per square yard
- Strong response for Rajiv Swargruha open plot sales
- Revenue of around 83 crore generated

HYDERABAD

Open plots being sold by the Rajiv Swargruha Corporation in various areas have received a very positive response from the public. On Monday, a public auction was conducted for the sale of 85 open plots belonging to the corporation in Thorrur (66 plots), Kurmalguda (11 plots), and Bahadurpally (8 plots) located in Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts. These plots are free from disputes, developed with all amenities, and are in high-demand areas close to Future



City and the Outer Ring Road.

The auction was held at a private function hall in Pedda Amberpet. Bidders offered prices much higher than the minimum rates fixed per square yard. Rajiv Swargruha Corporation Managing Director Mr. V.P. Gautham said that approximately ₹83 crore in revenue was generated through the sale of these plots.

45,500 per square yard in Thorrur

MD Mr. V.P. Gautham stated that bidders competed intensely to purchase plots in the Thorrur layout, with the highest bid reaching ₹45,500 per square yard. In Thorrur, which is close to the ORR and Adibatla IT Corridor, 66 plots ranging from 200 to 700 square yards were auctioned. The

minimum price was fixed at ₹25,000 per square yard, while the average selling price reached ₹32,500 per square yard. He said the demand for land in the area could be understood from the fact that bidders increased prices nearly twenty times during bidding to secure their preferred plots.

Similarly, in Kurmalguda, located near the airport and RCI, plots ranging from 200 to 400 square yards had a minimum price of ₹20,000 per square yard, while the highest bid reached ₹27,500 per square yard.

In Bahadurpally, adjacent to the Outer Ring Road, plots ranging from 200 to 1000 square yards also fetched good prices. The minimum price there was fixed at ₹27,000 per square yard, while the highest auction price reached ₹40,500 per square yard. The average selling price in the auction was ₹33,800 per square yard. The public auction was conducted transparently from morning till evening, and around 150 bidders from various regions participated.

IBD has No Borders : Access to Care

(On the occasion of "World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day" on 19 May)

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases comprise of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, are two different diseases which are difficult to distinguish. There has been an increasing trend of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in the Indian subcontinent and the financial burden it causes due to long-term treatment and constant monitoring. Inflammatory Bowel Diseases are increasing globally, higher in western countries but is now being observed in Asian countries as well. Inflammatory Bowel Diseases have no age restrictions.

Theme of World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day-2026

To promote awareness of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day is observed annually on 19 May. On this day, various global and local organisations step forward together to support a crore of people globally that suffer from Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. The theme of World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day-2026 is "Inflammatory Bowel Disease has No Borders : Access to Care", to focus and strives to shatter the silence and stigma surrounding Inflammatory Bowel Diseases by encouraging open talks about the condition, particularly taboos associated with discussing bowel movements. The early diagnosis, patient care, and society's understanding of persons living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.



Reasons of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

The diet and alterations in the composition of intestinal microbiota may interact with the immune system and lead to immune dysregulation in the gut, causing Inflammatory Bowel disorder. The diet with high in fat and sugars along with low fibre and vegetables can inflame the gut. Refined carbohydrates and sweetened beverages, more animal protein intake, and food additives also increase the risk of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.

Symptoms of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

The symptoms of Ulcerative Colitis are ulcers in colon, bloody diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and urgency to defecate. Similarly the Crohn's disease symptoms are inflammation in intestine, persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain, weight loss, and fatigue. It is better to take diet rich or fresh fruits, vegetables, prunes, and caffeinated beverages to increase stool production. By reducing the consumption of intense sweets, water intake, and reducing alcohol consumption may aggregate the Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.

— Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
Principal & Associate Professor (Rtd)
9949700037

One in Three Hyderabadis Suffering from High BP, Warn Doctors



HYDERABAD

Senior health experts in Hyderabad have raised serious concerns over the growing incidence of hypertension among urban residents, revealing that nearly one in three adults in the city are living with high blood pressure.

As part of World Hypertension Week being observed from May 18 to 25 under the theme "Controlling Hypertension Together: Check Your Blood Pressure Regularly and Defeat the Silent Killer", doctors stressed the urgent need for regular screening, healthier lifestyles and early medical intervention.

Medical experts said more than half of hypertensive individuals remain unaware of their condition because symptoms often do not appear in the early stages. Dr. CH Vasanth Kumar said the Indian Society of Hypertension is working towards

reducing cardiovascular diseases through awareness, research and standardized treatment guidelines. He emphasized that early screening is crucial as hypertension often goes undetected until serious damage occurs. Dr. Lily Rodrigues said efforts are underway to strengthen community screening programmes and improve access to preventive healthcare across Telangana. Highlighting lifestyle-related causes, Dr. Udai Lal noted that work stress, unhealthy food habits and physical inactivity are major contributors to uncontrolled blood pressure levels in urban populations. Dr. Mohammed Riyaz expressed concern over rising stress among youngsters, stating that heart-related complications are increasingly being seen at younger ages.

Addressing women's health, Dr. L. Sessa Sailaja said women face a higher risk of hypertension after

menopause due to hormonal and physiological changes, making regular monitoring essential.

Dr. Srirang Abkari underlined the importance of digital BP monitoring and home-based checks for early detection and effective management.

Doctors explained that hypertension is usually diagnosed when blood pressure consistently records 140/90 mmHg or higher, while readings above 120/80 mmHg should be treated as warning signs requiring lifestyle modifications.

They warned that untreated hypertension can lead to severe complications including heart attacks, strokes, kidney disease, vision loss and heart failure. Calling hypertension a "silent killer," doctors urged adults to undergo blood pressure screening at least once every year, and more frequently for those with risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, stress and sedentary lifestyles.

Ministers flag off 5K Walkathon to kickstart Telangana's Youth & Sports Week

HYDERABAD

As part of the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika, the Telangana government has launched Youth and Sports Week celebrations across the state from May 18 to 23 with the objective of promoting fitness, sports culture, and youth participation.

Ministers Vakiti Srihari, Ponnamm Prabhakar, and Government Advisor AP Jithender Reddy participated in the inaugural events along with Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, Mal Reddy Ram Reddy, and Sports Authority Managing Director Sony Bala Devi. The dignitaries



enthusiastically participated in a Zumba programme organised at the LB Stadium Tennis Complex

in Hyderabad, encouraging youth and citizens to adopt healthy and active lifestyles.

As part of the celebrations, the Ministers and officials also flagged off a 5-kilometre walkathon to promote awareness on physical fitness, sports development, and community participation.

The week-long celebrations will feature various sports competitions, fitness activities, awareness programmes, and youth engagement events across Telangana.

The government stated that the initiative reflects its commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure, encouraging youth empowerment, and building a healthier society through active participation in sports and fitness activities.

Police parades rowdy sheeters on the streets in Telangana

HYDERABAD

In what is being described as a "strong and unusual" crackdown against criminal activities, police on Monday, May 18, paraded rowdy sheeters on the streets of Warangal. The march was carried

out from Ajam Jahi Mills Colony Police Station to Shivnagar near the Khila Warangal Tahsildar Office.

Under the scorching sun, Circle Inspector Ramesh, along with sub-inspectors, led the rowdy sheeters on foot as part of

a strict law enforcement exercise aimed at sending a strong warning to habitual offenders, a release stated.

The rowdy sheeters were later bound over before Khila Warangal Tahsildar Iqbal. Police personnel were also

seen walking on the roads alongside the rowdy sheeters as police jeeps followed behind. This action is being seen as a stern warning designed to instil fear among criminals and strengthen public confidence in policing, the release stated.

Collector's Swift response brings relief to differently-abled persons in Sircilla

SIRCILLA

In a compassionate and prompt gesture, Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal immediately responded to the difficulties faced by two differently-abled persons and ensured quick assistance by providing battery-operated tricycles. Uppula Srinivas from Suddala village in Konaraopet mandal and Komire Parashuramulu from Gudem village in Mustabad mandal had visited the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) on Monday for official work. Noticing their mobility struggles, the Collector personally interacted with them and enquired about their challenges. After learning that both were facing severe difficulties in commuting and managing daily activities, Collector Garima Agrawal promptly directed District Welfare Officer Lakshmirajam to arrange battery-operated tricycles. Acting swiftly on her instructions, officials immediately provided battery-operated tricycles along with helmets to the beneficiaries at the IDOC premises. The beneficiaries thanked the District Collector for her humane approach and timely intervention, saying the support would greatly ease their daily lives and mobility challenges.

State Conference of Central Government Employees' Confederation Held in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD



The 14th State Conference of the Confederation of Central Government Employees & Workers, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Unit, was held successfully at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad.

During the conference, the following office bearers were elected unanimously: President - Com. V. Nageshwar Rao (AG Office) Working President - Com. T. Sathyanarayana (Postal) General Secretary - Com. A. Aziz (Civil Accounts) Dep-

uty General Secretary - Com. A. Sravan Kumar (Postal) Treasurer - Com. Vijay (ITF) Along with other office bearers.

Special congratulations were extended to Com. P. Mahesh, Mail Guard, Hyderabad Sorting Division, on his election as Assistant General Secretary (RMS) on behalf of NFPE.

Leaders and members expressed confidence that the newly elected team would work towards strengthening the unity and struggles of Central Government employees and workers.

Changes in the pattern of Train Services

CHENNAI:

South Western Railway has notified change in pattern of train services due to engineering works between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield as given below:

I. Rescheduling of Train Service:

Train No. 12683 Ernakulam Jn - SMVT Bengaluru Superfast Express scheduled to leave Ernakulam Jn at 16.50 hrs on 10th June, 2026 will be rescheduled to leave Ernakulam Jn at 17.20 hrs (Late by 30 mins) and will be regulated/delayed for 30 mins enroute

II. Regulation of Train Service:

Train No. 22602 Sainagar Shirdi - Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express scheduled to leave Sainagar Shirdi at 08.55 hrs on 19th June and 03rd July, 2026 will be regulated/delayed for 1 hour enroute

Bengal govt sanctions prosecution of ex-RG Kar principal Sandip Ghosh in graft case

KOLKATA: (MAY 18)

The West Bengal government on Monday sanctioned the prosecution of former R G Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh in connection with a case of financial irregularities linked to the institution.

An order issued by the Department of Health and Family Welfare stated the governor, being the competent authority, accorded sanction for Ghosh's prosecution under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). It also stated that the sanction was granted after "fully and carefully examining" the case materials and records, including the FIR and related documents.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay orders Amma canteen revamp after food quality complaints

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay has ordered the renovation and modernisation of Amma Unavagams across the state. The move follows reports about the quality and taste of food served at the subsidised canteens.



Tamil Nadu CM Vijay has ordered the renovation and modernisation of Amma Unavagams, the state-run subsidised canteens that provide affordable meals to the public across Tamil Nadu.

Currently, 383 Amma Canteens are functioning under the Greater Chennai Corporation, while another 237 are being operated by municipal corporations and municipalities across the state.

The move comes after re-

ports concerning the quality and taste of food served at the canteens were brought to the Chief Minister's attention, prompting the government to initiate steps for upgrading the facilities. As per an official statement issued by the Tamil Nadu CMO, Chief Minister Vijay reviewed the functioning of Amma canteens and noted that several centres require

urgent repairs and upgraded infrastructure.

"The Municipal Administration Department has been directed to begin renovation works without delay and strengthen operational standards across all outlets," the statement said.

The government has also instructed officials to replace damaged utensils and out-

dated kitchen equipment, modernise cooking facilities and improve maintenance standards to ensure safer and more efficient food preparation. Authorities have been asked to assess the immediate requirements of each canteen and prioritise procurement and repair work.

The initiative is aimed at ensuring that daily wage labourers, urban workers and economically weaker sections continue to receive affordable and nutritious meals through the Amma canteen network.

The Chief Minister also directed officials to closely monitor food quality and hygiene standards and ensure that public complaints are addressed promptly. Local bodies have been asked to conduct regular inspections and main-

tain cleanliness in kitchens and dining areas.

Amma canteens remain one of Tamil Nadu's flagship welfare schemes, serving subsidised meals to thousands of people every day across urban centres in the state.

Earlier, after taking charge as Chief Minister, Vijay had ordered the closure of 717 government-run TASMAL liquor outlets located within a 500-metre radius of places of worship, educational institutions and bus stands across Tamil Nadu, citing public welfare concerns.

Vijay had directed authorities to conduct a statewide survey to identify TASMAL shops operating near temples, schools, colleges and bus stations before ordering their closure within two weeks.

Gottipati Directs Officials to Immediately Sanction Pending Agricultural Power Connections

AMARAVATI, MAY 18:

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has directed officials to immediately sanction all pending agricultural electricity connections across the state. During a teleconference held on Monday with the CMDs of the three power distribution companies, Loteti Siva Shankar, Prithvi Tej Immadi, and P. Pullareddy, the Minister reviewed summer power management and instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers throughout the season. The Minister emphasized the need for advance planning to prevent any disruption in power supply across the state. He stated that despite the rising electricity demand during summer, consumers should not face any inconvenience and officials must ensure continuous and reliable power supply. He further directed that in the event of any technical fault leading to power interruptions, consumers should be informed immediately and restoration works should be taken up on a war footing to resolve issues at the earliest. Considering the prevailing weather

conditions and extreme temperatures, the Minister cautioned that incidents such as transformer failures may occur at several places. He instructed field-level staff to remain alert and ensure the availability of all necessary equipment and materials for emergency response.

The Minister also reviewed the progress of key Central and State Government schemes, including PM Surya Ghar, PM Kusum, and RDSS, and instructed officials to complete the targets within the stipulated timelines.

Special focus was laid on the PM Surya Ghar scheme, under which the government has targeted six lakh solar connections for SC beneficiaries. The Minister directed officials to complete the target by July and simultaneously accelerate the process of providing solar connections to other categories of consumers to achieve the government's renewable energy goals at a faster pace.

Reiterating the government's commitment, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar stated that providing quality, reliable, and uninterrupted power supply to the people of Andhra Pradesh remains the government's top priority.

Chandrababu Naidu congratulates TTD for achieving 89.4 pc green cover

Tirupati, May 18 (SocialNews.XYZ) Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday congratulated the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on achieving 89.4 per cent forest cover in Tirumala.



"Congratulations to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams on achieving 89.4 pc forest cover in Tirumala through sustained conservation measures aimed at protecting forest wealth and restoring native species in the Seshachalam Hills," the Chief Minister posted on X. "Our traditions regard nature as sacred, and protecting forests and wildlife is a service to the divine. I appreciate these efforts, which will help preserve a greener and healthier Tirumala for future generations." he said. Earlier, the TTD announced achieving 89.4 per cent green cover. The temple body said that its forest department excelled in forest wealth conservation through

extensive measures for the restoration of native species.

The forest department of the TTD has been protecting the rich forest wealth of Seshachalam Hills since 1980, maintaining ecological balance while catering to the spiritual needs of millions of devotees. By safeguarding the forest areas spread across the sacred Seshachalam Hill ranges in the Eastern Ghats, the department is playing a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, the TTD said.

The TTD forest department oversees a total forest area of

2,719 hectares. According to the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR), an impressive 89.40 per cent forest cover has been recorded under TTD limits, placing it among the leading institutions in the country in terms of green cover. Nearly 2,431 hectares are under forest vegetation, significantly contributing to carbon storage, climate regulation, and biodiversity conservation. The TTD forest department functions under the supervision of the Deputy Conservator of Forests. There are four forest ranges in total

— two in Tirumala and two in Tirupati — each headed by a Forest Range Officer. At the field level, Deputy Range Officers, Forest Section Officers, and supporting staff coordinate forest protection activities. As part of forest protection measures, 24-hour flying squad teams continuously patrol the forest areas to curb illegal tree felling and poaching activities. To prevent forest fires, special fire lines are being maintained, and trained teams respond swiftly to ensure effective fire control measures. Every year, around 26.5 kilometres of fire lines are maintained. As a part of biodiversity conservation efforts, the TTD has undertaken a major initiative to restore native vegetation in place of exotic Acacia plantations.

Under this programme, native species such as peepal, banyan, cluster fig, Indian medlar, champak, mango, sandalwood, red sanders, gooseberry, and jamun are being planted in phases across 576 hectares. So far, work

has been completed in 22 hectares. Special nurseries are being maintained in all four forest ranges under the TTD to raise native species, ornamental plants, and medicinal plants. These nurseries supply quality saplings required for forest restoration programmes. The forests of Seshachalam are home to several wildlife species, including elephants, leopards, bears, and snakes. The TTD forest department has been taking special measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict and rescue of injured animals. Keeping in view the severe summer conditions, saucer pits (special water pits) are being arranged in forest areas and regularly filled with water to quench the thirst of wild animals. This initiative helps prevent animals from venturing into human habitations in search of water.

In addition, three snake rescue teams are being kept on constant alert in the queue line premises to mitigate human-snake conflict.

Bengal: ED arrests Sona Pappu in financial fraud, extortion case

KOLKATA, MAY 18

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday arrested Biswajit Poddar alias Sona Pappu in connection with a financial fraud and extortion case. Sona Pappu was in the news for various reasons before the Assembly elections. He was allegedly involved in various illegal activities, but was still missing. However, Pappu appeared at the Enforcement

Directorate office at the CGO Complex in Salt Lake on Monday. After being questioned for nine hours from morning till night, the Enforcement Directorate arrested him in the financial fraud and extortion case. Pappu's name surfaced in a clash in the Rabindra Sarovar police station area last February. Locals alleged that Biswajit was behind the clash. His associates were allegedly responsible for the unrest

and vandalism. Although the police arrested several people in the incident, they were unable to trace Pappu. They were searching for the place where he was hiding. However, Pappu appeared live on Facebook a couple of times and claimed that he was not involved in any violence. While Pappu was still in hiding, the Enforcement Directorate suddenly conducted a raid at his house in April. At the same time, a search was

also conducted at the house of businessman Joy Kamdar. In addition to money, an expensive car and several property documents were seized during the operation. According to Enforcement Directorate sources, a foreign pistol was recovered from Pappu's house. The foreign pistol found in his house was allegedly purchased through Kamdar. The pistol was deposited at the Gariahat police station. Not only that,

but there were also allegations of extortion against Pappu. According to Enforcement Directorate sources, several first information reports have been filed in Pappu's name. There are various allegations against him, including extortion and threats. There is also a case under the Arms Act. Following several such allegations, the Enforcement Directorate started an investigation. Officials of the Central Investigation Agen-

cy have already arrested Behala businessman Joy Kamdar in that case. Based on the case, the Enforcement Directorate had raided the house of Kolkata Police Deputy Commissioner Shantanu Sinha Biswas on Fern Road last month. Shantanu was called to the police station for questioning in the Pappu case. He was later summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning and was subsequently arrested.

BJP Chief Praises Odisha Govt, Urges MLAs to Reach Villages

BHUBANESWAR:

BJP president Nitin Nambin on Monday said Odisha was scaling new heights of development under the Mohan Charan Majhi government, as he directed ministers and party MLAs to visit panchayats and ensure the benefits of the dispensation's welfare measures reach people's doorsteps.

During a whirlwind tour of the state, he attended several organisational meetings, met party workers, leaders, lawmakers and the chief minister, discussing ways to further strengthen the party. Nambin, who arrived here on Sunday night on his first visit to the state after becoming the party president, attended a meeting of the BJP's State Core Committee at the party's state office in Bhubaneswar on Monday, discussing organisational matters.

India is now Naxal-free: Amit Shah declares end of insurgency in Chhattisgarh

Amit Shah said in Bastar that India is now free of Naxalism after decades of insurgency. He linked the claim to security forces' sacrifices and outlined rehabilitation and development plans.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declared that India has become free from Naxalism, saying the decades-long insurgency had finally been defeated after immense sacrifices by security forces.

"I can say with my chest puffed out that India is now free of Naxals," Shah said while addressing an event in Jagdalpur, once considered the epicentre of Maoist activity in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region. Shah, who is on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh, said both the Centre and the state government were committed to ensuring permanent peace

and rapid development in Bastar, adding that the tribal belt would emerge as the country's most developed tribal region within the next five years.

Addressing people at the Bastar Academy of Dance, Art and Literature (BADAL) campus, the Home Minister described the occasion as a "historic day" and credited the achievement to the sacrifices made by security personnel over the years during anti-Naxal operations.

"This was a dream that has been achieved after numerous security personnel sacrificed their lives in operations," Shah Furthermore, the senior BJP leader said Left Wing Extremism, which began spreading in the 1970s, had "consumed three generations" through violence and denied people access to basic facilities and development.

"In 2014, when the Modi government took charge, there were challenges (related

to internal security) in Jammu and Kashmir, the North-eastern states and Left Wing Extremism. Today, I can say that by and large, the country has overcome all three challenges," he said. During the programme, Shah also interacted with families of civilians killed in Naxal violence, security personnel honoured for bravery in anti-Maoist operations, and tribal community leaders who shared their experiences from the insurgency-hit years. The Home Minister also paid homage at Amar Vatika memorial to more than 1,000 security personnel who lost their lives fighting Maoists. "The sacrifices of our jawans in bringing peace, security and development to Bastar will never be forgotten," he said. Urging society to support the rehabilitation of former rebels, Shah appealed to community leaders across Bastar's seven districts

to accept surrendered Naxals into mainstream society by setting aside past bitterness.

"About 3,000 Naxals have surrendered in the state. We have made a comprehensive plan to get them a respectable place in society. The Narendra Modi government will leave no stone unturned in this context," he said.

Shah also announced that nearly 70 of the approximately 200 Central Armed Police Forces camps in the state would be converted into "public service centres" aimed at accelerating development in remote regions.

He said infrastructure and welfare facilities such as roads, rural development projects, bank branches, post offices, LPG access, foodgrain distribution, drinking water and electricity would be expanded across Bastar under the supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Odisha man seeking work in Russia killed in Ukraine drone strike near Moscow

An Odisha man who was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike in the Moscow region. Officials are now working through diplomatic channels to bring his body back home.

Ukraine launched a drone strike on Moscow. Rameya's friend there informed his family about his death. Subsequently, the family approached Ganjam district Collector Keerthi Vasav V to facilitate bringing his body back home. "We have received information regarding the unfortunate death of Ramaya in Moscow. We contacted the office of the Resident Commissioner in Delhi. The Resident Commission is contacting the Indian Embassy through diplomatic channels as per the protocol to bring his mortal remains to Odisha," the collector told reporters. The authorities are trying to bring the body as quickly as possible, the officer said.

Karnataka govt to celebrate three years in office amid leadership buzz

BENGALURU, MAY 18

Amid continuing speculation over leadership issues within the Congress, the Karnataka government is set to celebrate the completion of three years in office with a mega event titled "Pragatiyata Karnataka" in Tumakuru, near Bengaluru, on Tuesday.

As part of the programme, the government will distribute property documents to 1.52 lakh beneficiaries. Speaking to mediapersons in Bengaluru on Monday, Home Minister G. Parameashwara said the leadership issue within the party should not be linked to the government event. "The leadership tussle is a separate issue and cannot be mixed with this programme. We are organising this event from the perspective of development. Internal party matters should not be linked with it," he said. Parameashwara said the convention would have two major components. "The first part is the distribution of sale deeds to 1.52 lakh beneficiaries. Secondly, it marks three years of our government coming to power. We had given assurances to the people in our election manifesto and promised to fulfil them within five years," he said. "It is necessary to communicate to the people what we have delivered. The people have the right to know about it. In this background, the conven-

tion is being organised. It is not a platform for anyone to showcase strength. It is purely meant to communicate the government's programmes to the people," he added.

The Home Minister stressed that the event should not be viewed as a political show of strength.

"This is a government programme and not a party programme. We have not invited any leader from the party high command since it is an official government event," he clarified. Responding to the indefinite strike called by RTC staffers from the day after the convention, Parameashwara said the employees had announced the protest to draw the government's attention towards their demands. "The Chief Minister and the Transport Minister are addressing the issue. I have also spoken to them. They have agreed to withdraw the proposal of showing black flags. After May 20, if required, the Chief Minister will meet them," he said. Parameashwara further stated that while short-term goals outlined in the manifesto had largely been achieved, long-term projects such as irrigation initiatives would be implemented over the next two years. "When the manifesto was prepared, both short-term and long-term projects were planned. The short-term goals have been achieved.

EDITORIAL

THE BEIJING DÉTENTE: STRATEGIC STABILITY AND STRUCTURAL FRICTION IN THE US-CHINA RIVALRY

As U.S. President Donald Trump departed from Beijing on Friday following two intensive days of high-level discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the world's two largest economic and military superpowers appeared to have successfully brokered a temporary truce. However, the exact duration and resilience of this diplomatic ceasefire remain highly uncertain, particularly given that the high-stakes summit concluded without delivering any major, tangible breakthroughs on the extensive list of deeply entrenched disagreements—spanning from volatile trade disputes to the status of Taiwan—that have continuously strained bilateral ties. Instead, both administrations seemed primarily focused on injecting a much-needed dose of baseline stability into a geopolitical relationship that has, of late, been characterized by sharp fluctuations and unpredictable ups-and-downs.

In an attempt to redefine the framework of their engagement, Mr. Xi offered a fresh label for the partnership, calling for the cultivation of “a constructive relationship of strategic stability” to guide their interactions through the remaining years of Mr. Trump's current presidential term and well into the future. Yet, even if both leaders find themselves in rare agreement regarding the immediate necessity for structural stability, their core national priorities appear to remain fundamentally at odds. During the talks, Mr. Xi explicitly emphasized to Mr. Trump that the issue of Taiwan remains the most critical and sensitive flashpoint in the entire relationship, warning that the situation could rapidly descend into open military conflict if it is not carefully and properly managed by both sides. Conversely, the official United States stance on Taiwan remains completely unaltered, maintaining its long-standing policy framework which prominently includes substantial, routine arms sales to the island. How this fragile new détente will handle the inevitable friction surrounding the Trump administration's next scheduled weapons sale remains a critical, unanswered question.

For Mr. Trump, the success and health of bilateral ties are measured through a much more transactional lens, specifically his ability to pressure China into buying vastly more American commodities while convincing Beijing to relax its strict export controls on critical rare earth elements. Following the conclusion of the meetings, the U.S. President announced that Beijing had formally agreed to purchase 200 Boeing commercial aircraft, significantly step up its agricultural imports of American soybeans, and ease existing regulatory restrictions on U.S. beef exports—thereby fulfilling the “three Bs” that he has consistently championed as core economic objectives. In a reciprocal gesture aimed at easing technological gridlock, the United States has permitted to major Chinese firms to officially resume their purchases of advanced Nvidia microchips. Furthermore, both delegations engaged in detailed discussions regarding the establishment of a joint Board of Trade designed to systematically manage ongoing commercial friction, including the potential reduction of tariffs on specific categories of Chinese goods, alongside a new Board of Investment tasked with greenlighting Chinese capital investments into non-sensitive American economic sectors.

These high-profile commercial agreements, if fully confirmed and executed, may at absolute best lead to a temporary pause in an otherwise bruising and prolonged trade war. However, beyond the immediate transactional headlines, the Beijing summit has primarily served as a stark reminder of the deeper, shifting structural dynamics that are fundamentally redefining the balance of power between these two global titans. While the United States undoubtedly remains the pre-eminent global military superpower today, the structural limits of its capacity to unilaterally command international influence have increasingly come under intense scrutiny, a reality that has become all the more pronounced in the volatile geopolitical aftermath of the Iran war.

China, for its part, has made it abundantly clear through its words and actions that it is no longer interested in hiding its time or hiding its sweeping global ambitions on the world stage. As Mr. Xi directly put it during his face-to-face exchange with Mr. Trump, the defining geopolitical question of the modern era is whether China and the United States can successfully avoid the Thucydides Trap—the historical theory stating that a catastrophic conflict is inevitable when a rising power challenges an established, dominant power—and instead construct an entirely new model of great-power relations.

Dollar Dominance, Rupee Under Pressure: Steering India's Economy Through a Global Storm

"Currency Movements Are Not Just Numbers"

Every time the US dollar gains strength in global markets, pressure on the Indian rupee often follows with predictable intensity. Official explanations frequently emphasize that the issue is not merely the rupee weakening but the dollar strengthening. While such statements may offer temporary reassurance, they do little to alter realities on the ground. Exchange rates are not abstract figures confined to stock market screens or economic reports; they shape purchasing power, influence inflation, and ultimately determine the cost of everyday life. For ordinary citizens, the meaning of a weaker rupee becomes visible not in financial charts but in household budgets. Whether it is filling a fuel tank or purchasing cooking oil, the effects are felt in small yet persistent ways. The red numbers flashing on stock market boards may grab headlines, but the real story unfolds in kitchens and marketplaces across the country.

Global Winds Beyond India's Control:

A significant part of the pressure on the rupee originates beyond India's borders. The monetary policy of the US Federal Reserve often acts as a magnet for global capital; when the Fed maintains higher interest rates to curb domestic inflation, investors naturally gravitate toward higher-yielding and relatively safer dollar assets.

As international institutional investors redirect funds toward dollar-denominated investments, emerging economies frequently experience capital outflows. Simultaneously, geopolitical disruptions—particularly tensions in energy-producing regions—can threaten supply chains and push crude oil prices upward. For a nation heavily dependent on imported energy resources, such spikes inflate India's import bill and intensify the demand for dollars. These are external forces over which New Delhi has limited control. Like many developing economies, India must navigate the turbulence created by an increasingly interconnected global financial system.

Domestic Vulnerabilities Beneath the Surface:

External shocks alone, however, do not fully explain why the rupee often faces prolonged pressure. Focusing exclusively on global developments risks overlooking domestic structural realities. Despite the undeniable success of India's information technology and services sectors, the country continues to face a substantial mer-

chandise trade deficit. Significant spending on crude oil, electronic components, semiconductor technologies, and defense equipment creates sustained demand for foreign exchange.

The challenge extends beyond short-term market fluctuations. Initiatives such as Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes represent important efforts to strengthen domestic manufacturing, yet deep technological localization remains a work in progress. Inflation differentials between India and many of its trading partners can also gradually weaken purchasing power over time, making long-term competitiveness a fundamental macroeconomic concern.

Beyond Markets: A Broader Economic Pattern:

No single institution or actor can be held solely responsible for currency movements. Exchange rates reflect a complex interaction of international market forces, domestic policy choices, industrial competitiveness, and broader economic behavior. Patterns of domestic consumption also play a role. Gold has long functioned as a traditional store of wealth and financial security for millions of Indian households. However, high levels of gold imports can also place additional pressure on foreign exchange outflows and the current account balance. Past industrial policies have, at different times, prioritized both domestic industry protection and competitiveness. While such approaches served specific developmental objectives, there remains a continuing need to strengthen India's integration into globally competitive manufacturing ecosystems. The broader challenge lies not in individual consumer choices, but in building an economic environment capable of reducing structural dependence on imports.

The Ripple Effect Across Sectors:

The impact of a weaker rupee rarely remains confined to currency markets; it moves through the economy like a chain reaction. A depreciating currency raises the cost of imported crude oil and industrial inputs. India currently imports nearly 89 percent of its crude oil requirements, making it highly sensitive to external price shocks. Higher energy costs increase transportation and logistics expenses, creating inflationary pressure across agriculture, manufacturing, and consumer goods. This process, commonly described as import-

ed inflation, affects industries dependent on imported inputs—such as electronics, automotive components, and pharmaceutical ingredients—by compressing profit margins. Companies carrying unhedged foreign-currency debt may also face rising repayment burdens. Export-oriented sectors such as information technology services and textiles may experience short-term gains through stronger dollar earnings, but these benefits rarely offset the wider inflationary effects on the broader economy.

Is Another Crisis on the Horizon?

Whenever the rupee approaches historic lows, comparisons with the balance-of-payments crisis of 1991 quickly emerge. At present, however, such concerns require perspective because modern India differs substantially from the economy of that era. In 1991, India operated under a more rigid exchange-rate framework and possessed foreign exchange reserves sufficient for only a few weeks of imports. Today, the country follows a managed-float system in which market forces primarily determine currency values while the Reserve Bank of India strategically intervenes when necessary. India's foreign exchange reserves currently remain around the \$700 billion range, providing a substantial buffer against external shocks and supporting many months of import coverage. Yet complacency carries risks of its own. A dramatic currency collapse may appear unlikely, but persistent rupee weakness can gradually raise operating costs, weaken investment sentiment, and reduce economic efficiency over time. The challenge is less about sudden crisis and more about gradual erosion.

Temporary Relief Is Not a Permanent Cure:

Drawing down foreign exchange reserves to support the rupee may offer temporary relief, but it cannot serve as a permanent strategy. Long-term resilience requires deeper structural changes. Deepening manufacturing capabilities remains essential. India must move beyond basic assembly operations and strengthen domestic ecosystems in electronics, semiconductors, and advanced industrial sectors to reduce import dependence. Energy transition is equally important. Greater investment in renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative energy sources is no longer solely an environmental objective; it has become an economic necessity as well. Trade diversification also matters. Exploring local-cur-

rency settlement mechanisms and expanding bilateral arrangements where practical could reduce excessive dependence on dollar-based transactions. The objective is not economic isolationism, but strategic resilience within a globally interconnected economy. Economic resilience is not solely the responsibility of governments and central banks. Citizens also influence broader outcomes through collective choices. Directing savings toward productive financial instruments—such as mutual funds, equity markets, and long-term investment vehicles—can support infrastructure expansion and industrial growth. Conserving energy, improving efficiency, and supporting competitive domestic industries may appear like small individual actions, but collectively they strengthen national economic fundamentals. Self-reliance should be viewed not merely as an aspiration, but as a long-term process of strengthening domestic capabilities while remaining actively connected to global opportunities. The stability of the rupee cannot be secured overnight through policy announcements or central bank interventions alone. A strong currency is ultimately a reflection of deeper economic fundamentals, fiscal discipline, and productive capacity. Global financial storms will continue to emerge, shift, and fade. While US monetary policy will continue to influence global economic conditions, India's long-term currency strength will ultimately depend on the strength of its own economic foundations. Sustained export growth, reduced import vulnerabilities, and long-term strategic planning remain the most durable path forward. The future of the rupee will not be shaped by external developments alone; it will depend on how effectively India transforms its immense domestic potential into enduring economic strength.



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THE LAST FLAME ON THE FRONTIER

Where Himalayas hammer heaven with their iron fists of snow,
we stand silent as buried thunder,
fierce as storms that never bow.
While cities drown in velvet sleep,
our eyes remain unsheathed;
for every dream the nation dreams
is guarded by our breathing beneath.
The moon may fade,
the stars may die,
the frozen winds may sever skin
yet the tricolour upon our chest
still burns like fire within.
We are the echoes of ancient steel,
the heirs of immortal scars;
men who learned to smile at death
beneath the sleepless stars.
War may arrive
with a wolf's red grin,
dragging hell through smoke and
flame yet fear has never found a
home within a soldier's name.
For our veins do not carry blood
alone;
they carry battle hymns.
The roar of Rana Pratap rides our
pulse,
Shivaji marches within our limbs.
Bhagat Singh blazes through our
breath,
Netaji storms through every vein
and when Bharat calls our souls,
even agony becomes gain.
Far away,
a mother waits beside the door
with trembling lamps and prayer...
a wife folds midnight into tears
no language yet can bear...
a child still hugs a fading photograph
and whispers softly,
“Come...” Yet we bury our breaking
hearts beneath the beat of the battle
drum. In deserts where the sun
drinks blood,
we walk on burning graves;
in glaciers where the cold can kill,
we stand like deathless waves.
One sip of water.
One fragment of bread.
One rifle kissed by frost.
Yet no hunger rivals the sacred
oath for which our lives are lost.
So children may write poems
in peace, we write history with
wounds.



So festivals may bloom with light,
we wrestle darkness beneath ruined
moons.
So freedom may sing in every
street, we become its final shield—
unburied thunder, unbroken steel,
the last flame on the field.
And when the battlefield falls silent
after rivers of fire have run,
we do not count how many foes
have fallen to our guns.
We lift our eyes toward the flag
still dancing through the smoke
and that one sight alone
becomes the prayer our souls in-
voke. Death has marched beside us
often; we know the weight of pain.
But a soldier never fears the grave
if his motherland shall reign. For
the tomb of a warrior is not where
heroes end; it is where genera-
tions rise to salute, remember, and
defend. And if one final breath
remains within these shattered
bones, let it rise like a lion's thun-
der across the mountain stones:
“Our hearts may stop...
Our flesh may fade...
Yet till the final sun grows cold
India shall rise...
India shall roar... And Her Tricolour
shall never fold!”

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

Journey of Living Letters

Imprints Across Hundreds of Journals - The Literary Journey of Chitikena Kiran Kumar Inspiring Social Thought

Recipient of several national and international awards, member of the International Benevolent Research Forum, story writer of the short film O Tandri Teerpu, and noted literary critic, Chitikena Kiran Kumar has carved

a distinctive place in the world of Telugu literature. As a poet, writer, critic, and editorial columnist, he has contributed extensively to various literary forms, with his writings appearing in more than a hundred nation-

al and international magazines, newspapers, and digital platforms. His works are widely appreciated for combining emotional depth with thoughtful social analysis, encouraging readers to reflect on contemporary issues.

From a young age, the social inequalities around him, the emotional bonds between people, the struggles of workers, and the realities of rural life deeply influenced his thinking. Life experiences, books, observations, and interactions gradually shaped his literary vision.

A strong sense of social responsibility is reflected throughout his writings. Themes such as the importance of education, environmental protection, human values, social justice, and the transformation of family systems frequently find a place in his works, presented in a touching yet thought-provoking manner.

Apart from Telugu, his writings have also been published in Hindi and

English, expanding the reach of his literary voice. Through stories, poems, essays, reviews, interviews, and analytical articles, he continues to express a meaningful and socially conscious perspective. His book “Chaitanya Sphoorti – Chitikena Vyasalu” received appreciation for its analytical approach toward contemporary social issues. The courage to question society, the commitment to preserving human values, and the desire to awaken critical thinking among readers are clearly visible in his literary works.

One of his widely recognized stories, “O Tandri Teerpu,” was later adapted into a short film and received remarkable appreciation. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Gadam Shetty Umamaheshwara Rao, the film won recognition at international film festivals along with honours such as the Pin TV Award. What began as a literary idea eventually transformed into a socially impactful visual narrative, bringing significant recognition to the writer's creative vision.

In recognition of his lit-

erary contribution, Chitikena Kiran Kumar has received several honours and awards from national and international organisations. Prestigious recognitions such as the Vaddapalli Krishna National Literary Award, Gidugu Ramamurthy Pantulu Language Service Award, Rabindranath Tagore Excellence Award, and the Global Human Excellence Award have become important milestones in his literary journey. Titles such as Telangana Sahitya Ratna and National Literary Service Ratna stand as testimony to the appreciation his writings have earned among literary circles.

As a member of the International Benevolent Research Forum, he actively participates in national and international literary conferences, expanding his intellectual and creative horizons. He has also served as a jury member, judge, and member secretary for several literary competitions, guiding and encouraging emerging writers. For him, literature is not merely a form of expression but a powerful medium for so-

cial transformation.

In recent years, his writings have strongly reflected concerns over the decline of human values in rapidly changing social conditions. Through his essays and literary works, he addresses issues such as emotional alienation in modern life, changes in family structures, the growing obsession with marks-based education, and the mental pressures faced by youth. His words often function as instruments of awareness, carrying a message intended to awaken society.

With dedication towards literature, responsibility towards society, and commitment to humanity, Chitikena Kiran Kumar continues to stand out as a distinctive literary voice in contemporary Telugu literature. Even after leaving his literary imprint across hundreds of publications, his journey of thought and creativity continues with the same passion and purpose. Literary circles believe that his pen will continue to inspire society and strengthen meaningful human values for years to come.



Officials will not buy gold for a year

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave a big message of frugality

BY S. N. VERMA

New Delhi: Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday took major decisions in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for austerity, resource conservation and self-reliance. In the review meeting with the officials, while measures for saving, fuel conservation, power control, virtual practises and reduction of government expenditure were decided, on the other hand, the officials also took a collective pledge not to buy gold for a year, except in special family circumstances. Amid global challenges and the changing economic climate, the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is sending a message that the government will initiate restraint and savings in the national interest. In this direction, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a detailed meeting with the

officials of the Agriculture Department, Rural Development Department, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Education and Land Resources Department and took many such decisions, which are going to have a positive impact on the three levels of governance, society and agriculture. The most significant message at the meeting held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi today was when the officials, on the call of Union Minister Shivraj Singh, collectively decided that for the next one year, they would not buy gold except only circumstances like daughter's marriage or any special unavoidable family occasion. The decision is more a voluntary moral-social resolution than a formal government order, which Shivraj Singh Chouhan described as an example of a serious response to the appeal of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and personal restraint in the national interest. At the administrative level, it was decided in the meeting that the two zonal



conferences to be held in Guwahati and Visakhapatnam in the coming days will no longer be in physical mode, but will be organised in virtual mode. This will reduce travel, accommodation, destination, logistics and other related expenses, while the process of dialogue and review with states and stakeholders will not be affected. Electricity conservation in offices has also been prioritised. Instruc-

tions have been given by Union Minister Shivraj Singh to keep lights, fans, ACs, computers and other equipment switched off when not required, while it has been decided to control and organise the use of air-conditioners and other electrical appliances, so as to prevent unnecessary power consumption. It was also decided in the meeting that the work from home system will be imple-

mented on rotation basis for about 20 percent of the employees. However, it has also been said that file disposal, meetings, coordination, state-related work and regular office work should not be affected. Employees working from home will be available through phone, email, video conferencing and e-office. Union Minister Shivraj Singh said that it has been decided to implement a one-day-

week car-pooling system for fuel savings and better utilisation of public resources. This arrangement will be extended to the director level, while the ministry also aims to reduce the use of about one-third of the vehicles, thereby reducing fuel, vehicle maintenance, driver arrangement and other related expenses. He said government visits and meetings will also be made more controlled and need-based now. Only urgent visits will be made and where possible, reviews, consultations and meetings will be conducted through video conferencing to prevent unnecessary travel of large parties and reduce expenses. An important part of the meeting was also on the consumption of edible oil. On the direction of Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh, the Ministry has decided that a special public awareness campaign will be launched for balanced and healthy use of edible oil so as to reduce excessive consumption, positive impact on health and strengthen the country's

goal of reducing edible oil import dependency. The ongoing mission to increase domestic production of edible oils and oilseeds will be made more effective. Regarding the agriculture sector, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that natural farming and balanced use of fertilisers have to be taken along. He said that the Agriculture Department and ICAR have decided to run the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan", under which scientists will go to the villages and test the soil and advise the farmers on the basis of the elements present in it, which fertiliser should be added in how much and according to what need. The aim is to prevent unnecessary fertiliser use and reduce dependence on imported fertilisers. Chouhan said that the Khet Bachao Abhiyan will be run in a more organised and effective manner throughout the country for 15 days from June 1. Together with the state governments, the farmers will be made aware that they must use the necessary fertiliser, but avoid

unnecessary use, so that the cost is also reduced and the health of the land is also protected. The preparation of the kharif season has also been linked to this entire strategy. Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that in the Kharif conference to be held on May 28 and 29, special emphasis will be given on balanced fertiliser use, while a special session will be held separately to promote natural farming. It has also been decided to invite the Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat, in this session, so that the practical and inspiring experiences of natural farming can be shared with the states. Shivraj Singh said that in the current global conditions, even small steps can give big national results. He says that savings, moderation and judicious use of resources are not just an economic necessity but a national responsibility and in doing all this, agriculture, food security, nutrition security and farmers' livelihood will not be affected at any cost.

Yogesh Bhatt Gets Key Role in Journalists Safety Commission

NEW DELHI: MAY 2026:

The National Journalists Safety Commission has appointed Shri Yogesh Bhatt as the Executive President for Uttarakhand with immediate effect. The appointment was officially announced through a letter issued by the Commission's National President, Nishikant Rai. Yogesh Bhatt, who belongs to the Kotdwar region of Pauri Garhwal district, has been actively associated with social causes and issues concerning journalists for many years. Considering his experience and working style, the Commission entrusted him with this responsibility. Speaking on the appointment, Nishikant Rai said that under Yogesh Bhatt's leadership, the organization would gain stronger ground in Uttarakhand and issues related to journalists would be raised more effec-

tively. After assuming the role, Yogesh Bhatt said the appointment was both an honour and a major responsibility. He stated that he would work with full dedication for the safety, dignity, and rights of journalists in Uttarakhand. He also said the organization would ensure that every journalist's voice is heard and receives proper support. Bhatt further announced plans to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level by forming district-level teams across the state so that journalists' concerns can be addressed more quickly and efficiently. The National Journalists Safety Commission expressed confidence that under Yogesh Bhatt's leadership, the organization would expand further in Uttarakhand and continue to work strongly on issues related to journalists' welfare and protection.

Sports are a powerful platform for developing leadership skills – R.P. Singh

Grand Opening of RPL 2026 at Hindalco Renusagar with Band Performance and Spectacular Fireworks

BY SANJAY DWIVEDI

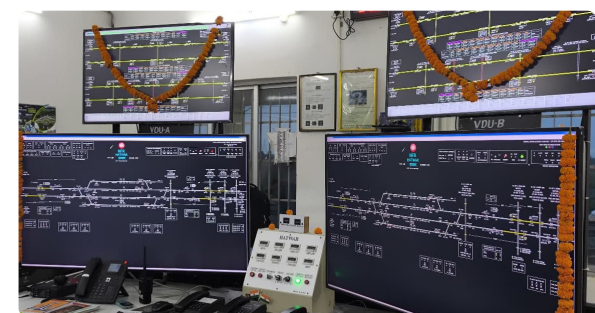
Anpara, Sonbhadra Under the aegis of Hindalco Industries Limited Renupower Division, Renusagar, the grand opening of the RPL 2026 Cricket League was held at the sports ground of Aditya Birla Intermediate College amidst a vibrant atmosphere featuring a live band performance, dazzling fireworks, and cultural dance performances by children. The opening ceremony witnessed tremendous enthusiasm among sports lovers and participating players. A total of eight teams are participating in the RPL 2026 Cricket League. The tournament has been organized on the lines of the IPL, where players for each team were selected through an auction process. The auction-based team formation has generated tremendous excitement among both players and spectators. On the occasion of the inauguration, the



Chief Guest, R.P. Singh, Unit Head of Hindalco Renusagar, lit the ceremonial torch, following which players marched across the cricket ground carrying the illuminated torch. The ceremony was followed by the National Anthem. The Chief Guest and distinguished guests also interacted with the players. Addressing the gathering, R.P. Singh stated that sports are not merely a source of entertainment but a strong platform for developing discipline, teamwork, and leader-

ship qualities. He appreciated the organization of the RPL 2026 Cricket League and said that Hindalco Renusagar has consistently been taking positive initiatives to encourage sports talent. He added that such sporting events promote sportsmanship, discipline, and mutual harmony among youth. Earlier, Head HR Ashish Pandey highlighted the significance of the RPL 2026 Cricket League and encouraged the players. Thereafter, Manish Jain, In-charge of the

Operations Department, extended his best wishes to all participating teams and said that such events strengthen energy, confidence, and brotherhood among the youth. The opening friendly 8-over cricket match was played between R.P. Singh XI and Manish Jain XI, in which R.P. Singh XI won the match by 7 wickets. The event was jointly anchored by Rajesh Rai and Seema Tur. Senior officials of Hindalco Renusagar including Sanjay Shrivastava, Kumar Harshvardhan, Deepak Pandey, Lalit Khurana, Sandeep Yawale, Nikhil Jain, Mrudul Bhardwaj, Brajesh Kumar Verma, Ashutosh Singh, Abhinav Singh, Sadanand Pandey, and Rajeev Mishra, along with a large number of sports enthusiasts, were present on the occasion. The tournament is expected to provide a great platform for nurturing sports talent through exciting and competitive matches.



NFR Installs Modern Automatic Block Signalling

Panjiara - Surjakamal Section of West Bengal to Strengthen Safety and Capacity Maligaon, 18 May, 2026: The Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully commissioned Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) in the Panjiara-Kishanganj-Hatwar-Kanki-Surjakamal section. The newly commissioned ABS section spans approximately 30 kilometres and covers five stations, comprising three Electronic Interlocking (EI) stations and two Panel Interlocking (PI) stations. As part of the commissioning work, four Auto Signal huts have been provided to enhance signalling efficiency and operational safety. A total of 14 level crossing gates fall within the section, out of which six gates have been newly interlocked with the automatic signalling system for improved safety and smoother train operations. Additionally, 196 Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) detection points and 40 new automatic signals have been installed in the section. The commissioning of Automatic Block Signalling will significantly

enhance line capacity, improve punctuality and ensure safer and more efficient train movements in this important corridor under Katihar Division. Northeast Frontier Railway has undertaken major signalling and safety enhancement works across its network in recent years. In 2025-2026 NFR has installed a total of 24 interlocked level crossing gates, replaced five Panel Interlocking systems with Electronic Interlocking, commissioned 22.29 Route Kilometre (RKM) of Automatic Block Signalling and installed 25 sliding booms at interlocked level crossing gates. The successful completion of this major signalling upgrade is yet another important addition to enhance safety across the zone. In future, the system will be extended further up to Guwahati to enhance line capacity, safety and train operations. It reflects the continued commitment of Northeast Frontier Railway towards modernization of railway infrastructure, enhancement of operational efficiency and strengthening of safety standards across its network.

In a strong message on ethical policing and accountability

Bihar DGP Sri Vinay Kumar warned women police personnel against misusing their uniforms and official authority to intimidate citizens...

PATNA, MAY 18:

Addressing a workshop on "Atrocities Against Women" at the Police Headquarters auditorium in Patna on May 18, the DGP stressed that the primary responsibility of police officers is to ensure security and justice, not create fear among the public. Delivering a firm message on police conduct, Vinay Kumar stated that uniforms and weapons are meant for protection and public service, not for threatening or harassing people. He emphasized that police personnel must work with honesty, professionalism, and compassion to strengthen public trust in the force. "The duty of the police is to provide security and justice to the people, not to instill fear," he said during the workshop. The DGP also referred to the recent case involving a female Station House Officer (SHO) in Motihari, whose alleged involvement in corrupt practices raised serious concerns within the department. Expressing strong displeasure, he remarked that officers engaging in corruption should leave the force rather



than damage the reputation of the police department. Vinay Kumar directed Superintendents of Police (SPs) across Bihar to adopt a zero-tolerance policy toward corruption and misconduct, especially in cases involving atrocities against women. He clarified that suspension alone would not be enough in serious matters and that dismissal from service should be considered wherever necessary. The Bihar DGP also urged police personnel to behave with empathy and sensitivity while dealing with women victims, highlighting that effective policing depends not only on enforcing laws but also on earning the confidence and trust of society.

Experts Discuss Future Telecom Technologies in Gorakhpur

GORAKHPUR, MAY 18, 2026

Under the chief guestship of Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Mr. Murari Lal Makwana, a seminar on the theme "Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World" was organized on May 18, 2026, on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2026 at the "Manthan" conference

hall of the Signal and Telecommunication Department in Gorakhpur. The event was attended by Chief Signal Engineer Saurabh Srivastava, Chief Communication Engineer Mr. Virat Gupta, Director of ITM GIDA Gorakhpur, Dr. N.K. Singh - President of F.I.E. and I.E.I. Gorakhpur Local Centre - along with supervisors and other officials. During the seminar, emphasis was laid on the importance of telecommunications in daily life, describing it as

the backbone of Information Technology (IT) applications used in everyday activities. Discussions were held on cyberattacks, disaster scenarios, data centers, cloud computing, and important dos and don'ts related to digital systems. Participants were also encouraged to promote innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 6G technology. On this occasion, Chief Communication Engineer Mr. Virat Gupta delivered a PowerPoint pres-

entation on new applications of telecommunications in the railways, such as the "Kavach" system. He highlighted the importance of Kavach in railway safety, along with new railway telecommunication networks and the use of Artificial Intelligence. Additionally, Professor Rakesh Kumar from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur, also gave a PowerPoint presentation.

BrahMos missile sale likely to dominate Rajnath Singh's Vietnam visit

In his key official visit to Vietnam, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the discussions surrounding the possible sale of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system was once again the main focus. During the two-day visit from May 18 to 19, Singh is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Vietnam's Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang. The visit marks 10 years of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Vietnam, which was recently upgraded to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

during the Vietnamese President's state visit to India earlier this month. The potential BrahMos missile deal is being viewed as one of the most significant defence agreements currently under discussion between the two countries. Sources indicate that negotiations are in the final stages, with the proposed deal estimated to be worth nearly Rs 60 billion. If finalised, Vietnam would become one of the key international operators of the Indo-Russian BrahMos missile system after the Philippines, which signed a Rs 36.11 billion agreement for

the missile system in 2022. The proposed acquisition is expected to significantly strengthen Vietnam's maritime defence capabilities amid rising strategic tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. Several countries in Central Asia, South America and the Middle East have also reportedly shown interest in acquiring the missile system. India and Vietnam had earlier signed a Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030 during Rajnath Singh's previous visit to Vietnam in June 2022, outlining a roadmap for deeper defence cooperation.

Apart from official meetings, Singh is also expected to pay tribute to former Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of his 136th birth anniversary by laying a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. The visit will include talks on expanding bilateral defence cooperation, regional security and Indo-Pacific strategic coordination. Singh will also participate in an India-Korea business roundtable and attend the joint inauguration of the Indian War Memorial commemorating India's role during the Korean War.

Haryana Cabinet Approval to the revised Gurugram Metro Project

CHANDIGARH, MAY 18

Haryana Cabinet, which met under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini here today accorded approval to the revised cost of the Gurugram Metro project. The Cabinet approved the revised project cost of Rs. 7,098.70 crore for the Gurugram Metro corridor from Millennium City Centre (MCC) to Cyber City. In addition, the Cabinet also approved the supplementary report amounting to Rs. 947.06 crore pertaining to the changed integration scenario with Rapid Metro, as well as the supplementary report amounting to

Rs. 454.32 crore for the spur line from Sector-5 Metro Station to Gurugram Railway Station. The Cabinet further approved a change in the project's funding source, under which financial assistance will now be availed from the World Bank in place of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The State Government's contribution of Rs. 2,415.79 crore towards the project was also approved. The project will strengthen the metro network in Gurugram and ensure improved multi-modal connectivity between the Rapid Metro and Gurugram Railway Station.

PM Modi praises diaspora efforts in preserving Indian culture abroad

OSLO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday appreciated India's rich cultural heritage, which was prominently showcased during his ongoing visit to Norway. He was welcomed with performances that celebrated the richness of Indian culture.

"Witnessed 'Saath Saath', a beautiful reflection of togetherness through music, culture and shared artistic spirit. Thankful to the team of Baratt Due Music Institute for presenting a soulful confluence of Indian and Western classical traditions," PM Modi posted on X.

PM Modi also lauded the efforts of Natiyalaya Dance School in promoting Indian cultural heritage overseas.

"A group from the Natiyalaya Dance School performed Alarippu, which is associated with Bharatanatyam, during



the welcome programme in Oslo. This team has been popularising India's cultural traditions for almost three decades in Norway. Such efforts are indeed commendable," he said in another post on X.

Prime Minister Modi commended the Indian diaspora's efforts in keeping the cultural traditions alive and vibrant.

Sharing the glimpse of the performance on his social media platform, PM Modi

said, "Today's community welcome in Oslo included 'Rhythms of India', which reflected the cultural diversity of India. From Sattriya to Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi to Odissi, Kathak to Mohiniyat-

am, each dance form carries years of devotion, discipline and excellence. Proud of our diaspora for keeping India's culture alive and vibrant."

PM Modi greeted the members of the Indian diaspora as people gathered to welcome him, carrying Indian flags, with the chants of 'Modi Modi'. Earlier in the day, PM Modi was welcomed by his Norwegian counterpart, Jonas Gahr Store, at the airport. PM Modi expressed confidence that his visit would strengthen the friendship between the two nations.

On Sunday, PM Modi lauded the Bengali cultural display and Bharatanatyam performance organised to welcome as he visited Sweden.

"Bengali culture is popular the world over, and Sweden is no exception. During the community welcome, in which PM Kristersson was also present, a glimpse of the

glorious Bengali culture was on display," PM Modi wrote on X, sharing some facets of the cultural performance. The PM also witnessed a Bharatanatyam performance by Lilla Akademien during the community welcome.

"A mesmerising Bharatanatyam performance by the talented students of Lilla Akademien...glad that Indian culture is kept alive and is being popularised by our diaspora in Sweden," PM Modi wrote on X, sharing a glimpse of the performance. PM Modi, along with his Swedish counterpart Ulf Kristersson, also witnessed an Indo-Swedish musical orchestra. "PM Kristersson and I witnessed an Indo-Swedish Musical Orchestra performance by Ron Davis Alvarez and his students. Music is a great way to bring our people together!", PM Modi posted on X



Taiwan's gov't and people committed to maintaining free, democratic constitutional system: William Lai

TAIPEI

Taiwanese President William Lai has said that Taiwan's independence means that "Taiwan is not part of the People's Republic of China [PRC]" and that "the Republic of China [RoC] and the PRC are not subordinate to each other," local media reported on Monday.

Lai made the remarks during a youth forum for the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) 40th anniversary. He said that sovereignty is the basis of statehood, adding that there would be no RoC without Taiwan, as the RoC and Taiwan have become inseparable. He stated that there would be no democracy without sovereignty, Taiwan's leading daily Taipei Times reported.

The Taiwanese President said that the Resolution on Taiwan's Future, passed by the DPP National Congress in 1999, is the guiding principle of the party. He said that the resolution declares that Taiwan is an independent sovereign state which has ROC name and that ROC and the PRC are not subordinate to each other, with any change in the "status quo" to be decided by people of Taiwan.

Lai spoke about four commitments made by former Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen during her Double Ten National Day speech in 2021. Tsai had said that Taiwan's government and its people are "committed to maintaining a free and democratic constitutional system; ensuring that the ROC and the PRC will not be subordinate to each other; resisting annexation or encroachment upon Taiwan's sovereignty; and guaranteeing that the future of the ROC is decided by the will of Taiwanese," Taipei Times reported.

He stated that DPP's resolution on Taiwan's future and Tsai's four commitments showcase the policies followed by the DPP and its government. Later in a post shared on Facebook, Lai outlined the five key points following a national security briefing on US President Donald Trump's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

Malaysian PM vows to strengthen 'good relationship' with India for mutual benefit

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Monday stated that Malaysia will continue to strengthen its good relationship with India for mutual benefit, regional stability, and more inclusive prosperity for both countries.

Ibrahim made the comments during a courtesy farewell visit from India's High Commissioner to Malaysia, BN Reddy, who will soon conclude his tenure in Kuala Lumpur.

"This meeting was also utilised to strengthen bilateral relations between Malaysia and India, which are currently at the level of Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation, thereby reflecting our shared commitment to expanding cooperation across various fields, including trade, digital, artificial intelligence (AI), food security, education, and people-to-people relations," Ibrahim wrote on X after meeting Reddy.

He also highlighted the positive development in bilateral trade, which reached USD18.59 billion in 2025, "thus maintaining India as Malaysia's largest trading partner in South Asia." The Malaysian Prime Minister noted that cooperation with India in the digital and emerging technology sectors continues to show remarkable progress through the convening of the First Malaysia-India Digital Council (MIDC).

US-Iran tensions deepen after Trump's fresh warning to Tehran

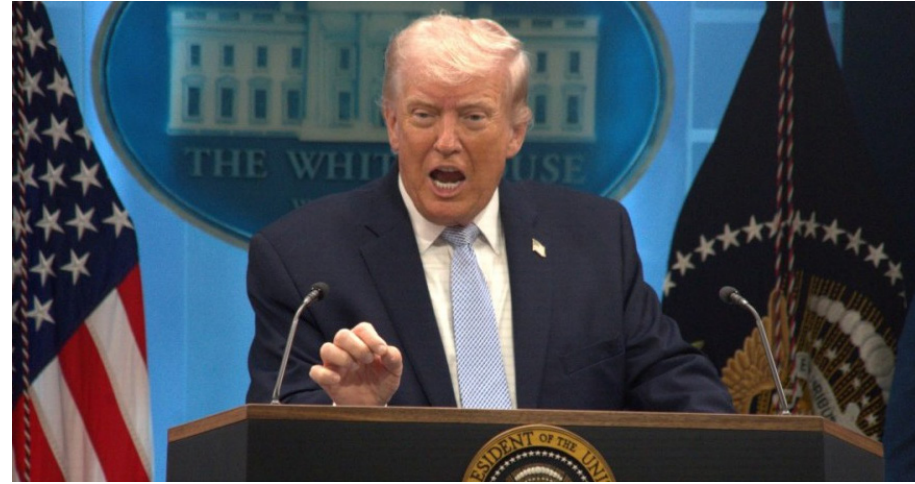
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has issued a fresh warning to Iran after meeting senior members of his national security team, signalling that Washington could be preparing for further military action as tensions escalate across the Middle East.

"For Iran, the clock is ticking, and they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!" Trump wrote on social media on Sunday. According to a CNN report, Trump met senior national security officials over the weekend to discuss "the path forward on the Iran war" and was expected to hold another meeting early this week.

Fox News Digital reported that Trump is expected to convene a Situation Room meeting on Tuesday with top advisers to discuss "potential military options against Iran". The latest warning comes amid growing frustration within the White House over stalled diplomatic negotiations and the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil shipping route.

CNN reported that Trump had "grown increasingly impatient" with Tehran's handling of negotiations and remained frustrated by "the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz and its impact on global oil prices". Iran, meanwhile, has indicated that it is still pursuing negotiations. Fox News



Digital, citing Iranian state media, reported that Tehran had sent a new "14-point plan" to Washington through Pakistani mediators. According to Tasnim News Agency, the proposal focused on ending the conflict and included "confidence-building measures by the American side". However, Fox News Digital reported that the proposal did not mention concessions regarding Iran's nuclear programme, which remains central to Trump's demands. "The standoff centres on Iran's nuclear programme and weapons ambitions," the Fox News Digital report said.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian acknowledged that the country had "suffered harm" from recent US attacks, but insisted that Tehran would not surrender under pressure.

"It is not the case that we have not suffered harm," Pezeshkian said during a tele-

vised meeting of Iran's Government Information Council, according to Fox News Digital. "Misleading information, false messaging, or portraying a reality in which 'they are collapsing while we are prospering' is unacceptable," he added. At the same time, Pezeshkian stressed that Iran "will not bow to pressure".

"We will not sacrifice our country's dignity and honour for comfort or convenience. We have valid reasons and clear justification, and we are fully capable of defending our nation's rights with strength, backed by our people," he said.

The regional situation also appeared to be deteriorating. Fox News Digital reported that Israel carried out dozens of strikes in Lebanon over the past 24 hours, according to the Israeli Defense Forces, while the UAE condemned what it described as a "terrorist at-

tack" on its Barak nuclear power plant. Fox News Digital also reported growing strains within the Abraham Accords framework, the US-backed regional grouping intended to counter Iran. The renewed crisis is being closely watched in India because of its direct implications for energy security and regional stability. India imports a substantial portion of its crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz, making disruptions in the Gulf a major concern for policymakers and markets in New Delhi.

India has traditionally maintained ties with both the United States and Iran, while also expanding strategic relations with Israel and Gulf countries in recent years. Rising tensions in West Asia have repeatedly affected global oil prices, shipping routes and the safety of Indian nationals working across the region.

US accepts to waive Iran's oil sanctions in new negotiation

TEHRAN

The United States has agreed to waive Iran's oil sanctions during negotiations, Iranian media claimed on Monday citing sources. According to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, the waiver by the US means temporary relinquishment of sanctions, while Iran insists on the removal of all sanctions against the country as part of the US commitments.

The US proposed waiver of OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) sanctions until a final understanding is reached, the agency reported citing a source. Iran has also submitted a new 14-point text for the US. A response to Iran's previous 14-point text was sent by the US recently.

"Iran, in line with the recent practice of exchanging messages, has once again submitted its text in 14 points through the Pakistani mediator after making amendments. Negotiations to end the war and confidence-building measures by the American side" is the focus of Iran's latest 14-point text," Tasnim reported.

Meanwhile, responding to remarks by US President Donald Trump about a 20-year suspension of Iran's enrichment activities, spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Esmail Baqaei on Monday said that Tehran's right to uranium enrichment is non-negotiable under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and does not require validation from any other party.

Israel claims killing Palestinian Islamic Jihad Commander

JERUSALEM

The Israel Defence Force (IDF) on Monday claimed that it has eliminated the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Commander of the Bekaa region in Lebanon.

The IDF posted on X saying that "The IDF struck overnight in the Baalbek area and eliminated the terrorist Wael Mahmoud Abdel Halim, who served as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander of the Bekaa region in Lebanon."

According to IDF, Abdel Halim led the joining of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorists in the fighting alongside Hezbollah in Lebanon and acted to advance terror plots against IDF forces in recent times. On Sunday, the IDF claimed that it had eliminated the Hamas operations headquarters' Commander who had advanced terror plots against Israeli forces.

"IDF forces in the Southern Command eliminated Bahaa Baroud yesterday, a

commander in the operations headquarters of the Hamas terror organisation," the IDF said on X.

It detailed that Baroud operated throughout the war and particularly in recent times to plan and advance numerous terror plots by Hamas against the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip and the citizens of Israel.

"Baroud posed an immediate threat to IDF forces and was eliminated in a precise aerial strike," the IDF claimed. Meanwhile, Lebanon President Joseph Aoun on Monday vowed to do the "impossible" to stop the war against "Lebanon and its people".

"The framework that Lebanon has set for the negotiations consists of the Israeli withdrawal, the ceasefire, the deployment of the army along the borders, the return of the displaced, and economic or financial assistance to Lebanon. Anything else being discussed otherwise is incorrect," Aoun noted on X.

Security situation in Pakistan's Sindh highlights persistent crisis: Report

ISLAMABAD

Security situation in Pakistan's Sindh continues to showcase a layered and persistent crisis as province continues to report attacks from Islamist militant groups, sectarian outfits, Baloch and Sindhi separatist formations and criminal ecosystem, especially in Karachi, a report has stated.

Sindh reported 10 terrorism-related fatalities in 2026 up to April 19, including eight terrorists, one civilian and one security force personnel, according to the partial data compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal. During the corresponding period in 2025, Sindh had recorded 12 fatalities, including seven security force personnel, five civilians and one terrorist, according to a report in StringerAsia.

The lower figure in early 2026 may indicate a temporary drop, however, the broader trend remains worrying. In 2025, Sindh reported 49 terrorism-related deaths, comprising 26 civilians, 16 security person-



nel and seven militants, in comparison to 38 fatalities in 2024, which includes 15 civilians, 14 security personnel and nine militants, showcasing a rise in overall fatalities.

Karachi remained the epicentre of terrorism in Sindh. The 49 fatalities reported in Sindh in 2025, included 31 in Karachi alone. Karachi also reported 27 of Sindh's 38 terrorism-related fatalities in 2024.

"The city's dense population, complex ethnic composition, port economy, criminal networks, sectarian histories and political rivalries make it a persistent target for militant

and criminal actors alike. The threat landscape in Sindh is not limited to Islamist militancy," Stringer Asia report mentioned.

"In addition to TPP and sectarian groups, Baloch separatist formations and Sindhi nationalist militant groups have remained active. The Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army and Sindhudesh Liberation Army have repeatedly framed their violence around opposition to what they describe as Punjabi domination, resource exploitation and the occupation of Sindh's land and water," it added. Apart from terrorism and separatist militancy, Kara-

chi has also witnessed a rise in street crime in 2026, eroding public confidence and imposing severe costs on people.

According to the data released by the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), Karachi has witnessed a rise in street crime, with people being robbed of hundreds of vehicles and mobile phones alongside an increase in killings and extortion cases from January-April period this year.

During the January-April period, people in Karachi were robbed of 611 cars and 13,346 motorcycles, collectively worth millions of rupees, demonstrating the scale of vehicle-related crime in the metropolis. During the same period, 5,567 mobile phones were stolen from citizens during street crime incidents, leading Pakistani daily The Express Tribune reported.

Incidents related to violence were also reported in Karachi, with 176 people killed in various incidents of murder. Furthermore, 61 cases of extortion were reported during this period.

Report flags rising concern over Khalistani extremist content in Canada

OTTAWA

Canada has witnessed in recent years a series of troubling incidents linked to violent Khalistani extremism across several cities, raising concerns among communities. Videos circulating online that glorify firearms, public displays of weapons, and promote rhetoric of intimidation run counter to the values Canadians expect from their communities, a report said on Monday.

A report in Khalsa Vox mentioned that no democratic society should normalise gun culture, threats, or acts that generate fear among ordinary families striving for a peaceful life.

It highlighted the need to clearly distinguish between peaceful political expression and violent extremism.

"Canada proudly protects freedom of speech and the right to advocate for political causes, even controversial ones. The vast majority of Sikh Canadians are law-abid-



ing citizens who contribute enormously to the country's economy, culture, and public life. They should never be unfairly associated with the actions of a radical fringe," the report detailed.

"However, respecting civil liberties cannot mean ignoring extremist behaviour when it crosses into criminality or public intimidation," it added.

According to the report, many Canadians are not concerned with political debate but with safety and law enforcement.

It added that open display of weapons, online glorifica-

tion of violence, or intimidation through fear requires a firm and consistent approach from the Canadian authorities.

"Canadians expect police and government institutions to enforce the law without hesitation, regardless of ideology or affiliation. Selective enforcement only weakens public confidence and encourages further radicalisation," the report noted.

Stressing that Canada has encountered similar challenges from different extremist movements in the past, it said that the key lesson has

always been the importance of early intervention.

"Strong intelligence gathering, community cooperation, and strict enforcement against illegal weapons and violent incitement are essential to preserving public trust. Community leaders also have a responsibility to reject glorification of violence and ensure young people are not drawn toward extremism disguised as activism," the report stated.

At its core, it said the issue concerns preserving the kind of country Canadians want to leave for the future generation, where families can walk through their neighbourhoods, attend community events, and express their beliefs without fear of intimidation or violence.

"Protecting that peace requires moral clarity: political disagreements belong in democratic debate, but violence and extremist intimidation have no place in Canadian society," the Khalsa Vox report stated.

Haryana Cabinet Clears Industrial Unit Regularisation Changes

CHANDIGARH: (MAY 18)

The Haryana cabinet met on Monday approved policy amendments to facilitate regularisation of unauthorised industrial establishments and ensure provision of basic civic amenities and infrastructure in such areas across the state. The cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, approved amendments for implementation of provisions of the Haryana Management of Civic Amenities and Infrastructure Deficient Areas Outside Municipal Area (Special Provisions) Amendment Act, 2025. "The decision aims to facilitate regularisation of unauthorised industrial establishments and ensure provision of basic civic amenities and infrastructure in such areas across the state," an official statement said after the cabinet meeting.



PM Modi calls for early end to conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine

OSLO: (MAY 18)

India and Norway have affirmed up a Green Strategic Partnership, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Store held wide-ranging talks during which they called for resolving the tensions in Ukraine and West Asia through dialogue and diplomacy. The two leaders held talks on Monday focusing on expanding cooperation in areas such as clean energy, climate resilience, blue economy, green shipping, digital technology, space and Arctic research. "India and Norway both believe in a rules-based order, dialogue, and diplomacy. We are in agreement that no issue can be resolved through military conflict," Modi said in his televised media statement after the talks.

Modi invites Norwegian companies to invest in India

OSLO: (MAY 18)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday invited Norwegian companies to invest in India, highlighting reforms the country has taken in taxation, labour code and governance, as well as reducing compliance burden. Speaking at the India-Norway Business and Research Summit, the Prime Minister said the foundation of the partnership between the two countries is very strong. "This is a proven partnership. Today, when food, fuel and fertiliser security have become a sort of global challenge, India and Norway are working together to solve this problem," he said.

Sensex recovers to end 77 points up, Nifty above 23,600; IT stocks rally

Benchmark stock market indices recovered to close in green, rebounding over 900 points from the day's low as Dalal Street saw buying after early selloff. IT stocks were major gainers.



The S&P BSE Sensex added 77.05 points to end at 75,315.04, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 6.45 points to close at 23,649.95. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the prolonged stalemate between the

US and Iran continues to cast a shadow over near-term sentiment, yet the equity market managed to recover intraday losses and closed on a flat note, supported by value buying in IT and banking stocks. "The ongoing earnings season has provided a constructive narrative, though caution

persists as higher bond yields, elevated crude oil prices, and a weakening rupee reinforce inflationary concerns. Investors appear to be adopting a staggered allocation strategy rather than waiting for complete clarity, particularly in export-oriented sectors," he added. After the closing bell, Tech Mahindra Ltd led the Sensex gainers, rising 4.97%. It was followed by Infosys Ltd, which gained 2.15%. Bharti Airtel Ltd moved up 1.74%, while Bajaj Finserv Ltd added 1.37%. HCL Technologies Ltd also ended higher, rising 1.24%. Tata Steel Ltd saw the sharpest fall, dropping 3.21%. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd declined 2.89%, NTPC Ltd was down 2.46%, State Bank of India Ltd slipped 2.38%, and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd fell 1.64% at the close. "A meaningful breakthrough in diplomatic negotiations with Iran—especially regarding uranium stockpiles and sanctions—remains critical for reducing volatility and enabling a decisive upward move in the market," said Nair.

8-Month-Old Baby Defeats Rare Aggressive Kidney Cancer at Medicover Cancer Institute

HYDERABAD, MAY 18, 2026:

In an inspiring breakthrough in pediatric cancer care, doctors at the Medicover Cancer Institute successfully treated a rare and highly aggressive kidney cancer in an 8-month-old baby girl, giving the infant a new lease on life. The child was brought to the hospital with alarming symptoms including abdominal swelling and persistent vomiting after feeding. Concerned about the rapidly worsening condition, the parents sought expert medical attention at Medicover Cancer Institute, where specialists immediately initiated a detailed evaluation.



Under the leadership of Dr. Sarita Srivastava, the infant underwent an intensive multimodality treatment protocol involving carefully planned chemotherapy followed by a highly specialized surgical procedure performed by a

multidisciplinary pediatric oncology team. Subsequent histopathological analysis confirmed the diagnosis as Wilms' tumor with extensive rhabdomyoblastic differentiation, an exceptionally rare and high-risk variant associated with aggressive disease behavior and poor clinical outcomes worldwide. Despite the complexity and severity of the disease, the baby responded remarkably well to treatment. In a heartening outcome, the child continues to remain completely healthy and cancer-free even 18 months after completion of therapy, with follow-up scans showing no evidence of recurrence. "Speaking on the successful outcome, Dr. Sarita Srivastava said: "Managing such rare cancers in infants requires timely diagnosis, precision treatment, and coordinated multidisciplinary expertise. This successful recovery reflects the strength of advanced pediatric oncology care and offers hope to families facing rare childhood cancers." The case highlights the growing capabilities of the Medicover Cancer Institute in handling highly challenging pediatric cancer cases through advanced diagnostics, specialized oncology care, and long-term patient monitoring.

BOSS Burger by SOCIAL Marks International Burger Day with Its

HYDERABAD: MAY 2026:



BOSS Burger by SOCIAL, known for its loaded, messy, satisfying, and flavour-packed burgers, is marking International Burger Day by putting the spotlight on three of its most-loved burgers across India. Built for every kind of burger mood, from mid-week cravings and solo meals to full-blown burger feasts with friends, BOSS Burger has carved a space for itself with indulgent burgers that bring together juicy patties, punchy sauces, generous fillings, and soft buns. For International Burger Day, the brand is celebrating three distinct favourites from its menu: the Chicken Smash Burger, Samosalicious Smash Burger, and Aloocious Burger. Each burger brings its own personality to the table, from bold and meaty to desi, comforting, and full of crunch. The Chicken Smash Burger is a juicy, flavour-forward pick made for meat lovers.

The Samosalicious Smash Burger brings a playful desi twist with a chatpata samosa-style patty, classic chutneys, and loaded textures. The Aloocious Burger offers a familiar, comfort-led bite with a spiced aloo patty, creamy sauces, and a soft bun. As part of the one-day celebration, BOSS Burger will offer 50% off on select burgers, available exclusively on Swiggy and Zomato on 28th May. The offer will be live across Hyderabad, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Dehradun, Pune, giving burger lovers across nine cities a chance to mark the day with some of the brand's most popular indulgent picks.

NSE Commences Trading in Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)

MUMBAI, MAY 18

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) is pleased to announce the successful commencement of live trading in the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment with effect from today, 18 May 2026. The launch follows a comprehensive mock trading exercise conducted on Saturday, 16 May 2026, which was completed without any errors or system exceptions, and live trading has accordingly commenced seamlessly with all systems functioning as designed. The Exchange has received an overwhelming response to the EGR product from market participants and the broader ecosystem. The key updates are as follows: Vaulting and Collection Centres are currently operational at Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Four additional centres at Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore are being activated, effective today. The Exchange will announce further centres in a phased manner, with the network expanding up to 120 centres across the country in due course of time. The Exchange thanks market participants, intermediaries and ecosystem partners for the overwhelming response received in connection with the EGR launch. About National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE):



National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) was the first exchange in India to implement electronic or screen-based trading. It began operations in 1994 and is ranked as the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total and average daily turnover for equity shares every year since 1995, based on SEBI data. NSE has a fully integrated business model comprising exchange listings, trading services, clearing and settlement services, indices, market data feeds, technology solutions and financial education offerings. NSE also oversees compliance by trading, clearing members and listed companies with the rules and regulations of SEBI and the exchange. NSE is a pioneer in technology and ensures the reliability and performance of its systems through a culture of innovation and investment in technology. NSE is the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume (contracts) for calendar year 2025 as per the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA).

India will keep buying Russian oil despite US waiver changes, says government official

India said it will continue buying crude oil from Russia regardless of the US sanctions waiver position. The statement underlined New Delhi's focus on energy security and commercially viable supplies amid elevated oil prices.



India will continue purchasing crude oil from Russia irrespective of the US sanctions waiver position, a senior government official said on Monday, signalling that energy security and commercial interests remain the country's top priority amid rising global oil prices and tensions in West Asia. Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said India's oil imports from Russia have continued before, during and after the US

sanctions waiver period. "Regarding the American waiver on Russia, I would like to emphasise that we have been purchasing from Russia earlier, before waiver also, during waiver also, and now also," Sharma said during a media briefing as quoted by news agency Reuters. Her comments come at a time when concerns are growing globally after the Trump administration allowed a sanctions waiver linked to Russian seaborne oil to lapse recently. Sharma said India's crude oil buying decisions are based on commercial considerations and availability of supply. "It is basically the commercial sense which should be there for us to purchase," she said. She also assured

that India does not face any shortage of crude oil supplies despite rising geopolitical tensions and concerns over global shipping routes. "There is no shortage of crude. Enough crude has been tied up repeatedly and this, whatever waiver or no waiver, it will not affect," Sharma added. CRUDE OIL PRICES REMAIN ELEVATED Global crude oil prices continued to remain high amid tensions in West Asia and concerns over supply disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude was trading at USD 110.28 per barrel, up 0.93%, while WTI crude rose 0.85% to USD 106.32 per barrel as of 4:15 PM. Oil prices have remained volatile after attacks linked to the ongoing conflict in West Asia raised fears of disruption to global energy supplies. India, which imports nearly 85% of its crude oil needs, has been under pressure from rising oil prices, weakening rupee levels and concerns over inflation. The government had recently increased petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre amid mounting pressure on state-run oil marketing companies due to rising global crude costs. Russian crude has become an important part of India's oil import basket over the past few years because it is often available at discounted rates compared to other global benchmarks. The latest comments from the petroleum ministry suggest India is unlikely to reduce Russian oil purchases despite changes in the US sanctions waiver framework, as long as supplies remain commercially viable and available.

Jyotiraditya Scindia hails 'Coffees of Nagaland' as whole-of-India initiative

NEW DELHI, MAY 18

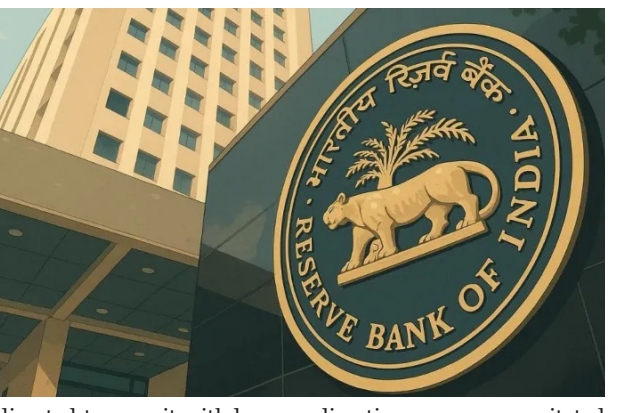


Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday launched the Cluster-based Coffee Value Chain Development Mission for Nagaland, saying the initiative represents "not merely a Whole of Government approach, but truly a Whole of India approach" that brings together governments, ministries, farmers, entrepreneurs, processors, branding experts, exporters and market leaders on a common platform. The mission, titled "Coffees of Nagaland", has been launched with an outlay of Rs 175 crore and aims to transform Nagaland into a premium, traceable single-origin coffee economy with strong domestic and global market presence. Scindia said the mission has been conceptualised under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of ensuring that farmers become active

stakeholders across the agricultural value chain rather than remaining limited to raw production. The initiative has adopted a cluster-based model, with two pilot clusters identified at Tuophema village in Kohima district for Arabica coffee cultivation and Ghotovi village in Niuland district for Robusta coffee. According to the minister, the mission seeks to address gaps across the entire coffee value chain by integrating plantation development, post-harvest processing, branding, marketing, export promotion, tourism, traceability and capacity building. Scindia said the govern-

RBI imposes restrictions on Etawah-based Nagar Sahakari Bank Ltd

NEW DELHI, MAY 18



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday issued certain directions to Etawah-based Nagar Sahakari Bank Ltd, saying that the bank will not grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits without prior approval of RBI in writing.

The bank can also not disburse or agree to disburse any payment whether in discharge of its liabilities and obligations or otherwise, enter into any compromise or arrangement and sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets except as notified in the RBI Direction dated May 15, 2026. "Considering the bank's present liquidity position, the bank has been directed to permit withdrawal of a sum not exceeding Rs 10,000 from savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor but is allowed to set off loans against deposits subject to the conditions stated in the above RBI Directions," according to the directive. The bank may incur expenditure in respect of certain essential items such as salaries of employees, rent, electricity bills, etc., as specified in the said Directions, it added. The RBI said these

directions are necessitated due to supervisory concerns emanating from the recent material developments in the bank, and to protect the interests of depositors of the bank. The RBI has, in the recent past, engaged with the Board and Senior Management of the bank for improvement in its functioning. However, lack of concrete efforts taken by the bank to address the supervisory concerns and to protect the interest of depositors of the bank, necessitated





Foreign tourists are falling out of love with Goa - here's why

It is just past noon at the crescent-shaped Palolem beach on the southern tip of Goa's long, sandy coastline. The sun is blinding hot, but that has not deterred the tourist hordes from splashing about in the ocean. The beachside shacks and cheap backpacker hotels hugging the bay in the state often dubbed India's party capital are full with tourists. What's different here from some years ago, though, is that the Europeans and Russians who once thronged Palolem and other beach villages of Goa are missing. The crowd is almost all local, a reflection of the diminishing appeal of this tiny coastal state among foreign tourists. The abundance of domestic visitors, on the other hand, shows that its lure has grown among people from far-flung corners of the country. Numbers released by Goa's tourism department underscore these trends. Nearly 900,000 foreigners visited the state in 2017. By 2025, the number had fallen to around half a million. The number of domestic tourists, on the other hand, grew from 6.8 million in 2016 to more than 10 million last year. The state's tourism department recently said that the global geopolitical situation has been affecting overseas flows.

"We have to remain both pessimistic and optimistic while planning ahead," Rohan Khaunte, Goa's tourism minister told a local outlet. But the decline in numbers predates the recent conflict, which begs the question: why are foreign visitors, who've patronised the relaxed budget getaway since the hippie heyday of the 1960s and 1970s, now turning away? "People are just hard up. There was Covid and then the war [with Ukraine] and now flights are so expensive because of what's happening in the Middle East - so money is definitely a factor," says Sophie, a ballet dancer from Russia who is on her fifth trip here. "Some of my friends are choosing Turkey or Egypt over Goa this year because its closer to home and cheaper." Rico, who's been visiting for the last 20 years from Newcastle, feels the same way about European visitors. "Certainly in my country folks at the moment have a lot less money to go overseas. For the last three-four years they've tended to take more holidays at home," he says. Some half-a-dozen foreign tourists blamed longer and more cumbersome visa procedures and a hike in the five-year visa fees for the decline in visitor numbers. Ernest Dias, who

is a committee member at Goa's Department of Tourism and runs a large travel charter company, says cheaper hotels and easier on-arrival visas have prompted European and Russian visitors to look elsewhere in Asia too - Vietnam and Sri Lanka in particular. "Today's traveller wants to make quick decisions and take last-minute trips. So this [the visa delay] is definitely a big contributing factor to the drop in numbers," Dias told. He says a big Russian charter group recently cancelled their planned Goa trip and went to Vietnam instead where demand has "hit the roof". Besides on-arrival visas, affordability is a key factor behind the outperformance of these countries relative to Goa. The boom in domestic visitors as well as the MICE economy (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) has priced out many foreign visitors from hotels with good star ratings, according to Dias. Supply of affordable beach-front resorts is also more limited in Goa compared with Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Thailand, where one can get a package deal at half the rate, if not cheaper. The axing of a direct London Gatwick-Goa Air India service has also had an impact. At a shack off Benaulim

Beach north of Palolem, Nicola, a hairdresser who's come for three weeks with her friends Alison and Dwayne, told the BBC she had to do an unplanned layover in Mumbai because of the axed service, which was not convenient. She said her brother chose to go to Sri Lanka instead this year. "It's definitely more up and coming. He thought it was more affordable and also far cleaner than Goa," she said. Dias says the government has ramped up its effort to keep the beaches litter-free, but admits that many roads leading towards them have been defaced by garbage - "not a good view", he admits, "especially for foreign tourists who are very particular about cleanliness". Prohibitively high taxi fares as a result of the aggressive resistance of local unions to app-based services is also another "big problem", he says. "It's like living in the Stone Age, you cannot get a taxi on your app in Goa because the local unions will confront them." None of this speaks well for the tourist-dependent local economy of this laid-back tropical paradise. According to Shervyn Lobo, who runs a 100-room hotel near Goa's popular Baga beach stretch, footfall of overseas visitors has dropped at least 10% at

his property. While he has been able to mitigate the impact through higher local bookings, foreigners are preferred guests in hotels like his because they stay longer and keep the rooms occupied. They are also more likely to buy excursions, hire motorbikes and eat out at local shacks and restaurants compared with Indian visitors who often prefer to pay for a full-board vacation, says Dias - highlighting how the drop in overseas tourists is impacting the broader tourist ecosystem. But the local government has woken up to the problem, says Dias, admitting that perhaps Goa let its guard down for too long. "We are now trying our best to get the foreigners back with road shows. We recently went to Poland, and Scandinavia is our next target market," he said, adding that the state is also keen to draw more non-European visitors from Asia and Africa in the years ahead. But with the rise of cheaper, cleaner and more fiercely tourist-driven alternatives emerging across the continent, this land of whitewashed churches, colourful Portuguese homes and charming Susegad people (the quintessential Goan trait of living a slow life) will be forced to sweat much harder to win them back.

5 Incredible Ancient Cities Built Into Mountains Around The World

Ancient cities carved into mountains still amaze travellers and historians around the world. Built long before modern tools existed, these places show great skill, patience and careful planning. Whole communities once lived inside rock surfaces, creating homes, temples and pathways from solid stone. These sites

were not just safe shelters but also important centres for culture, trade and faith. Over time, many were left behind and later found again, which adds to their mystery. Today, they give us a special look at how people used their ideas to survive in tough landscapes. Visiting them feels like walking into a story carved in stone.



Ancient Rock-Cut Cities Around The World You Must Know About

1. Petra, Jordan

Often called the Rose City, Petra is one of the most iconic rock-cut sites in the world. Carved into pink sandstone cliffs by the Nabataeans, it flourished as a major trading hub. The famous Treasury facade is intricately sculpted and remains a symbol of the city's grandeur. Beyond it lies a vast network of tombs, temples and water systems. Petra's clever engineering helped it thrive in an arid desert environment. Today, it stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a testament to ancient innovation.

2. Machu Picchu, Peru

Nestled high in the Andes, Machu Picchu blends natural mountain contours with carefully carved stone structures. Built by the Incas in the 15th century, the city is known for its precise stonework and terraces. While not entirely carved into a single cliff face, many parts are shaped directly into the mountain. The site reflects a deep understanding of geology and astronomy. It remained hidden from the outside world for centuries,

preserving its beauty. Visitors today are drawn by both its history and breathtaking setting.

3. Lalibela, Ethiopia

Lalibela is famous for its monolithic churches carved directly into volcanic rock. Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, these structures were designed to resemble a symbolic New Jerusalem. Each church was carved from a single block of stone, starting from the roof downwards. The complex includes passageways, trenches and hidden chambers connecting the buildings. These churches are still in use today, making Lalibela a living heritage site. Its spiritual and architectural significance continues to attract pilgrims and travellers.

4. Cappadocia, Turkey

Cappadocia is known for its surreal landscape of soft volcanic rock, which allowed ancient inhabitants to carve entire underground cities. These settlements include homes, storage areas, chapels and ventilation systems. People used them as shelters during invasions, sometimes living

underground for extended periods. Above ground, the region's fairy chimneys also house cave dwellings and churches. The rock formations made it easy to expand living spaces over time. Cappadocia remains one of the most unique examples of how geography shaped human life.

5. Ajanta And Ellora Caves, India

Located in Maharashtra, the Ajanta and Ellora caves showcase India's rich tradition of rock-cut architecture. These caves include monasteries, temples and halls carved into basalt cliffs. Ajanta is known for its Buddhist paintings and intricate carvings, while Ellora features Hindu, Buddhist and Jain monuments. The Kailasa temple in Ellora is especially remarkable, carved from a single rock. These sites reflect both artistic brilliance and spiritual devotion. They remain among the finest examples of ancient craftsmanship in India. These mountain-carved cities remind us that human creativity can turn even the toughest landscapes into lasting wonders.

Fears tourism tax will price firms out of market

Tourism figures in the South West have raised concerns about the impact a new tax on visitors could have on trade. The Overnight Visitor Levy, set out in Wednesday's King's Speech, would allow regional mayors to introduce the extra payment. Other areas with lower levels of devolution in England could also be allowed the option to make the charge. However, the idea has been criticised by people working in south-west England's tourism industry, who fear it could put people off visiting the area. A Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) spokesperson said it had held a consultation on the policy and the intention was to allow leaders to reinvest funds locally. The government said the move would bring England into line with Scotland, Wales, and several other European countries where tourists are charged a tax. But Peter Brend, director of Brend Hotels which has sites across Devon and Cornwall, said he was worried the levy could cause people to have second

thoughts about making bookings. "Hospitality has been given a rough ride so to add an extra tax on top would just almost price us out of the market," Brend said. "If a family of four were to come and stay for a week, it could cost them an extra £50. That's £50 they don't have to spend in our shops, our restaurants and around our local community," Sally Everton, general manager of Visit Devon, said the levy could harm the region's tourist economy unless the money was reinvested into the sector rather than going to general council funds. She added: "I have strong concerns the proposed tourism tax would de-incentivise visitors, making the already expensive UK market with a 20% VAT threshold less competitive, particularly for small, independent accommodation providers. "While some officials see potential for reinvestment, many of our local businesses fear it will hurt tourism and damage the visitor economy overall." The team at the St Moritz Hotel and Cowshed Spa in Trebetherick, Cornwall, also

condemned the levy. Hugh Ridgway, one of its founders, said: "People travel from across the world to stay, eat, and spend in Cornwall, and support thousands of local jobs and businesses." Yet, alongside us, every Cornish hospitality operator is now working almost to breaking point just to make budget and break even. Margins are wafer thin, staff costs are soaring, energy remains volatile, and consumer confidence is fragile. "And now Westminster thinks the answer is to tax visitors even more."

'Listen to industry voices'

Jayne Kirkham, Labour MP for Truro and Falmouth, said she knew the tax would be "controversial". However, she said the money could be good for Cornwall due to the strain tourism put on local services including the NHS and police. "From that point of view, it does make sense, but of course we have a tourism economy which is fantastic and we have to listen to industry voices and see if they think it will have an impact," Kirkham said.





SRH secure playoff berth with five-wicket win over CSK



Everyone gave their hearts out, says Gaikwad, proud despite CSK's defeat to SRH

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad praised his team's fighting effort despite suffering a five-wicket defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Match 63 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. The loss daunted five-time champion CSK's playoff hopes, while Sunrisers Hyderabad booked their place in the IPL 2026 playoffs after successfully chasing down 181 with six balls to spare. Speaking after the match, Gaikwad said CSK remained in the contest for most of the chase and credited his players for showing character despite missing several key players during the season.

"Good game of cricket. We were in the game until the second-last over. Good T20 pitch. Didn't change over the course of the game. Just missed out on a few. Just cashing in on the opportunity could have been done," Gaikwad said after the match. Batting first, Chennai Super Kings posted 180/7 in 20 overs with Dewald Brevis top-scoring with 44 runs. Sanju Samson provided a strong start with a quick 27, while Kartik Sharma and Shivam Dube also made useful contributions.

However, SRH chased down the target comfortably through Ishan Kishan's match-winning 70 and Heinrich Klaasen's aggressive 47-run knock. Despite the defeat, Gaikwad said he was proud of the effort shown by the squad, especially considering the challenges faced by the team this season. "Still, given the team we had and the limited squad, I'm still proud and feel we did well. A lot of positives, to be honest," he added.

Gaikwad also praised wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson for his performances during the tournament and highlighted the support received from Chennai fans throughout the season. "Sanju has been playing really well for us. Missed out on a few key players. Obviously, it depends on a lot of factors.



CHENNAI

Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan played a brilliant knock of 70 while Heinrich Klaasen scored 47 as Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by five wickets and qualified for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 playoffs at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Monday.

Chasing a target of 181, SRH completed the chase in 19 overs to register an important victory. With this win, Sunrisers Hyderabad joined Gujarat Titans and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in securing a place in the IPL 2026 playoffs with 16 points from 13 matches. SRH started their chase positively with Abhishek Sharma attacking Mukesh Choudhary early in the innings. However, Chennai Super Kings struck back in the third over when Mukesh dismissed Travis Head with a slower delivery. Head managed just six runs from six balls.

After the early wicket, CSK bowlers maintained tight lines and did not allow SRH batters to score freely. Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan took time to settle but kept the scoreboard moving with regular boundaries. SRH reached 45/1 at the end of the Power-play. CSK finally broke the partnership in the eighth over when Akeal Hosen dismissed Abhishek Sharma for 26 runs off 21 balls. His innings included three fours and a six.

Following the wicket, Ishan Kishan shifted gears and anchored the innings, while Heinrich Klaasen played aggressively from the other end. Klaasen attacked both Akeal Hosen and Noor Ahmad, hitting boundaries

and sixes regularly as SRH reached 75/2 in 10 overs. Klaasen survived a dropped catch and continued his attacking approach before eventually getting dismissed for 47 runs in the 15th over. The South African batter struck six fours and two sixes during his innings.

Meanwhile, Kishan completed his half-century in 37 balls and continued to rotate strike smartly along with Nitish Kumar Reddy. The pair kept SRH firmly in control of the chase.

Mukesh Choudhary dismissed Nitish Kumar Reddy in the 18th over, but Kishan remained calm and guided the side closer to victory. He scored 70 runs off 47 balls, hitting four bound-

aries and three sixes.

Smaran Ravichandran finished the chase with a boundary as Sunrisers Hyderabad reached the target with six balls to spare and officially sealed their place in the IPL 2026 playoffs.

Earlier, Dewald Brevis top-scored with 44 as Chennai Super Kings posted 180/7 in their 20 overs.

Coming to bat after winning the toss, CSK made a flying start with Sanju Samson attacking from the very first ball. He smashed Nitish Kumar Reddy for a six and added two boundaries in the opening over. Samson continued his aggressive batting in the next over by hitting Praful Hinge for three consecutive fours as

CSK raced ahead during the power-play. Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins gave his team the first breakthrough by dismissing Samson for a quick 27 off 13 balls. Young batter Urvil Patel kept the momentum going with two sixes off Cummins, but Sakib Husain clean bowled him for 13 runs.

After the early wickets, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Kartik Sharma steadied the innings. Kartik looked in excellent touch and played several attacking shots, including two fours and two sixes in his innings of 32 off 19 balls. Cummins once again broke the partnership by dismissing Kartik in the 10th over.

FOOTBALL

Barcelona extend Hansi Flick's contract through 2028



MADRID: FC Barcelona confirmed on Monday that head coach Hansi Flick has signed a contract extension until at least June 2028. The announcement came after Flick revealed during a press conference ahead of last week's La Liga trip to Alaves that he had agreed to a new deal. "FC Barcelona and Hansi Flick have reached an agreement to extend his contract, tying him to the club until June 30, 2028, with the option for an additional season," read a club statement. The extension means the 61-year-old could spend five years in charge of the club.

WRISTLING

Delhi HC declines immediate relief to Vinesh Phogat



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to grant immediate relief to three-time Olympian wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who had sought permission to participate in the Asian Games selection trials scheduled for May 30-31. Phogat has approached the Delhi High Court, challenging her exclusion from the trials by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and seeking directions to allow her participation in the selection trials pending adjudication of her plea against the federation's new eligibility criteria. Senior advocate Rajshekhar Rao, appearing for Phogat, argued before a single-judge Bench of Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav that "there was something more than meets the eye" in the matter and urged the Delhi High Court.

BBL season opener could be played in Chennai in December

CHENNAI

In what could be considered a historic first for Indian cricket, the opening match of the upcoming season of Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) could be played at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, multiple reports claimed on Monday night.

According to these reports, a five-member delegation of Cricket Australia officials was in Chennai on Monday to receive the Stadium and also watched the Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Chennai Super Kings' clash with Sunrisers Hyderabad at Chepauk, held a final discussion on the matter with officials of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA). TNCA sources also claimed that the opening



match of the 16th edition of the Big Bash League (BBL 2026-27) is all set to be held at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Sources said that the move is likely to get approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). A CA representative declined to confirm that anything has been decided but

acknowledged that the matter was discussed. "We are not able to confirm anything.

We are exploring the potential of Chennai in partnership with the Australian Government to deepen the India-Australia relationship. Nothing confirmed as yet, and we are working closely with our friends in BCCI," the

representative said. If it gets approved by the BCCI, this will be the first time that the BCCI will allow any direct competition to its flagship IPL to be played in India. The BCCI does not allow Indian players, even those retired from international cricket, to participate in T20 franchise leagues abroad. Only those who have quit all forms of cricket in India are allowed to participate in T20 leagues abroad.

If the BBL gets the final nod from the BCCI, it will also have to consider the fact that the BBL has players from Pakistan, while the Indian government does not allow Pakistani sportspeople to play in India unless they are part of a multinational event approved by the International Federation.



Archery: Dhiraj, Ankita to lead India's charge in Asian Games

NEW DELHI

Seasoned archers Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das failed to make it to the Indian men's and women's squads for the upcoming Asian Games in Japan as the Archery Association of India (AAI) opted for Dhiraj Bommadevara, Ankita Bhakat, and Jyothi Surekha Vennam as part of the strong and youthful teams.

Deepika, who led India to the gold medal in the Shanghai World Cup a few days back, and Atanu were picked for the next two World Cup Stages but could not make it to the all-important 2026 Asian Games, which will be held in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4. Both Deepika and Atanu fourth in the trials conducted by the federation and thus lost out on the Asian Games.

Dhiraj Bommadevara, who won a silver in the Team Championship in the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, youngster Neeraj Chouhan, and Yash-

deep Bhoge will comprise the Indian men's recurve team for the Asian Games. While Bommadevara is quite experienced participating in his second successive Asian Games, Chouhan is in great form, having set a new national record in the Men's Recurve event by scoring 692/720 at the National Archery Championships, surpassing Olympian Tarundeep Rai's previous record. Bhoge won gold for India at the Asian Archery Championship in 2025.

In the women's recurve section, teenager Kumkum Anil Mohod, Kirti Sharma, and Ankita Bhakat, the 27-year-old archer from Kolkata, were part of the Indian team that won a bronze medal in the Team Competition in the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022. Kumkum and Ankita, along with Deepika, were part of the Indian team that won a historic gold medal in the women's team competition at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai earlier this month.

Youth Sports Week Celebrations Kick Off.



Malla Reddy Ram Reddy inaugurated the 5KM Marathon at the Saroor Nagar Indoor Stadium.

HYDERABAD

As part of the "Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika - 99 Days Action Plan," Youth and Sports Week celebrations are being organized across the state from May 18 to 23.

Today, under the supervision of the Ranga Reddy District Sports Authority, a 5KM marathon was conducted from Saroor Nagar Indoor Stadium to Kothapet. The marathon was flagged off by:

Honorable State Road Development Corporation Chairman Mr. Mal Reddy Ram Reddy Ranga Reddy District Additional Collector Dr. Koppishetty Kiranmayi, IAS District Youth and Sports Officer (DYSO) Mrs. S. Swarnalatha Telangana Olympic Association General Secretary Mr. Malla Reddy Speaking on



the occasion, Mal Reddy Ram Reddy said that the state government is giving special importance to ensuring that youth move forward with good health, discipline, and sportsmanship.

He stated that these programs are being organized under the State Youth and Sports Department with the objective of promoting physical fitness, leadership qualities, sports spirit, and social responsibility among youth.

He further mentioned that under the leadership of Honorable Chief Minister

Mr. Anumula Revanth Reddy, the government is providing extensive opportunities for youth in areas such as employment, skill development, sports, and leadership growth.

He emphasized that youth are the future of the nation and that sports contribute not only to physical strength but also to mental development.

Officials stated that, with the goal of creating a "Fit & Active Telangana," the state government is organizing marathons, walkathons, yoga, Zumba, and various sports activities across the state.

As part of these week-long celebrations, programs such as Career & Skill Development sessions, Youth Leadership Summits, Sports Day events, Clean Telangana initiatives, and employment-oriented programs will also be conducted.

AMC Director Panyala Jaipal Reddy, youth representatives, sportspersons, students, and a large number of young participants attended the event.

India U18 men defeat Australia 6-3 to level series; women lose 2-1

BHOPAL

The Indian U18 men's team beat Australia 6-3 to level their series, while the India U18 women's team lost 2-1 against the visitors at the Udhav Das Mehta (Bhai Ji) Central SAI Centre in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on Monday.

The big win for the U18 men means their four-match series is now level at 1-1. India started the match well and took control in the first half. Akash Deep (10') opened the scoring in the first quarter, and Shahrukh Ali (14') added a second goal soon after. In the second quarter, Ketan Kushwaha (25') and Romit Pal (26') scored quick goals to give India a strong lead. Kushwaha (40') scored his second goal of the match in the third quarter, and Ansh Bahutra (45') added the sixth goal for India. Australia scored through Owen Taylor (23'), Oscar Freeman (29'), and Jack Weller (32'), but the Indian defence stood firm in the final quarter to protect the lead and secure the win.

In the women's match, the India U18 team fought hard but lost the third match of their series. Australia took an early lead in the first quarter when Anneliese Cullen (5') scored. India responded well just before the end of the quarter, with Sandeepa Kumari (15') scoring a fine equaliser to make it 1-1.

However, the visitors regained the lead early in the second quarter through a goal from Stella Bartholomeusz (17'). The Indian defence kept the Australian attackers from scoring further in the second half, but the hosts could not find a second goal to equalise. Earlier, the Indian U18 men's and women's hockey teams suffered defeats against Australia U18 in their respective second matches on Sunday. In the men's encounter, Australia secured a 3-1 victory to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series, following the 2-2 draw in the opening game.

Rajasthan begins talent identification drive for 2028 Olympic Games

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has launched a series of initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a major sporting hub ahead of the 2028 Olympic Games. Guided by the vision of "With Sports, and Beyond Sports" (Khelon ke Saath bhi, Khelon ke Baad bhi), the state government has introduced multiple programmes focused on identifying sporting talent, strengthening training infrastructure, ensuring financial security for athletes and supporting preparations for international competitions, including the Olympics. Among the key initiatives are the 'Rajasthan Target Olympic Podium Scheme', out-of-turn government appointments for medal-winning athletes and a Sports Life Insurance Scheme.

To prepare athletes for the 2028 Olympics, the state government has launched the 'Rajasthan Target Olympic Podium Scheme', modelled on the Central government's Olympic preparation programme. Under the scheme, 50 talented athletes from Rajasthan will be identified and provided with



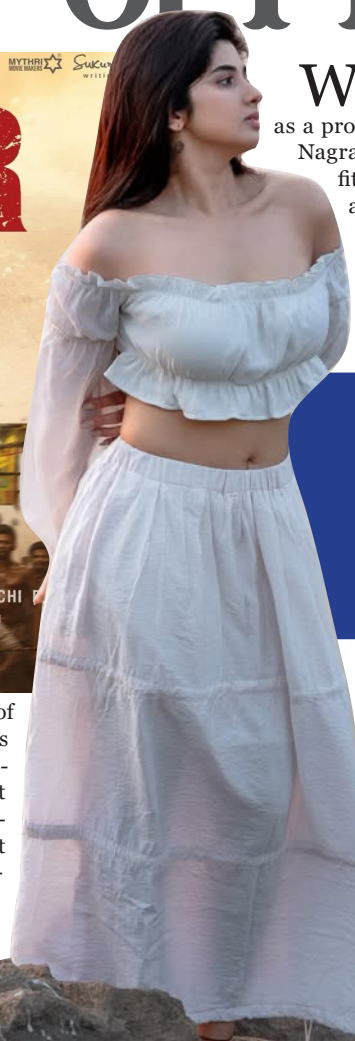
world-class coaching, scientific training, sports kits, nutritional support and other modern facilities. Selected athletes will also receive a monthly out-of-pocket allowance of Rs 25,000 to support their training and preparation. As part of the initiative, a Rajasthan Centre of Excellence will be established in Jaipur, where athletes will have access to international-standard infrastructure and training facilities. The scheme specifically targets athletes who are not currently covered under the Central government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Notably, 20 per cent of the seats under the programme have been reserved for para-athletes.



Peddi Trailer
A Cult Blockbuster
from Ram Charan

Mega Power Star Ram Charan is creating waves of anticipation and buzz across the world with his upcoming film, Peddi. His body transformation for the film to play a cross-over athlete who can play cricket, wrestle and run in track and field events, is never-seen-before effort in Indian Cinema. The eagerly awaited movie trailer has been released today at Mumbai and the first impression is it is a CULT Film from Telugu language to Indian Cinema. Ram Charan looks sculpted to be fit and play every game like only he can and Peddi is written just for him. After watching the trailer, it is hard to imagine anyone else. Director Buchi Babu Sana has written a tale of a man representing an oppressed community, who works his way to become an India renowned cross-over athlete. Each frame showcases the hardwork put in by Ram Charan and the team. His body transformations, his agility, his ability to switch between sports like water being moulded by shape of the glass, is unprecedented. Janhvi Kapoor's beauty, Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Boman Irani and Divyenndu's performance,

all stand out. It is hard to cut a trailer for a film of this magnitude and balancing a complete sports related rural upliftment story in commercial format is unprecedented. Buchi Babu Sana at script level and execution achieved an outstanding result and the trailer promises a different and great film experience in theatres. Rathnavelu's incredible eye in shooting visuals, production design in re-creating 1980's and AR Rahman background score all exceptional aide to Buchi Babu's cinematic vision.



Pragya Nagra
Radiates Ethereal
Beauty in a Dreamy
White Outfit

With her elegant screen presence and growing versatility across Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam industries, Pragya Nagra is steadily emerging as a promising pan-South Indian actress. In this ethereal portrait, Pragya Nagra looks serene and captivating in a flowing white off-shoulder outfit, set against a misty, tranquil backdrop. "She belongs to forests... and calm waters..." she shared, with photography credit to @first_photography. The image beautifully captures her natural grace and connection with peaceful, natural vibes.

Born on December 14, 1998, in Ambala, Haryana, Pragya Nagra started her journey as a model before stepping into acting. She made her film debut in the Tamil movie Varalaru

Mukkiyam (2022) opposite Jiiva. She expanded her presence across South Indian cinema with notable roles in N4 (2023), the Malayalam film Nadhikalil Sundari Yamuna (2023) as Yamuna, and the Telugu drama Laggam (2024).

Her upcoming slate is impressive. She is all set to appear in Baby and Baby (2025), the Malayalam comedy-drama Bombay Positive, and Idhayam Murali (2026).

With her elegant screen presence and growing versatility across Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam industries, Pragya Nagra is steadily emerging as a promising pan-South Indian actress.



Sivakarthiskeyan and Kamal's action spectacle Seyon shoot begins

Sivakarthiskeyan officially started the shooting for his upcoming rural action movie titled Seyon today. Sivakarthiskeyan officially started the shooting for his upcoming rural action movie titled Seyon today. The project is directed by Sivakumar Murugesan, bringing the duo back together after the massive success of Thaa! Kizhavi. Interestingly, that previous blockbuster was produced by the actor himself, making their current collaboration as actor and director highly anticipated.

This movie also brings back the successful combination of the actor and legendary producer Kamal Haasan. They are teaming

up once more after their hit collaboration Amaran, with Raaj Kamal Films International backing the project. To ensure the filming process is smooth and immersive, inside sources mention that the makers are planning a single, non-stop shooting schedule from start to finish. The first look poster sets a serious tone for the movie. It shows the actor looking rugged with thick facial hair and sharp, intense eyes. A large flame burns across the right side of his face, pointing toward a fierce, action-heavy storyline. With music composed by Santhosh Narayanan, the technical team is preparing to deliver a grounded and powerful village story.



Jyotika 'very proudly and boldly' says, it's more comforting to work with a female filmmaker

Mumbai, May 18 : Actress Jyotika, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming streaming movie 'System', has shared her experience of working with filmmaker Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari. The actress spoke with IANS along with her co-actress Sonakshi Sinha during the promotions of the film in Mumbai. Sharing her experience of working with the filmmaker, Jyotika told IANS, "There was a great level of comfort. And I will definitely say, it's more comfortable working with a female director, very proudly and boldly. We could share a lot of things with her. She saw us the way we wanted to be seen on screen. So that is a big difference, I feel. There are some scenes in the film where she could have gone overboard if she wanted for a commercial reason". "But she showed both of us with extreme dignity. And that part from her made us so comfortable with her. And she showed us on screen

very respectfully, more than anything else because she's a woman. So all these things together, I think it was extremely comfortable working with a female director", she added. She also spoke about her character of a stenographer, and said that a generous portion of her sequences have been cheated with the laptop screen kept out of the frame. She told IANS, "Most of the time what you see is not what is done. Sometimes the keyboard was not in frame, so my focus was more on performing and the typing was not the most important thing then. But I think since we are all in a gadget world or phone, so we are somewhere accustomed to, we were not on a typewriter, we were on a computer".



Rashmika's 'F-Bomb' Creates Noise, But...

The reactions are, however, quite mixed for this, with many blasting the actress for crossing the line.

National crush Rashmika Mandanna has carefully built one of the cleanest and most lovable public images, while she's known for sizzling appearances on the silver screen. Many felt that she took the Anushka Shetty way, who was known for killer spiciness on the screen, but maintains a clean image off the screen. Even Rashmika earned similar praise, and she's always controversy-free, until this F-Bomb struck her.

Yash Hails Lady Director For This Reason

In fact, her latest comment at the Cocktail 2 promotional event has grabbed the headlines now. At the Mumbai event, Rashmika was showering praise on her co-star, Bollywood diva Kri-

ti Sanon, while speaking excitedly about her glamour and screen presence. In that flow, she ended up saying, "You are f*cking hot," before instantly realizing what she did. The actress immediately covered her mouth, laughed in embarrassment, and asked organizers to censor the line. While the crowd inside the venue and people on the stage including Shahid Kapoor and Kriti, burst into laughter, the clip quickly went viral across social media platforms.

The reactions are, however, quite mixed for this, with many blasting the actress for crossing the line. Many indicated that she should be indulging in dignified behaviour in public. Especially at a time when she enjoys massive family audience acceptance across both South and Hindi markets, they say that using such language only misleads the fans. But at the same time, another section feels the outrage is pretty exaggerated.

Because truth be told, the words like "f*cking" have increasingly become part of casual urban vocabulary, especially among younger crowds and the Indian diaspora globally. In many conversations today, the word is no longer always used aggressively or vulgarly. Quite often, it indicates excitement or admiration. And Rashmika just showed her love towards Kriti, but nothing else.