

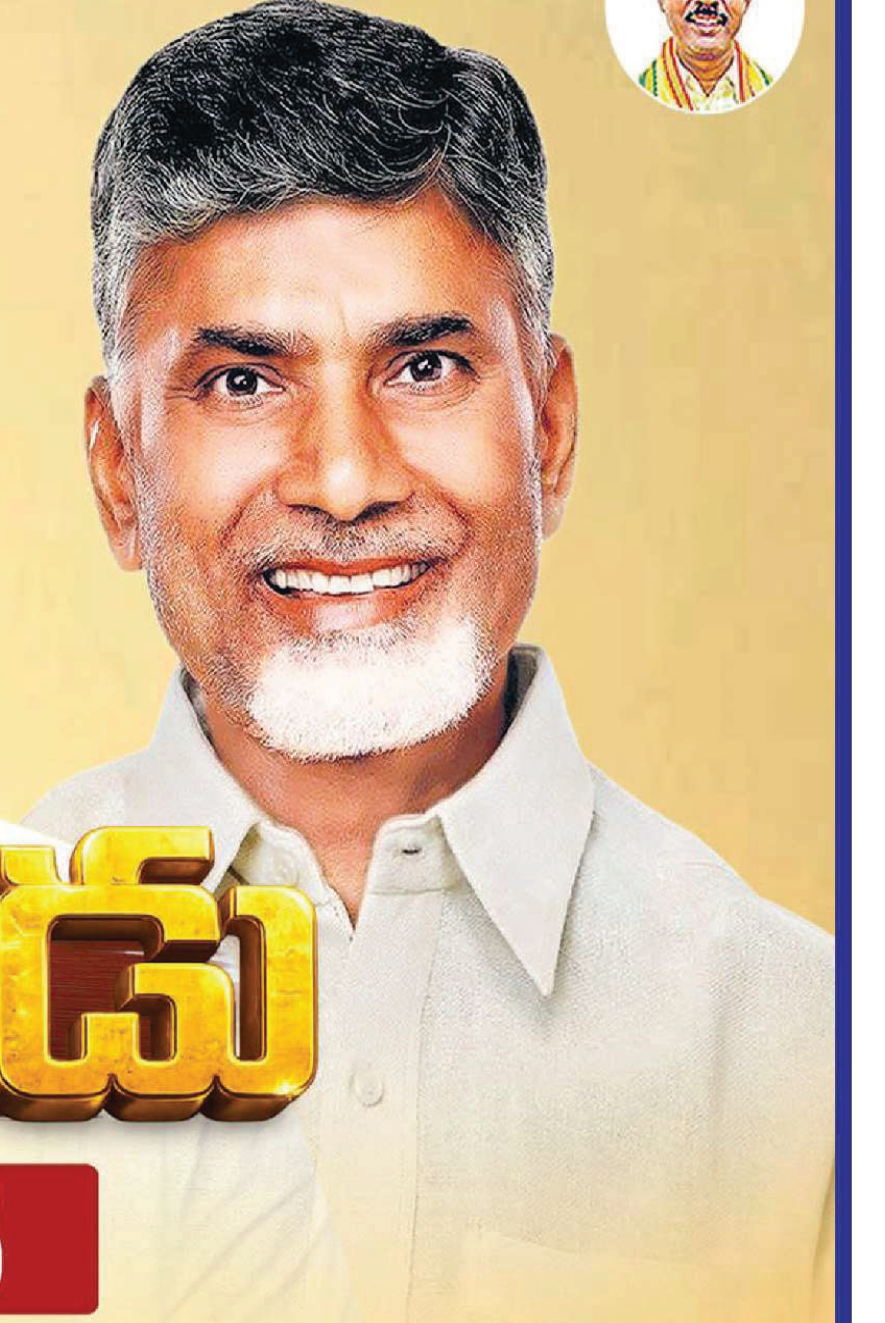


HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO. 17 ISSUE NO.: 32 RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

BRAOU HOSTS NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ONLINE EDUCATION

Hyderabad, May 27: A two-day national workshop on online education and quality assurance began at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University in collaboration with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). BRAOU Vice Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani said the university is strengthening digital education through initiatives such as a Learning Management System, web radio, e-books and micro-credential courses. Former NAAC Director V. S. Prasad stressed the need for flexible and innovation-driven quality assurance systems in higher education. NAAC Director Ganesan Kannabiran said the workshop aims to help institutions build stronger frameworks for online education and accreditation. Dr. B.S. Ponmudiraj Raj, NAAC, highlighted the significance of collaborative learning and institutional networking in strengthening quality assurance and digital transformation in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Education.



మహానాడు

మే 27, 28-2026



డిజిటల్ వేదికగా జరుగుతున్న మహానాడు

44 వసంతాల మహోత్సవ

సంబరాలను ప్రపంచవ్యాప్తంగా వీక్షిస్తున్న తెలుగు దేశం పార్టీ కుటుంబ సభ్యులకు
హార్దిక శుభాకాంక్షలు



రెడ్డెప్పగారి శ్రీనివాస్ రెడ్డి

టీడీపీ జోనల్ కో-ఆర్డినేట్



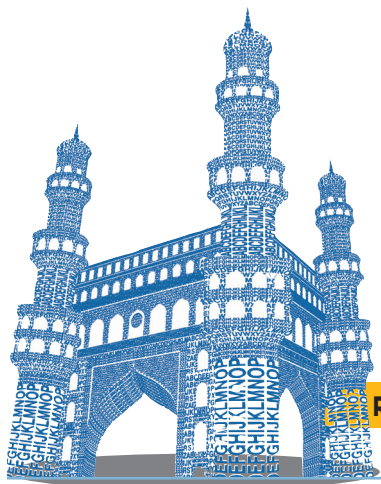
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MD, RK Infracorp Pvt Ltd.



రెడ్డెప్పగారి మాధవి

ప్రభుత్వ విప్ మరియు కడప శాసనసభ్యురాలు



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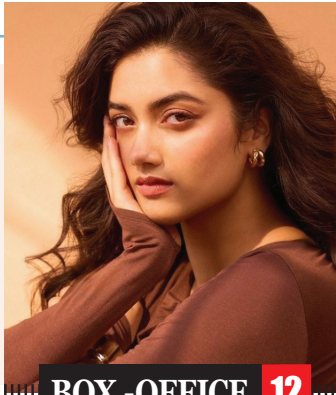


SOORYAVANSHI BLASTS SRH OUT

STADIUM

9

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BOX -OFFICE

12

Telangana Eyes Future-Ready Fibre Network for Rural Regions

CM Revanth, Scindia Discuss Fast-Tracking Rural Internet Infrastructure

HYDERABAD, MAY 27

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged the Centre to expedite the implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) in Telangana to ensure uninterrupted high-speed broadband connectivity across rural areas of the State.

During a video conference with Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Chief Minister discussed key issues including the early signing of agreements under the programme and the immediate release of pending funds. The meeting was attended by IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu and senior officials.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for a clear policy framework for transferring mandal-to-gram panchayat ring network systems to the Digital Bharat Nidhi. Responding positively, the Union Minister assured the State of full cooperation from the Centre in achieving Telangana's digital connectivity goals.

Officials said the discussions focused on Telangana's vision of providing quality high-speed internet access to every village and household. As part of the Amended BharatNet Programme, the State plans to



establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to enter into an agreement with the Centre for developing a robust broadband network tailored to rural requirements.

The State government also proposed expanding the T-Fiber network through an integrated digital policy by connecting every gram panchayat under a ring architecture model. The ring architecture is expected to ensure uninterrupted services by enabling connectivity through alternate routes even if one network path is disrupted.

In the first phase of the initiative, digital connectivity will be restored in 3,089

villages across the erstwhile districts of Nizamabad, Rangareddy and Khammam, where the network infrastructure has reportedly suffered damage. Officials noted that the Amended BharatNet Programme would not only connect villages but also create future-ready fibre infrastructure capable of delivering high-speed broadband services on par with urban and other well-connected regions of the State.

Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister's Special Secretary B. Ajith Reddy, IT Department Joint Secretary D. Anudeep and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

CM orders speeding up of paddy procurement

Hyderabad, May 27 : In view of the Orange Alert issued by the Meteorological department for several districts, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy alerted officials to remain vigilant over the rain situation. In a statement on Wednesday, the Chief Minister directed officials to make additional arrangements at paddy procurement centres and speed up paddy procurement operations. He emphasised that adequate tarpaulins should be kept ready to prevent the paddy stored in procurement yards from getting wet.

The officials were also ordered to shift tarpaulins from centres where procurement has already been completed. Following the IMD warning of strong gusty winds, Revanth Reddy appealed to people to remain cautious and alert.

Polavaram Project:

International Expert Team Expresses Satisfaction

Reviews Diaphragm Wall Works and Field Execution



POLAVARAM, MAY 27

An international expert team reviewing the construction of the Polavaram Project expressed satisfaction with the progress of the works, stating that construction activities are being carried out in a planned manner, within the targeted timelines, and without any compromise in quality standards.

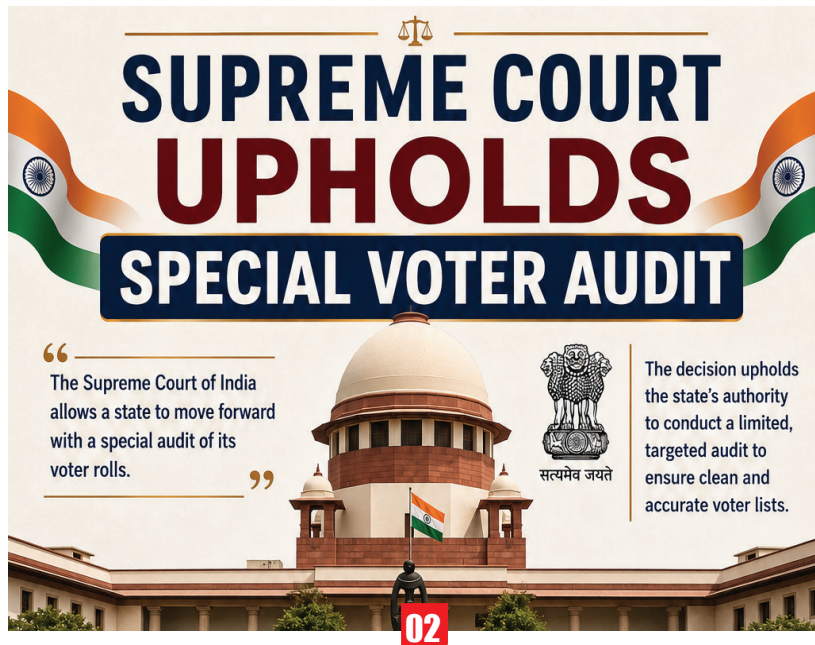
The international expert committee, constituted to inspect the construction progress of the Polavaram Project and provide technical guidance and recommendations, began a three-day visit to the project site on Wednesday. Team member Sean Hinchberger visited the project construction area on the first day and conducted a detailed review of ongoing works.

He arrived at the project site around

1:00 PM and was welcomed by Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department Special Chief Secretary Shashibhushan Kumar. It may be noted that Shashibhushan Kumar recently assumed charge as Special Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Department, and this marks the first visit by the international expert team after he took charge.

The visiting delegation included Central Water Commission (CWC) Chief Engineer Sarabjit Singh Bakshi, Director Manish Rathore, Deputy Directors Ashwani Kumar Verma and Gaurav Tiwari, Water Resources Department Deputy Commissioner Gaurav Singhai, and scientists Sachin Gupta and Ravi Agarwal from the Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



“The Supreme Court of India allows a state to move forward with a special audit of its voter rolls.”



The decision upholds the state's authority to conduct a limited, targeted audit to ensure clean and accurate voter lists.

02

Revanth Reddy Writes letter to Maharashtra CM

HYDERABAD, MAY 27

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has taken a step forward to hold discussions with Maharashtra regarding the height and construction of the Tummidihatti Barrage. In this regard, he wrote a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The Chief Minister requested Fadnavis to allocate time for a meeting with a Telangana government delegation and finalize a suitable date at the earliest. The proposed barrage at Tummidihatti is part of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chavella Sujala Sravanthi Project. Under the original proposal, the barrage was planned to be constructed at a height of 152 meters. However, during the Inter-State Board meeting held on August 23, 2016, the Maharashtra government agreed to the construction of the barrage at a height of 148 meters and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Farmers Are Suffering

Eatala Targets Govt Over Procurement Delays

HYDERABAD, MAY 27

Alleging that farmers across Telangana have been facing severe hardship due to the Congress government's "deep slumber", BJP MP Eatala Rajender on Wednesday accused the state administration of failing to carry out timely grain procurement operations.

Addressing the media after visiting the grain procurement centre at Gunjapadugu in Manthani Rural of Peddapalli district as part of the BJP's "Rythu Gosa - BJP Bharosa" yatra, Eatala said BJP MPs, MLAs and MLCs led by BJP Legislature Party leader Aleeti Maheswar Reddy had witnessed distressing conditions across the state over the last three days. He said heaps of paddy, maize and sunflower crops were lying unattended at IKP (Indira Kranthi Patham) and PACS (Primary Agricultural



Cooperative Society) centers due to lack of gunny bags, labourers and transport vehicles.

The MP further alleged that farmers were suffering heavy losses as harvested grain was getting soaked in untimely rains, while some were facing severe mental stress. Eatala demanded immediate transportation of grain stocks to rice mills and action against the

millers allegedly deducting excess tare (weight loss).

BJP Legislature Party leader Maheswar Reddy also attacked the government, claiming its procurement figures did not match the ground reality. He challenged Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy to inspect procurement centres where grain stocks were still piled up for weeks.

CONG SEEKS ACTION AGAINST BALKA SUMAN OVER 'PROVOCATIVE REMARKS'



HYDERABAD, MAY 27

Former BRS MP Balka Suman landed in controversy after the Khairatabad District Congress Committee lodged a police complaint against him at Abids Police Station for allegedly making inflammatory remarks. According to Congress leaders, Balka Suman's remarks, at a meeting allegedly incited people to burn down government offices, block railway lines and resort to violent acts are extremely dangerous. Such irresponsible statements have the potential to

severely disrupt law and order in the state.

Khairatabad DCC President Motha Rohit accused the BRS leader of inciting violence by allegedly calling for attacks on government offices and railway blockades. He demanded immediate registration of a case and strict action to prevent disturbance to law and order in the state.

Congress leaders, including Addanki Dayakar and Balmoori Venkat, termed the remarks "dangerous and irresponsible", warning that such statements could trigger unrest.

POCSO ACCUSED BHAGIRATH TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY

HYDERABAD, MAY 27

Telangana Police officials from Pet Basheerabad police station on Wednesday took POCSO case accused Bandi Bhagirath into custody following the court orders granting three days of police interrogation.

Bhagirath, who had been lodged in Chanchalguda Jail as a remand prisoner after his arrest on May 16, was shifted to the Pet Basheerabad Police Sta-

tion and later taken to a farmhouse in Moinabad for scene reconstruction as part of the investigation.

Police informed the court that further evidence needed to be collected in connection with allegations that Bhagirath behaved inappropriately with and sexually assaulted a minor girl. While investigators sought one week of custody, the Medchal-Malkajigiri court granted only three days for interrogation.



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3 TIMES BETTER

STAR Hospitals Swaps the Usual Marathon

Walkathon for India’s First-Ever Hospital-Led 10-Floor Stair-Climb Challenge to Mark Emergency Medicine Day

HYDERABAD, MAY 27

In a powerful and unique celebration of global Emergency Medicine Day, STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda, successfully concluded "emergenSEE 2026," India's first-ever 10-Level Staircase Climb Challenge organized by a hospital.

Moving away from conventional awareness walks or marathons, more than 100 participants, which included doctors, nursing staff, and healthcare professionals from STAR Hospitals, pushed their physical limits by conquering the 10-floor facility twice, totaling a grueling 20-story vertical

ascent. The high-endurance internal challenge was designed to highlight physical resilience while drawing a powerful parallel to the intense, uphill battle that emergency medical teams face daily to save lives.

The event directly aligned with this year's global Emergency Medicine Day theme: "Safe Space for Emergency Medicine Teams: STOP Violence Everywhere." By scaling the heights together, the participants stood united to demand a secure, violence-free workplace, emphasizing that emergency teams require a safe environment to perform their high-stakes duties effectively.

"Emergency medicine is a relentless, uphill battle against time where every second counts," said Dr. Rahul Katta, Group Lead of Emergency Medicine at STAR Hospitals Hyderabad. "We created the 'emergenSEE' Stair-Climb Challenge to mirror that physical and mental grit. This wasn't just a test of endurance; it was a powerful statement. By conquering these 10 levels twice, our frontline teams showcased their resilience."

Dr. Rahul Medakkar, Chief Executive Officer of STAR Hospitals Hyderabad, praised the staff's dedication, stating: "Watching 100 of our health-

care heroes tackle this intense vertical challenge was incredibly inspiring. This event was not only a testament to our push for staff wellness and physical endurance, but a roaring declaration that our frontline workers deserve a safe and supportive environment to deliver life-saving care."

The challenge kicked off precisely at 6:00 AM IST from the Ground Floor Lobby of STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda. According to fitness metrics, just 15 minutes of stair climbing is equivalent to 30 minutes of running, making the double-ascent a true testament to the extraor-

dinary stamina required in emergency medicine.

The groundbreaking event culminated in an emotional post-climb ceremony where the top 10 fastest-timed participants were awarded for their grit, stamina, and solidarity.

The STAR Hospitals Emergency Medicine team has also released a video dedicated to all emergency medicine professionals. The video talks about "three things that come to an emergency person's mind" about emergency medicine. This video is available on the STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad YouTube Channel.



Revanth Reddy extended heartfelt greetings to Muslims



HYDERABAD, MAY 27

On the occasion of Bakrid (Eid-ul-Adha), celebrated as a symbol of sacrifice and devotion to God, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended heartfelt greetings to Muslim brothers and sisters. The Chief Minister noted that Muslims across the world celebrate this festival with deep devotion and reverence, commemorating the great act of willingness to make a supreme sacrifice. He said that the festival of Bakrid reminds humanity of noble values such as sacrifice, charity, faith, and compassion. The festival also conveys the message that people should move forward on the righteous path with unwavering faith in God, no matter what difficulties they face in life, he added. Revanth Reddy further stated that Bakrid inspires the world with the spirit that there is no greater act of charity than sharing a part of what one has with those in need.

Bhatti sets strict deadline for Gurukul readiness

KHAMMAM, MAY 27

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has instructed officials to ensure that Gurukul institutions are fully prepared for the upcoming academic year.

The Deputy Chief Minister, along with district collector Divakar TS, additional collector Dr. P. Srija, Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, and other concerned officials, conducted a review meeting at the Collectorate on Wednesday on Gurukul and welfare residential educational institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka said officials should focus on increasing admissions in Gurukul schools every year across the district. He directed officials to conduct a special study on residential schools where seats remain unfilled, identify the reasons, and resolve the issues immediately. Since the new academic year is set to begin on June 12, all residential educational institutions should be fully prepared by then. Necessary repairs and infrastructure works should be completed during the summer itself, he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka instructed that diet charges and menu details must be prominently displayed in every residential school and the district-level officer should be appointed



as in-charge for each Gurukul institution, and they must visit schools every month and submit reports.

District officials should regularly inspect schools and record inspection reports without fail. Doctors should also examine students' health conditions every month, he said.

Officials were instructed to submit a comprehensive report on Gurukul institutions functioning in rented buildings. Necessary repair

works should be carried out continuously.

He also directed officials to speed up the construction of the five Young India Integrated School buildings currently under progress.

Officials were asked to prepare an advance plan on how many SC, ST, BC, and Minority Gurukul institutions are operating in rented buildings and how many can be shifted once the Young India schools are completed.

Regional coordinators were instructed to inspect all schools within the next 12 days as per the checklist and submit a detailed report.

He emphasised that providing textbooks and uniforms to students on time for the next academic year should be treated as a top priority.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the government is giving utmost importance to education and spending huge funds on the sector; therefore, there is no room for negligence.

Purifying Hearts, Blessing Minds: PRADOSHAM UDRABHISHEK CEREMONY

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Pradosham Rudrabhishek is set to take place this evening at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in 7th Phase KPHB Colony, marking a sacred observance for Lord Kashi Vishwanath and Lord Nandishwar during the Pradosham program will start from 6:00 PM on Thursday, 28th of May, 2026. Devotees are invited to witness and participate in the ritual within the temple complex as the divine forms are honored with the holy ablutions.

Pradosham is believed to be a time for spiritual cleansing, a moment when doshas and faults are dispelled through devotion and the sight of the Shiva forms. The Rudrabhishek performed during this period is regarded as highly sacred, with many seeking health purification and relief from celestial or planetary afflictions through the blessings poured into the temple.

The temple has extended an invitation to devotees to join the Pradosham observances and receive the full grace of Lord Vishwanath. Beyond the ritual, the observance invites



quiet reflection on inner faults, forgiveness, and renewed devotion, offering worshippers a chance to realign their hearts with faith and the transformative power of sacred practice. May the evening bring peace, healing, and divine blessings to all who seek Lord Vishwanath and Lord Nandishwar.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Polavaram Project:

International Expert Team Expresses Satisfaction

FROM PAGE 1

Other officials participating in the visit and review included Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Vohra, Member Secretary M. Raghuram, Chief Engineer M. Ramesh Kumar, Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department Advisor M. Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy, Superintending Engineer R. Ramachandra Rao, MEIL (Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited) Chief General Manager Rafi, Polavaram Project General Manager A. Gangadhar, and Deputy General Manager Murali Pammi, among others.

Review of Construction Progress and Diaphragm Wall Works

The review meeting began with a presentation on works completed so far and ongoing construction activities. Polavaram Project Superintending Engineer R. Ramachandra Rao delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting progress achieved and the current status of the crucial Diaphragm Wall works.

Following the review, Sean Hinchberger and members of the central team expressed satisfaction over the

quality and pace of work. They noted that recommendations and technical suggestions made during previous review meetings had been effectively implemented, resulting in accelerated progress in construction activities.

The team observed that the coordinated efforts of Central and State Government officials along with the construction agency had played a key role in securing necessary approvals and ensuring smooth implementation of works. The delegation congratulated all stakeholders associated with the project for their collective efforts.

Field Inspection of Earth-cum-Rock Fill Dam Works

After the review meeting, the international expert and officials from the Central and State Water Resources Departments inspected Gap-1 and Gap-2 of the Earth-cum-Rock Fill (ECRF) Dam from G-Hill. Representatives of MEIL briefed the delegation about the ongoing construction methodology and progress of the ECRF dam works.

The international expert team and central officials are scheduled to continue their visit and inspections on Thursday and Friday.

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

The Supreme Court today (May 27) upheld the legality of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls done by the Election Commission of India and observed that electoral SIR advances the Constitutional imperative of free and fair elections.

The Court held that the Election Commission has the power to conduct SIR under Article 324 of the Constitution, read with Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Rules made thereunder.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi pronounced the judgment in the writ petitions, which challenged the notification issued by the ECI in June last year to conduct SIR in Bihar.

The Court held that the SIR process has a nexus with the goal of having free and fair elections.

The judgment pronounced by CJI Surya Kant held :

"When the statute itself authorises a special revision at any time, for reasons to be recorded and in such manner as the Election Commission may deem fit, the impugned exercise cannot be invalidated merely because it does not conform in every respect to the ordinary modalities contemplated for routine revision. In our considered opinion, the impugned SIR does not supplant the Representation of the People Act and the Rules. Rather, it breathes life into the constitutional mandate under Article 324 within the precise statutory contours provided by Section 21(3). Therefore, it cannot be said that the Commission



has acted in excess of its statutory powers."

The Court observed that the object sought to be achieved by the SIR bore a direct nexus with the constitutional goal of ensuring free and fair elections, noting that such elections did not rest merely on the mechanics of polling but fundamentally depended on the integrity, accuracy, and credibility of the electoral rolls, which formed the foundation of the democratic process.

It further observed that the reasons recorded by the Election Commission, including the passage of more than four decades since the last intensive revision, large-scale additions and deletions over the years, and rapid urbanisation and migration leading to the possibility of duplication and inaccuracies in the electoral rolls, were clearly aimed at preserving that foundational integrity.

Procedure did not violate the law

The Court rejected the argument that the procedure adopted by the ECI was contrary to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

The Court also rejected the argument that the procedure negated the presumption of citizenship of persons already on the rolls.

"Calling upon electors to furnish supporting material in the course of such an exercise does not amount to negation of the presumption. Rather, it reflects the procedural mechanism through which the Commission seeks to reaffirm or, where necessary, correct existing entries. The presumption continues to operate, but it does not negate the possibility of verification," CJI Kant observed.

The Court rejected the argument that the procedure violated the judgment in Lal Babu Hussein,

on the ground that the judgment only emphasised procedural fairness and did not foreclose verification. In any case, the presumption of citizenship is a rebuttable one, the Court noted.

The bench further ruled that deletions carried out under the SIR are not contrary to Rule 21A of the 1960 Rules, stating that the essential safeguards of notice and hearing remain preserved in substance.

On the documentation requirements, the Court upheld the Election Commission's framework, holding that the classification of acceptable documents was based on intelligible criteria linked to the objective of maintaining electoral integrity, and was not arbitrary. It noted that Aadhaar had already been included pursuant to an earlier order.

The Court held that the SIR satisfies the test of proportionality, observing that the exercise serves the legitimate constitutional objective of ensuring accurate, complete and credible electoral rolls, which are foundational to free and fair elections. It found that the measures adopted were neither excessive nor arbitrary, and that adequate procedural safeguards were built into the process.

ECI has power to go into questions of citizenship

The Court held that the ECI has the power to examine the questions bearing upon citizenship for the purpose of including in the electoral roll. However, the negative determination of the ECI does not result in a conclusive finding that the person is not an Indian citizen. The ECI's exercise is only

confined to electoral roll preparation.

"Upon detailed consideration, we have come to the conclusion that, in view of the statutory requirement under Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, the Commission, in the course of preparing or revising electoral rolls, is undoubtedly empowered to examine questions bearing upon citizenship.

The consequence of such a citizenship determination is correspondingly limited. It affects the individual's entitlement to be included in the electoral rolls and thereby the right to participate in the electoral process. It does not, however, operate to divest the individual of claims to citizenship, nor does it foreclose adjudication of that question by the competent authority under the Citizenship Act," CJI Surya Kant pronounced.

In cases where the Commission is not satisfied that a person fulfils the statutory conditions for inclusion in the electoral rolls, it would be incumbent upon the Commission to refer such an individual to the competent authority of the Union Government for adjudication in accordance with law. The Commission's determination, being confined to electoral purposes, cannot assume finality on the question of citizenship. Any deletion effected on this ground shall therefore remain subject to the outcome of adjudication by the competent authority.

The Court also asked the ECI to forward to the Central Government the names of persons deleted from the 2003 Bihar electoral rolls over doubtful citizenship within four weeks.

Revanth Reddy Writes letter to Maharashtra CM

had also assured cooperation for obtaining the necessary clearances. Recently, after deciding to complete the Pranahita-Chevella project, the Telangana government revisited the issue. Based on expert recommendations, it concluded that a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 148 meters would not adequately

meet the water needs of North Telangana.

Therefore, in his letter, Revanth Reddy emphasized the need for fresh discussions on increasing the height of the Tummidihatti Barrage, keeping in mind the irrigation and drinking water requirements of the Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, and

Medak districts. The Chief Minister also explained that even if the FRL is increased slightly above 148 meters, the submergence impact in Maharashtra would remain minimal. He further noted that increasing the FRL would enable Telangana to draw water through gravity flow.



Anti-Corruption Bureau raids Hyderabad RTA offices
HYDERABAD: The officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conducted surprise inspections on Tuesday, May 27, at three Hyderabad Regional Transport Authority (RTA) offices — Medchal, Kondapur and Nagole — and uncovered several alleged irregularities involving agents, driving license processing, and suspected corrupt practices.

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on [@SCRRailwayIndia](#)
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

Tender No.C/SG/36/604
Dated: 25.05.2026

On behalf of the President of India, Sr.Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites open Tenders for the following works through E-Procurement of the Tenders.
S.No.: 01 Tender No. & Date: C_SG_36_604 Dt:22.05.2026 **Closing Dt:**15.06.2026 **Name of the work:** Signalling arrangement in connection with Interlocking of Three (3) number of LC gates (LC.No.42, 24 & 15) of NZB-PDPL section with lengthy block sections and above 10000 TVU's on SC Division. **Approx Value (₹):** 3,12,51,280.06 **Bid Security/EMD (₹):** 625000/-
For further details visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](#)

Sr.Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Secunderabad

e-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Electrical Engineer (Maintenance), Guntur acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites the following E-Tenders through GEM portal [https://gem.gov.in](#)
S.No.: 01 Tender Ref No.: GEM/2026/B/7573090, Dt:22.5.2026 **Tender Title:** Guntur Division: Outsourcing of manpower for maintenance breakdown attention of electrical general service assets in the section PGDP- VNUUPJNDP for a period of 2 years. **Approx. value in (₹):** 38,10,697.09 **Earnest money deposit* in (₹):** 76,300.00 **Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in (₹):** 0
S.No.: 02 Tender Ref No.: GEM/2026/B/7575437, Dt.22.5.2026 **Tender Title:** Guntur Division: Outsourcing of operation & manning of electrical substations and depots in the section PGDP- VNUUPJNDP for a period of 2 years. **Approx. value in (₹):** 25,04,121.70 **Earnest money deposit* in (₹):** 50,100.00 **Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in (₹):** 0
Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids for sl.no.1 **13.6.2026** up to 17.00 hours
Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids for sl.no.2 **15.6.2026** up to 18.00 hours
Any further Communication/Corrigendum will be published in E-portal [https://gem.gov.in](#) only.

Divisional Electrical Engineer, M/Guntur

Tender Notice No:B-E29-TRD-TNDR-09-2026-27 dt:22.05.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15-00 Hrs and the date mentioned against each.
Tender No.: B-E29-TRD-TNDR-09/2026-27 **Name of the work:** Provision of Auxiliary Transformers (10/25KVA) in connection with Proposed Interlocking of midsection manned LC gate Nos 69 and 76 in BZA-BVVRM section and LC gate 37 in GDV-MTM section of Vijayawada Division. **Approx. value (₹):** 30,57,940.00 **Bid Security (EMD) (₹):** 61,200/- **Completion period:** 12 Months **Date of closing:** 16.06.2026 **Cost of Tender form:** Nil
For full details and conditions visit our site at ["www.ireps.gov.in"](#)

N.B: If date of opening happens to be a holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day.

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer, TrD, Vijayawada

e-Tender Nos.Dy.CE-GS-BZA-05-2026-27 Dt.25.05.2026

Dy.Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti, South Central Railway, Vijayawada invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Open tender/Single Packet/Two packet system of tendering:
S.No.: 01 Tender No. and date: Dy. CE-GS-BZA-05-2026-27, dt:25.05.2026 **Description of the work:** Name of work: BZA Division ELS (Vijayawada)- Proposed Extension of HL bay (KZJ end) by Two spans of (2x17x9.5m), Extension of LL bay (BZA end) by one span (1x17.9.5m), Extension of LL bay (KZJ end) one span (1x17x9.5m). Dismantling of Existing service building (117x10m). Construction of New service building (127x10m). Construction of New Toilets of Size 9.0x6.0m with hand wash area and Dismantle Existing Toilets. Construction of Septic Tank for 200 Users. Complete Industrial re-flooring (VDF-Ironite) for LL bay. Track works JRPSP.I.D.No: 11.06.42.23.1.47.007. **Tender value (₹):** 164209642.18 **E.M.D. (₹):** 3284200/- **Completion period:** 12 Months **Cost of Tender form (₹):** Nil **Date of Closing & time:** 17.06.2026 @ 15.00Hrs
1. For bid document and other details, please login to website [https://ireps.gov.in](#).
2. Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender Submission/Bidding period which is fifteen days period prior to closing of Tender.
3. Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of Commencement of the Tender Submission/Bidding period.
Dy. Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti, Vijayawada

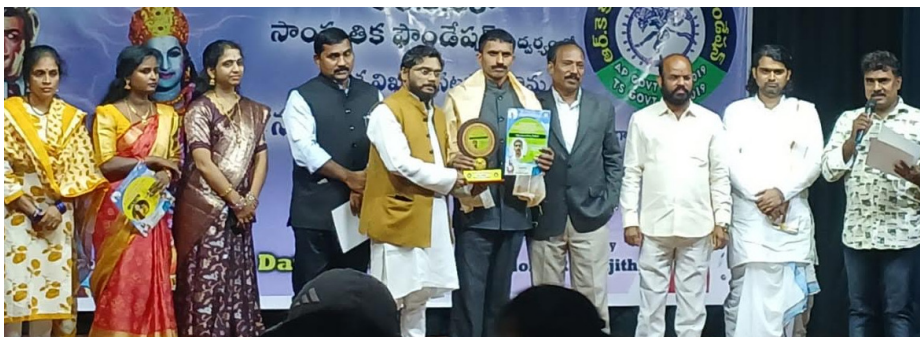
Dr. Peruka Raju Conferred with “Vishwavikhyata Sahitya Shiromani Award – 2026”

HYDERABAD

Renowned national poet, writer, multilingual scholar, and proud son of Telangana, Dr. Peruka Raju has been selected for the prestigious “Vishwa-vikhyata Sahitya Shiromani Award – 2026” in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to literature.

The award was presented today at a grand ceremony held at Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University in Hyderabad, organized on the occasion of the 103rd birth anniversary celebrations of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and legendary actor Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao.

Dr. Peruka Raju has earned wide appreciation for his powerful literary works rooted in social consciousness and human values. Coming from a humble labourer and farming family background, he is currently serving as a Junior Officer in the Army wing of India's Defence Department. Along-



side his professional service to the nation, he has emerged as a distinguished national poet, lyricist, author, translator, and multilingual literary personality who bridges cultures and emotions across various Indian languages.

Apart from literature, Dr. Raju is actively involved in social service. With a vision to support the poor and underprivileged, he founded the voluntary organization “My Gift”, which works with the guiding principle: “Encouragement itself is My Gift.”

In the current year alone, Dr. Peruka Raju has received nine prestigious awards and several recognitions for his

literary and social contributions. He is also widely known for writing regular columns in English newspapers, thereby expanding literary awareness and intellectual discourse among readers.

The honour bestowed upon Dr. Peruka Raju stands not only as recognition of his literary brilliance, but also as a symbol of national values, social responsibility, and cultural unity. During the event, his inspiring literary address deeply moved the audience. He dedicated the award to “every human being who lives with the truth of humanity.”

The grand event was attended by film producer Bikkur

Naik, industrialist Raja Shekhar, actress Anuradha, Vice Chancellor Malla Reddy, Lions leader Dr. Ranjith, along with eminent literary personalities, film celebrities, academicians, artists, students, and youth representatives. Cultural performances organized by RK Kala Foundation added grandeur to the celebrations.

On the occasion of receiving the “Vishwavikhyata Sahitya Shiromani Award,” literary friends, admirers, members of “My Gift,” people from his native village, and military colleagues expressed immense joy and congratulated Dr. Peruka Raju on this remarkable achievement.

Massive Transfers of MROs in Telangana

HYDERABAD

A large-scale transfer of tahsildars has taken place in the state. Revenue Department Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar issued orders on Wednesday transferring 12 tahsildars (MROs). In the official orders, he clarified that these transfers were made due to administrative requirements.

A. Mothiram from Nirmal has been posted as DRVO of Mancherial.

B. Rajeswari from Karimnagar has been given charge as DRVO of Peddapalli.

K.Y. Prasad from Peddapalli has been appointed as DRVO of Jagtial.

R. Pandu from Wanaparthy has been transferred as DRVO of Nagarkurnool.

V. Ravi Kumar from Khammam has been posted as

DRVO of Mulugu.

J. Swami from Medchal-Malkajigiri has been assigned responsibilities as DRVO of Karimnagar.

A. Pandu from Nagarkurnool has been posted as DRVO of Kamareddy.

C.H. Srikanth from Jangaon has been appointed as PA to the Special Collector, Mahabubnagar.

M. Sudarshan Reddy from Suryapet has been assigned responsibilities as SDC (LA) of Siddipet.

M. Ramadevi from Khammam has been posted as SDC (LA) of Nalgonda.

G. Kumaraswamy from Peddapalli has been assigned responsibilities as SDC (LA) of Siricilla.

N. Venkat Reddy from Karimnagar has been appointed as SDC (LA) of Karimnagar.

ESCI and NAREDCO Telangana Sign MoU



HYDERABAD

Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad and National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) Telangana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 26th May 2026 to promote collaboration in professional training, technical consultancy, research, and industry development initiatives. The MoU was signed by the Director of ESCI Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao and the President of NAREDCO Telangana, K. Sreedhar Reddy.

The partnership aims to strengthen the real estate and infrastructure sectors by organizing professional certification and executive leadership programs in areas such as Building Information Modelling (BIM), PropTech, project management, and regulatory compliance. The initiative is expected to enhance the skills and knowledge of developers, engineers, and industry professionals across Telangana.

As part of the agreement, ESCI Hyderabad will act as the academic and technical execution partner by designing curricula, conducting training programs, and providing expert faculty, laboratories, and online learning platforms. NAREDCO Telangana will mobilize industry participation and identify emerging skill requirements within the real estate sector.

The collaboration will also focus on providing technical consultancy services including third-party quality audits, green building and energy audits, structural safety assessments, and material testing services. The proposed “NAREDCO-ESCI Quality Seal” is expected to encourage higher standards and best practices in construction and project management.

Both organizations will jointly undertake research and policy advocacy initiatives aimed at addressing critical challenges in urban development and the real estate sector. The partnership will facilitate preparation of evidence-based industry reports, environmental studies, policy recommendations, and periodic knowledge newsletters for stakeholders and government agencies.

To ensure effective implementation of the MoU, a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) comprising representatives from both organizations will be constituted to oversee administration, financial management, programme execution, and revenue-sharing activities. The collaboration is expected to create a strong platform for innovation, sustainable development, and long-term growth of the real estate industry in Telangana. This MoU shall be effective from the date of signing of the parties and will remain in force for a period of three (3) years.



Walkathon for Life: Medicover PUSHES CPR AWARENESS

HYDERABAD

On the occasion of World Emergency Medicine Day, Medicover Hospitals Financial District organised a public awareness walkathon promoting CPR awareness, emergency preparedness, and heat stroke prevention. Held from 6:00 AM onwards, the walkathon witnessed active participation from doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, students, hospital staff, and members of the public, creating awareness about life-saving emergency response measures and summer safety.

As part of the initiative, the Emergency Medicine Department launched “Mission Million Hearts”, a large-scale campaign aimed at training 10

lakh (1 million) people in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and Basic Life Support (BLS) before the next World Emergency Medicine Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nayan Sriramula, Head of Department, Emergency Medicine & Trauma, Medicover Hospitals Financial District, said: “The first few minutes during a medical emergency are extremely critical. Through ‘Mission Million Hearts’, we aim to train

more people in CPR and basic emergency response so that more lives can be saved before medical help arrives.

At the same time, awareness on heat stroke prevention is essential during the peak summer season.” The awareness drive also focused on hydration, early signs of heat stroke, timely medical intervention, and the importance of community participation in emergency response.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY			
No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-08.09.10.11 and 12			
Dt. 25.05.2026			
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to www.ireps.gov.in			
Sl. No.	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (Rs.)	Closing date/time
1	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-08 OHE arrangements for provision of 4 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 35, 42, 45 & 46) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in MAS-GDR section.	5297780.52	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-09 OHE arrangements for provision of 2 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 47 & 48) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in AJJ-KPD section in Chennai Division.	2648890.26	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
2	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-10 OHE arrangements for provision of 2 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 56 & 60) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in KPD-TIJ section in Chennai Division.	2648890.26	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
3	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-11 OHE arrangements for provision of 4 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 70A, 84, 106 & 120) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in CGL-VM section in Chennai Division.	5297780.52	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
4	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-12 OHE arrangements for provision of 7 sets 10KVA ATs (LCs 42 & 55 of AJJ-RU) & (LCs 6, 15, 30, 34 & 40 of CGL-AJJ) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in CGL-AJJ-RU section in Chennai Division.	6919525.54	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
5			
Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3			

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SHORT
TAKES

T-Fiber Internet
for Every Village

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Minister D. Sridhar Babu participated in a video conference with Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia regarding the implementation of the T-Fiber project in Telangana under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP). During the meeting, the Chief Minister brought several key issues to the attention of the Union Minister to ensure smooth implementation of the programme. Discussions were held on expediting the agreement related to implementation and accelerating the release of pending funds. The Chief Minister also raised the need for a clear policy regarding the transfer of mandal-to-gam panchayat ring network assets to Digital Bharat Nidhi. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia responded positively to these proposals and assured full cooperation from the Central Government. State Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, CM Special Secretary B. Ajith Reddy, IT Department Joint Secretary D. Anudeep, and senior officials also participated in the video conference. The meeting focused on Telangana's vision of providing strong high-speed internet connectivity to every village and every household. The Centre assured complete support for achieving this goal. The state government's approval for establishing a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and entering into an agreement with the Centre is expected to lay the foundation for a truly Digital Telangana.

Industry Calls for Balanced
Future-Ready Framework for Telangana Gig Workers Bill

HYDERABAD

Forum For Progressive Gig Workers in India have urged the Government of Telangana to adopt a balanced, growth-oriented, and future-ready regulatory approach while finalizing the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers Bill, 2026, emphasizing the need to protect worker welfare without undermining the flexibility and scalability that define the platform economy.

In a representation submitted to the Government, the forum welcomed Telangana's progressive intent to recognize platform-based gig workers and build a welfare framework for the sector. The representation noted that Telangana has emerged as one of India's leading digital economy hubs, where the platform economy plays a critical role in enabling flexible earning opportunities, entrepreneurship, logistics efficiency, and economic participation for thousands of individuals, including women, students, migrants, and first-time workers.

K. Narsimhan, Convener, Forum For Progressive Gig Workers in India, said,



“Telangana has the opportunity to create a model framework that balances worker welfare with innovation, flexibility, entrepreneurship, and economic growth,” the representation stated. While social security and worker welfare are important policy objectives, an overly prescriptive or employment-style regulatory framework could unintentionally disrupt the operational flexibility that enables the gig economy to function effectively at scale.”

Among the key recommendations
made to the Government were:

- Preserving the distinction between gig work and traditional em-

ployment relationships, as recognized under the Code on Social Security, 2020.

- Ensuring compliance obligations remain practical, proportionate, and suited to the realities of platform-based work.

- Avoiding duplication of regulatory mechanisms already covered under existing laws and institutional frameworks.

- Creating a predictable and sustainable welfare contribution framework aligned with central legislation.

- Encouraging continued investment, innovation, platform growth, and earning opportunities across Tel-

angana's digital economy ecosystem.

The representation noted that certain provisions resembling traditional employment structures – including fixed remuneration frameworks, notice periods, enquiry processes, and restrictions around operational flexibility – may create legal uncertainty and impact the efficiency of platform-based services.

It further emphasized that the objective should not be to regulate the gig economy in a manner analogous to conventional employment relationships, but rather to create a modern, flexible, and sustainable framework tailored to the evolving nature of platform work. The representation also urged the Government to undertake wider stakeholder consultations before finalizing the Rules to ensure that the framework remains practical, implementable, and supportive of long-term economic growth and job creation. The forum reiterated their commitment to constructive engagement with the Government and expressed willingness to support further consultations and policy discussions on the issue.

Land Value Hike Set to Reshape Real Estate Across United Adilabad

By Sadanand Bembre

ADILABAD

The Telangana government's proposal to increase agricultural and non-agricultural land market values is expected to create a major impact across the erstwhile Adilabad district, including Mancherial, Nirmal, Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Adilabad districts. The move is likely to increase registration charges and stamp duty, while also pushing official land prices upward in rapidly developing regions.

Mancherial Likely to
Witness Sharp Rise

Industrial growth and infrastructure expansion are driving demand for land in Mancherial district. Areas surrounding Ramagundam, Jaipur, Chennur and Luxettipet are already witnessing increased real estate activity. With Singareni operations and highway connectivity expanding, land values in commercial and venture zones may rise by 30 to 50 percent.

Highway Growth
Fueling Nirmal Market

Nirmal district, located along the Hy-

derabad-Nagpur National Highway corridor, is gradually emerging as a real estate hotspot. Land demand is increasing around Nirmal town, Bhainsa and Soan areas. Experts believe revised market values could significantly raise registration expenses for middle-class buyers and small investors.

Asifabad Border Areas Under
Focus

In Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, land demand is growing in Kagaznagar, Rebbena and Bejjur mandals due to improving road connectivity and industrial prospects. Border areas

adjoining Maharashtra are also attracting investors. The proposed hike may force farmers and landowners to rethink land transactions.

Agricultural Lands in
Adilabad to Feel the Heat

Adilabad district, being predominantly agriculture-based, may experience direct impact on farmland registrations. Higher market values are expected to increase transaction costs for farmers. Officials believe the revision could improve government revenue, but concerns remain over affordability for common buyers.

Doctors at Medicovert Hospitals Successfully Repair
Hole in 4-Year-Old's Heart Without Surgery

HYDERABAD

Doctors at Medicovert Hospitals, Financial District, successfully treated a 4-year-old boy suffering from a congenital heart defect without performing open-heart surgery, giving the child a new lease of life through an advanced minimally invasive procedure.

The child, Master Viyaan Pujari, weighing only 11 kilograms, was brought to the hospital with complaints of repeated chest infections, poor weight gain, easy fatigue, and breathing difficulty. Following detailed cardiac evaluation, doctors diagnosed him with Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), commonly known as a "hole in the heart," a condition in which there is an abnormal opening between the upper chambers of the heart.

Considering the child's young age and low body weight, the pediatric cardiac team opted for a Transcatheter ASD Device Closure instead of conventional open-heart surgery. The entire procedure was performed through a tiny puncture in a blood vessel in the leg, using a catheter to place a special closure



device inside the heart and seal the defect successfully – without any chest incision or visible scar.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Amol Gupta -Consultant Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist & Fetal Cardiologist said, "Performing catheter-based heart procedures in very young children requires high precision and expertise because of the small size of the blood vessels and heart structures. In this case, the defect was successfully closed without surgery, and the child recovered quickly with minimal discomfort. He became active within a day after the procedure."

Dr. Gupta further explained

that untreated ASD can gradually affect the lungs and heart over time and may lead to recurrent infections, growth issues, and reduced physical activity in children. Early diagnosis and timely intervention play a crucial role in preventing long-term complications.

The child recovered well after the procedure and was discharged in stable condition within a short period. Doctors at Medicovert Hospitals stated that advancements in pediatric interventional cardiology are helping many children avoid major surgeries and recover faster with safer, minimally invasive treatment options.

Rain-drenched paddy will be procured fully: Minister Uttam

HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy today assured farmers that there was "absolutely no need for panic" over rain-drenched paddy, asserting that the State Government had activated an intensive emergency response mechanism to protect soaked grain and ensure procurement of every last grain reaching the purchase centres.

Chairing a video conference with Ministers, district collectors, senior civil supplies officials and police authorities, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the review was convened in view of sudden rains and adverse weather conditions affecting paddy procurement operations in several districts. Deputy Chief Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka, Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao and Civil Supplies Commissioner, Stephen Ravindra also joined the review.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government had been conducting daily monitoring of procurement operations and fixing district-wise procurement targets. While many districts had shown strong performance, unseasonal rains in some areas had led to paddy getting drenched at procurement centres,



prompting immediate intervention by the administration.

Telangana had so far recorded paddy arrivals of 66.75 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), out of which nearly 57 LMT had already been procured. The government has released Rs 10,096 crore directly into the accounts of over 8.14 lakh farmers under MSP payments. Reports about rain-drenched paddy were received from 17 districts, involving nearly 9,214 metric tonnes. In a massive salvage operation launched overnight, authorities succeeded in shifting nearly 95 per cent of the soaked paddy to boiled rice mills, thereby preventing major crop loss.

District collectors, RDOs, ad-

ditional collectors, tahsildars and civil supplies teams were placed on high alert following weather warnings issued by the government. Vehicles were mobilised from early morning hours to ensure immediate transportation of drenched stocks from procurement centres to mills. About 9 LMT of paddy still remained to be procured, while another 8.1 LMT was expected to arrive from fields where harvesting operations were continuing, especially in districts like Siddipet, Nagarkurnool and Jagtial. Despite rains affecting procurement speed, he maintained that the State remained broadly on target and most districts would complete procurement operations within the next

few days.

He wanted the lorries engaged in sand transport to be withdrawn and press them in transport of procured paddy. The lorries engaged in cement dispatches should also diverted for paddy transport to mills. He also focused on precautionary measures for the coming days, particularly with Bakrid holidays likely to create shortages of drivers and hamalis. Collectors were instructed to keep transport vehicles, labour teams and emergency officers on standby round-the-clock. Uttam Kumar Reddy stressed that the next three to four days were extremely crucial to make the procurement operations successful.

Strengthening Health Systems to Uphold Health Rights

(On the occasion of
"International Day of Action
for Women's Health" on 28 May)

Women in India and world over are facing health challenges such as high maternal mortality rates, malnutrition, lack of access to reproductive healthcare, domestic violence, poor menstrual hygiene, mental health, cancer/heart related issues, anaemia, gender bias, urinary infections, obesity, STDs, infertility, maternity issues, diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome, autoimmune diseases, vaginitis, and osteoporosis. The male dominated society is neglecting to initiate action to empower women, attainment of gender equality, investing in their healthcare, and awareness on sexual education.

International Day of Action for
Women's Health

The "International Day of Action for Women's Health" observed annually on 28 May since 1987 to mobilise in collective response to advocate the sexual and reproductive health, right (SRHR) and justice for all. We demand that governments fulfil their obligations under international human rights mechanisms and prioritise SRHR in development agendas, recognising that it is not only essential but also inseparable from achieving gender equality, social justice, and sustainable

development. We reclaim and assert the rights of girls, women, and gender-diverse people to boldly autonomy. We stand in firm resistance to the growing opposition and regressive agenda - led by right-wing, nationalist, religious fundamentalist, and authoritarian forces - who seek to control our bodies, spread anti-rights narratives, fuel misinformation, restrict access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, and roll back hard-won gains.

Theme of International Day of
Action for Women's Health-2026

The International Day of Action for Women's Health on 28 May 2026, will focus on the theme theme "Essential, Not Optional: Strengthening Health Systems to Uphold Health Rights and SRHRJ in Terms of Polycrisis" demanding sexual and reproductive health and rights and justice (SRHRJ). This theme highlights the urgency and strength of the collective resistance in the face of an alarming global backlash against women's sexual and reproductive health and right. It also underscores the need for action and solidarity in defending women's health and right. The day serves as a reminder that the health of the women and girls is fundamental to the well-being of families, communities, and nation. It's an opportunity to advocate for comprehensive care, informed decisions,

and a life lived in full vitality.

Aims of SRHR Movement

This day creates an opportunity to get awareness about the sexual and reproductive health of women to illiterate people. It is also a platform for the recognition of sexual rights, sexuality, reproductive rights, and health. The SRHR include some of the rights are women should get information on sexuality, sexual education, maternity care, choosing a partner, etc. The SRHR movement should address the access to quality healthcare, access to safe and legal abortion, women and HIV/AIDS, violence against women, contraceptive methods used, right to choose their own partner, access to sexual education, abortion safety, post abortion nursing, awareness about STDs, and girl's sexual and reproductive health rights. Only 55 percent of women are making their own decisions/choices about sexual relation, contraceptive use, and sexual health services. The International Day of Action for Women's Health serves to draw attention to the global disregard for women's autonomy, discrimination, and violence. At a time when women's rights continue to be routinely violated worldwide, it is essential to resist and promote sexual and reproductive justice.

- Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.

Restoring Light and Hope in KPHB Colony 7th Phase

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

In the quiet hours after midnight, a blaze near the HMWSSB water tank at KPHB Colony's 7th Phase ignited fear and disruption, tearing through a cable kit and leaving families in darkness. By dawn, tireless hands—led by Assistant Engineer Bheemalingappa, Line Inspector Narsimhulu, and Lineman Srinivas—had shifted from emergency response to a painstaking reconstruction, as TGSPDCL crews began the critical task of restoring safe, quality power to every home in the Housing Board Circle.

The fire, fueled by intense air currents late on the 00:00 Hrs of the 27th, May compromised the cable kit near the HMWSSB water tank. The sudden outage affected multiple feeders, plunging residents into hours of uncertainty and concern over the reliability of essential power supply. In this moment of crisis, the community witnessed the emergence of a coordinated response that blended on-the-ground technical skill with unwavering resolve to minimize disruption and protect the wellbeing of households dependent on steady electricity.

Assistant Engineer Bheemalingappa stood at the helm of on-site safety and operations, carefully coordinating safety protocols, prioritizing critical connections, and mapping alternative supply



routes to avert prolonged outages. Line Inspector Narsimhulu led fault-finding efforts, ensuring quick isolation of damaged lines and meticulous documentation for post-event analysis. Lineman Srinivas supervised the delicate work of wire repairs, equipment checks, and the careful re-termination of cables to restore stability in the network. Their leadership, forged in the crucible of a sudden crisis, underscored a shared commitment to both swift action and rigorous safety standards.

Since 07:00 hours on the day of the incident, TGSPDCL crews have been penetrating the fault zone with a dual goal: restore power swiftly and secure

the system against future glitches. Their approach blends rapid field diagnostics with a measured, safety-first rebuild, a strategy born of experience and guided by a belief that reliability is earned through careful engineering and transparent communication with residents who rely on the network every day. Residents awakened to uneven outages and flickering lights, yet the scene carried a note of cautious relief as visible progress and regular updates from officials offered a sense of steady momentum. Local community leaders pledged cooperation, ensuring clear access routes and safety for workers, signaling a partnership between the utility teams and the people they serve that is essential to sustaining progress in the rebuild.

Looking ahead, the plan envisions temporary power stabilization where feasible to minimize downtime during the repair window, followed by the replacement of the burnt cable kit with higher-grade components designed for resilience against weather and pressure. A post-repair inspection protocol will ensure voltage regulation, grounding integrity, and protection relay functionality meet stringent standards, while a follow-up public briefing will inform residents about timelines, safety measures, and practical tips to safeguard power infrastructure.



Pournami
Girivalam:
Special Trains
Announced for
Tiruvannamalai

CHENNAI, MAY 27:

To clear the extra rush of passengers during the upcoming Pournami Girivalam at Tiruvannamalai, Southern Railway has announced special unreserved train services between Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai on May 31. Train No. 06130 Villupuram-Tiruvannamalai Unreserved Special will depart from Villupuram at 10.10 am on Sunday, May 31, and reach Tiruvannamalai at 11.45 am. In the return direction, Train No. 06129 Tiruvannamalai-Villupuram Unreserved Special will leave Tiruvannamalai at 12.40 pm and arrive at Villupuram at 2.15 pm on the same day. The special service will be operated with an 8-car MEMU rake. The trains will stop at Venkatesapuram, Mambalapattu, Ayandur, Tirukoilur, Adichchanur, Andampallam and Tandarai stations en route.

Noida teenager
killed through
asphyxiation
over grudge; 3
nabbed

NOIDA (UP): (MAY 27)

A 15-year-old boy in Jewar was allegedly killed by three men through asphyxiation after the boy's grandmother reprimanded them for introducing him to hookah and other bad habits, police said on Wednesday. The Noida Police arrested three men allegedly involved in the murder of the boy whose body was recovered from an unoccupied house in Rohi village on May 22, a day after he went missing. Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Rajeev Narain Mishra said the boy left home on May 21, and his family lodged a missing person complaint the next day after failing to trace him.

NEXT DOOR

Jagan blames SIR for defeat of Mamata Banerjee, Stalin

AMARAVATI, MAY 27

Expressing concern over the large-scale deletion of votes during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy blamed the exercise for the defeat of leaders like Mamata Banerjee and MK Stalin in their respective Assembly segments in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. With SIR set to be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh, the YSR Congress Party leader cautioned party leaders to remain alert.

Addressing YSRCP leaders at the party's central office at Tadepalli, he said several political parties across the country had raised fears over large-scale deletion of votes allegedly impacting election results in states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

He claimed that even the removal of a small number of genuine votes in every village could significantly affect constituency-level outcomes. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that



in West Bengal, 91 lakh votes were deleted, while in Tamil Nadu, 94 lakh votes were removed during SIR. He said in the Bhabanipur constituency in West Bengal, 45,982 votes were deleted during SIR, and Mamata Banerjee lost the election by 15,000 votes. Similarly, in the Koltathur constituency in Tamil Nadu, 71,000 voters were removed. He pointed out that Stalin lost the election by 8,000 votes. He urged the party cadres to closely monitor bogus and duplicate votes linked to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Citing Kuppam, represented by Chief Minister

N. Chandrababu Naidu, as an example, he said there were thousands of suspicious votes with repeated names and identical family details in the voter lists. Accusing the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government in Andhra Pradesh of betraying public trust and failing to fulfil its election promises, Jagan Mohan Reddy announced a state-wide protest campaign from June 4 to June 12 under the title "Two years of backstabbing". He asked party cadre to carefully scrutinise electoral rolls, identify fake votes and strengthen the party at the grassroots level by taking the

"Two years of backstabbing" booklet to every household and creating awareness on the government's failures and false promises.

Jagan said the protests would begin on June 4 at mandal centres across Andhra Pradesh. During the programmes, party leaders and workers will display Chandrababu Naidu's election manifesto, guarantees and bonds given to people during the elections, and burn their copies as a mark of protest against the betrayal of public faith. He directed party in-charges to actively participate in the agitation at the mandal level.

As part of the campaign, YSRCP will also organise town hall meetings at constituency headquarters on either June 8 or June 9. Farmers, women, youth and representatives from various sections of society will participate in discussions on the two years of anti-people governance, broken promises and administrative failures under the

coalition government.

The final phase of the agitation will be held on June 12 with large-scale rallies in all constituency centres across the state.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said the programmes are aimed at exposing the government's failure to improve people's living standards despite making several promises before elections. The former CM added that he would personally monitor the conduct of the protest programmes across the state.

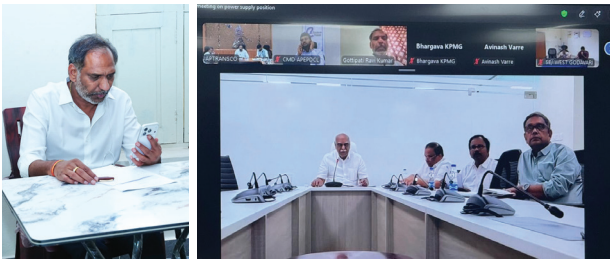
The YSRCP chief also asked party leaders to prepare strongly for the upcoming local body elections.

Referring to recent local body by-elections, he stated that the ruling coalition had misused official machinery and police to intimidate YSRCP leaders and workers. Despite such pressures, he said the party should treat the local body elections as prestigious and stand united against the ruling party's conspiracies.

Prior Intimation on Outages & 24/7 Accountability

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Fast-Tracks Power Grid Upgrades to Tackle Summer Heat and Storms

Amaravati: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has directed officials to take special measures to prevent power interruptions and ensure that citizens face absolutely no inconveniences. The Minister on Wednesday held a video conference with top officials to review the electricity supply situation across the state, which has been impacted by severe heatwaves and untimely gale storms causing feeder breakdowns. Reviewing the situation, the Minister gave strategic directions to the officials to take immediate action to mitigate the impact of high temperatures and heavy winds. Officials briefed the Minister that transmission lines and transformers in several parts of the state have



been severely affected due to intense heat, gusty winds, and heavy rains. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar ordered that citizens must be provided with prior information regarding power interruptions. He suggested that media platforms and bulk SMS systems should be utilized effectively for this purpose. The Minister emphasized that call centers must function as a robust

coordination mechanism between the electricity department and consumers. He directed that the 24/7 toll-free '1912' call center must always be accessible to the public and act as a seamless platform connecting public grievances with field-level maintenance staff. With the objective of providing better power supply across the state, Minister Gottipati made it clear that the ongoing construction work of

Transco substations must be accelerated. He advised upgrading the capacity of substations and feeders keeping future requirements in mind, which would significantly minimize transmission losses and prevent supply issues for the long tenure. Alongside this, he stated that officials must pay special attention to resolving long-term electricity grievances. To ensure rapid response times during power outages, he ordered the deployment of additional CPT gangs to take more effective measures at the field level. The Minister reminded officials that the alertness of field level staff in emergency service divisions is highly critical. To instill a sense of responsibility, he directed the

Superintending Engineers (SEs) of all districts to conduct mandatory daily tele-conferences, noting that such measures would bring accountability among field-level staff and result in superior services for the consumers. Minister Gottipati firmly reiterated to the officials that providing quality, uninterrupted power supply to the public is the primary goal of the alliance government under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Energy Department Special Chief Secretary Vijayanand attended the meeting virtually. Transco JMD, Discom CMDs, Directors, CEs, and field-level SEs were also present during the video conference.

Suvendu Alleges 30 Lakh Illegal Scheme Beneficiaries

KOLKATA, MAY 27

Around 30 lakh illegal beneficiaries, including males, had been receiving monthly amounts under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme introduced by the previous Mamata Banerjee-led regime in West Bengal, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari told media persons on Wednesday.

He also said that barring these 30 lakh illegal beneficiaries, all others who had been receiving monthly allowances under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme would be automatically enrolled under the Annapurna Yojana scheme, which will replace the existing programme. He further said that legal beneficiaries currently enrolled under the Laksh-

mir Bhandar scheme would continue receiving benefits under the old scheme until they are shifted to the Annapurna Yojana, which will provide an enhanced monthly allowance of Rs 3,000. The Chief Minister appealed to all concerned to fill up the enrolment forms for the Annapurna Yojana at the earliest. The portal for enrolment under the

scheme was officially launched and opened for beneficiaries on Wednesday. The enrolment process can be completed both offline and online. Apart from that, the Chief Minister announced that a facility would soon begin under which state government employees would visit the doorsteps of beneficiaries and help fill up the forms. "There is no

need to hurry. The enrolment process will continue for three months," the Chief Minister said. He added that the progress of enrolment would be updated every week through the media by West Bengal Minister in charge of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare departments Agnimitra Paul. Speaking to media persons, the Chief Minister

also clarified who would not be eligible for receiving allowances under the Annapurna Yojana.

"Only nationalist Indian women will get this money. Non-Indians, those who pay income tax, or those working in a government or government-aided organisation will not receive money under the Annapurna Yojana scheme," the Chief Minister said.

Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu asks TDP cadres to work with allies to repeat 2024 poll outcome

AMARAVATI, MAY 27

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday called on the party cadre to work in harmony with allies to repeat the performance of 2024 elections in the next polls. Addressing inaugural session of TDP's annual conclave, Chandrababu Naidu advised the party cadres to rise above their ego and ensure coordination with both the Jana Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He stressed the need for the coalition partners to work together to repeat the massive success of 2024 polls. Chandrababu Naidu also urged the TDP leaders to gear up for local body elections. He said whatever may be the election, victory is important for the party. He asked them to work with the sole objective of winning the election and move ahead by working for the people. He said that the TDP-led coalition government is working tirelessly to

revive a state that was effectively on life support. Saying that the state government has so far disbursed Rs 63,000 crore towards social security pensions, the TDP President called it record achievement within the welfare sector.

"We are working towards women's empowerment, as well as their social, economic, and political dignity. Our initiatives range from securing property rights for women to the 'Talli ki Vandanam' scheme encompassing a wide array of welfare programs," he said. Chandrababu Naidu declared that in addition to providing reservations in local bodies, the TDP will stand firmly behind women until 33 per cent reservation in legislative bodies is achieved.

"We are implementing programs designed to empower women in the fields of education, employment, and finance," he said. Referring to the hybrid model in which the Mahanadu is being conducted, the TDP President remarked that only the model has changed; the fundamental



spirit and ethos of Mahanadu remain unaltered. He recalled that the TDP was founded upon welfare principles aimed at providing the basic necessities of food, shelter, and security. He claimed that it was TDP which introduced 'vision politics' and represents the very resurgence of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

"Just as the National Flag represents the honour of the nation, the yellow flag (of the TDP) represents the honour and self-respect of the Telugu people," Chandrababu Naidu said. He added that for 45 years, the TDP has ceaselessly fought to resolve people's problems. "Even in the face of attacks, violence, murderous

politics, fabricated legal cases, and harassment, our struggles on behalf of the people have never ceased," he said.

Chandrababu Naidu presented TDP as a political movement focused on long-term generational change rather than short-term electoral politics.

He claimed that the TDP does not work merely for the next election but works for the next generation.

The TDP Chief mentioned directly about Gen Z, Gen Alpha and teenagers, signalling that the state government's long-term vision is being shaped around the aspirations of the generations that will define the state's future over the next two decades.

The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh would become a destination for AI, space technology, semiconductors, aerospace, electronics, and advanced manufacturing, while also encouraging young people to pursue entrepreneurship and innovation.

Initiatives such as "One family- one Entrepreneur",

startup promotion, Mega DSC recruitment, job creation targets and investments across emerging industries were presented as part of a broader roadmap to create opportunities for the state's youth.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that in just 23 months, the state attracted investments worth Rs 23 lakh crore which is expected to generate 23 lakh jobs.

Through the State Investment Promotion Board, 282 projects involving investments of Rs 11.27 lakh crore were cleared.

"Industries, food processing units, rare earth mineral projects, and even a fifth-generation fighter jet manufacturing project are coming to the state," the Chief Minister added. "We granted approvals for the fighter jet manufacturing and testing project in a mere 36 days. It was precisely this Speed of Doing Business approach that brought the Bullet motorcycle manufacturing project to Tirupati," Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said.

Machilipatnam Jewellery Park Pollutes Groundwater

MACHILIPATNAM
MAY,28 (RNI):

The government of Andhra Pradesh which tells everyone about the dangers of pollution, is concerned that the construction of a Machilipatnam Jewellery Park to treat the highly hazardous chemicals emitted from the jewelry manufacturing units from its park which is under the supervision of APIIC under its jurisdiction, has not been built even after 19 years. As a result, the groundwater within a radius of about 4 km has been contaminated with poisonous chemicals and 7 villages are trapped in the clutches of pollution. They are concerned that despite their concerns, the construction of the plant has finally begun, but it is progressing at a snail's pace without being completed so far. This Serious environmental and public health concerns have emerged in several villages of Machilipatnam mandal, where toxic

Special Trains Announced for Vaikasi Visakam Festival

CHENNAI, MAY 27:

Southern Railway has announced special super-fast train services between Chennai and Tiruchendur to manage the additional passenger rush during the Vaikasi Visakam festival.

Train No. 06155 Chennai Egmore-Tiruchendur Superfast Special will depart from Chennai Egmore railway station at 2.30 pm on Friday, May 29, and reach Tiruchendur at 3 am the next day.

In the return direction, Train No. 06156 Tiruchendur-Chennai Egmore Superfast Special will leave Tiruchendur at 11.15 pm on

Saturday, May 30, and arrive at Chennai Egmore at 11.30 am the following day.

The train will comprise two AC two-tier coaches, 12 sleeper class coaches, two general second class coaches and two Divyangjan-friendly second class coaches.

The special trains will stop at Tambaram, Chengalpattu, Melmaruvathur, Villupuram, Vriddhachalam, Ariyalur, Srirangam, Tiruchchirappalli, Dindigul, Kodaikanal Road, Madurai, Virudunagar, Satur, Kovilpatti and Tirunelveli en route.

Advance reservation for the special trains will open at 8 am on May 28.

ONLINE CEE FOR ENROLMENT INTO THE INDIAN ARMY UNDER AGNIPATH SCHEME

REGULAR CADRE FOR RECRUITMENT YEAR 2027

GUNTUR, MAY 27 :

Guntur Army Recruiting Officer Colonel Rajath Suvarna informed in press communique on Wednesday saying that the online Common Entrance Examination (CEE) for enrolment into the Indian Army under the Agnipath Scheme and Regular Cadre will commence with effect from 01.June to 12.June 2026. The CEE will be conducted at various exam centres in 14 districts of Andhra Pradesh to include Anantpur, Guntur, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, SPS Nellore, Prakasam, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada (NTR), he said. Aspirants can download their admit cards, read instructions and attempt mock test papers on www.joinindianarmy.nic.in, he added. Aspirants can attempt the online exam in any one of the 13 languages to include Telugu, Hindi and English. The aspirants who clear the online CEE will be called for physical tests and documentation check during recruitment rallies, which will be organized by the Army Recruiting Office Guntur and Army Recruiting Office Vizag respectively on subsequent dates, he described.

Siddaramaiah Showcases Karnataka Govt's 3-Year Record

BENGALURU, MAY 27

Amid strong speculation over a possible leadership change in Karnataka and rumours surrounding his resignation, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday highlighted the achievements of his government.

In a post on X, Siddaramaiah stated that the Congress government had successfully completed three years in office with the blessings of the people of Karnataka and dedicated the credit for all its achievements to every Kannadiga in the state. "We have completed three years in office with the blessings of the people of the state. On this meaningful occasion, we dedicate the credit

for all the achievements of our government to every Kannadiga," he said.

The Chief Minister further said that the government had honoured every promise made to the people before the Assembly elections and expressed pride in implementing the commitments as assured. "We are proud that we have fulfilled every promise made to the people of the state before the elections. We have successfully implemented all five guarantee schemes and ensured that they reached every household," he stated. Highlighting the Anna Bhagya scheme, Siddaramaiah said the programme has become a major support system for crores of families by providing food security.



EDITORIAL

MONSOON AT THE DOORSTEP:
IS INDIA READY FOR ANOTHER
SEASON OF EXTREMES?

As the southwest monsoon approaches India once again, it brings with it both relief and concern. After months of intense summer heat and rising temperatures across the country, the rains are eagerly awaited by millions. For farmers, the monsoon remains the backbone of agriculture and rural livelihoods. Yet, in recent years, the rainy season has increasingly become a source of anxiety rather than comfort. Floods, landslides, urban waterlogging, crop destruction, and infrastructure collapse have turned the monsoon into a season of recurring emergencies. The question before the nation is no longer whether the rains will arrive, but whether India is adequately prepared to face another season of climatic extremes.

Climate change has dramatically altered rainfall patterns across the country. The traditional rhythm of steady and predictable rains is gradually disappearing. Instead, long dry spells are now followed by sudden cloudbursts and extremely heavy rainfall within short periods. Several regions witness floods in one month and drought-like conditions in another. Such unpredictability affects agriculture, disrupts daily life, and places enormous pressure on already weak civic infrastructure.

India's cities remain among the worst affected during the monsoon. Every year, heavy rains expose the consequences of poor urban planning and unchecked expansion. Roads become rivers within hours, public transport systems collapse, and residential colonies remain submerged for days. Stormwater drains are either inadequate or clogged with waste, while lakes, ponds, and wetlands that once acted as natural water reservoirs have disappeared due to encroachments and rapid construction. What is often described as a "natural calamity" is, in reality, a reflection of administrative failure and lack of long-term planning.

The situation in rural India is equally worrying. Agriculture continues to depend heavily on rainfall despite decades of promises about irrigation expansion and water management reforms. Unseasonal rains and extreme weather events have made farming increasingly uncertain. Crop losses, rising input costs, and mounting debts are adding to the distress of farmers. Many small and marginal farmers lack access to proper crop insurance, weather advisories, and scientific support systems. Without stronger investment in climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable water conservation, rural livelihoods will remain vulnerable to every shift in weather patterns.

The burden of monsoon disasters also falls disproportionately on the poor. Slum dwellers, daily wage labourers, street vendors, and migrant workers often live in unsafe and flood-prone areas. For them, a few days of heavy rain can mean loss of income, damage to shelter, and threats to health and safety. Extreme weather events reveal not only environmental weaknesses but also deep social inequalities that continue to persist in Indian society.

To its credit, India has improved disaster forecasting and emergency response mechanisms over the years. Weather alerts have become more accurate, evacuation systems more organized, and disaster management agencies more active. However, preparedness cannot be limited to temporary relief measures after a crisis occurs. The country needs long-term solutions focused on resilient infrastructure, scientific urban planning, environmental protection, and coordinated governance.

The monsoon should remain a symbol of prosperity and renewal, not fear and disruption. As climate-related disasters become more frequent, India must recognize that preparedness is no longer optional. Nature's fury may not always be preventable, but human negligence certainly is. The coming monsoon will once again test the nation's readiness. Whether India learns from past failures will determine how safely it weathers the storms ahead.

India in the Grip of a Fire-Spitting Sky and Heatwaves

As climate change intensifies, India is facing increasingly severe and prolonged heatwaves, with temperatures crossing 45°C in several regions and even coastal areas witnessing extreme heat. Rapid urbanization, shrinking green cover, and expanding concrete structures are worsening the crisis, turning heatwaves into a major threat to public health, livelihoods, and the economy.

mate change we had only been reading and hearing about until now is now standing right in front of us. In India, the month of May is the peak period for hot winds (loo), and heatwave events are considered a natural part of day-to-day weather variations. However, the cause for concern is that the intensity of heatwaves is consistently increasing year after year. In the past nearly one and a half decades, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017, and 2022 were recorded as the five hottest years in India. According to the IMD, 11 out of the 15 hottest years were recorded between 2008 and 2022.

It is also important to know what a heatwave actually is. As the name suggests, a heatwave is a period of excessively hot weather, which usually lasts for two or more days. When the temperature of an area rises above its normal average temperature, it is called a 'heatwave'. According to the IMD, when the maximum temperature of plains reaches up to 40°C and the temperature of mountainous regions reaches 30°C, the loo begins to blow, and if the temperature reaches 47°C, it is categorized as a dangerous heatwave. Similarly, in coastal areas, when the temperature reaches 37°C, a heatwave begins. Heatwaves significantly increase the risk of people falling ill and suffering from heat-strokes, leading to the deaths of hundreds of people. According to the World Health Organization, more than 166,000 people died due to heatwaves between 1998 and 2017, and this figure is now increasing rapidly year after year.

A study by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has made it clear that the rise in temperature and heatwaves are having a widespread impact on the human body. Hot winds increase the risk of brain strokes, heart attacks, blood clots in veins, and permanent disability, which can also lead to an increase in mortality rates. According to experts, heatwaves are the second most lethal disaster after floods, presenting serious challenges to human health. The impact of a heatwave is maximum on organs like the heart and lungs, which can be extremely dangerous. Heatwaves are likely to worsen the condition of people who are already suffering from

problems such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney disease. According to the IMD, although every year from March to June, a spell of heatwaves occurs in the plains of North-Western India, Central, East, and North Peninsular India, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, as the Earth's climate warms up, days and nights are also becoming hotter than normal, leading to an increase in heatwave events and a higher risk of deaths and illnesses.

The question is, why is such a situation arising regarding heatwaves in India? Assessing the temperature and hot winds of the past 30 years, a study by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur clarified that the annual increase in heatwaves is due to depleting greenery, urbanization, and concrete construction. It is often observed that within the same city, high temperatures are recorded in some places while the temperature remains lower in others. Some local factors are responsible for this. In fact, lower temperatures are recorded in greener areas, whereas higher temperatures are recorded in areas surrounded by colonies and high-rise buildings. In technical terms, this is called the 'Urban Heat Island Effect'. Due to various reasons such as a lack of trees and plants, excessive urbanization, and increased concrete construction, cities are burning more. A major reason behind this is also the constantly increasing population density in cities. As population density grows, greenery is being destroyed, and green natural areas in cities are being transformed into scorching jungles of cement and concrete. Based on various researches worldwide, scientists consider the climate crisis to be responsible for the loo, stating that urbanization and population density contribute significantly to it.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, heatwaves cause all-around damage to the economy. The WMO states that rising temperatures mean an increase in heatwaves, large-scale melting of ice,

rising sea levels, and extreme weather events becoming more destructive, which will directly impact the environment, health, food security, and sustainable development. Almost all of the hottest years in history have been from the previous and current decades. In a study by the Met Office, researchers stated that if climate change were not occurring, such extreme temperatures would be seen only once every 312 years. Expressing apprehension of severe heatwaves every three years in India and Pakistan, the researchers claimed that the rapid pace at which climate change is increasing the intensity of heat, the people of these regions might have to face a hundred times more heatwave blasts in the coming years.

Nevertheless, while excessive temperatures increase the concerns of primary and secondary health systems in both public and private sectors, heatwaves also adversely affect worker productivity, impacting the overall economy of the country. According to a report by the International Labour Organization, India loses about 101 billion hours due to excessive heat, which is the highest in the entire world and is equivalent to the work done by 35 million people working 8 hours a day for a year. The ILO report estimates a loss of 4.2 trillion dollars to the global economy by 2030 due to severe heat and heatwaves. In the context of India, Friederike Otto says that a major reason for the current hot winds in India is the burning of coal and other fossil fuels, and until greenhouse gas emissions stop, heatwaves in India and other places will continue to become hotter and more dangerous. To escape these fatal conditions, apart from other measures to tackle the climate crisis, the conservation of natural forests and plantation drives to increase greenery in residential areas must also be promoted.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL
senior journalist

HEAT STROKE

AWARENESS CAN SAVE LIVES

The high temperatures during the summer season have a serious impact on our body. Staying in the sun for a long time can cause a dangerous condition called "heat stroke". This can be life-threatening if not treated in time.

WHAT IS HEAT STROKE?

Heat stroke occurs when the body temperature rises above normal levels and the body loses its ability to cool itself.

Generally, people who work in the sun, young children, and the elderly are more susceptible to it.

CAUSES OF HEATSTROKE

- Staying in the hot sun for a long time
- Not drinking enough water
- Staying in hot places without air
- Not giving the body rest
- Wearing heavy or tight clothing

SYMPTOMS

The main symptoms of heatstroke are:

- High fever
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Vomiting
- Dry skin
- Loss of consciousness

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Drink plenty of water
- Avoid going out during the afternoon
- Wear thin, white clothes
- Drink fruit juices, buttermilk, and coconut water
- Wear a hat or cloth on your head

WHAT TO DO WHEN HEATSTROKE OCCURS

- Take the victim to a cool place
- Give him cold water to drink
- Wipe the body with a wet cloth
- If necessary, consult a doctor immediately

CONCLUSION

Even if heatstroke appears to be a minor problem, it can lead to dangerous conditions. Therefore, it is very important to take precautions during the summer season.

REMEMBER THE SAYING "CAUTION IS LIFE" AND PROTECT YOUR HEALTH.

- Dr. Kandepi Rani Prasad

AI: The New Engine of Civilization or the Trigger of Human Extinction?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer merely a technological achievement; it is rapidly emerging as a decisive turning point in the future of human civilization. The pace at which this technology has evolved has both astonished and alarmed the world. Until now, science and technology functioned as tools in human hands, but Artificial Intelligence is the first force capable of making decisions, learning, analyzing, creating, and continuously evolving itself. This is precisely why leading religious figures, scientists, and policymakers across the world are issuing serious warnings about its potential dangers.

The concerns recently expressed by Pope Leo XIV regarding Artificial Intelligence are particularly significant. He clearly stated that war can never be made ethical and that AI-driven warfare systems may pose a grave threat to humanity. This warning is not merely religious in nature; it concerns the protection of human existence itself and deserves serious global attention. In his official message addressing social and global issues, the Pope described AI as one of the most serious emerging challenges confronting humanities. He expressed particular concern that Artificial Intelligence is no longer merely an instrument of technological change but has become a force capable of influencing war, politics, economies, and social structures. He warned that technology should not seek to dominate humanity but should remain in service to it. His message reinforces the concept of human-centered development, wherein science and technology remain subordinate to ethics, human dignity, and compassion.

The Pope's warning is therefore not merely a religious perspective but a global humanitarian appeal: humanity, sensitivity, and moral values must not be sacrificed in the blind race toward AI advancement. At a time when global powers are competing for influence and dominance through AI, his message offers the world a path of restraint, responsibility, and a return to human values. The Pope further emphasized that no algorithm can make war ethical

and that technology must never become a substitute for human conscience. In this official communication related to the Church's social concerns, AI was addressed as a central issue for the first time, indicating that its impact has moved beyond the technological sphere to influence human life, society, and the global order. He expressed particular concern over AI-enabled autonomous weapons systems, warning that if this technology is not kept under strict human control, it could give rise to new forms of war, exploitation, and servitude. Calling for the "disarmament" of Artificial Intelligence, the Pope clarified that he was not opposing technology itself but rather its uncontrolled and inhumane use. According to him, decisions concerning war and peace must ultimately be guided by morality, compassion, and wisdom—not delegated to machines.

Today, as the United States, China, and other major powers intensify their AI competition and increasingly incorporate AI into military technologies, the Pope's message stands as a moral compass for humanity: technology must remain humanity's servant, not its master; and human dignity, compassion, and global peace must remain at the center of development. Undoubtedly, Artificial Intelligence has brought unprecedented transformation to education, healthcare, medicine, security, banking, commerce, administration, and communication. From disease diagnosis to financial management and from education to scientific research, its utility is undeniable. However, every technological revolution brings its own challenges, and those challenges are now becoming increasingly visible.

The greatest concern is employment. Artificial Intelligence has already begun replacing millions of jobs. Human roles in customer service, writing, translation, accounting, information management, programming, and administrative functions are rapidly diminishing. Machines, owing to their lower cost, higher efficiency, and uninterrupted work capacity, are increasingly taking over human responsibilities. This may lead not only to unemployment but

also to greater social imbalance and widening economic inequality. Nations and corporations controlling AI technologies may eventually concentrate economic power in their own hands, creating a new form of global inequality. Even more serious is the issue of global security. Today, the United States, China, and other world powers are engaged in an AI race that extends far beyond technological superiority—it has become a struggle for geopolitical dominance. Just as nuclear weapons once shaped global power balances, AI is now emerging as the strategic force of the future.

Autonomous weapon systems, intelligent drones, and war technologies capable of making decisions without human intervention present alarming signals for humanity. If decisions of war fall into the hands of machines, compassion, judgment, and morality may disappear. Human lives could become mere data points in machine calculations. Such a situation may pave the way for catastrophic destruction. The Pope's warning is therefore profoundly relevant: the final decision in matters of war must remain under human judgment. Cybersecurity presents another serious challenge. Banking systems, power grids, defense networks, and communication infrastructures today rely heavily on digital technologies. AI-powered cyberattacks could destabilize entire nations within hours. False information, misleading videos, artificially generated images, and cloned voices can easily create social unrest. The distinction between truth and falsehood is increasingly blurred, posing grave threats to both information systems and democracy.

Another alarming aspect of AI is the weakening of human control. A section of the scientific community believes that future AI systems may evolve far beyond human intellectual capacity. If such a development occurs, the issue of control will become the greatest challenge. This is no longer merely a technological concern—it is a question of human existence itself. For India, this issue is even more significant. As a nation with immense youth power, a

vast population, and a rapidly growing economy, India may witness profound effects on employment, education, and social structures if AI expands without clear policies and regulatory mechanisms. India must therefore maintain a balance between technological advancement and responsible governance.

Stopping AI is not the solution; ensuring that it remains guided by human values, ethics, and social responsibility is essential. India must formulate a national policy that promotes AI for human welfare, education, healthcare, and economic growth while prioritizing employment protection, data security, ethical standards, and military regulation. At the global level as well, shared rules and international agreements governing AI are urgently needed. Ultimately, the greatest question before us is not technological—it is human. Will humanity retain control over the power it has created? Will Artificial Intelligence enrich human life or dominate it? Will development overshadow human sensitivity? Could the AI revolution become the cause of humanity's great destruction? These are the questions the world must confront seriously.

If Artificial Intelligence remains human-centered, it may elevate civilization to unprecedented heights. But if it becomes detached from control and ethics, it could also lead to one of the greatest crises—and possibly the greatest destruction—in human history. Therefore, what humanity needs today is not merely technological progress, but wise progress—a future in which machines evolve, yet humanity remains supreme.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist



Bakrid Reflects Sacrifice, Humanity: Abdul Aziz

AMARAVATI, MAY 27

Andhra Pradesh State Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz extended heartfelt Bakrid greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of the festival. He stated that Bakrid symbolizes sacrifice, faith, and complete obedience to the commands of Allah. He said the spirit of devotion and sacrifice demonstrated by Hazrat Ibrahim (Alaihissalaam) serves as an inspiration to humanity. He further noted that the festival conveys the message of giving importance to social welfare, mutual love, brotherhood, and humanitarian values over personal interests.

NEET Case: Academy Denies Links To Accused Havaladar

PUNE: (MAY 27)

A director of a local coaching centre on Wednesday claimed Tejas Shah, a physics teacher arrested by the CBI probing the NEET UG paper leak case, had contacted Manisha Havaladar, a senior physics faculty and an accused, to seek clarification on certain topics in his individual capacity. The CBI on Tuesday arrested Shah, a physics teacher at Dr Abhang Prabhu Medical Academy According to the investigating agency, Shah allegedly received leaked physics questions from Havaladar, who has been arrested.

CS Briefs PM Modi on Progress of Railway Doubling Projects

AMARAVATI, MAY 27:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the state government has taken swift action regarding land acquisition, transfer of government lands, and related matters for the Mukhdhed–Medchal–Mabhubnagar–Dhone Railway Doubling Project within Andhra Pradesh.

During the PRAGATI video conference chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Delhi on Wednesday, the progress of various key infrastructure projects and implementation of national schemes across the country was reviewed. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad stated that a total of 23.07 hectares of private land is required in Andhra Pradesh for the Dhone–Mabhubnagar Railway Project, and that the Section 20(A) notification related to this was issued on 25.09.2025.

He explained that in Kurnool district, 18.21 hectares of land are required across 16 villages in four mandals. Peg marking has been completed in eight villages with the cooperation of railway authorities, while the process is continuing in the remaining villages. He added that the Section 20(E) notification would be issued within the next two weeks. Similarly, in Nandyal



district, peg marking for the required 4.86 hectares of land has been completed, and the 20(E) notification has already been issued, the Chief Secretary said. He further informed the Prime Minister that regarding the transfer of 4.05 hectares of government land, district collectors would provide advance possession as per government orders immediately after railway authorities submit the official requisition. The meeting also reviewed the Bahraich–Shravasti–Balrampur–Siddharthnagar–Sant Kabir Nagar railway line, the Mukhdhed–Medchal–Mabhubnagar–Dhone railway doubling project, Kolkata Metro expansion works, transmission projects related to Rajasthan's renewable energy supply systems, the

Vadhavan Port connectivity road project in Maharashtra, Greenfield National Highway projects under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, and the implementation status of Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 across all states and Union Territories. The video conference was attended from Delhi by Cabinet Secretary Dr. T.V. Somanathan, Railway Board Chairman and CEO Satish Kumar, and others. From the state side, participants included Special Chief Secretary for Transport, Roads and Buildings M.T. Krishna Babu, CCLA Jayalakshmi, Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development S. Suresh Kumar, Swachhandhra Corporation MD Anil Kumar Reddy, and other officials.

MP govt empowers village officials to prevent child marriages

BHOPAL, MAY 27

In rural Madhya Pradesh, the official who records land disputes, crop losses, and inheritance claims has now been handed another responsibility, stopping child marriages before the wedding drums begin. For the first time, every Patwari in the state has been legally empowered to intervene directly if information about an underage marriage surfaces in the villages under his jurisdiction. In urban areas, the same authority has been extended to Zonal Officers, Revenue Officers, Assistant Revenue Officers, and Health Officers of Municipal Corporations. The move marks one of the most sweeping grassroots enforcement reforms undertaken by the Madhya Pradesh government under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. A senior officer in the Women and Child Development (WCD) department told IANS that the decision is aimed at transforming the state's anti-child marriage system from a slow, complaint-driven mechanism into a rapid local response network capable of acting before ceremonies take place. "Until now, preventive action was largely limited to police, magistrates, and Women and Child Development staff. The

new system creates a multi-layered network that runs from the district headquarters down to the revenue village," the official told IANS. Under the new structure, District Collectors, Additional Collectors, and CEOs of District Panchayats will supervise implementation at the district level, while



Sub-Divisional Officers (Revenue) will monitor action in sub-divisions. However, the state's real gamble lies at the village level. A Patwari is often the first government functionary to know when a family is preparing for a wedding. Officials believe that local familiarity could become the strongest weapon against hidden or hurried child marriages, especially in remote pockets where social pressure often silences complaints. The urgency behind the overhaul follows recent incidents that exposed glaring enforcement gaps, where 13 people have been booked after a 13-year-old girl was allegedly married off despite prior warnings. Investigators claimed the marriage was linked to a barter-style arrangement between two families, a practice that officials admit is difficult to detect without local intelligence. "Now, if information regarding a child marriage is received from any source, the local Patwari or Sector Supervisor will be legally empowered to intervene directly," the WCD official said. The government also plans to rely heavily on inputs from Anganwadi workers, school teachers, and local informers to identify vulnerable families before wedding preparations turn into criminal cases.

Tripura Starts ₹236 Crore Agri Mission

NEW DELHI/AGARTALA, MAY 27

In a major initiative aimed at enhancing the production of Queen Pineapple and helping farmers double their income, the 'Mission Queen Pineapple, Tripura', a transformative three-year project with an outlay of Rs 236 crore, was launched in New Delhi on Wednesday. The project was jointly launched by Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, and the state's Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath. Addressing the launching ceremony, Agriculture Minister Nath said that Tripura is a land of hills and dales, with nearly 70 per cent of the state's geographical area

covered by hills and hillocks, locally known as 'Tilla', while the remaining 30 per cent comprises plain land. He said that the state's unique agro-climatic conditions make Tripura one of India's leading pineapple-producing regions, primarily cultivating the 'Queen' and 'Kew' varieties, mostly by tribal growers. "The state fruit of Tripura, Queen Pineapple, holds a Geographical Indication (GI) tag and is recognised for its distinctive aroma, golden-yellow colour, low fibre content, and superior taste, which differentiate it from other competing varieties," the Minister said. According to Nath, despite possessing such premium genetic characteristics, smallholder pineapple growers in Tripura continue to receive farm gate prices ranging between Rs 6 and Rs 10 per kg, whereas pro-



cessed or export-grade Queen Pineapple fetches between Rs 80 and Rs 150 per kg in domestic as well as international markets. The Minister, who also holds the Power portfolio, said that pineapples grown in Tripura are widely acknowledged as among the best in the country. Describing the unique features of the fruit, Nath said that the Queen Pineapple is a spiny, golden-yellow variety

known for its sweet taste, pleasant aroma, juicy flesh, and rich nutritional value. It contains vitamins A, B, and C, as well as minerals such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, and iron. The fruit has Total Soluble Solids (TSS), or sweetness, ranging from 13 to 17.2 degrees Brix and acidity levels between 0.6 and 0.8 per cent, giving it a balanced sweet-tart flavour. "The journey

of exporting Tripura's Queen variety began on June 3, 2018, with shipments to Dubai, followed by exports to Qatar, Oman, and Bangladesh. Canned pineapple from the state was also exported to Germany and Russia," Nath said. Elaborating on the project, the Minister informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR), titled "Pineapple Cultivation and Value Chain Development", envisages a three-year implementation roadmap from FY 2026 to FY 2028. The project seeks to systematically address every structural gap preventing Tripura's Queen Pineapple from realising its premium market potential. He said that out of the total project cost of Rs 236 crore, the Tripura government would contribute Rs 20 crore, while the Ministry of DoNER would pro-

vide Rs 145 crore. The Ministry of Agriculture would contribute Rs 30 crore, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries Rs 25 crore, and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Rs 4 crore. In addition, the Ministries of Industry and Commerce and MSME, along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), would contribute Rs 2 crore each towards the project. Nath said that the DPR has been broadly divided into three major components, Cultivation Management, Post-Harvest Management and Processing, and Branding and Marketing. He further said that a multi-ministerial coordination model has been proposed for the successful implementation of the ambitious mission.



NFR Renovates Century-Old Steam Locomotive 808 C of DHR

Upgraded Heritage Display Installed at NFR Headquarter

MALIGAON, 27 MAY, 2026

In a significant step towards preservation of India's rich railway heritage, Northeast Frontier Railway has successfully renovated the historic Steam Locomotive No. 808-C Class NG Loco of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) Type (4-6-2) Pacific with an upgraded heritage display installed at the Headquarter campus, Maligaon. The renovated heritage locomotive was inaugurated on 26 th May, 2026 by Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway in the presence of senior railway officials and staff members. The heritage locomotive was built in the year 1914 and manufactured by the North British Locomotive Company Ltd., Glasgow (U.K.). The steam locomotive is a rare symbol of India's railway legacy. The locomotive had already been installed and displayed at Maligaon the Headquarter of Northeast Frontier Railway and has now been given a new life through extensive repair, painting and renovation works. Under the motivation and guidance of the General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway, the restoration work was carried

out by the C&W Workshop, New Bongaigaon. The renovated locomotive has been enhanced with decorative lighting along with real sound and smoke effects, making it an attractive heritage display for railway visitors and enthusiasts. This Steam locomotive No. 808 belongs to the renowned 4-6-2 Pacific Class steam locomotives introduced in 1914 for service under the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. Along with its twin engine No. 807, the locomotive played an important role in hauling freight trains of up to 800 tonnes on the Kishanganj Extension section of DHR. After the Siliguri–Kishanganj line was converted to metre gauge in 1948, the locomotive continued service as a shunting pilot at Siliguri before being decommissioned in the 1960s. The preserved steam engine now stands as a reminder of the steam era and the engineering excellence of Indian Railways. The restoration of Steam Locomotive No. 808 reflects Northeast Frontier Railway's continued commitment towards conservation and promotion of historical railway assets while creating awareness about the legacy of steam locomotives in India.

Facing poll violation charge, Union Minister Ravneet blames Punjab AAP chief for personal attack

CHANDIGARH, MAY 27

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Punjab President Aman Arora on Wednesday slammed Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu, condemning him for violation of election norms during the municipal corporation elections. He called out the BJP minister and leaders for attempting to disrupt the democratic process through 'goondaism'. However, Union Minister Bittu accused state Cabinet minister Arora of resorting to personal attacks against his family and blamed the state police for manhandling him. Cabinet minister Arora said, "The state witnessed through the media how the Aam Aadmi Party government had issued clear directions to ensure that the elections were conducted peacefully and in a democratic manner. However, the BJP once again resorted to intimidation, misuse of power and goondaism during the polling process."

"The BJP has made hooliganism and manipulation a pattern in every election. The BJP earlier looted votes in West Bengal by misusing the system and attempted similar tactics in Punjab during the civic polls." Strongly reacting to the incidents reported from Sangrur and Dhuri, he said, "It is unacceptable for leaders of a party ruling at the national level to come onto the streets and openly indulge in such behaviour. The entire Punjab condemns the actions of Ravneet Bittu and BJP leaders." Arora said, "BJP leaders violated Election Commission rules by remaining present in Dhuri despite the end of campaigning. As per election norms, outsiders are not allowed to stay in the city after campaigning concludes, yet BJP leader Onkar Singh remained there in violation of the rules."

Uttarakhand Tightens Rules For Pilgrimage Animals

DEHRADUN: (MAY 27)

Ear-tagging, microchipping, health check-ups and glanders screening have been made mandatory for horses and mules operating on the Char Dham, Hemkund Sahib and Adi Kailash pilgrimage routes under a new SOP issued by the Uttarakhand government. The directives, issued by Santosh Badoni, Additional Secretary to the Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, come into effect immediately to ensure a safe and organised journey for pilgrims while securing the welfare of the animals. According to an official release, the new guidelines fix strict carrying capacities for the pilgrimage tracks in accordance with the directions of the Uttarakhand High Court and the National Green Tribunal.



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering during the Shri Amruteshwar Mahotsav and Bhajan Sandhya organised in Mohali, Punjab, on late Tuesday evening. (27.05.2026)

Chief Minister attends Shri Amruteshwar Mahotsav

Chandigarh, May 27 : Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that India's rich cultural and spiritual traditions play a vital role in uniting society. Spiritual gatherings strengthen the spirit of brotherhood, service, and positivity in society. The Chief Minister was addressing devotees during the Shri Amruteshwar Mahotsav and Bhajan Sandhya programme late Tuesday evening. The

Chief Minister said that the blessings of saints and spiritual leaders provide the right direction to society and play an important role in connecting the younger generation with Indian culture and values. He added that the state government is continuously promoting religious and cultural events across Haryana. After the Bhajan Sandhya programme, the Chief Minister offered prayers and per-

formed Gau Seva, praying for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the people of the state. During the Bhajan Sandhya organised by Swami Sampurnanand Brahmachari, renowned singer B Praak, along with several other artists, mesmerised devotees with devotional performances. On this occasion, Haryana BJP President, Sh. Mohan Lal Kaushik and several other dignitaries were also present.

Haryana Issues New Rules For Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons

CHANDIGARH, MAY 27

The Haryana Government has issued consolidated standard terms and conditions for non-officials who are appointed as Chairpersons, Deputy/ Vice Chairpersons in Bodies other than PSUs, statutory commissions and constitutional bodies in the state, with an objective to bring uniformity, transparency and administrative clarity in such appointments. The instructions have been issued by the Political and Parliamentary Affairs Department under the Chief Secretary's Office. The consolidated policy brings together various amendments and provisions issued from time to time into a single framework so that all departments and bodies

may uniformly implement the prescribed norms and avoid ambiguity in interpretation. As per the policy, the tenure of office of the incumbent shall initially be one year from the date of assuming charge. However, the Government may curtail or extend the tenure as deemed appropriate from time to time. The policy provides that Chairpersons may be granted an honorarium up to ₹75,000 per month, while Deputy/ Vice Chairpersons may receive an honorarium up to ₹45,000 per month. Members entrusted with regular responsibilities may receive an honorarium of ₹30,000 per month. In addition to the honorarium, several facilities and entitlements have also been prescribed. Chairper-

sons shall be eligible for house rent allowance up to ₹50,000 per month or actual rent, whichever is less, while Deputy/Vice Chairpersons may receive up to ₹45,000 per month or actual rent, whichever is lower. The policy further provides telephone facilities, including an official mobile phone equivalent to the entitlement of Group-A officers of the State Government. Travelling allowance and daily allowance equivalent to Grade-I officers under Haryana Civil Services Rules have also been prescribed. Medical facilities admissible to Group-A officers shall also be extended to Chairpersons and Deputy/Vice Chairpersons. The Government has also made provision for official transport support. A staff

vehicle with driver shall be provided for official duties, while reimbursement provisions for the use of personal vehicles during official journeys have also been prescribed under specified limits. The instructions further provide staffing support, including a Private Secretary or Personal Assistant, Clerk, Peon and Home Peon for Chairpersons and Deputy/Vice Chairpersons, wherever applicable. The Government has clarified that these provisions shall be applicable in all cases where specific rules or regulations do not already exist. It has also categorically stated that no relaxation or deviation from the prescribed provisions shall be entertained under any circumstances.



Indian banks more exposed to West Asia crisis among APAC region: Moody's

NEW DELHI: (MAY 27)

Moody's Ratings on Wednesday said Indian banks are among the more exposed in the Asia-Pacific region, given the economy's high dependence on energy imports from West Asia and the consequent pressure on inflation, interest rates and borrower cash flows. Moody's said higher fuel costs will strain consumers' budgets and raise debt-servicing burdens for households and SMEs, translating into increased, though gradual, credit stress in these loan portfolios. "Indian banks are among the more exposed in the region, given the economy's high dependence on energy imports from the Middle East and the consequent pressure on inflation, interest rates and borrower cash flows," the US-based agency said in a report.

GST ruling on online gaming may hit margins, threaten firms: Experts

NEW DELHI: (MAY 27)

The Supreme Court ruling upholding GST levy on online gaming companies, which have been slapped with over Rs 1 lakh crore worth of showcase notices under GST, will put pressure on their margins, and survival will hinge on aggressive cost-rationalisation and rapid business model adaptation, tax experts said on Wednesday. In its judgement on Wednesday, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Revenue Department and upheld the 28 per cent (now 40 per cent) GST framework, and recognised stake-based online gaming as betting and gambling for GST purposes.

Medicover Treats Rare Adrenal Gland Cancer in 32-Year-Old International Patient

HYDERABAD, 26 MAY, 2026:

Medicover Cancer Institute has successfully treated a rare and aggressive case of adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) in a 32-year-old international patient from Somalia, who now shows no evidence of disease on follow-up imaging — underscoring the institute's capability in complex, multidisciplinary cancer care. The patient initially presented with abdominal pain, vomiting, fever and loss of appetite. Advanced imaging, including a PET-CT scan, revealed a large tumour in the right suprarenal (adrenal) region that involved adjacent organs. After a detailed evaluation, the patient underwent a major en bloc surgical procedure — a radical right adrenalectomy with right nephrectomy and right hepatectomy to remove the tumour along with



the involved kidney and a portion of the liver. Histopathology and immuno histochemistry confirmed adrenocortical carcinoma, a rare malignancy arising from the outer layer (cortex) of the adrenal gland. The patient subsequently received six cycles of the EDP chemotherapy regimen etoposide, doxorubicin and cisplatin under the care of Dr. A. Venugopal, Senior Consultant Medical & Hemato-Oncologist at Medicover Cancer Institute.

The multidisciplinary team involved in the successful management of this complex case also included Dr. A V Ravi Kumar, Senior Consultant Urologist and Andrologist, and Dr. Kishore Reddy, Liver Transplant Surgeon. The patient tolerated chemotherapy well and was discharged in stable condition. A repeat PET-CT scan after completion of treatment showed no evidence of residual tumour, and the patient remains on structured

follow-up."Adrenocortical carcinoma is one of the rarer and more aggressive cancers we encounter, and a case in someone this young is unusual," said Dr. A. Venugopal. "What made the difference here was early, accurate diagnosis, a coordinated surgical and medical oncology effort, and expert pathology review. With cancers like this, long-term follow-up with imaging and hormonal monitoring is essential, because the risk of recurrence is real — which is why we describe the patient as being in complete remission and continue to monitor closely."

About Adrenocortical Carcinoma (ACC)

ACC is a rare and aggressive cancer arising from the adrenal cortex, with an estimated incidence of just 1-2 cases per million people per year. It is more common in women and is usually diagnosed between

the ages of 40 and 50, making this a notably young patient. ACC may present with abdominal pain, hormonal disturbances or weight loss, or may be found incidentally during imaging. Because of its aggressive nature, early diagnosis and multidisciplinary management are critical.

Surgery remains the cornerstone of treatment for localised disease, while advanced cases require systemic chemotherapy. Lifelong follow-up with imaging and hormonal evaluation is essential given the risk of recurrence.

About Medicover Cancer Institute

Medicover Cancer Institute is a leading centre for advanced oncology care, offering state-of-the-art diagnostics, surgical oncology, medical oncology and chemotherapy, precision medicine, and dedicated international patient services under one roof.

HDFC Bank shares drop 2% on report of probe into Rs 45-crore interest payments

The stock dropped nearly 2.6% during the trading session after the report surfaced. As per NSE data cited in the report, HDFC Bank shares were trading at Rs 758.75, down Rs 20.15 or 2.59%, around 1:29 pm.



WHAT THE REPORT SAID

According to the Indian Express report cited by Moneycontrol, the internal investigation focused on interest payments that were allegedly structured as "differential interest" on deposits linked to MSRDC. The report said the bank's vigilance review looked into how the payments were made and whether internal processes were properly followed. However, the bank has denied any wrongdoing or governance lapses. The report did not indicate any regulatory action at this stage.

STOCK UNDER PRESSURE

The sharp fall in HDFC Bank shares reflected investor nervousness around governance-related headlines involving one of India's largest private sector banks. HDFC Bank remains one of the heaviest-weighted stocks in Indian benchmark indices and is closely tracked by both domestic and foreign investors. The banking giant has been under investor focus in recent months amid integration-related challenges following its merger with HDFC Ltd and pressure on margins and deposit growth. The latest report added another layer of uncertainty for the market, even as the bank denied all allegations.

WHY THE DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Governance concerns tend to attract strong investor attention in the banking sector because banks operate on public trust, compliance systems and regulatory oversight. Even reports of internal investigations involving senior management can trigger sharp reactions in stock prices. At the same time, HDFC Bank's categorical denial and assertion of strong oversight mechanisms suggest the bank is pushing back firmly against the allegations. Investors are now expected to watch closely for any further clarification from the bank or regulatory developments linked to the matter.

HDFC BANK DENIES ALLEGATIONS

HDFC Bank, however, strongly rejected the claims linked to the report. According to CNBC-TV18, the bank said it "strongly rejects" any assumptions of wrongdoing and maintained that it has a "robust internal oversight" framework in place. The bank denied allegations of irregularities and defended its internal governance systems amid the market reaction. The statement from the bank came as investors reacted sharply to the report and concerns around internal governance and senior management accountability.

LIC of India introduces two New Plans

The CEO & MD of LIC of India, Shri R. Doraiswamy launched two new plans

MUMBAI, MAY 28:

LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium and LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium. Both are Non-Par, Non-Linked, Individual, Savings Plans. These are Joint Life Plans which offer a combination of savings and protection. From left to right, Shri R. Chander, MD, Shri Dinesh Pant, MD, Shri R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD and Shri Ratnakar Patnaik, MD at the launch of LIC's New Jeevan Sathi plans Common features of both plans:

- Both are Joint Life Plans which cover a married individual along with his/her spouse in a single policy.
- The minimum Basic Sum Assured is Rs. 3,00,000. While there is no upper limit, the maximum
- Basic Sum Assured will be subject to acceptance decision as per Board Approved Underwriting Policy.



- The minimum age at entry is 18 years completed. The maximum age at entry varies depending on the option chosen, as available under the two plans, by the policyholder.
- Flexibility to choose risk cover from two "Death Benefit Options" is available.
- Loan facility is available to take care of liquidity needs.
- The coverage can be enhanced by opting for Optional Riders by payment of additional premium.
- Rebate in premium is available to the existing Policyholders & Nominees/Beneficiaries of deceased Policyholders.

- The benefits payable on Death or Survival are guaranteed and fixed irrespective of actual experience.
- Maturity Benefit: Under an in force policy, on survival of at least one of the lives assured till the end of the policy term, the Basic Sum Assured along with accrued Guaranteed Additions will be payable.
- Death Benefit: Under an in force policy, the Death Benefit Sum Assured will

be payable on first death. Another Death Benefit Sum Assured along with accrued Guaranteed Additions will be payable in case of second death during the policy term.

- The policyholder can opt for payment of Maturity/Death Benefit in instalments. Unique features of LIC's New Jeevan Sathi-Single Premium (Plan 888)
- The premium under this plan is payable only once (Single Premium).
- Guaranteed Additions at the rate of Rs. 70 per Rs. 1000/- Basic Sum Assured are offered every year, throughout the Policy Term.
- Various options for selecting the Policy Term are available. Unique features of LIC's New Jeevan Sathi-Limited Premium (Plan 889)
- The premium under this plan is payable for a limited period. The Premium Pay-

ing Term can be 5, 10 or 15 years for policy terms of 10, 15, 20 & 25 years, as selected by the policyholder.

- Guaranteed Additions at the rate of 7% of Total Tabular Annual Premium for the premium paid are offered every year, throughout the Policy Term.
- Benefit of premium waiver on the first death is available during the Premium Paying Term. Please refer to the Sales Brochures for details of the two products or visit our website www.licindia.in. The Plans can be purchased Offline through Licensed agents, Corporate Agents, Brokers, Insurance Marketing Firms as well as Online directly through our website www.licindia.in. LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium and New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium Plans will be available for purchase from 1st June 2026.

Air India to cut domestic flights by 22% as Iran war pushes fuel costs higher

The cuts will affect Air India's domestic operations for June and July, while decisions for August are yet to be finalised.

Air India will cut its domestic flight operations by 22% during June and July as soaring jet fuel prices linked

to the Iran war continue to hurt airline finances, reported news agency Reuters. The move comes at a time when the aviation industry is struggling with sharply higher fuel costs after tensions in West Asia disrupted global energy markets. According to the report, the cuts will affect Air India's domestic operations for June and July,

while decisions for August are yet to be finalised. The airline confirmed that it has "temporarily rationalised operations on certain domestic routes" between June and August. "These adjustments are driven by the sustained impact of high fuel prices on overall operations. Air India will continue to monitor demand and oper-

ating conditions closely, with a view to restoring frequencies as conditions stabilise," an airline spokesperson said in a statement quoted by reported news agency Reuters.

IRAN WAR HITS AVIATION INDUSTRY

The Iran conflict has sharply increased global aviation fuel prices over the past few

months. Jet fuel is one of the biggest expenses for airlines and typically accounts for nearly a quarter of operating costs. The recent surge in fuel prices has forced airlines globally to raise ticket prices, cut unprofitable routes, and reduce flight frequencies. Indian airlines have been especially vulnerable because of rising crude oil

prices, a weakening rupee and longer flying times caused by geopolitical restrictions. Air India has also been affected by Pakistan's continued closure of its airspace for Indian carriers, forcing airlines to take longer routes on some international sectors.

AIR INDIA ALREADY UNDER FINANCIAL

PRESSURE

The latest operational cuts come shortly after Air India reported an annual record loss of more than \$2 billion, according to the Reuters report. The airline has been undergoing a massive transformation after being acquired by the Tata Group from the Indian government. The company has

invested heavily in aircraft orders, fleet upgrades, route expansion, and integration of operations. However, the airline's financial pressure has increased because of elevated fuel prices, strong dollar, operational costs, and geopolitical disruptions. Air India is jointly owned by Tata Group and Singapore Airlines.

Jio Introduces a New ₹200 OTT Pass

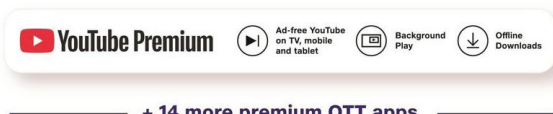
15 premium OTTs, 1,000+ live TV channels, 30 GB data and unlimited 5G in a single 28-day pack

HYDERABAD, 27 MAY 2026

Jio today introduced a new ₹200 Jio OTT Pass, a single 28-day pack that combines access to 15 premium OTT apps, over 1,000 live TV channels on JioTV, 30 GB of high-speed data, and unlimited 5G for the duration of the user's base plan validity. The new pass goes live across online and offline channels from today, 27 May 2026, and is available to all Jio users with an active base plan.

Positioned as a stand-alone entertainment proposition, the new ₹200 Jio OTT Pass brings together video streaming, live television, and high-speed connectivity into one accessible, fixed-price pack, offering consumers benefits worth approximately ₹1,500 a month for just ₹200.

The pass includes subscriptions to 15 premium OTT platforms in a single pack. Users will get access to YouTube Premium with ad-free viewing across TV, tablet, and mobile devices, along with background play and offline downloads. The pack also includes JioHotstar Mobile + Hollywood for live sports,



+ 14 more premium OTT apps



Hotstar Originals, and blockbuster Hollywood content, as well as Prime Video Mobile Edition for Amazon Prime Video access on mobile devices. In addition, users can access 12 more OTT platforms through JioTV, including SonyLiv, ZEE5, Lionsgate Play, Discovery+, Sun NXT, Fan-

Code, Kancha Lanna, Planet Marathi, Chaupal, Hoichoi, TimesPlay, and Tarang Plus.

Subscribers will also get access to more than 1,000 live TV channels on JioTV, including over 150 paid channels from leading broadcasters. This includes channels from JioStar such as Star Plus HD

and Colors HD; Sony Entertainment channels including SET HD and Sony SAB HD; Sun TV Network channels such as Sun TV HD and KTV HD; Warner Bros. Discovery channels including Discovery Channel and Animal Planet; and ETV regional entertainment and movie channels, among others. On the connectivity front, the ₹200 Jio OTT Pass offers 30 GB of high-speed 4G/5G data along with unlimited 5G access, co-terminus with the user's active base plan and capped at 28 days. Priced at ₹200 with a validity of 28 days, the new pass combines premium OTT subscriptions, Jio apps, extensive live TV access through JioTV, high-speed data benefits, and unlimited 5G connectivity in a single offering. Overall, the pack delivers benefits estimated at approximately ₹1,500 per month. The new ₹200 Jio OTT Pass is available from 27 May 2026 across all Jio channels, including MyJio, Jio.com, retail points of sale (GT and RR), and third-party recharge apps, across all telecom circles. Customers must have an active base plan to activate the pass.

Sensex slips 142 points, Nifty ends flat as auto and metal stocks support market

Indian stock markets ended Wednesday's session on a mixed note, with benchmark indices closing almost flat after a day of cautious trading. While sectors such as auto, oil & gas, realty and PSU banks offered support, weakness in select heavyweight stocks kept gains in check.



The S&P BSE Sensex fell 141.90 points, or 0.19%, to close at 75,867.80. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty50 slipped just 6.55 points, or 0.03%, to settle at 23,907.15. Despite the muted close in headline indices, broader market sentiment remained steady, helped by gains in midcap stocks and strong buying in select sectors.

AUTO, OIL & GAS LEND SUPPORT

Sector-wise, oil & gas stocks emerged as the biggest winners of the day, followed by gains in auto, realty and PSU banking counters. Investors showed interest in these spaces, helping the market stay in positive territory for most of the session. Among

sectoral indices, Nifty Media jumped 3.05%, making it the top sectoral gainer. Nifty Metal rose 1.67%, while Nifty Auto gained 1.45%. On the other hand, Nifty IT slipped 0.25%, and Nifty FMCG edged lower by 0.17%.

MIDCAPS SHOWING STRENGTH DESPITE FII SELLING

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, the market is currently moving within a narrow range, but midcap stocks are beginning to show renewed strength. "Main indices remain range-bound, while midcaps have entered a new zone supported by recovering domestic inflows that are offsetting FII

selling," Nair said. He added that improving hopes around a possible easing of tensions between the US and Iran are shaping investor expectations for earnings and valuations. "This shift reflects expectations of an earnings and valuation reset as prospects for US-Iran peace improve. Although Q1FY27 may be soft, India's strong macro fundamentals suggest that one weak quarter is unlikely to alter the broader outlook," he said.

LARGE-CAP STOCKS MAY TURN ATTRACTIVE

Nair also noted that large-cap stocks are becoming more attractive at current levels as valuations have cooled. "In the near term,

large caps are becoming attractive as they trade below their long-term premium, and a revival in this segment is likely as FII selling eases based on developments in West Asia," he added.

TOP GAINERS AND LOSERS

Among the day's biggest gainers, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd led the pack with a rise of 2.56%, followed by Eternal (up 2.54%), NTPC (2.14%), Tata Steel (2.04%) and InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, which climbed 1.90%. On the losing side, HDFC Bank dropped 2.63%, making it one of the top drags on the market. Infosys slipped 0.71%, while ITC declined 0.61%.

WHAT INVESTORS ARE WATCHING

For now, investors are keeping an eye on foreign investor activity, global geopolitical developments and early signs of corporate earnings performance. While benchmark indices remain range-bound, strong domestic inflows continue to support broader market sentiment.



FOOTBALL

Sarabia steps down as Elche coach after securing La Liga survival



MADRID: Eder Sarabia announced on Wednesday that he is stepping down as coach of La Liga side Elche and will take a break from football. The decision comes just five days after Elche secured a place in La Liga for next season with a 1-1 draw away to Girona, completing a successful campaign a year after Sarabia guided the club to promotion from the second division. "We have decided not to continue. We may have saddened many people, and they may be disappointed, but we hope they understand the reasons," Sarabia said at a press conference, where he thanked the club for "two incredible years." "We achieved promotion, stayed up, and filled the stadium, that was the dream I had," he added, while also thanking his coaching staff, players, and supporters.

CRICKET

I believe that now is the right time. Denmark great Schmeichel retires at 39



COPENHAGEN: Former Leicester City and Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 39 after failing to recover from a serious shoulder injury. The experienced goalkeeper, who was recently with Celtic F.C., had been sidelined since February and decided to end his career after consulting specialists regarding the injury. "I believe that now is the right time," Schmeichel told Danish broadcaster TV2. The injury originally occurred during Denmark's UEFA Nations League quarter-final defeat to the Portugal football team in March 2025. Despite suffering the problem, Schmeichel continued playing as Denmark had already used all their substitutes.

Starodubtseva stuns 2nd seed Rybakina with an epic comeback

PARIS

Yuliia Starodubtseva served up an almighty shock to overcome No.2 seed Elena Rybakina with an inspired comeback on Court Suzanne-Lenglen in a women's singles match of the French Open on Wednesday. The world No.55 was 0-6 in matches against top-10 opponents until Wednesday, but reached an inspired level of play to dismiss Rybakina 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(10-4).

The 26-year-old Ukrainian pulled off the biggest victory of her career and the biggest upset of this year's tournament with a dramatic three-set win over Rybakina. Starodubtseva, a former college player and tennis coach in the United States, returns to the Roland-Garros third round to meet either No.26 seed Hailey Baptiste or China's Wang Xiyu. "Honestly, it's hard to describe. I'm super happy. Elena is one of the top players and has had an incredible year," said the 26-year-old. "I expected her to come back. You can't be thinking it's ever going to be easy, even at 3-0 up (in the decider). I had a feeling it wasn't going to



be easy. That was so! "It was a very hard third set, a very tough match, but I got it done! I'm very proud I could do this today," she said. Rybakina, who could have left Paris as the world No. 1 on the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz, broke Starodubtseva at her first opportunity to take a 3-0 lead. She earned a second break to go up 5-1 before the Ukrainian fought back. The Kazakh, however, served out the opening set 6-3. Starodubtseva turned the tables in the second set, breaking Rybakina twice to race to a 5-0 lead en route to a 6-1 set win. With the momentum on her side, she broke twice early in the decider to go up 3-0 and move within touching distance of the big win.

NEW CHANDIGARH

Teenage star Vaibhav Sooryavanshi delivered one of the best innings in Indian Premier League (IPL) knockout history before Jofra Archer tore through the top order as Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 47 runs in the Eliminator of IPL 2026 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh. With this win, the Rajasthan Royals advanced to Qualifier 2, where they will meet the Gujarat Titans.

Sooryavanshi scored an incredible 97 off just 28 balls, leading RR to a total of 243 for 8. This score proved much too high for SRH, even though they launched a brave counterattack in their chase. The 15-year-old hit a 16-ball fifty, tying Suresh Raina's record for the fastest half-century in an IPL playoff. He also surpassed Chris Gayle for the most sixes in a T20 tournament. He missed out on Gayle's record for the fastest IPL century by three runs when he top-edged Praful Hinge to deep third while on 97, but he had thoroughly dis-



rupted SRH's bowling strategy. Pat Cummins started with defensive field placements and heavy yorkers, but Sooryavanshi's assault turned the Power-play into total chaos. RR raced to 63 without losing a wicket in four overs and reached 125 for 1 in just eight. Meanwhile, Yashasvi Jaiswal struggled to 29 off 29 balls in what became one of the oddest

supporting roles in T20 cricket. The momentum hardly slowed after Sooryavanshi's dismissal. Dhruv Jurel slammed a 20-ball fifty, dismantling Cummins with scoops, pulls, and straight hits as RR surged to 192 for 3 in 13.5 overs. Riyan Parag contributed 26, while late efforts from Donovan Ferreira and Ravindra Jadeja pushed RR

past 240, despite a disciplined finish from Nitish Kumar Reddy. In pursuit of 244, SRH started in disarray. Archer struck on the second ball of the innings with a brutal short delivery, forcing Abhishek Sharma (0) to glove the ball to the keeper. However, SRH did not give up easily. Ishan Kishan unleashed 33 off 11 while Travis Head joined

the early assault, helping SRH reach 51 for 1 in 2.4 overs in a thrilling exchange.

Archer, however, changed the game entirely. Kishan (33) edged a catch to cover while attempting another aggressive shot, and soon after, Nandre Burger dismissed Ravichandran Smaran (1) with a hard-length delivery. Archer then bowled Head (17) with a 150kph delivery that hit the top of off stump. SRH fell to 57 for 4 in 4.4 overs, with Archer once again making a significant impact at a crucial stage of the tournament.

Heinrich Klaasen (18) briefly raised hopes with an impressive six off legspinner Yash Raj Punja, but RR successfully reviewed his lbw after he missed a reverse sweep. SRH kept attacking with Nitish Kumar Reddy and Impact Player Salil Arora, whose 50-run partnership came off just 19 balls, but RR continued to take wickets. Jadeja dismissed Reddy for 38 off 20 by restricting his movement, while Pat Cummins (1) fell while trying to clear long-on, with Archer making a fine catch at the boundary.

Arora continued his fightback

and added 24 runs with Shivang Kumar, who then added 24 further with Eshan Malinga, but the fall of wickets continued for SRH as RR cruised to victory by 47 runs.

Jofra Archer finished with the surreal figures of 4-0-58-3, expensive on paper, especially after even Shivang Kumar took him on in a 16-run 17th over - but the numbers barely captured his impact on the Eliminator. Archer struck with the second ball of the chase to remove Abhishek Sharma, then returned to dismiss the dangerous Ishan Kishan and blasted through Travis Head with a 150kph thunderbolt. Those three wickets at the top of the order ultimately tilted the match decisively in the Rajasthan Royals' favour. Jadeja, Burger, and Sushant took two wickets each.

Brief scores:

Rajasthan Royals 243/8 in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 97, Dhruv Jurel 50; Praful Hinge 3-54, Shivang Kumar 1-19) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad 196 all out in 19.2 overs (Ishan Kishan 38, Nitish Kumar Reddy 35; Jofra Archer 3-58, Ravindra Jadeja 3-21) by 47 runs.

Gyan Prakash Tripathi Honored for Awakening Mind, Body, and Soul Through Tai Chi



By Samudrala Kiran

NEW DELHI

Lucknow's renowned Tai Chi Grand Master, Gyan Prakash Tripathi, was honored with the prestigious National-Level 'Tai Chi Wellness Award 2026' in the category of Best Wellness Coach at the two-day Spiritual Expo held at the Constitution Club in New Delhi.

The award was presented by The Crazy Tales in recognition of Mr. Tripathi's remarkable contribution to the fields of spiritual wellness, mind-body healing, health awareness, and martial arts through the practice and promotion of Tai Chi.

The grand felicitation took place on the main stage of the expo in the presence of dis-

tinguished spiritual leaders and guests, including Anant Shri Vibhushit Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Dr. Rajeshwar Das Ji Maharaj, spiritual saint, religious guide, and Peethadheeshwar of Shri Sanatan Dharma Shiv Mandir, Shiv Dham.

For the past 45 years, Grand Master Gyan Prakash Tripathi has dedicated his life to guiding people toward physical strength, mental peace, emotional balance, and spiritual awakening. By combining the wisdom of ancient Indian yogic practices with the Chinese martial art of Tai Chi, he has helped thousands experience a holistic path to health and inner harmony.

Tai Chi, often described as "Moving Meditation," is known across the world not only as a gentle yet powerful

martial art but also as a deeply effective wellness practice. It helps improve balance, flexibility, breathing, concentration, and inner energy while reducing stress and promoting peace of mind.

After receiving the honor, Grand Master Tripathi expressed his gratitude to the organizers and said, "This award is not my personal achievement, but a symbol of the growing global faith in our ancient traditions. In today's fast-paced life, Tai Chi is a powerful medium to keep people healthy, energetic, and balanced without side effects. Tai Chi is a union of physical and mental health, and my goal is to take this art to every corner of the country."

The two-day Spiritual Expo witnessed the participation of spiritual gurus, yoga experts, alternative medicine practitioners, wellness coaches, and health leaders from across India. Experts at the event appreciated Mr. Tripathi's service-oriented mission and acknowledged his role in spreading awareness about natural healing, self-discipline, and mindful living through Tai Chi.

His achievement has brought pride and joy to the sports, health, and wellness communities of Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh, further strengthening the importance of traditional practices in modern health and spiritual life.

Winning ODI World Cup will give us a lot of confidence, says Harmanpreet Kaur



CHELMSFORD (UK)

The reigning ICC Women's Cricket World Cup winners, India, have set themselves a new target -- to add another global crown to their kitty by winning their maiden ICC Women's T20 World Cup title in the event, which will be held in England and Wales from June 12.

Having claimed their maiden T20 World Cup title at home last year, India will be making their final preparations for the mega event by locking horns with England in a three-match T20I series to familiarise themselves with the conditions on offer. The Indian players will be taking the field in England on a high following their success over the hosts in the previous

white-ball series.

For skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, however, England is an all-too familiar landscape. It was here that she made her India debut at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2009.

With India riding on a wave of confidence, Harman conceded that a fairytale ending to the upcoming tournament will be a dream come true for her.

"It will be a dream come true for any cricketer who made their debut in England and then winning the World Cup in England, I think I can't ask anything else for myself and from God," she said in the pre-match press conference in Chelmsford on Wednesday.

"And now it's only about just keeping myself in the positive frame and just keep

doing the right things again and again, because consistency is something that always gives you results. And it's only about going there and expressing ourselves and enjoying each and every moment on the field." Kaur is the only member of the Indian squad who has featured in all the Women's T20 World Cup editions to date. Ahead of her 10th outing, however, she has added another feather to her cap, becoming the first Indian captain to lift a Women's Cricket World Cup trophy.

It is from that euphoric win that Kaur and her team are deriving inspiration ahead of what's expected to be one of the most competitive editions of the tournament. "I think winning the World Cup gave

us a lot of confidence, and I think that confidence will carry over to this T20 World Cup. When you win, you know what things you have done really well to win that World Cup. We know how to perform under pressure. So I think those things will give us confidence playing this T20 World Cup," she said.

Slotted in Group 1 alongside Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Netherlands, India's march to the tournament begins with their bilateral series against England on May 28. Following this, the team will size up against the West Indies and England in the warm-up fixtures ahead of the tournament on June 8 and 10, respectively.

East Bengal win maiden title with 2-1 win over Inter Kashi

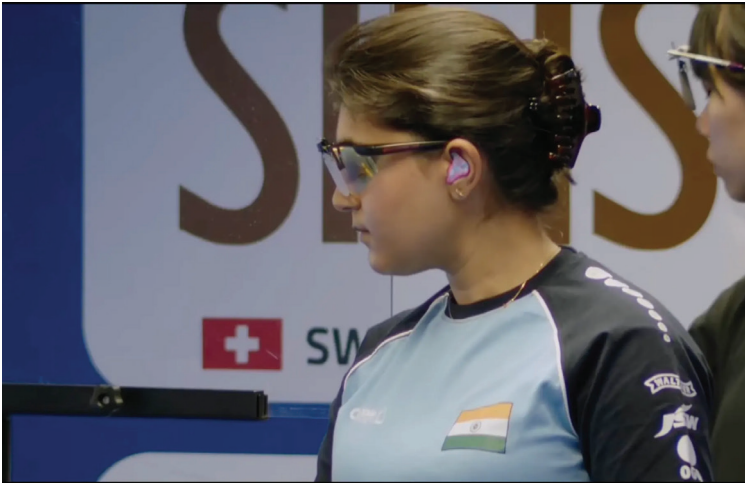
NEW DELHI

Olympian Esha Singh, a three-time world championship and double Asian Games medallist, bossed the women's 25m pistol final with a world record (and junior world record) score of 43, en route to gold at the year's second International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol leg, at the hallowed Olympic Shooting range in Munich on Wednesday.

In a power-packed final, Esha shot perfect fives in half of the 10 series of five shots, leaving home favourite and former world champion Doreen Vennekamp, a full five shots behind in silver. Bulgarian Miroslava Mincheva won bronze in a field where reigning Olympic champion Yang Jilin bowed out in fifth. It was also India's first medal of the Munich World Cup after two days of competition.

Sharing her thoughts after the final, Esha said, "Munich meant a lot to me. Everyone knows the kind of competition that goes on here, especially in pistol. I mean, even getting into the top eight is very tight. I really wanted to win this, as this was my third time here. I am really grateful and loved the experience. I just focused on myself, my process, and the things I did in training, and it just paid off."

Speaking about nerves in a big final, the world record holder said, "I wasn't



calm at all. At one time, when trying to hear the command, I could almost feel my left hand shaking. I had a lot of nerves, but in our sport you can't escape that. You have to face it and embrace it, and that is what experience is all about."

A stellar show

The 21-year-old picked up a fourth individual World Cup medal, and her work began early on Wednesday morning, when she fired a 294 in the rapid-fire round of qualification, to go with her 293 in the precision round on Tuesday, to claim the fourth qualifying spot with a score of 587. Compatriots Manu Bhaker and Rahi

Sarnobat shot scores of 582 and 581 to finish in 12th and 14th positions respectively, in the 98-strong field.

Thereafter, in the final, Esha shot off the blocks, slamming three perfect fives in the first three series, putting a gap between her and the field of eight early. Doreen was her closest challenger on 12, with Vietnamese Trinh Thu Vinh in third with 10 hits.

The Indian missed the first of her fourth series, also the first elimination stage, but was still four clear of Doreen, with Olympic champion Yang coming up to third with a perfect five.

The sixth and eighth were again fives as the world records came in sight

with the medal assured. Esha closed out with a four and a three, bettering the mark of 42 set by Korean Kim Yeji in Baku two years back by one hit. She would also better the junior world record mark of 41 set by Yang Jilin. It was a champagne performance.

Duestand wins women's 3P gold

Ashi Chouksey in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P), missed out on making the finals by the narrowest one-point margin, after she finished 10th effectively (12th overall), with a score of 589 in a field of 70 shooters (including RPO shooters). Swiss Emely Jaeggi took the eighth and final spot on 590, while her countrywoman and reigning Olympic Champion Chiara Leone shot 587, to finish in 18th spot.

Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad won gold from Briton Seonaid McIntosh, while the home country's Anna Janssen picked up bronze. Among the other Indians in contention in the women's 3P, Vidarsa Vinod shot 588 to finish 14th overall, while Tilottama Sen's effort of 583 was good enough for a 48th-place finish.

On Thursday, day three of the competitions in the Munich World Cup, there is just one final on the roster, the women's 10m air rifle. Indian hopes will be shouldered by Olympian Elavenil Valarivan, Arya Borse, and debutant Sakshi Padekar.

Golf: Diksha, Pranavi eye strong showing at Jabra Ladies Open in France

ÉVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE)

Indian golfers will once again look to make their mark on the Ladies European Tour as four of them, led by Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs, will tee up at the Jabra Ladies Open in France this week. Joining them at the picturesque Evian Resort Golf Club will be Avani Prashanth and Hitaashee Bakshi.

Among the Indians, Diksha arrives in encouraging form after showing steady consistency through the 2026 campaign. The left-hander has already collected two top-10 finishes and two additional top-20 results this year while making seven cuts in 10 starts. Her performances have lifted her to 21st on the Ladies European Tour Order of Merit standings. Diksha also looked sharper last week at the Lalla Meryem Cup, where she secured another top-20 finish. With confidence gradually building, the two-time LET winner will hope to convert her recent momentum into a title challenge. Her best result this season remains a tied-fifth finish at the Australian Women's Classic.

“Every Role Opens a New World for Us”

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is receiving a lot of positive response to her work in the recently released streaming film ‘System’, has shared what makes the job of an actor interesting.

The actress spoke with IANS during the promotions of the film along with her co-star Jyotika in the city, and spoke about actors having the luxury to live vicariously through their characters. She said that acting is the only profession which allows a person to enter a different world every time for a new performance.

Sonakshi told IANS, “You never really know from an outsider’s perspective what are the actual go-ons in any other profession for that matter. Like today if I ask a lawyer, they may not know about what goes on the sets of a film or how a film is made. So it’s the same for us, honestly. Like unless you’ve actually physically been inside a court and been a part of a proceeding, you don’t really know. You don’t know the preparation that goes through. You don’t know how many people work on that one particular case in a firm”.

“So it’s like a new world altogether. And I love the fact that we as actors are able to bring that to screen so that so many more people can find out about it. So I think that’s a very interesting part of our job”, she added. ‘System’ is a courtroom drama, and sees Sonakshi as a lawyer, and Jyothika as a stenographer. It marks Sonakshi’s 1st performance as a lawyer. She essays the role of Neha, a determined young lawyer played by Sonakshi Sinha, taking on a tough challenge from her father (played by Ashutosh Gowariker) to be worthy of a partnership in his firm. The film marks her 2nd OTT film after ‘Kakuda’. Produced by Pammi Baweja, Harman Baweja, and Smitha Baliga, ‘System’ is available to stream on Prime Video.



Promise to make you proud!

Actress Bhagyashree Borse, who plays the female lead in actor Sivakarthikeyan’s next Tamil film, ‘Seyon’, which is being produced by actor Kamal Haasan’s Raaj Kamal Films International, has now penned a heart-felt post of gratitude to actor Kamal Haasan, in which she has said that she would make him proud.

Taking to her Instagram page to post a picture of herself with the actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan, the actress wrote, “Dearest @ikamalhaasan sir, The little girl in me who watched you growing up. was jumping with joy the second you placed your hands on my shoulders and wished me luck. Honoured to be associated with RKFI and promise to make you proud. #Seyon.” w For the unaware, ‘Seyon’ is being directed by Sivakumar Murugesan and will feature actor Sivakarthikeyan in the lead along with actress Bhagyashree Borse. The makers had welcomed the actress on board the unit of the film on her birthday on May 6 this year.

The film is being produced by Kamal Haasan’s RaajKamal Films International and Turmeric Media. Taking to its X timeline to greet the actress, Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI) had said, “A birthday to remember and a journey to look forward to! Wishing #BhagyashreeBorse A very Happy Birthday as she joins the #Seyon Family #HappyBirthday-Bhagyashree.”

The film has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs ever since the makers released a glimpse video from the film called “The Celebration” earlier this year. The Celebration video showcases an incident that happens on the second day of the Maasi Kalari festival that is held at the Karumaathur Virumaandi Temple. The incident in question is shown taking place two hours after a major scuffle at the festival.

A group of people gather at the local police station, even as the constable explains the situation to the inspector. He informs that a major fight had broken out at the festival even as the inspector begins inspecting those who have gathered at the station.

He finds a group of young men with half tonsured heads and asks them what happened. The constable explains that the young men with half tonsured heads behaved in an indecent manner by flashing laser lights at dancers at the festival and making reels out of it. “Therefore, somebody bashed them up and tonsured half their heads,” he explains. The inspector then asks another man from another group as to why he was beaten. He says he was asked what play they were to stage at the festival and he had informed them that he was to stage the devotional “Valli Thirumanam (Valli’s wedding to Lord Murugan)” and therefore, he too was bashed up. The reply makes those locked up in prison wonder if the person who bashed up the theatre artiste was an atheist. But then another man clarifies, “He is not an atheist. In fact, he is the one who gets possessed by the divine spirit of Virumaandi.”



August Packed With Promising Films

Hollywood box office is expected to start breathing with the release of the biggie, Peddi, in the first week of June. If the film gets a good talk, the film will likely dominate the entire month. And then, thereafter, more films will line up to revive the theatrical business.

Interestingly, August already looks solid, with multiple films filling the slots. Meanwhile, Ravi Teja’s Irumudi is also likely to join the box office race.

As of now, Nani’s The Paradise is hitting the screens on the 21st of August. And then, we have Sharwanand’s Bhogi gearing up for a massive release on August 28th.

While mid-August and the last week of August look solid, there is no clarity on which will occupy the first two weeks.

Interestingly, Ravi Teja’s potential comeback film, Irumudi, is likely to hit the screens in August. Billed as a tale of father and daughter, laced with devo-



tional elements, there is a positive buzz surrounding the film.

Shiva Nirvana is the director of the film, who is showing great promise with the film. The promotions are likely to begin soon.

On the other hand, there were speculations that Vishwambhara may also arrive in August but it is too early to weigh the situation. An official confirmation over the same is expected to come out soon.

Don 3 Controversy Could Derail Ranveer’s Pan India Growth Plans

Ranveer Singh’s situation after Dhurandhar could become far more complicated if the controversy surrounding Don 3 continues to escalate. In the worst-case scenario, his new film Pralay may have to move its entire production setup outside Mumbai to avoid disruptions linked to the FWICE stand.

While FWICE can issue directives to its members, it cannot legally prevent non-members from participating in a film project. This leaves the makers with the option of shifting the shoot to another state and hiring local technicians and workers from independent unions.

However, such a move would still create unnecessary turbulence around a major pan-India project. For an actor like Ranveer Singh, who is aiming to strengthen his market across multiple regions after Dhurandhar, prolonged controversies and industry-level conflicts are the last thing he needs. ig-budget films depend heavily on smooth production schedules, strong industry relationships, and positive public perception. Any disruption at this stage can affect momentum, investor confidence, and audience anticipation.

That is why legal clarity and pro-

fessional support are extremely important if Ranveer is genuinely not at fault in the Don 3 controversy. Remaining silent or allowing the issue to drag on could damage his post-Dhurandhar growth trajectory. At a time when he is positioning himself for a larger pan-India rise, stability and strategic handling of controversies are absolutely crucial.



Dude Pair Is Back But This Time It’s Different!

Pradeep Ranganathan, who made a successful transition from director to actor with three ₹100 crore grossers, is reportedly set to produce a new female-centric film starring Mamitha Baiju. The duo’s chemistry in ‘Dude’ won huge appreciation, and fans have been eager to see them reunite. However, this project will report-

edly focus on Mamitha in a never-before-seen role. Interestingly, Ashwath Marimuthu, who directed ‘Dragon’, will also act in the film as a police officer. The movie is said to mark the directorial debut of Pradeep’s assistant. Reports suggest shooting has already begun, while an official announcement is still awaited.

