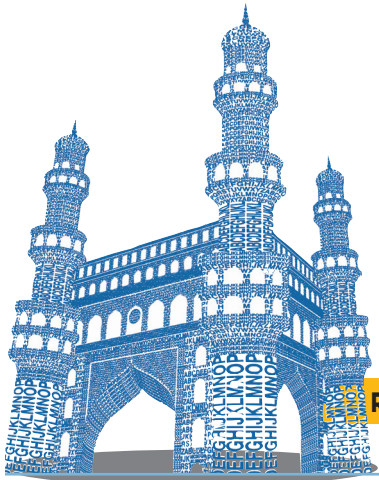




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328

VOL NO. 17

ISSUE NO.: 35

RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD)

PAGES: 12

RS. 1/-

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



ANANYA RECEIVES STATE HONORABLE MENTION

NEXT DOOR

5

ANANYA SLAMS SOCIAL MEDIA



BOX -OFFICE

12

June 3
Swearing-In for
DK Shivakumar



Karnataka Congress president D.K. Shivakumar will take oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3 after Governor Thaaavarchand Gehlot formally invited him to form the government. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at 4:05 p.m. at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru following Shivakumar's unanimous election as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP). Shivakumar staked claim to form the government in the presence of outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and senior Congress leaders after securing the support of 135 Congress MLAs, two associated members and one Raita Sangha legislator.

CONGRESS AT WAR WITH ITS OWN SHADOW

The Indian National Congress has entered one of the most volatile internal phases in its recent political history. Behind the polished slogans of organisational rebuilding lies a fierce and uneasy struggle over power, direction, alliances and survival itself. Delhi's political corridors are vibrating with whispers of strategic divisions inside Rahul Gandhi's wider camp, rising discomfort over centralised control, and growing demands from state leaders for greater autonomy. The Congress today stands trapped between two competing compulsions. One side wants a muscular independent revival in the states even if it strains opposition alliances. The other insists the INDIA bloc remains the only shield against the BJP's formidable electoral machine. At the centre of this storm is a party attempting to rebuild its crumbling grassroots structure while preventing factional sparks from turning into an organisational firestorm.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

There are moments in political history when a party no longer fights only its rivals. It begins fighting accumulated fatigue, buried resentment, shrinking relevance and the silent erosion of its own machinery. That moment appears to have arrived for the Indian National Congress. The

public language coming from the party headquarters is calm, procedural and managerial. "Structural strengthening," "Grassroots empowerment," "Sangathan Srijan." "District accountability."

But beneath this polished vocabulary lies a raw admission that the Congress organisation in many states is no longer functioning with the force, discipline

or emotional energy that once made it the natural centre of Indian politics. The party leadership knows this. That is why the present restructuring exercise is being treated inside Congress circles not as routine maintenance but as political emergency management. The Congress machine is not merely being repaired. It is being reopened piece by piece



Inside The High Voltage Battle To Rescue A Sinking Political Empire Before 2029

"A party cannot rebuild its national authority, if its state level structure survives only on alliance arithmetic"

under harsh fluorescent light while the patient remains fully conscious.

THE REAL PANIC INSIDE CONGRESS IS NOT ABOUT ONE ELECTION. IT IS ABOUT WHETHER THE PARTY CAN STILL FUNCTION AS A NATIONAL ORGANISATION TEN YEARS FROM NOW.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Question Rahul Gandhi on Congress Betrayal of Unemployed Youth: KTR

HYDERABAD, 30 MAY

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) called upon the youth of Telangana to question Rahul Gandhi over what he described as the Congress government's betrayal of unemployed youth and students through its much-publicized "Youth Declaration."

Addressing a meeting of key party functionaries of the Musheerabad constituency today, KTR reminded Chief Minister Revanth Reddy that Rahul Gandhi had visited Musheerabad before the elections and made a series of sweeping promises to unemployed youth and students, only to abandon them after securing their votes.

KTR said Rahul Gandhi had assured Telangana's youth



that the Congress government would provide jobs, announce a job calendar and stand by them if they faced injustice. However, after obtaining votes from educated unemployed youth through these promises, neither Rahul Gandhi nor the Congress government has fulfilled those commitments.

"Rahul told Telangana's youth that he would stand with them if they were wronged. Today, the same youth have been left in the lurch. Congress used unemployed youth and students for electoral gains and has now completely ignored them," KTR said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Revanth orders early start for State Formation Day to beat heat

Hyderabad, May 30: In light of the prevailing extreme heat conditions, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to schedule this year's Telangana State Formation Day celebrations for the morning. On Saturday, the Chief Minister directed that the festivities at the Parade Grounds begin at 8:30 AM on June 2nd. He also recommended that the entire event, including the raising of the national flag and the Formation Day ceremonies, be wrapped up within one and a half hours. Given the high temperatures, Revanth Reddy urged that suitable measures be put in place to ensure the comfort of guests and the public attending the celebrations.

Palamuru irrigation on mission mode from now

CM and Irrigation Minister to embark on two-day tour of irrigation projects on June 4-5.

Intensive ground level review of all projects on the agenda.

Foundation laid for Rs 32 crore Ajilapur Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Uttam slams BRS for leaving Palamuru projects incomplete despite decade in power.

DEVARAKADRA/ MAHABUBNAGAR, MAY 30

Signalling a major push to complete long-pending irrigation projects in the drought-prone Palamuru region, the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, N.Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Congress government has placed the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district at the centre of its irrigation agenda. The Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and he will undertake a comprehensive two-day review of major projects on June 4 and 5.

Announcing the visit, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government was ready to release "whatever funds are required" to fast-



track pending works, clear land acquisition hurdles and complete key projects such as Palamuru-Rangareddy, Nettempadu, Koilsagar and Bheema. He asserted that, unlike the previous regime which left several projects incomplete despite a decade in power, the Congress government was determined to transform Palamuru into a fully irrigated and agriculturally prosperous region during its tenure.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Ajilapur Lift Irrigation Scheme in Devarakadra mandal, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the State Government was committed to completing all pending irrigation projects in the region.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BLAMING SIR FOR POLL DEFEATS HARMS DEMOCRACY: T-BJP CHIEF

Karimnagar, May 30: Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Saturday criticized the Congress for linking electoral defeats to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, calling such allegations politically motivated and detrimental to democracy.

Responding to remarks by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the BJP leader said the SIR is a constitutional process conducted by the Election Commission of India and has received judicial backing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

36 Escape Bus Fire in Nalgonda

Hyderabad, May 30: A private travel bus carrying 36 passengers from Hyderabad to Kakina experienced a miraculous escape when it caught fire in Nalgonda district on Saturday. The incident occurred as the bus approached Peddakaparthi village in the Chityala mandal of Nalgonda district. Quick action from the driver and the cleaner enabled all passengers to evacuate safely before the flames engulfed the vehicle. Local firefighters arrived promptly to extinguish the blaze. Officials believe the fire may have been caused by a short circuit.

Delhi Attack Conspiracy Foiled

Nine men linked to ISI, Dawood Ibrahim arrested over alleged Delhi attack plot

NEW DELHI, MAY 30

The Delhi Police Special Cell has dismantled an alleged terror module linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's network, arresting nine suspects in a major counter-terror operation, officials said on Saturday.

According to police sources and official inputs, the accused were allegedly planning coordinated attacks on critical installations, security personnel, and religious sites in the national capital. A significant cache of arms, including fire-

arms, hand grenades and explosive materials, was recovered during the operation.

Investigators said the module had been "developed over a long period" and appeared to have cross-border linkages involving Pakistan-based handlers as well as elements of the Mumbai-based organised crime network. Some of the arrested individuals are believed to be of Nepali origin, officials added.

A senior police officer said the group was under surveillance for some time before intelligence inputs led to a coordinated crackdown by the Special Cell.

Revanth to lay foundation stone soon for first phase of 1 lakh houses: Ponguleti



HYDERABAD, MAY 30

Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will soon lay the foundation stone for the first phase of the CURE initiative, which includes one lakh sanctioned houses. He emphasised that efforts would be made to complete their construction within a year.

The Minister assured that modern Indiramma houses will be built and provided to the urban poor in their current neighborhoods, so their livelihoods will not be disrupted.

On Saturday, Minister Ponguleti

Srinivas Reddy, along with fellow Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, laid the foundation stone for an integrated sub-registrar office complex in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

During the event, he noted that, unlike the previous BRS government, which located housing projects 30 to 40 kilometers from where people lived, his administration aims to treat each constituency as a distinct area, constructing homes for local residents within their own constituencies. He described this initiative as a gift to the impoverished from their "Big Brother," Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER



EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT, NOT AN EXPENDITURE: ADLURI

Hyderabad, May 30 : Stating that education is not an expenditure but the most valuable investment in future generations, Minister for Tribal Welfare Adluri Laxman Kumar said the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is according the highest priority to the educational advancement of SC, ST, BC, Minority and other socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

Addressing the Academic Success Meet-2026 organised as part of the nationwide celebrations of ‘Janjatiya Garima Utsav – Birsas Lives in New Bharat’ at Babu Jagjivan Ram Bhavan in Hyderabad on Saturday, the Minister said that students studying in government educa-

tional institutions today would emerge tomorrow as key contributors to the nation's economy, the State's development and the economic empowerment of their families.

The Minister observed that the celebrations marking the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Bhagwan Birsa Munda were not merely about academic results, but a tribute to the confidence, perseverance, talent and empowerment of tribal students. He noted that the ideals and spirit of resistance embodied by Birsa Munda continue to inspire generations, alongside the legacy of tribal freedom fighters such as Komaram Bheem and Ramji Gond.

Emphasising that social justice in Telangana is being pursued through edu-

cational empowerment, Adluri Laxman Kumar said the Chief Minister firmly believes that education is the most powerful tool for eradicating poverty and breaking inter-generational deprivation.

The Minister remarked that the government views expenditure on education as a long-term investment capable of creating a skilled, productive and self-reliant society.

Highlighting the achievements of Telangana's Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions, the Minister said the Gurukul system has emerged as a model of educational excellence at the national level.

With more than 82,000 students receiving free, quality residential education,

the institutions have consistently delivered outstanding academic outcomes. The SSC pass percentage reached 98.86 per cent this academic year, with 56 institutions securing a perfect 100 per cent result. Intermediate results stood at an impressive 86.53 per cent, he added.

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Panchayat Raj and Women & Child Welfare Minister Seethakka, MLC Addanki Dayakar, MLAs Naveen Yadav and Vedma Bojju, TGTWREIS Secretary Seethalakshmi, TRICOR Chairman Bellayya Naik, TCR&TI Director Dr. Samujwala, CSIR-IICT Director Dr. Srinivas Reddy and several senior officials participated in the programme.



Palamuru irrigation on mission mode from now

➤FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Minister's upcoming visit, Uttam Kumar Reddy said would cover major irrigation projects including Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Nettekoppa Lift Irrigation Scheme, Koisagar Project, Bheema Lift Irrigation Scheme and Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme. The Chief Minister would review pending works, land acquisition requirements and resettlement issues. Necessary financial allocations would be made to speed up project execution, he added.

The Minister alleged that several irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district remained incomplete during the previous BRS government despite repeated promises. He claimed that adequate priority was not given to projects in the Palamuru region compared to the Kaleshwaram and that several lift irrigation schemes continued to remain pending for nearly a decade.

Rejecting claims that the Palamuru-Rangareddy project was nearly complete before the change of government, Uttam Kumar Reddy said not a single acre had received irrigation benefits under the project when the Congress government assumed office. He maintained that work on the project had gathered momentum after the present government. He said the Chief Minister's tour would provide a major boost to irrigation development and help transform the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district into a fertile agricultural region. The Minister said the Ajilapur Lift Irrigation Scheme,

sanctioned at a cost of Rs 32 crore, would provide irrigation support to about 1,400 acres in Ajilapur, Gaddagudem and Venkatayapalli villages. The scheme will draw water from the Koisagar Balancing Reservoir and utilise nearly 65 MCFT of water for irrigation.

Uttam Kumar Reddy congratulated Devarakadra MLA G. Madhusudan Reddy for his efforts in securing the project and said it would bring substantial benefits.

Earlier, Uttam Kumar Reddy also reviewed paddy procurement operations in the district and held discussions with district collectors, public representatives and officials on measures to ensure smooth procurement of farmers' produce.

Telangana Shatters Records

He said Telangana has recorded a massive achievement in paddy procurement during the current Rabi season, procuring over 62 lakh metric tonnes so far. This is significantly higher than Andhra Pradesh's 23 LMT and Tamil Nadu's 11.48 LMT. Once the procurement is fully completed, Telangana is expected to contribute 75 per cent of the country's total paddy procurement. He dismissed opposition claims of underperformance, describing the ongoing operation as the largest ever paddy procurement exercise in the country. Ministers Jupalli Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari and Civil Supplies Commissioner, Stephen Ravindra, collectors, MLAs and MLCs from the districts were among those who took part in the review

Goa, Sikkim symbolise India's diversity: Governor

HYDERABAD, MAY 30

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that Goa and Sikkim stand as symbols of India's rich diversity. The Statehood Day celebrations of Goa and Sikkim were held at Lok Bhavan on Saturday. Members of the Goa and Sikkim communities residing in Telangana participated in the event.

The Governor, accompanied by his wife Janaki Shukla, attended the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Shukla said that the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative was strengthening national integration and fostering greater understand-



ing among the States. He observed that while Goa is globally known for its natural beauty and distinctive cultural heritage, Sikkim is renowned for its peace, spirituality, and scenic splen-

dour. The two States, he said, reflect the country's cultural diversity and contribute significantly to its national pride.

The Governor extended his greetings to the people of Goa

and Sikkim living in Telangana and called upon citizens to further strengthen the values of national unity, integrity, and social harmony.

Messages from the Governor of Sikkim, Om Prakash Mathur, and the Governor of Goa, P. S. Sreedharan Pillai's successor and present Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, were displayed on a digital screen during the programme. Cultural performances presented on the occasion drew appreciation from the audience. Among those present were Special Chief Secretary to the Governor M. Dana Kishore, Joint Secretary Shashikiran Achari, and other officials.

CYBER CRIME INSPECTOR TRAPPED BY ACB

HYDERABAD, MAY 30

In a major anti-corruption operation, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) trapped and arrested Bathula Mahendar, Inspector of Police attached to the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, on charges of criminal misconduct and accepting bribes. According to ACB officials, the officer allegedly demanded Rs.9 lakhs from a complainant in exchange for not implicating the complainant's family members and friends in a cyber fraud case registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station of the bureau. Investigators stated that the officer had already accepted Rs.5 lakhs as part payment. On Friday, the accused officer allegedly demanded the remaining Rs.4 lakhs and threatened the complainant at his office. Acting on the complaint, the ACB's Central Investigation Unit apprehended him during the operation. Subsequent searches at the officer's residence led to the seizure of Rs.13 lakhs in unaccounted cash, gold ornaments and property-related documents. Authorities are conducting further verification to determine whether the assets are disproportionate to his known sources of income. The arrested officer will be produced before the Special Court for ACB Cases at Nampally for judicial remand. The investigation is continuing, while the identity of the complainant has been withheld for security reasons.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Revanth to lay foundation stone..

➤FROM PAGE 1

Additionally, the Minister mentioned that as part of the state government's reforms, 13 Sub-Registrar offices—covering three corporations—will be established in a corporate-style approach, comparable to the private sector.

To alleviate the financial burden on the government, he explained that the re-

sponsibility for construction is being assigned to reputable firms in the real estate and construction industries. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy also indicated that the Phoenix Group is expected to complete and deliver the 30,000 square feet building within a few months. The integrated complex in Banjara Hills will include Sub-Registrar

offices for S.R. Nagar, Banjara Hills, and Golconda, along with the DIG office and the Registrar of Chits office (Golconda). He added that this project will create improved employment and business opportunities for local residents.

Furthermore, the Minister announced that officials have been instructed to hold prayer services twice

annually for the Muslim community members who have been praying in this area for generations.

Local MLA Danam Nagender presided over the event, while MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLC Addanki Dayakar, MLA Naveen Yadav, Special Secretary for Stamps and Registration Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth, and others participated.

BLAMING SIR FOR POLL DEFEATS HARMS DEMOCRACY: T-BJP CHIEF

➤FROM PAGE 1

He accused the Congress of questioning electoral mechanisms only after losses while remaining silent after victories. Rao stated that voter roll verification has already covered nearly 57 crore voters nationwide, with another 37 crore currently under review. He stressed that all political parties participate in the process through Booth Level Agents and urged parties to cooperate in ensuring accurate voter lists. He also called for vigilance against the inclusion of illegal foreign nationals in electoral rolls.

CONGRESS AT WAR WITH ITS OWN SHADOW

➤FROM PAGE 1

DELHI'S POWER CORRIDORS ARE BUZZING WITH A SILENT STRATEGIC WAR

The whispers now moving through political Delhi are not entirely fictional. They are exaggerated in tone, sharpened for intrigue and wrapped in the familiar perfume of corridor gossip. But beneath the dramatic presentation lies a real internal debate that has become impossible to ignore.

The Congress is divided over its road to 2029. One camp believes the INDIA bloc remains absolutely essential. According to this line of thinking, no opposition formation can individually confront the vast electoral machinery of the BJP. Alliances therefore are not optional. They are strategic necessity.

But another view is steadily gathering strength inside the Congress ecosystem. This group argues that excessive dependence on regional allies is slowly hollowing out Congress in the states. They fear the party is becoming electorally useful nationally while becoming organisationally weaker locally. That contradiction has become increasingly visible in states where regional partners dominate the political space while Congress workers struggle for oxygen.

Inside several state units, there is rising sentiment that the party must begin contesting more aggressively on its own, rebuild district structures independently and reclaim lost political territory even if alliance partners become uncomfortable.

This debate is no longer whispered only in private drawing rooms. It is beginning to shape the internal mood of the organisation itself.

“Congress faces a brutal dilemma. Every alliance helps it survive nationally while weakening its hunger to grow independently in the states.”

RAHUL GANDHI IS NOW STANDING AT A POLITICAL CROSSROADS

For Rahul Gandhi, the challenge

before him is becoming more complex with every passing month. He is no longer merely leading an opposition campaign against the BJP. He is attempting to hold together multiple competing political universes inside his own party.

One section wants disciplined alliance politics. Another wants territorial expansion. One faction demands decentralisation. Another quietly prefers the security of central control.

Younger organisers want fresh blood in the system while entrenched veterans fear loss of influence.

And all this is unfolding while the Congress simultaneously tries to rebuild booth level presence after years of organisational drift. That is not ordinary political management. That is controlled turbulence. The Congress leadership understands one uncomfortable truth very clearly now. TV News Channels optics cannot replace political machinery. Social media messaging cannot substitute for booth committees. And emotional speeches cannot compensate for an absent organisation on polling day.

This realisation is driving the present restructuring campaign with far greater urgency than the public narrative reveals.

THE KC VENUGOPAL QUESTION HAS TRIGGERED QUIET DISCONTENT

The recent turbulence surrounding K. C. Venugopal has added another sensitive layer to the internal atmosphere. For years, Venugopal has been viewed as one of the most influential organisational managers within the Congress structure, operating close to the central leadership and exercising considerable influence over appointments, coordination and strategy.

But the developments in Kerala have exposed visible discomfort within sections aligned to him. His supporters had openly projected him as a serious contender in the leadership calculations surrounding the state. When the final direction moved elsewhere, murmurs of disappointment travelled swiftly through Congress circles.

But in a party already carrying multiple internal anxieties, even restrained frustration acquires political weight. The episode has revived familiar conversations about concentration of authority, proximity to the high command and the narrowing circle through which major organisational decisions flow. That sentiment is now circulating more openly than before.

EVERY CONGRESS REFORM EXERCISE SOONER OR LATER COLLIDES WITH THE SAME WALL. CAN THE PARTY TRULY DECENTRALISE POWER WITHOUT DISTURBING ITS OLD COMMAND STRUCTURE?

PRIYANKA GANDHI'S POLITICAL SHADOW IS GROWING LONGER AGAIN

As uncertainty deepens, the name of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is once again moving through Congress conversations with renewed intensity. Many inside the organisation believe she remains one of the few leaders capable of emotionally reconnecting with exhausted workers and energising the party's grassroots morale.

Her supporters argue that the Congress cannot afford symbolic deployment anymore. They want her assigned a sharper operational role in organisational revival, particularly in politically crucial states where the party structure has weakened dramatically.

Yet the repeated return of this discussion also reveals the deeper psychological dependence embedded within Congress politics. Whenever instability rises, the organisation instinctively gravitates toward the Gandhi family for coherence, reassurance and authority. That pattern continues to define the emotional architecture of the party.

“The Congress organisation today resembles an ageing fortress trying to rebuild its outer walls while fierce arguments rage inside the command room.”

DISTRICT COMMITTEES ARE SUDDENLY BECOMING THE NEW BATTLE ZONE

For years, many District Congress Committees survived as ceremonial structures carrying prestige without operational force. That era may now be ending.

The current organisational exercise is placing extraordinary emphasis on district level activation. Observers are gathering assessments with unusual seriousness. Reports on booth presence, local mobilisation and worker engagement are receiving far greater attention than before.

This shift is politically explosive. Because once district performance becomes measurable, the old culture of symbolic leadership begins losing protection.

The Congress leadership appears to have realised that a national revival cannot emerge from TV studios in Delhi. It must grow from district offices, village committees, municipal wards and relentless local presence.

That recognition is slowly transforming the internal mood of the organisation. Younger workers see opportunity. Established power centres see uncertainty. And uncertainty inside political parties is often the first sign that the old order is beginning to shake.

Senior Congress insiders privately concede that the party's deepest fear is not immediate electoral defeat but long-term organisational evaporation in crucial states. Internal assessments reportedly show that in several regions the Congress still retains emotional recall among voters but lacks sustained booth level machinery capable of converting sentiment into electoral strength. This is why the current restructuring effort is being treated with unusual seriousness by the leadership. A silent generational battle is also underway beneath the surface, with younger organisers demanding greater authority while older camps attempt to retain control over state structures. The coming months may determine which side shapes the

Congress before the 2029 battlefield fully opens.

THE BJP FACTOR IS FORCING CONGRESS INTO ORGANISATIONAL REALISM

There is another reality the Congress can no longer avoid. The BJP did not become electorally dominant through charisma alone. It built a relentless organisational machine stretching from the national capital to the smallest booth.

Regional parties mastered similar discipline within their own territories. Congress, by contrast, spent years relying on historical memory, fragmented state leadership and reactive politics.

That model no longer works in modern India.

The Congress leadership appears to understand this now with growing clarity. Hence the sudden urgency around organisational audits, district empowerment, accountability mechanisms and cadre rebuilding.

This is not cosmetic politics anymore. This is survival politics.

THE MOMENT OF DECISION HAS ARRIVED

The Congress today stands inside a political storm far more serious than ordinary factional gossip or routine reshuffle speculation. This is a battle over identity, structure and future direction.

Should the party remain dependent on alliance arithmetic for national relevance? Or should it risk short-term turbulence to rebuild independent political strength state by state?

Can it empower district structures without igniting rebellion among entrenched power brokers? Can it modernise organisation while still functioning within the emotional gravity of the Gandhi family?

These are no longer abstract political questions. They are now central to the Congress struggle for survival before 2029.

Because history has never been kind to parties that mistake nostalgia for organisation.

The voter may forgive defeat. But politics never forgives decay.

Question Rahul Gandhi....

➤FROM PAGE 1

He alleged that the Congress government has not created any significant new employment opportunities since coming to power and has merely completed recruitment processes initiated during the previous BRS government. KTR urged the youth of Telangana to hold Rahul Gandhi accountable for what he termed a betrayal of their aspirations and future.

Vigilance Needed Against Irregularities in SIR Process

KTR also called upon every BRS worker to remain alert during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana. He cautioned party cadres against possible irregularities in voter registration and verification by both the Congress and BJP.

During the meeting, KTR delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the SIR process and interacted with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) selected by the party.

He instructed BRS-appointed BLAs to ensure that not a single genuine voter is removed from the electoral rolls. At the same time, he warned that there was a possibility of attempts to include duplicate or bogus votes and urged party workers to remain vigilant and prevent such irregularities.

Protect Genuine BRS Supporters' Votes

KTR noted that although the BRS lost the Telangana Assembly elections, the party registered an impressive performance in Hyderabad and continued to enjoy strong support among the city's residents.

He expressed concern that, given BRS's strength in Hyderabad, there could be attempts to remove the votes of BRS supporters, sympathizers and party workers during the revision process. He urged party cadres to carefully monitor voter verification and ensure that every genuine vote is protected.

KTR expressed confidence that whenever elections are held in Hyderabad, the BRS will continue to secure significant victories due to the extensive development undertaken during its ten years in government.

Congress Government Has Failed Hyderabad

Criticizing the Congress government, KTR said that in the two-and-a-half years since assuming office, it has failed to undertake any meaningful development work in Hyderabad.

He pointed out that while the previous BRS government had constructed flyovers, double-bedroom housing projects, roads and major urban infrastructure, the present government was focused on demolition drives under the HYDRA initiative.

“The previous government built Hyderabad. The Congress government is destroying it,” KTR remarked.

Membership Drive to Begin Next Month

KTR announced that the BRS will launch its membership enrollment drive from next month. He stated that the entire membership process will be conducted digitally and that booth-wise training programmes will be organized for party workers.

Along with membership enrollment, party cadres will also be trained to effectively highlight the failures, injustices and anti-people policies of the Congress government and take the party's message to the people.

Several senior party leaders participated in the Musheerabad constituency meeting.



SHORT
TAKES

BRS demands
release of Balka
Suman, alleges
political vendetta

HYDERABAD: BRS MLC and Legislative Council Whip Deshapathi Srinivas on Saturday demanded the immediate withdrawal of cases against former MLA Balka Suman, alleging that the Congress government was targeting opposition leaders through politically motivated actions. In a statement, Srinivas accused the Revanth Reddy government of using police cases to suppress voices questioning its policies. He described the case against Balka Suman as an act of political vendetta and criticized the government's "double standards." The BRS leader argued that remarks made by ruling party leaders in the past were defended as freedom of expression, while opposition leaders were facing legal action for raising public issues. Condemning the 'authoritarian approach', Srinivas urged the government to end vindictive politics and immediately release Balka Suman while withdrawing all cases filed against him.

"We Will Repeal GO 111 Once We Come to Power"

* TRS Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha Hoists TRS Flag Moinabad

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha stated that her party would repeal GO 111 as soon as it comes to power and provide relief to all those affected by the regulation. She made these remarks while participating in a flag-hoisting event organized in Moinabad on Saturday as part of the TRS Flag Festival celebrations. Before the event, Kavitha paid floral tributes to the statue of B. R. Ambedkar and later hoisted the party flag. Addressing the gathering, she expressed disappointment that many of the objectives for which Telangana was formed had not been achieved even after the past 12 years. She said that the TRS had been established to protect the rights and interests of Telangana.

"We Will Repeal GO 111"

Kavitha offered what she described as good news to those affected by GO 111, assuring them that the order would be revoked once her party assumes power. She emphasized that her party would not deceive people like other political parties.

She alleged that both the BRS and Congress had previously promised to repeal GO 111 but failed to do so



after coming to power. According to her, residents of around 120 villages within the GO 111 jurisdiction continue to face hardships. While land in surrounding areas commands prices exceeding ₹100 crore per acre, people within the GO 111 limits are unable to sell their land at comparable rates.

She noted that even families wishing to sell a small portion of their land to meet expenses such as their children's weddings face difficulties because of the restrictions imposed by the order.

Criticizing the current leadership, she said that the person who claimed to understand only the real estate business had instead damaged that sector after assuming power. She added that farmers and real estate professionals form a significant portion of the population in Chevella and Moin-

abad, but the government has done little to support them. She therefore called upon the people of the region to unite in opposition to what she described as harmful policies.

New Party for the
Protection of Rights

Kavitha said many people believed that all problems would be resolved after the formation of Telangana, but that expectation had not been fulfilled. She explained that the new political party had emerged not only to pursue the original aspirations of the Telangana movement but also to safeguard the rights of Telangana's people.

Expressing concern over the condition of women, she said that the lives of many women had not improved significantly after the state's formation. As a woman and as a sister to the peo-

ple, she claimed to understand their needs and promised that her party would work for women's welfare.

She also pledged to create employment opportunities for youth and encourage entrepreneurship. According to her, the party would facilitate loans ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹20 crore for innovative young entrepreneurs without requiring guarantees.

Kavitha further stated that the party had gained strength in the Chevella-Moinabad region due to large-scale support from minority communities. She stressed the need to counter attempts to disturb the area's tradition of communal harmony and Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb.

Visit to Chilkur Balaji Temple

Earlier in the day, Kavitha visited Chilkur Balaji Temple and offered special prayers. She said she had sought blessings for the newly formed party and expressed hope that, with the deity's blessings, the party would continue its struggle on behalf of the people of Telangana.

She added that she prayed for the Congress government to gain the wisdom needed to improve the condition of farmers who are facing serious difficulties across the state.

After the flag-hoisting program, Kavitha laid the foundation stone for a bus shelter being constructed in Sorangal village of Moinabad Mandal under the leadership of local TRS leader Santosh.

Tobacco Use : Dangerous
Public Health Crisis

(On the occasion of "World Anti-Tobacco (No Tobacco) Day" on 31 May)

In 1988, UN - WHO adapted a resolution to observe "World No (Anti-Tobacco) Tobacco Day" annually on 31 May to inform the public about the dangers of tobacco use, expose the unethical tactics of tobacco industry, and promote global action to reduce tobacco use. The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2026 is "Unmasking the Appeal : Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction" which focuses on revealing how industries target youth through flavoured products, deceptive marketing tricks, and additive product designs to create lifelong users. The main tobacco products are cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, snuff powder, gutka, khaini etc.

Tobacco Use - Dangerous Public Health Crisis

World No Tobacco Day serves as a powerful reminder of the public health crisis caused by tobacco and nicotine products, which claim over 8.7 million lives annually. The main aims of the day are to protect present and future generations from tobacco harms, expose unethical tobacco industry practices, highlight WHO's global fight against tobacco use, and encourage individuals to claim their rights to health and a tobacco-free life. The tobacco industries marketing on social media has exposed children to over 3.4 billion views and over 37 million children of age 13 - 15 are already using tobacco globally. There are over 16,000 dangerous flavours added to tobacco and nicotine products.

Effects of Tobacco Use

In India, around 253 million tobacco users, including 8.5 percent youth (13 - 15 years, 4.1 percent of school children are using smokeless tobacco) are trapped in its bad habit, the second largest in the world. In 2021, tobacco use was the 5th highest risk factor for death and disability in India. Around 1 million deaths were attributed to tobacco use. Tobacco is responsible for 18 percent of heart disease deaths, 14.2 percent of stroke deaths, and 60.4 percent of lung cancer deaths. Tobacco smoke contains thousands of chemicals, over 70 are harmful carcinogenic and toxic. The direct health consequences of tobacco use are various types of cancers (lung, larynx, mouth/p, esophagus, throat, bladder, kidney, liver/p, pancreas, colon, cervix, acute myeloid leukaemia), lung and heart diseases, diabetes, TB, eye diseases, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease etc. Smoking during pregnancy can result in low weight, premature delivery, and developmental issues in infants. The nicotine alters brain chemistry, making cessation difficult.



Strict Anti-Tobacco Regulations

WHO emphasises the need for stricter regulations, including banning of flavoured tobacco and nicotine products, eliminating all forms of marketing and online/offline sponsorship, enhancing taxation, implementing smoke-free environments, and improving cessation support. The governments, healthcare providers, educators, and individuals must work together to challenge the tobacco industry's influence on public health policy, support youth-focused education and cessation programs, and empower communities to resist marketing and misinformation. The World Anti-Tobacco Day continues to champion the global fight for a tobacco-free world-one where every person can enjoy the right to health and a longer, healthier life.

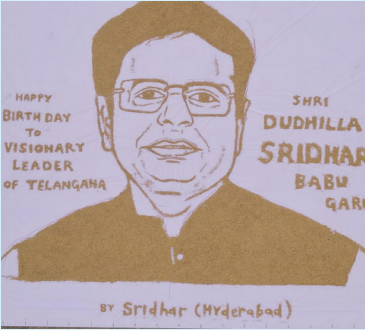
- Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.



Grand birthday celebrations
of IT minister Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

Birthday celebrations of Telanagana information technology, industries and legislative affairs minister Sridhar Babu was made grandly . Sridhar Babu from Hyderabad made a portrait with wheat grains and also food distribution and cake was done at orphanage on occasion of minister Sridhar Babu. Blood donation and food distribution to poor was also done by Siddipet



congress leader gadipally Raghunath reddy. As a part of birthday celebration special Pooja, Annadhanam has been done by Congress leaders at manthani constituency.

Government Gains Rs.202.56 Crore More

Through Simplified
E-Auction of Maize

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has secured an additional ₹202.56 crore in revenue through an innovative and simplified e-auction process for the sale of maize procured during the 2025-26 Kharif season, according to the State Agriculture Minister.

During the season, Telangana Markfed purchased 3,80,187 metric tonnes of maize from 78,916 farmers across the state. The new auction strategy significantly increased the sale value of the stock compared to previous methods.

Traditionally, over the past decade, Markfed has followed a two-stage process for maize sales. Initially, e-auctions were conducted warehouse-wise, and if satisfactory prices were not achieved, a Two-Bid System e-tender process was adopted.

In the e-auction conducted on April 1, 2026, only half of the available stock attracted



bids, with an average price of ₹14,355 per metric tonne. No bidders came forward for the remaining half. Subsequently, an e-tender held on April 24, 2026, yielded an average price of only ₹14,010 per metric tonne.

Following the directions of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, the previous tender was cancelled. The government then redesigned the auction process by grouping nearby warehouses geographically and dividing the entire stock into 25 lots. Auction conditions were sim-

plified to encourage wider participation from bidders across India. As a result, the e-auction conducted on May 29, 2026, witnessed strong nationwide competition and achieved an average price of ₹19,337 per metric tonne, which is ₹5,327 higher per tonne than the price obtained in the previous tender process.

Had the earlier tender been approved, the total stock would have generated only ₹532.64 crore. However, based on the highest (H-1) bids received in the latest auction, the stock is expected to fetch ₹735.20 crore.

This has resulted in an additional gain of ₹202.56 crore for the Telangana Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that the improved price realization was possible because of the government's decision to divide the stock into 25 geographically based lots and increase competition among bidders nationwide. He emphasized that the government's primary objective is to safeguard public funds and maximize revenue for the state through transparent and efficient policies.

Professor K. Nageshwar is a
good man who understands
and practices values

Whether he was an MLC or not, whether he won twice, or what else he has achieved is less important than the fact that he is a writer and journalist who exercises his freedom of expression and press freedom under Article 19(1)(a) with great responsibility.

Despite the many reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2), he remains a distinguished writer who works within those constitutional boundaries.

Many people become friends or drift away because of certain videos. New friends also continue to join along the way.

Writers like Nageshwar are being forced to approach the courts and file writ petitions to protect press freedom. Yet, even if countless writ petitions are filed, the freedom enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution is being undermined through abuse and insults. That is what pains me.

It does not matter which party a person belongs to. Whether they call themselves Jana Sena, understand the meaning of the name Telugu Desam, or are warriors in the army of ideals that stands for the nation—any such person is a great warrior, a mighty hero, an Arjuna wielding a thousand hands and the Gandiva bow.

No matter how much you criticize him, he possesses countless powerful weapons in the form of articles and videos, capable of defeating each wrongdoer with a single arrow. He has done so before, and he will do so again. My congratulations to all our



friends and to you. The elders, too, will bless you.

With the support and encouragement of friends like me, our writer Nageshwar will only grow stronger.

A person who merely uses the media with half-baked intelligence is not a true citizen. What we need is someone with civic strength—a true Indian. Not someone divided by Telangana or Andhra identities, but a patriot devoted to this country. Not everyone who hurls insults is a patriot. Otherwise, they are not worthy of being citizens, whoever they may be.

Everyone is teaching fear. What we need is courage. He has courage in abundance. That is why every word he writes, every word you see and hear in his videos, is a weapon. Every insult directed at him is a symbol of the fear of those who utter it. They are cowards. Those insults should become blessings to you—like a multivitamin tablet that strengthens you.

- Dr. Madabhushi Sridhar

90% of Medical Services Should Be Available Within the District

■ Ensure HPV Vaccination
for All Girls Aged 14-15

■ Prepare Kankol and
Singitam PHCs and Sangareddy Nursing College
for Inauguration

SANGAREDDY

State Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha directed officials to ensure that 90% of healthcare services are provided within government hospitals in the district itself. He emphasized that, except in emergency situations, patients should not have to be referred to hospitals outside the district, and medical services should be further strengthened to achieve this goal.

On Saturday, the minister, along with District Collector Prateek Jain, held a review meeting with health department officials at the Collectorate mini conference hall. They reviewed various aspects of



healthcare delivery in government hospitals, including outpatient (OP) and inpatient (IP) services, maternity care, specialized medical services, major surgeries, available infrastructure, additional facility requirements, and the progress of Digital Health Cards.

Addressing the officials, the minister said that the government is giving special priority to providing quality healthcare services. He stressed the need to continuously

improve the quality of treatment and hospital facilities to strengthen public confidence in government healthcare institutions. He stated that medical staff have a responsibility to make effective use of available healthcare resources and ensure timely, quality treatment for every patient.

The minister also instructed officials to ensure that all girls aged 14 to 15 years in the district receive the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

vaccine. He called for coordinated efforts among the education department, welfare department, women's groups, and health department staff to identify and vaccinate every eligible girl.

Since construction work has been completed, officials were directed to make the Kankol Primary Health Centre, Singitam Primary Health Centre, and Sangareddy Nursing College ready for inauguration.

During the meeting, Government General Hospital (GGH) Superintendent Dr. Anil Kumar informed the minister about the need for an additional CT scanner at the hospital. The minister instructed officials to immediately submit proposals for its approval.

Officials also pointed out that the district currently has only nine Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) teams and requires three additional teams. The minister directed them to submit the necessary proposals for the expansion. He further advised all wings of the health department to work in close coordination to provide better healthcare services to the public. The meeting was attended by Additional Collectors Sangeetha and Pandu, GGH Superintendent Dr. Anil Kumar, district health officials, doctors from area hospitals, program officers, and representatives of various departments.

Komatireddy extends support to meritorious student facing financial hardship

HYDERABAD

A social media video posted by an academically brilliant but financially distressed student triggered a swift response from Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, who stepped in on Saturday to ensure that her higher education plans did not come to a halt.

Bhavitha, a student from Boduppal, had secured an impressive 582 marks out of 600 in the SSC examinations and emerged

as the topper of her school. She also secured State 634 Rank in POLYCET. However, her family's financial crisis left her unable to clear pending school fee dues, resulting in the withholding of her certificates by the school management.

With the deadline for POLYCET certificate verification fast approaching, Bhavitha's future appeared uncertain. In a video uploaded on social media, she appealed for help and explained that despite her academic achieve-

ments, she is unable to access the certificates required for admission. The video reached Komatireddy Venkat Reddy early on Saturday morning. Taking immediate cognisance of the issue, the Minister directed his staff to verify the facts and personally contacted the school principal and instructed the principal to bring the student's certificates to his residence and arranged a meeting with the student.

During the meeting, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy interacted with the student and learnt about

the severe financial difficulties faced by her parents, who had reportedly suffered losses in their business. He also enquired about her academic performance and future plans. Bhavitha informed him that she intended to pursue a Diploma course before taking up engineering.

Impressed by her determination and academic excellence, the Minister immediately paid the outstanding school fee dues of ₹60,000 and facilitated the release of all her certificates. He

further directed his office staff to ensure that she completes the POLYCET certificate verification process without delay.

To support her immediate educational needs, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also provided financial assistance of ₹20,000 and assured her that he would continue to extend support for her higher studies. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that talented students should never be denied educational opportunities because of poverty.

AP Launches ‘Cyber Guard’ to Combat Cyber Crime

AMARAVATI :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to implement a Zero FIR mechanism to effectively curb cyber crimes in the state. He instructed that complaints received through the Cyber War Room should immediately result in the registration of a Zero FIR so that banks can be alerted within the “golden hour” and prevent fraudulent fund transfers from victims’ accounts.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for stronger coordination with banks to combat cyber fraud. He also instructed officials to continuously create awareness among citizens about cyber crimes and expand public outreach programmes. Stressing the importance of prevention, CM Chandrababu said cyber patrolling should function on the lines of police patrolling to stop citizens from falling prey to cyber criminals.

He observed that rather than merely responding after

Implement Zero FIR mechanism to effectively curb cyber crimes:CM.. Six-Pillar Response Teams to Combat Cyber Offences
Cyber Criminals must be arrested immediately.. Banks ust cooperate to prevent Financial losses to citizens:CM



grammes."

He said a state-level Cyber War Room is being established at Prabhala Tech Park in Mangalagiri, for which a building has already been identified. The war room will comprise 11 specialised divisions, including Emergency Response, Cyber Threat Intelligence & Analytics, Cyber Security Operations, Cyber Training & Awareness Research, Legal & Policy Compliance, and District Coordination.

The DGP informed that the

war room would become operational within the next 30 days with advanced facilities. The existing 1930 cyber helpline will also be strengthened, alongside an integrated dashboard linked to the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and the helpline system. The DGP said "We are putting systems in place to contact banks within ten minutes of receiving a complaint and freeze funds in suspect accounts. We are also working with the RBI and leading

banks to implement Mule-Hunter.AI for enhanced cyber fraud detection using technology and artificial intelligence." As part of capacity building, around 500 police officers will receive cyber crime training within a year. A three-tier architecture will be established with cyber units across 28 districts and four regional hubs. Large-scale awareness campaigns will also be conducted, with 3,000 programmes planned annually across multiple platforms and levels. The DGP added that teams from AP CID and APTs had visited the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in New Delhi to study its systems and best practices. Based on those learnings, the state is designing a Cyber Fusion Centre. Agreements will also be signed with banks for 30-minute service-level response timelines (SLAs) and appointment of nodal officers. CCS po-

lice stations will be upgraded into specialised investigation units. The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh must become a cyber crime-free state. Banks, the police department, APTs, and finance-related agencies must work in close coordination. As criminals constantly evolve new methods, police counter-strategies must also continuously adapt." The Chief Minister highlighted the growing threat of "digital arrest" scams, noting that even educated individuals are becoming victims. "People must clearly understand that there is no such thing as a 'digital arrest'. Those making fraudulent digital arrest calls must themselves be arrested. Strong action should be taken against such criminals. Cyber fraudsters are looting the life savings of hardworking citizens in the name of digital arrests, pushing many families into distress."

National Seminar Against Drug Abuse to be Held Today : Dr. Malik

Chandigarh Administrator and Punjab Governor to Attend as Chief Guest
CHANDIGARH, MAY 29

Dr. Mahender Singh Malik, President of Jat Sabha Chandigarh/Panchkula and former Director General of Police (DGP) of Haryana, announced that a national seminar aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse will be organized on May 31 at Jat Bhawan, Chandigarh. He stated that all preparations for the event have been completed.

Dr. Malik said that Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, will attend the seminar as the Chief Guest, while Shri Satya Pal Jain, former Member of Parliament and Additional Solicitor General of India, will preside over the event. He further informed that the seminar will feature distinguished speakers including

former Supreme Court Justice Justice Madan Lokur, former Assam DGP K.C. Reddy, Lieutenant General Sukhdeep Singh Sangwan, Additional Solicitor General of India D.P. Singh, former DGP Dr. K.P. Singh, Dr. H.K. Bali, Joint Secretary to the Government of India Dr. Amarpreet Duggal, Senior Drug Controller Ms. Sarika Malik, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology at Punjab University, Chandigarh, Professor Vinod Kumar, and President of Beach Wrestling India, Shri Rohtash Singh Nandal. Additionally, Shri Anurag Garg, Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, DGP of Chandigarh, and retired IPS officer G.S. Malhi will participate as panelists and help raise awareness among youth about the dangers of drug abuse.

Y. Balaji Kiran Takes Additional Charge as SCR CPRO

VISAKHAPATNAM, MAY 30:

Sri Y.Balaji Kiran, an Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer of the 2013 batch, has been assumed additional charge as the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of South Coast Railway... In addition to this responsibility, Sri Balaji

Kiran is serving as Dy.General Manager - cum - Secretary to GM, South Coast Railway, since November 2025. Having vast experience traffic commercial in Indian Railways, he has held several important assignments, viz Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, Guntakal Division, and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager at Secun-



derabad and Hyderabad Divisions.. Sri Balaji Kiran did his Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) degree in Computer Science Engineering from Sri Kalahasteswara Institute of Technology (SKIT), Srikalahasti. He also earned an MBA from Osmania University and a Master's degree in Political Science and Industrial Relations... A na-

tive of Naidupeta in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Balaji Kiran is known for his commitment to social service and youth development. He is the founder of the NGO "Asaya" in Naidupeta and has actively contributed to community welfare initiatives. Before joining the Civil Services, he worked as a Software Engineer in Singapore. He

also served as Director of Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy, Delhi, where he mentored numerous Civil Services aspirants... With his rich administrative experience, professional expertise, and strong communication skills, Sri Y.Balaji Kiran is expected to further strengthen public outreach and media relations for South Coast Railway.

D.K. Shivakumar elected Congress Legislature Party leader, set to become Karnataka CM

BENGALURU, MAY 30

Congress' Karnataka unit President D.K. Shivakumar was unanimously elected as the new leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) at a meeting held at the Vidhana Soudha on Saturday, paving the way for him to become the next Chief Minister of the state, according to a statement from his office. "The election took place at the Convention Hall of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru in the presence of senior Congress leaders and legislators," it said. Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed the name of Shivakumar as the new CLP leader. The proposal was seconded by senior Congress leader and former Home Minister G. Parameshwara and received unanimous support from the legislators present at the meeting. Announcing the decision, Congress General Secretary, Organisation, K.C. Venugopal, said that Shivakumar had been unanimously elected as the new leader



of the Congress Legislature Party. Earlier, inaugurating the meeting, Congress General Secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, informed the legislators that the process for electing the new CLP leader would begin with a proposal from Siddaramaiah. Siddaramaiah then moved a one-line resolution authorising the party high command to decide on the selection of the new legislature party leader. The resolution was seconded by Parameshwara and was endorsed unanimously by all the

legislators through a show of hands. Following the passage of the resolution, Surjewala announced a brief 10-minute recess. During the break, Siddaramaiah, Venugopal and Surjewala held consultations in the Chief Minister's chamber. After the three leaders returned to the Convention Hall, the process of electing the new CLP leader was formally completed, with Shivakumar's name announced. Following his election, Shivakumar moved a resolution appreciating the services rendered by Siddaramaiah during his

tenure as Chief Minister. He urged the legislators to support the resolution, which was adopted unanimously by the meeting. The unanimous election of Shivakumar marks the culmination of the Congress's leadership transition in Karnataka and sets the stage for the formation of a new government under his leadership. The Congress announced that the swearing-in ceremony of Shivakumar as the next Chief Minister will be held on June 3 at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan. Addressing a joint emergency press conference at the party office, state unit Working President and Rajya Sabha member G.C. Chandrashekar said the party had decided to keep the event simple and avoid inconvenience to the public. He revealed that supporters of Shivakumar had planned to arrange nearly 1,000 buses to bring people to Bengaluru for the ceremony. However, the party decided against large-scale mobilisation, considering that June 3 is a working day.

"Since it is a working day, we do not want people in Bengaluru to face inconvenience. The ceremony should not be pompous. It should be a simple event that reflects the party's commitment to public service. Therefore, we have instructed party workers and supporters not to organise large gatherings," he said.

Chandrashekar appealed to Congress workers and Shivakumar's supporters across the state not to travel to Bengaluru for the event. "We request party workers and Shivakumar's admirers not to come to Bengaluru for the swearing-in ceremony. Please cooperate in ensuring that normal life is not disrupted and that the event becomes a model swearing-in ceremony. The function should be as simple as possible and conducted in a manner that earns the appreciation of the people," he said. He added that after taking the oath, Shivakumar would travel across Karnataka and meet party workers and the public in their respective districts.



Mamata Banerjee blames BJP for attack on Abhishek Banerjee

KOLKATA, MAY 30

Trinamool Congress supremo and former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the new state government ruled by it responsible for the heckling and physical assault of Trinamool Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee, also her nephew, at Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district earlier in the day. The former Chief Minister issued a brief social media post on Saturday evening, claiming that the ruler in West Bengal had now become a killer.

"RULERS BECAME KILLERS – shame on you BJP," Mamata Banerjee observed in her post while sharing another post from Trinamool Congress along with a video of the assault on Abhishek Banerjee at Sonarpur. The Trinamool Congress post, shared by Mamata Banerjee, said Abhishek Banerjee had refused to abandon the grieving family of Sanju Karmakar. Even after a vicious attack by BJP-backed miscreants, the party's national general secretary chose not to turn back and instead stood beside the family. Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge also issued a strongly worded social media statement condemning the attack on Abhishek Banerjee. He said he strongly condemned the shocking attack on MP Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur as he went to meet families affected by post-poll violence in the state. Kharge added that the deliberate lack of adequate police protection for a prominent Opposition leader spoke volumes about the BJP's politics of vendetta and persecution.

Rajagopalan Inspects BLW Facilities

Visits Design Department and Plants a Sapling, Conveying the Message of Green Development

VARANASI, MAY 30 :

R. Rajagopalan, Member (Traction & Rolling Stock), Railway Board, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) and reviewed activities related to locomotive production, quality enhancement, innovation, and infrastructure development. The inspection was attended by BLW General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant and Principal Heads of Departments. During the visit, Shri Rajagopalan inspected the Loco Frame Shop, Loco Assembly Shop, Truck Machine Shop, Loco Test Shop, and Main Gauge Room. He observed various processes related to locomotive manufacturing, assembly, testing of KAVACH-fitted locomotives, and quality control. He also reviewed the production system, workflow, and the adoption of modern technologies in manufacturing.

In the final phase of the inspection, he visited the Design



Department and reviewed the latest technologies, locomotive designs, and future projects being developed at BLW. On this occasion, Shri R. Rajagopalan and General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant planted saplings in the Design Department premises, reaffirming their commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

During the inspection, senior officers briefed the Member on various production activities, quality improvement initiatives, and the progress of developmental projects. Among

those present were Shri Manish Kumar, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer; Shri Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer; Shri Alok Agrawal, Principal Chief Materials Manager; Sri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Financial Advisor ;Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Engineer; Shri Lal Ji Chaudhary, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Sri D. K.Maurya IG Cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Ankur Chandra, Chief Vigilance Officer, Shri M.K. Gupta, Chief Electrical Service Engineer; Shri Anurag Gupta, Chief De-

sign Engineer (Electrical); Shri Kaushalesh Singh, Chief Design Engineer (Electrical Project); Shri Arvind Kumar Jain, Chief Electrical Engineer (Loco); Shri Bhardwaj Chaudhary, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection); Shri Praveen Kumar, Chief Design Engineer (Diesel); Shri Ram Janam Chaubey, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Production & Marketing); Shri Jitendra Agrawal, Chief Safety Officer; Shri Vipul Singh, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Service); Shri Sagar, Deputy General Manager; Shri Sudip Rawat, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Loco); Shri Saket, Deputy Chief Engineer, along with other senior officers. Subsequently, a review meeting was held in the General Manager's conference hall, where a Power-Point presentation highlighting BLW's achievements and future plans was made before Shri Rajagopalan. The presentation highlighted that BLW achieved a remarkable milestone by producing 572 locomotives during

the financial year 2025–26, surpassing the target set by the Railway Board. Progress towards the production targets for the financial year 2026–27 was also presented.

The meeting also focused on the production of Amrit Bharat Push-Pull WAP-7 locomotives, modern safety and driver-friendly features incorporated in locomotives, KAVACH technology, advanced propulsion systems, traction motor testing, and state-of-the-art inspection and testing facilities. Discussions were also held on diesel locomotive manufacturing for export and non-railway customers, infrastructure development projects, and future production plans.

Highlighting BLW's efforts towards green and sustainable development, it was informed that rooftop solar power plants are currently operational and work is in progress for enhancing solar power capacity and installing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).



Assam CM calls on PM Modi

NEW DELHI: (MAY 30)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him on the "headstart" the NDA 3.0 government is making in the state. Sarma took oath as chief

minister of Assam for the second consecutive term on May 12. This is the NDA's third consecutive government in the northeastern state. "Chief Minister of Assam, Shri himantabiswa met Prime Minister @narendramodi," the Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X.



EDITORIAL

The Future of Regional Journalism in the Digital Age

Regional journalism has long served as the heartbeat of India's democratic and cultural life. While national media often focuses on broad political and economic narratives, regional newspapers and local-language channels remain closely connected to the everyday concerns of ordinary people. From village development and agriculture to education, employment, culture, and local governance, regional journalism continues to provide a voice to communities that may otherwise remain unheard. Yet, in today's rapidly evolving digital era, regional media faces one of its most challenging phases.

The rise of social media platforms has dramatically changed how people consume news. Information now spreads instantly through mobile phones, short videos, and online posts. Younger audiences increasingly rely on digital platforms rather than traditional newspapers for updates and opinions. While this technological shift has improved access to information, it has also created intense competition for regional media organizations. Many readers expect news to be free and instantly available, making it difficult for newspapers to sustain traditional revenue models.

At the same time, artificial intelligence and automated content generation are transforming the media landscape. AI tools can quickly summarize reports, generate headlines, translate languages, and even create basic news stories. These technologies offer opportunities for efficiency, especially for smaller media organizations with limited resources. However, they also raise important questions about originality, accuracy, and the human touch that defines meaningful journalism. Regional journalism cannot survive by depending solely on speed or automation. Its real strength lies in trust, local understanding, cultural familiarity, and emotional connection with readers.

Declining print revenues add another layer of difficulty. Rising production costs, changes in advertising patterns, and the migration of businesses toward digital marketing have reduced the financial stability of many regional publications. Smaller newspapers in particular face challenges in maintaining reporting networks and sustaining quality journalism. Yet, despite these pressures, regional journalism continues to hold immense relevance because people still seek credible and relatable information in their own language.

The future of regional journalism will depend not on resisting digital change, but on adapting to it wisely. Newspapers and local media houses must strengthen their digital presence while preserving editorial values. Investing in user-friendly websites, mobile applications, digital subscriptions, podcasts, and video journalism can help regional media reach younger audiences. Social media should not merely be viewed as competition, but also as a powerful platform to expand reach and engagement.

Equally important is the need to uphold credibility. In an age where misinformation spreads rapidly, trusted regional journalism can play a vital role in promoting verified and balanced reporting. Readers may consume quick updates online, but they still value reliability and authenticity. Local journalists who understand the pulse of their communities possess an advantage that large automated systems cannot easily replace.

Language itself remains a powerful asset. India's linguistic diversity is enormous, and regional languages carry emotional depth and cultural identity. Journalism in local languages does more than deliver news — it preserves traditions, reflects social realities, and strengthens community bonds. This cultural connection gives regional media a unique position in the digital future.

The digital age may have transformed the media environment, but it has not diminished the importance of regional journalism. On the contrary, it has created an opportunity for local-language media to evolve, innovate, and reconnect with readers in new ways. By embracing technology without compromising integrity, regional journalism can continue to remain a trusted pillar of public life for generations to come.



LIBERATION OF BONDS
(THE HOMECOMING OF A SOLDIER)

Across seven salted oceans I wandered without shore,
Through iron-hearted cities where sleepless engines roar.
For thirty years my soldier's breath stood guard at borders grim,
While death marched like a shadow through nights grown cold and dim.
I stood within blizzard walls, a solitary flame;
I crossed the deserts forged by fire where even silence came
To kneel beneath the ruthless sun that split the earth apart—
Yet no battlefield proved fiercer than the exile of the heart.
Medals glittered on my chest like fragments torn from dawn,
Yet every triumph whispered of something lost and gone.
For deep beneath the bugle cries and drums of victory,
My mother's village kept calling through the roots inside of me.
"Return..." The wind would murmur softly through memory's ancient door,
"The soil that shaped your footsteps still waits forevermore."
I raised victorious banners beneath foreign skies of steel,
Built towers touching heaven with ambition at the wheel.
Yet fame became a hollow crown upon a weary brow,
For gold can never hold the soil the way one homeland does somehow.
Once I was a farmer's child in emerald paddy lands,
With monsoon songs and oxen ropes tied firmly in my hands.
I climbed for forest leaves at dawn through hills wrapped deep in mist,
While summer's fragrant ippa blooms perfumed the twilight kissed.
The furrows carved by village ploughs became my earliest lore;
The stars called Moola Chukka taught the grammar of the skies once more.
Today the world lies glowing inside a screen-lit cage,
Yet hearts grow strangely homeless within this modern age.
In those forgotten seasons, my only dream would be—
That every home should flourish, that every soul live free.
That no child drown in hunger, no farmer bow in shame,
That every tear of sorrow might recover hope again.
Let caste-built walls collapse at last like ruins in the rain;
Let kindness bloom like jasmine across the human plain.
For villages are not backward—
They are civilizations breathing underneath the dust,
The sacred roots of humanity, the first school of love and trust.
Though I became the first among my blood to serve the State,
The greatest gift I carried was to encourage, not dominate.
For titles fade like autumn leaves beneath the feet of time,
But one kind word can echo longer than a temple chime.
Then one exhausted morning my spirit cried in pain—
"Does your mother-soil still know you... or have you changed in vain?"
So I returned—not crowned in pride nor draped in war-born fame,
But like a lost child trembling while whispering home's old

name.
The saffron dawn spilled gently across the ripened grain,
And my village stood before me with eyes washed soft in rain.
The bells of sacred Dhanurmasa flowed through the waking air,
Like holy rivers cleansing years of exile and despair.
Marigold garlands blazed like suns on every humble door,
While rangoli stars upon the earth made heaven touch the floor.
Women drew living poetry with fingers dipped in grace,
Turning every dusty street into a sacred place.
The jasmine breeze spoke blessings no language could contain,
And childhood's sleeping echoes rose singing once again.
Haridasu hymns transformed the dawn into a shrine of light,
While wandering saints with ash-white brows made darkness bow to right.
Golden mothers glimmered like moonbeams clothed in gold,
And gobbemmas circled spun like galaxies of old.
Bull-race drums awakened storms long buried in my veins;
Kites unfurled like dream-born birds escaping earthly chains.
Each lane, each tree, each fragment of forgotten village sky
Gathered all my scattered years and taught my soul to cry.
Then truth descended suddenly like lightning split in two—
A nation does not perish when enemy armies rise;
It dies when children forget the language in their mother's eyes.
Go chase your dreams beyond the seas;
Build futures vast and bright.
Hold galaxies of wisdom
Within your fearless sight.
But never trade your roots away
For temporary fame,
For trees that sever from their soil
Forget their very name.
Culture is not ancient ash
Sleeping cold and gray—
It is the immortal sunrise
Lighting generations' way.
A village is no relic
Abandoned by the years;
It is the womb of civilization
Watered by ancestral tears.
At last I touched that sacred earth and bowed my aging head,
Offering tears to the motherland by whose silent grace I fed
The soldier, the farmer, the wandering child in me—
Three rivers meeting finally in one eternal sea.
Empires may collapse to dust.
Oceans themselves may part.
Time may steal the footprints
Of glory, pride, and art.
Yet roots remember forever
What wandering souls forget—
No matter how far destiny drives a man away,
Home calls from the depths of eternity...
And the heart remembers the way.



...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...
National Poet
7810032847



OPINION

The Real Crisis Behind India's Cybercrime Epidemic

Digital arrest scams are often described as a new form of online fraud. That description, while accurate, misses the larger story. These scams are not merely criminal innovations; they are warning signs of a deeper crisis unfolding within India's rapidly expanding digital ecosystem. For years, India's digital transformation has been celebrated as a global success story. Digital payments have become commonplace. Government services have moved online. Millions of citizens who once operated largely outside formal digital systems are now deeply connected to them. Convenience, speed, and accessibility have become defining features of daily life. Yet every digital revolution creates new vulnerabilities. The rise of digital arrest scams suggests that India's greatest cyber challenge may no longer be technological access. It may be the erosion of trust on which the entire digital ecosystem depends.

When Fear Becomes a Business Model:

How does a single phone call persuade educated professionals, retired government officials, business owners, and experienced investors to transfer large sums of money?

The answer lies in a fundamental shift in the nature of cybercrime. Traditional cybercriminals focused on breaching systems. Today's fraudsters increasingly focus on manipulating people. In digital arrest scams, callers impersonate police officers, investigators, regulators, or government officials. Victims are informed that their Aadhaar number, mobile connection, or bank account has allegedly been linked to criminal activity. Panic replaces judgment. Fear overrides verification. The success of such scams reveals an uncomfortable reality: criminals have learned that hacking human psychology is often easier than hacking technology.

More importantly, these operations are rarely the work of isolated individuals. Behind many cyber frauds lies a sophisticated ecosystem of data collectors, identity fabricators, social engineers, money movers, and financial intermediaries. Cybercrime is no longer simply a criminal activity; it is becoming a criminal industry.

Like any successful industry, it adapts to its target market. Retired employees and senior citizens are frequently targeted through fear-based narratives because they often retain a high degree of trust in public institutions. Young job seekers are lured through fake recruitment drives, work-from-home opportunities, and overseas employ-

ment offers. Aspiring investors encounter fraudulent trading platforms, cryptocurrency schemes, and promises of unrealistic returns. The methods vary. The objective remains the same: exploit trust, urgency, and aspiration.

The Hidden Market for Personal Data:

A recurring question emerges in many cybercrime cases: how did the fraudsters know so much about their victims?

The answer points toward one of the most underappreciated risks of the digital age—personal data has become a highly valuable economic asset. Every day, citizens share information with mobile applications, e-commerce platforms, financial service providers, recruitment portals, social media networks, and countless online services. Much of this data collection occurs routinely and often legally. Yet the scale of data accumulation raises important questions about transparency, accountability, and security.

When data breaches occur, public attention often lasts only a few news cycles. The deeper issue receives far less scrutiny. Information collected in one context frequently finds its way into entirely different ecosystems. Data brokers, marketing networks, third-party vendors, and poorly secured databases create pathways through which personal information can travel far beyond its original purpose. The result is an environment where fraudsters increasingly approach victims armed with detailed personal knowledge, making deception far more convincing.

Artificial intelligence is accelerating this trend. Voice cloning, synthetic audio, deepfake videos, and automated impersonation technologies are rapidly reducing the cost and complexity of fraud. The challenge is no longer limited to protecting information. Increasingly, it is about verifying authenticity itself. In the years ahead, one of the most difficult questions citizens may face is remarkably simple: can what we see and hear still be trusted?

When Criminals Move Faster Than Institutions:

Public awareness campaigns often focus on what citizens should do differently. While awareness is essential, it cannot be the entire answer. A more difficult question deserves attention: are institutions moving fast enough to match the speed of modern cybercrime?

Reports from across India suggest that

digital arrest scams are no longer isolated incidents but part of a rapidly expanding pattern. In several widely reported cases, victims have lost tens of lakhs of rupees despite being financially literate and professionally accomplished. These incidents challenge the comforting assumption that cyber fraud affects only the uninformed or the careless.

Consider the typical fraud case. A victim transfers funds under pressure. Within minutes, the money is fragmented across multiple accounts, payment channels, and jurisdictions. By the time formal complaints are filed, recovery becomes significantly more difficult. Cybersecurity experts often refer to the importance of the "golden hour"—the critical period immediately after a fraudulent transaction occurs. Rapid intervention during this window can dramatically improve the chances of freezing funds and limiting losses.

Yet many victims encounter fragmented response systems. Banks direct them to law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement agencies seek banking information. Multiple institutions become involved, but valuable time is lost.

The mismatch is striking. Criminals operate in real time. Institutional responses often remain procedural.

Equally concerning is the widespread use of mule accounts. These accounts, sometimes controlled by individuals seeking small commissions and sometimes by people unaware of their role, help move stolen funds through layers of transactions. By the time investigators begin tracing the money trail, it may already have crossed multiple financial and geographic boundaries. This raises a broader policy question. In an age of advanced analytics and artificial intelligence, should suspicious financial behaviour still be so difficult to identify in real time?

Beyond Awareness:

The Accountability Question

The standard response to rising cybercrime is usually a call for greater vigilance. Citizens are told not to trust unknown callers, not to click suspicious links, and not to share personal information.

Such advice remains important. But it risks placing the entire burden on individuals while ignoring larger structural questions.

Why do fraudulent investment advertisements continue to appear on major digital platforms? Why do fake job postings remain active for extended periods? Why are organizations that collect vast quantities of personal data not subjected to stronger accountabil-

ity when breaches occur?

These questions matter because cybercrime increasingly thrives not merely on technological weaknesses but on accountability gaps. India's digital economy has expanded at extraordinary speed. The success of UPI has transformed how millions of people transact, save, and conduct business. However, the next stage of digital progress cannot be measured solely by transaction volumes or adoption rates. It must also be measured by the ability to protect citizens from exploitation. That requires stronger data protection practices, faster inter-agency coordination, more robust fraud detection systems, greater platform accountability, and a public that understands not only how to use digital technologies but also how to question them.

The Real Threat:

Digital arrest scams are often discussed in terms of financial losses. But money may not be the most significant casualty.

The deeper damage lies in the gradual erosion of trust. When citizens begin to doubt phone calls, messages, video interactions, financial communications, and even institutional authority, the consequences extend far beyond individual fraud cases. Trust is the invisible infrastructure of the digital economy. Once weakened, rebuilding it becomes far more difficult than recovering stolen funds. India's digital transformation has undoubtedly created extraordinary opportunities. But every transformation creates new risks. The defining challenge of the next phase may not be technological innovation itself. It may be safeguarding the trust that makes innovation possible.

India's digital future will be shaped not only by the technologies it adopts, but by the trust it is able to preserve. Once trust itself becomes the primary target of cybercrime, protecting it can no longer be treated as a secondary policy concern. It must become a central objective of digital governance.



KINJARAPU AMARAVATHI
Member, PLUS NGO

World Parents Day- 1 June, 2026

Parents: The First Gurus,
The Silent Architects of the Soul

In every civilization, the story of humanity begins not in institutions, scriptures, or systems, but in the sacred space of a family. Before a child learns language, religion, philosophy, or success, the child first learns love through the mother's embrace and trust through the father's presence. Parents are not merely biological creators; they are the first spiritual architects of human consciousness. Modern life often measures success through wealth, status, and achievements. Yet the deepest foundations of a meaningful life are laid much earlier—within the quiet lessons, values, and invisible sacrifices of parents. They become the first school, the first temple, and the first living scripture that a child encounters.

Ancient Indian wisdom beautifully expresses this truth: Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava—"Let the mother be revered as divine, let the father be revered as divine." This is not merely a cultural statement; it is a profound spiritual insight. Divinity is first experienced in the compassion of a mother and the guidance of a father. A mother does not simply nurture a child's body; she shapes sensitivity, empathy, tenderness, and emotional intelligence. Her silent endurance becomes the child's first lesson in love without conditions. The father, in his own way, becomes the symbol of strength, responsibility, discipline, and vision. Together, they create not only a home but a sacred ecosystem where character blossoms. Parenthood, in its highest form, is a spiritual practice.

A true parent is not one who merely raises successful children, but one who awakens goodness within them. They sow seeds of kindness, gratitude, humility, for-



giveness, and compassion. They teach that life is not about possession but purpose; not about competition but contribution. In today's fast-moving world, families are increasingly surrounded by noise—technology, ambition, speed, and endless distractions. Yet children still seek what they have always sought: presence, listening, affection, and values. Material comforts may decorate life, but only emotional and spiritual nourishment gives it depth. Parents become creators of joy when they consciously bring spirituality into everyday living. Not through sermons, but through lived examples.

A family prayer before meals, a moment of silence together, reading inspiring literature, expressing gratitude at the end of the day, celebrating kindness, encouraging service, or simply spending time in heartfelt conversations—these small practices become transform-

ative spiritual experiments. They create emotional harmony and inner richness. Children do not inherit values through instructions; they absorb them through observation. If parents live with balance, children learn peace. If parents practice compassion, children learn humanity. If parents embody integrity, children learn character. Thus, parenting becomes an act of silent transmission.

The great spiritual traditions of the world repeatedly affirm that the family is the cradle of civilization. A harmonious society cannot emerge from fragmented homes. Peace in the world begins with peace in relationships; peace in relationships begins with respect; and respect begins at home. Parents are therefore not only builders of families—they are builders of the future. Yet spirituality also invites another beautiful understanding: parents themselves must continue evolving. Age should not

become a burden of memories but a celebration of wisdom. They must remain learners, seekers, and creators of joy. A joyful parent transmits hope; a peaceful parent radiates stability. The later years of life are not meant for withdrawal from meaning but for flowering into deeper awareness. Elderhood can become a season of inner fulfillment, reflection, creativity, and guidance.

Every parent carries within them an unwritten scripture of experience. Their journeys, struggles, sacrifices, and victories become invaluable wisdom for future generations. When families listen to their elders, they do not merely hear stories—they inherit consciousness. World Parents Day is therefore more than an occasion of gratitude. It is an invitation to rediscover the sacredness of parenthood. Parents are not shadows standing behind us; they are roots beneath us. They teach us how to walk, but more importantly, they teach us how to live. In an age searching for mental peace, emotional balance, and spiritual fulfillment, perhaps humanity needs to return once again to its oldest wisdom—that a loving family is not merely a social unit; it is a spiritual sanctuary. And parents are its silent lamps, illuminating life with love, values, and grace.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist



Punjab govt to regularise 65,000 employees, bring 2 bills to end contract hiring

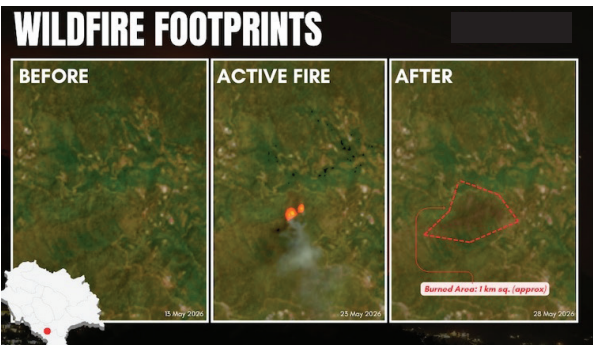
The Punjab Cabinet approved two bills to end contractual and outsourced hiring in government departments. The move is aimed at extending regular-employee benefits to 65,048 workers after repeated exploitation complaints. The Punjab government has approved two bills aimed at ending the practice of hiring employees through contractual and outsourcing systems in government departments. The decision, taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday, is likely to regularise over 65,000 government employees currently working on a contractual basis. Addressing the media after the meeting, Mann said the two bills, the Punjab State Outsourced Personnel Bill, 2026 and the Punjab State Contractual Personnel Bill, 2026, will be introduced in the state Assembly. "The Punjab Cabinet today took a historic decision



that we will end the contractual system in Punjab," Mann said. He added that the move would benefit 65,048 outsourced employees working across 51 departments. Mann said that during public interactions, the government had repeatedly heard complaints from contractual and outsourced employees about exploitation. He added that the new system would ensure they receive all benefits on par with regular government employees. He also said that an ordinance in this regard would be sent to the Punjab Governor for approval, and the bills would subsequently be tabled in the state Assembly.

Satellite images show vast scorched forest areas in Uttarakhand and Himachal

As tourists head to the hills to escape the heat, raging forest fires are engulfing parts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, with satellite data exposing the extent of the damage. But for many who drove up to Kasauli in Himachal or Pauri in Uttarakhand over the weekend, the cool mountain air came with a frightening view: forests on fire, smoke rising from slopes, and long patches of green turning black. Visuals on social media were filled with shocking scenes: hillsides on fire, roads choked with smoke, and forests glowing in the dark. India Today's OSINT team detected multiple forest fires near Almora, Pauri and Nainital in Uttarakhand, and near Shimla and Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh. Uttarakhand recorded 476 forest fire incidents between February 15 and May 29, 2026, affecting 402.38 hectares of forest land. Of this, Garhwal accounted for 357 incidents and 306.88 hectares, Kumaon for 83 incidents and 69.25 hectares, and admin-



istrative/wildlife areas for 36 incidents and 26.25 hectares, according to the Uttarakhand Forest Department. For Himachal, the number sits at 295 forest fire incidents so far this year, including 288 in summer and 7 in winter, according to the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department's FIRE dashboard. Using a custom wildfire visualisation script developed by remote-sensing specialist Pierre Markuse on Sentinel-2 satellite imagery, India Today identified large stretches of forest land that had been charred by fire. A forested area near Almora in Uttara-

khand, spread across nearly 4 km square or roughly 400 hectares, appeared scorched in the Sentinel imagery, its vegetation stripped away and the landscape marked by black burn scars. A similar pattern was seen near Pauri, where large patches of vegetation appeared to have turned black after forest fires swept through the area. Uttarakhand's forest fires are often driven by a dangerous mix of dry pine needles, rising temperatures and human activity, including deliberate burning to clear land or encourage fresh grass growth. Satellite data also showed

multiple active fire zones in forested areas of Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts. According to experts, heatwaves and dry winds are only part of the story. The forests themselves can act like fuel. Large parts of the lower Himalayan belt in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are dominated by Chir pine, or Pinus roxburghii. Unlike oak or deodar forests, Chir pine forests are highly combustible: their dry needles carpet the forest floor, catch fire easily and help flames spread fast. A recent CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology study reportedly found that Chir pine forests account for nearly 57% of forest fire incidents in the western Himalayas. Every summer, Chir pine trees shed large volumes of dry needles, locally known as pirul. Rich in resin, these needles are highly flammable. Once they collect in thick layers on the forest floor, even a small spark, from a cigarette butt, roadside fire or deliberate burning, can quickly spread into a wildfire.



Northeast Frontier Railway Achieves First-Ever Maize

Loading from Tufanganj to Rudrapur City

MALIGAON, 30 MAY, 2026

Northeast Frontier Railway has achieved another milestone in freight transportation with the successful commencement of first-ever maize loading from Tufanganj station under Alipurduar Division in West Bengal to Rudrapur City station in Uttarakhand. On 27 th May, 2026, a total of 1310.4 tonnes of maize were loaded from Tufanganj station for transportation to Rudrapur City station. The movement generated freight revenue amounting to Rs. 30,20,944. During May 2026, Northeast Frontier Railway registered significant maize loading traffic from stations under Alipurduar Division, strengthening freight movement and contributing substantial revenue earnings. On 15 th May 2026, a maize rake was loaded from Tufanganj station to Bathinda in Northern Railway. This was followed by another maize rake from Tufanganj to Khem Karan

on 21 st May 2026. Further, a maize rake was dispatched from Falakata station to Kharagpur on 26 th May 2026. The three rake movements collectively earned freight revenue of around Rs 90.19 lakh. The successful execution of this new freight movement highlights the growing importance of railways in strengthening agricultural supply chains and enhancing inter-state trade connectivity. It also reflects the continuous efforts of Northeast Frontier Railway towards promoting rail as a reliable, cost-effective and eco-friendly mode of transportation for agricultural commodities. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to expanding freight operations and facilitating efficient logistics solutions for farmers, traders and business communities. Such initiatives are expected to further encourage commodity transportation through railways while contributing to regional economic development and sustainable freight mobility.

Green Pedal Rally Spurs Environmental Awareness

GORAKHPUR, MAY 30, 2026

As part of an environmental awareness campaign being conducted from May 15 to June 5 under the guidance of Uday Borwankar, a Green Pedal Rally was organized on May 30, 2026, at the Mechanical Workshop of North Eastern Railway in Gorakhpur on the occasion of "No Vehicle Day." The rally aimed to promote environmental conservation, pollution control, and sustainable lifestyles.



in the event. Under the leadership of Mr. Borwankar, the Railway Mechanical Workshop in Gorakhpur is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2029. To support this goal through public participation, the workshop has been continuously promoting green initiatives, awareness programs, and environmentally friendly practices.

On this occasion, Chief

Workshop Manager Sunil Kumar Sharma and senior officials flagged off the Green Pedal Rally from the workshop premises. Participants cycled along a designated route, carrying banners and posters to spread messages about environmental protection, clean air, pollution reduction, and reducing dependence on motor vehicles.

Addressing the partici-



pants, Mr. Sharma stated that environmental conservation can be achieved through small changes in daily habits. He emphasized that using bicycles or other eco-friendly modes of transport for short distances is an important step toward reducing carbon emissions and creating a cleaner environment. He also encouraged employees to adopt greener alternatives in their

everyday lives.

During the event, participants took a pledge to actively support environmental conservation efforts, maintain cleanliness, and contribute as responsible citizens toward reducing pollution. A street play on environmental protection was also presented by the workshop's cultural team, effectively conveying messages about nature conservation,

cleanliness, and responsible living.

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (Plant) H. R. Khan praised the active participation of employees and motivated everyone to adopt environmentally friendly habits.

This initiative by the Railway Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur highlights the organization's strong commitment to environmental conservation, carbon neutrality, and public awareness. As part of its ongoing green efforts, the workshop has recently planted approximately 2,500 saplings within its premises. In addition, a 500-kilowatt solar power plant is expected to be commissioned soon, promoting the use of clean energy and contributing significantly toward achieving the carbon neutrality target by 2029.

PM Modi to Address 134th 'Mann Ki Baat' today

NEW DELHI, MAY 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the 134th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday, officials said on Saturday. The programme is schedule to be broadcast at 11 a.m. across All India Radio (Akashvani), DD News and official government digital channels. In the previous episode of the programme on April 27, the Prime Minister highlighted the National Archives of India's unique digital database

created through the dedicated Abhilekh Patal Portal, enabling access to more than 20 crore invaluable documents related to India's history. The Abhilekh Patal Portal for Access to Archives and Learning is an initiative of the National Archives of India aimed at making its vast repository of archival records easily accessible to the public with just a click. The platform contains reference material of nearly 100 million files preserved by the institution. Addressing the episode of his last radio programme 'Mann



Ki Baat', the Prime Minister underlined the growing role of technology in connecting people with their past.

"In these rapidly changing times, technology has become a huge part of our lives.

Today, we are witnessing the wonders of technology in connecting our past with the present. A recent development in this direction has delighted those involved in education and history," PM Modi said. "Just a few days ago, the National Archives of India shared a unique database on a dedicated portal. This organisation has digitised and made public more than 20 crore invaluable documents. Some of these are very interesting -- 7th-century Gilgit manuscripts written on Bhoj Patra. Here, you will also find

an interesting 8th-century text, Shri Bhuvalay. This text, based on numbers, is in the form of a grid," he added.

The Prime Minister also talked about Class 12 student Sanjana Philo Chacko from Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram who brought laurels to the country by winning a silver medal at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2026 held in France's Bordeaux.

Sanjana, who has consistently excelled in mathematics, was part of the four-member Indian team selected

after a rigorous multi-stage national selection process. In the same episode, PM Modi also made a pointed reference to Kalari cheese -- a traditional delicacy of Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir. He described cheese as the part of India's cultural heritage and hailed its 'global recognition and triumph' at the International cheese competition held some time ago in Brazil. After the special mention of Kalari cheese, also called as "Mozzarella of Kashmir", the local delicacy found its sales hitting the roof.

Double-Engine Government Committed to Fulfilling Every BJP Sankalp by 2029: Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, MAY 30:

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday reaffirmed the state government's commitment to the welfare and upliftment of the Dhanak community, stating that the double-engine government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is dedicated to protecting the dignity, rights, and future of every section of society. Addressing representatives of the Dhanak community from Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh at a meeting held in Chandigarh, the Chief Minister said the government considers the welfare of the community a top priority. He emphasized that ensuring better opportunities for future generations and safeguarding community rights remain key objectives of the government. Saini announced that the state-level celebration of Sant Kabir Jayanti will be held in Bhiwani on June 29. He said he would also participate in events marking the occasion in Abohar and Ludhiana in Punjab.

He assured community members that all their concerns would be addressed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Chief Minister said the BJP government is determined to fulfill every promise made in its Sankalp Patra by 2029. He informed the gathering that 63 commitments have already been fulfilled, while work on 153 additional promises is progressing rapidly.

Highlighting the contribution of the Dhanak community, Saini said its history is rooted in self-respect, sacrifice, and nation-building. He noted that the community has played an important role in the freedom struggle, social reform movements, and the ongoing journey toward a developed India. He stressed the need to further strengthen the voices of social justice, dignity, and equal rights. Referring to members of the community as followers of Sant Kabir Das's teachings, he said their strength lies in hard work, perseverance, and



determination. According to him, these values form the true heritage of the community and reflect Sant Kabir's belief that labour is the foundation of respect and honour. The Chief Minister criticized previous governments, alleging that for decades certain political parties treated the Dhanak community merely as a vote bank. He said such parties made promises during elections but failed to deliver meaningful benefits. In contrast, he asserted that the present government takes con-

crete decisions aimed at social welfare and national development. Saini said the government recognized the concerns of sections within the Scheduled Castes that had remained deprived of opportunities. As promised during the Assembly elections, the government implemented the classification of Scheduled Castes into Deprived Scheduled Castes (DSC) and Other Scheduled Castes. He described this as a significant step toward ensuring equitable distribution of benefits. He further noted that out of the 20 percent reservation available for Scheduled Castes in government jobs, 10 percent has now been specifically reserved for the Deprived Scheduled Castes category. According to him, this move represents a historic milestone in advancing social justice.

Speaking about the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chief Minister said Babasaheb was not only the architect of the Constitution but also the architect of the aspirations and dreams of millions of deprived citizens. He

credited Dr. Ambedkar with ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and dignity for all through constitutional provisions.

Saini said Dr. Ambedkar's message of "Educate, Agitate and Organise" continues to guide society toward progress. He added that Prime Minister Modi has embraced the same spirit through the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas."

The Chief Minister stated that the Prime Minister has ensured welfare schemes reach the poorest households. As a result, children from economically weaker sections are now becoming doctors, engineers, and civil servants. He said this transformation has been made possible through both policy initiatives and strong political intent. Highlighting employment achievements, Saini said 604 youth from the DSC community have been recruited into the Haryana Police. He also pointed to housing initiatives, noting that while previous governments had announced the allot-

ment of 100-square-yard plots, the present administration ensured beneficiaries received ownership documents as well as possession of the land.

According to him, the government has allotted 100-square-yard plots to 16,500 needy families and linked them with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Houses were constructed and handed over to eligible beneficiaries. Over the past 11 and a half years, around 1.60 lakh houses have been provided to eligible families. Additionally, 3,250 flats were recently allotted to beneficiaries in Sonapat and Gurugram. On healthcare, Saini said no poor person should be denied treatment due to financial constraints. Under the Ayushman Bharat-Chirayu Yojana, more than 29.20 lakh patients have received free treatment worth Rs 4,31 crore. He also highlighted that Haryana became the first state in the country to provide dialysis facilities in every district hospital, benefiting nearly two lakh patients so far.



NIA files charges against 3 CPI-Maoist operatives in Andhra explosives supply case

VISAKHAPATNAM, MAY 29

The NIA filed charges against three CPI-Maoist operatives in a special court in Visakhapatnam in a case related to supply of explosive materials and logistical support to cadres of the banned terrorist organisation in Andhra Pradesh, an official said on Friday. All three accused have been charged under various sections of IPC, Explosive Substances Act, and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the first chargesheet in the case RC-12/2024/NIA/DLI, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said. Two of the chargesheeted accused, Naka Devid Raj alias Daveedu and Vijay Viswas, have been identified as overground workers (OGWs) of CPI (Maoist), it said. They were caught red-handed and arrested by the local police en route to hand over the consignment of explosives to the third accused, Sodi Kesa - an underground CPI (Maoist) cadre, the NIA said.

The NIA investigations revealed that Devid and Vijay were engaged in procurement, transportation and supply of explosive materials to underground Maoist cadres for use in attacks on the security forces. The counter-terrorism agency found that the accused had established links with, and were actively and knowingly providing assistance to, CPI (Maoist) members with the objective of promoting the outfit's nefarious agenda.

Investigations by the NIA, which had taken over the case from the local police in September 2024, revealed that the entire conspiracy was aimed at helping CPI (Maoist) strengthen its operational capabilities in the region to disrupt the country's security and stability. An official of the NIA said in a statement that investigations to identify other linkages of the banned outfit are continuing. Earlier in a separate case, the NIA chargesheeted six more accused, including three absconders, in connection with a Chhattisgarh CRPF camp attack by cadres of the banned CPI (Maoist) terror organisation in 2024. A dozen CRPF personnel were injured in the attack on the Dharmavaram camp by Maoists armed with automatic weapons and indigenously manufactured Barrel Grenade Launchers (BGLs).

Besides the then newly built Dharmavaram camp, the Maoist cadres had also attacked simultaneously two more adjacent CRPF camps at Chintawagu and Pamed in District Bijapur on 16th January 2024. The three arrested accused charge-sheeted were identified as Awalam Bhima, Madkam Nanda and Madkam Deva alias Ratan, while the charge-sheeted absconders include one Special Zonal Committee (SZC) member of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) organisation.

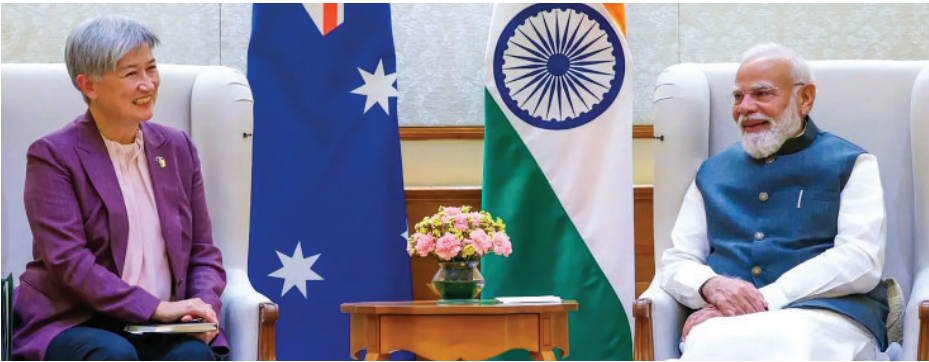
All six were charged under relevant sections of UA (P) Act, IPC, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act, the NIA said in March.

Quad outcome opens new avenues for India-Australia ties

CANBERRA

The outcomes of the Quad meeting in New Delhi have opened new avenues for deepening bilateral cooperation between Australia and India. The joint condemnation of last year's horrific terror attacks at Bondi Beach in Australia and Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir reflected the growing strength of the relationship between the two countries. This groundwork will shape the agenda for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned upcoming visit to Australia, a report has highlighted.

According to a report in Australia-based 'The Interpreter', the Quad appears to be addressing its earlier limitations by seeking to "institutionalise forms of cooperation



that can outlast individual leaders and electoral cycles". China's criticism of the grouping as "cliques" engaged in "exclusionary" geopolitics, it said, underscored the extent to which the grouping unsettled Beijing.

The report noted that many of the initiatives and outcomes emerging from the Quad

meeting align closely with the broader India-Australia partnership.

"The Quad Critical Minerals Framework, which explicitly covers mining, processing and recycling, is perhaps the most consequential development for Canberra and New Delhi. China's suspension of rare earth and semiconductor min-

eral exports during the recent US-China tensions gave the framework fresh urgency," the report detailed.

"Australia and India had already signed critical minerals agreements, identified projects and convened investment forums. Yet the processing stage – where China dominates – has remained undeveloped.

For the first time, the framework formally recognises all three stages of the supply chain and introduces private-sector coordination into the architecture. That makes it less declaratory and potentially more operational," it added.

Emphasising that defence cooperation remains another area where Quad initiatives align with the agenda for India-Australia ties, the report said that the proposed Quad Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Coordination mechanism builds on these bilateral efforts by incorporating real-time operational information sharing into the existing Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness framework.

"It also expands the role of India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region

(IFC-IOR) as the central coordinating node for regional maritime awareness. That falls neatly within the proposed Joint Roadmap for Maritime Security Collaboration announced during the India-Australia Defence Policy Talks earlier this year.

Both Australia's National Defence Strategy and India's Maritime Doctrine emphasise bridging operational gaps across the Indian Ocean region," The Interpreter mentioned. Underscoring the pace of engagement between Australia and India, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said her meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar in New Delhi this week was their 28th in-person meeting since she assumed office four years ago.



EAM Jaishankar calls on Myanmar President, appreciates his positive sentiment towards deepening ties

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Saturday called on U Min Aung Hlaing, President of Myanmar, in New Delhi.

"Pleased to call on President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar in New Delhi today. Appreciate his positive sentiment towards deepening our longstanding bilateral cooperation," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X after the meeting.

"Look forward to his meeting with PM Narendra Modi to advance our partnership for peace, progress and prosperity," he added.

President U Min Aung Hlaing arrived in New Delhi earlier in the day, where he was received by Minister of State (MoS) Kirti Vardhan Singh at the airport.

After receiving the visiting President, MoS Singh stated on X, "Honoured to welcome President H.E. Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar on his arrival in Delhi. His visit underscores the enduring civilisational, cultural and people-to-people ties between India and Myanmar. It also

provides an opportunity to further strengthen our partnership across diverse sectors and advance our shared vision for regional peace, prosperity and connectivity."

Earlier in the day, the Myanmar President began his five-day visit to India from Gaya in Bihar.

"The visit reflects the strong spiritual, historical and people-to-people ties that bind our two countries and the depth of our ongoing cooperation," MEA said upon his arrival in Gaya. During his visit, President U Min Aung Hlaing will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 1 on further strengthening the ties between the two countries.

This is President U Min Aung Hlaing's first visit to India after assuming office. He is also scheduled to participate in a business forum. For his visit, he is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising several cabinet ministers, senior officials and business leaders. On June 2, the visiting President will travel to Mumbai for business and industry interactions and site visits.

South Korea, Japan to resume joint maritime search drills early next month

SINGAPORE

South Korea and Japan will resume their joint maritime search and rescue exercises (SAREX) starting early next month, Seoul's defence chief said Saturday, calling it a "symbolic" move that reflects improving bilateral relations.

South Korea's Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back unveiled the plan in bilateral talks with Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, held on the margins of the Asia Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, Yonhap news agency reported. "The SAREX drills will take place on June 7," he said in the opening remarks. "I believe the resumption of the drills after nine years carries a highly symbolic and declaratory meaning."

The drills will be conducted jointly with Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force in international waters south-east of Jeju Island, South Korea's Navy said in a separate release. The exercise will involve its 4,900-tonne ROKS Cheon Ja Bong landing ship, Japan's 7,250-tonne Aegis-equipped Kongo destroyer and a Japanese maritime patrol helicopter, it added.

Launched in 1999, the biennial SAREX exercise was designed to train procedures for coordinated responses between naval ships from both countries in the event of maritime incidents in waters near the Korean Peninsula. But the drills have been suspended since the 10th round in 2017, as bilateral ties soured following a dispute over a Japanese maritime patrol aircraft making an unusually low-altitude flyby over a South Korean warship in December 2018. Seoul had decied the plane's approach as a "menacing" flight, while Tokyo accused the South Korean vessel of having locked its fire-control radar on the plane.

Increasing visibility of women met with growing resistance in Bangladesh: Report

DHAKA

Women in Bangladesh have faced mounting social, cultural and political resistance against them amid rising visibility, reflecting a troubling backlash fuelled by the active resurgence of extremist sentiments, a report has stated.

Citing Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) data, Bangladeshi media outlet 'New Age' reported that nearly 76 per cent of women across the country experience violence at some stage in their lives.

It added that most incidents remain hidden as abuse is still frequently treated as a "strictly domestic or private matter", reinforcing the culture of silence that normalises violence.

"The proliferation of digital technology has, at the same time, given rise to new forms of violence, including online harassment, blackmail, the dissemination of misinformation and the misuse of personal photographs. Among the issues, attacks launched by online activists affiliated with religious groups are a frequent topic of discussions," the report detailed.



"Consequently, while women's participation and visibility have, indeed, increased, they have been met with a corresponding surge in attempts at control and resistance that has created the reality of a structural 'gender backlash'," it mentioned.

According to the report, the resistance to women's presence in public spaces is equally visible – whether on city streets, on university campuses or at cultural events – where they

continue to face significant challenges.

"They are often subjected to control through social surveillance, moral policing and, at times, outright violence. Furthermore, the fear of going 'viral', perpetuated through social media and a patriarchal mobile journalism landscape, instils deep anxiety in many women. The rise of 'bot armies' has only exacerbated this sense of alarm," it noted.

The report stated that in re-

cent years, several incidents of harassment targeting women in public spaces have triggered widespread debate, reflecting that women continue to face safety concerns even in modern and educated environments. This highlights the absence of a "gender-neutral" environment in public spaces across Bangladesh.

Emphasising the prevalence of online abuse, the report stated that the gender backlash has taken on a more complex di-

mension in the digital sphere, where a significant number of women experience online violence, as reflected in BBS and UNFPA reports.

"There has been a surge in coordinated trolling, doxing or leaking of personal information, image manipulation and character assassination, targeting journalists, politically active women and university students. Research has identified these acts collectively as 'doxing-style harassment'," the report stated.

"In many instances, religious and moral narratives are weaponised to portray women as 'sources of instability' or 'agents of moral decay'. Consequently, online violence has evolved from mere personal attacks into a calculated organisational strategy aimed at stifling women's freedom of expression and their participation in the public sphere," it added.

Highlighting the widespread gender discrimination in Bangladesh, the report said, "To ensure sustainable gender equity in the future, it is imperative to foster an inclusive dialogue encompassing development, culture, religious narratives and political structures."

18 killed, 35 injured as truck carrying Afghan migrants overturns

KABUL

At least 18 people were killed, including 10 children and five women, and dozens more injured after a truck carrying Afghan migrants who had returned from Pakistan overturned early Saturday, local media reported.

The truck overturned on a highway in Afghanistan's eastern province of Laghman, around 5:30 am local time.

According to Habibullah Mubarez, the Taliban's traffic director in Laghman, the incident happened near the Surkhkanu intersection in Qarghayi district of Laghman province,

along the main Kabul-Jalalabad highway, Afghan Media outlet Amu TV reported.

All of the victims were Afghan migrants who had recently returned from Pakistan, said Taliban disaster management officials in neighbouring Nangarhar. According to them, the passengers were temporarily settled in Kunar province and were being transported to Kabul when the vehicle overturned.

"18 people were killed, and 35 others were injured in the crash. The wounded were transferred to medical facilities in Nangarhar for treatment," read a statement released by



the Taliban governor's office in Laghman. The cause of the accident was not clear immediately. The accident took place as Afghanistan continues to receive large numbers of returnees from neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan,

which has intensified efforts to deport undocumented Afghan migrants.

At least 4,000 migrants are deported from Pakistan on a daily basis, according to the Taliban commission for refugees. "International aid agen-

cies have warned that the mass return of migrants is placing additional strain on transportation networks and public services, especially in eastern provinces that serve as key entry points into the country," the report added.

Between April 26 and May 9, around 114,321 people returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said earlier this month. The organisation noted that the returnees include both deportees and voluntary returnees, comprising 14,778 families, many of them women and children.

Succession of next Dalai Lama beyond Chinese control: Report

BRUSSELS

China's concerns over the next Dalai Lama stem from the reality that he will not emerge in Beijing's "shadow" and will be identified through spiritual tradition rather than party decree, thus posing a serious challenge to the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) authority, a report has stated. Beijing has no control in the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama – and that loss of influence unsettles Chinese authorities more than they are willing to acknowledge, Khe-droob Thondup, the nephew of the Dalai Lama, wrote in the "European Times".

"For decades, the Chinese Communist Party has tried to bend Tibetan Buddhism to its will. It has sought to control religious institutions, installed pliant clerics, and declared itself the arbiter of reincarnation. Yet the one succession it cannot control—the next Dalai Lama—has become a source



of profound unease in Beijing. The Party knows that legitimacy in Tibetan Buddhism is not manufactured in Zhongnanhai but recognised in monasteries, diaspora communities, and the hearts of millions of believers worldwide," Thondup detailed.

"The precedent of the Panchen Lama looms large. In 1995, Beijing detained and disappeared from public view the boy recognised by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama and replaced him with its own

candidate. Thirty years later, the state-appointed Panchen Lama remains a figure of ceremonial utility but little spiritual authority beyond official Chinese structures. Tibetans reject him, the global Buddhist community ignores him, and the world remembers the child who vanished. This failure haunts Beijing's plans for the Dalai Lama's succession," he added.

According to the report, reincarnation in Tibetan Buddhism is a spiritual recognition rooted

in centuries of tradition, not a bureaucratic process, with the Dalai Lama having declared that he will not allow the succession process to come under Chinese control.

"That single statement strips Beijing of its leverage. No decree, no regulation, no 'patriotic education' campaign can compel Tibetans to accept a Party-approved Dalai Lama. The institution itself has made clear that legitimacy flows from religious practice, not politi-

cal fiat," it noted. Highlighting that China's concern extends beyond Tibet, the report said that the Dalai Lama is a "global figure" whose teachings span from Dharamsala to New York, from Tokyo to Sao Paulo. It added that his successor will likely be recognised by Buddhist communities globally, beyond the reach of Chinese control. "Beijing fears that the next Dalai Lama will become a rallying point for Tibetans in exile and a symbol of resistance inside Tibet. Worse, the international community may treat him as authentic, leaving China's chosen candidate isolated and irrelevant," the report stated. It further highlighted that the CCP's anxiety is driven by the "strategic costs of failure",

noting that a contested succession would lay bare China's lack of control over Tibetan religion, while weakening its soft power in Buddhist Asia, and drawing criticism from multi-lateral forums.

China's centralised economic model is structural weakness, not strength: Report

NEW DELHI

China's centrally planned economic model is creating structural weaknesses that are increasingly visible in its economy, according to a report.

An analysis by The National Interest argued that while Beijing's tight political and economic control is often viewed as giving China a competitive advantage over market-driven economies, such centralisation is increasingly emerging as a source of economic weakness.

While China's system allows authorities to direct resources across industries and regions, the report said that this comes at the cost of efficiency, flexibility and long-term economic stability.

It further noted that China's industrial policy remains highly centralised, with state authorities influencing both



demand and supply across sectors ranging from manufacturing to services.

While this approach has enabled rapid expansion in key industries, it has also contributed to economic imbalances and misallocation of resources.

One of the most visible stress points is China's property sector, which has been in crisis since 2021.

Years of state-supported expansion through low interest rates, subsidies and coordination with local governments fuelled rapid growth, making real estate a major

contributor to GDP.

However, policy tightening in 2020 under the "three red lines" framework triggered defaults across major developers, including Evergrande, turning the sector into a drag on growth.

In response, Beijing expanded its industrial strategy under initiatives such as "Made in China 2025", directing large-scale investment into sectors including electric vehicles, semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

While this increased production capacity, it also contributed to excess supply, falling prices and rising export dependence.

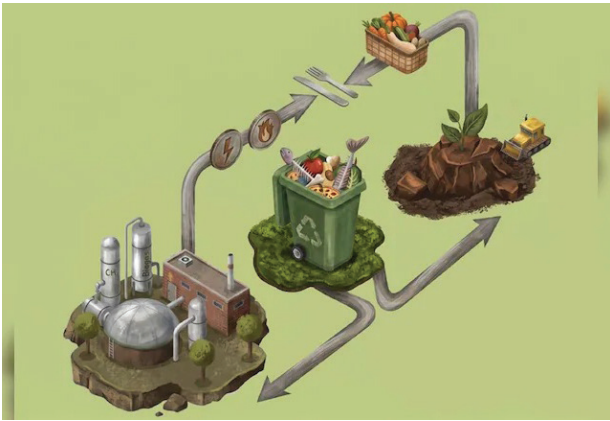
The report pointed to growing external pressures, including declining exports to the United States and increasing trade restrictions from Europe and other regions, further challenging China's growth model.

\$51 Billion Opportunity: This Sector Can Create 26 Lakh Jobs, Improve Cities

NEW DELHI

India's overflowing garbage dumps may soon become one of the country's biggest economic opportunities. A new study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) says India's urban organic waste -- the mountains of kitchen scraps, vegetable waste, flowers, meat leftovers and horticulture waste generated daily -- could unlock a market opportunity worth nearly \$51 billion by 2047. But the report is not just about waste. It is about jobs. Clean air. Energy security. Climate goals. Urban governance. And the future of Indian cities. According to the study, better handling of organic waste could create nearly 26 lakh direct jobs, attract around \$24 billion in investments, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next two decades. The report comes at a time when India's cities are generating waste at a pace faster than many municipalities can handle. And the numbers are staggering. India currently produces nearly 1.71 lakh tonnes of municipal solid waste every day. About half of it is organic waste. Yet only around 61 per cent of total municipal waste is treated

today, says the report. The rest often ends up in overflowing landfills, illegal dump sites, drains, or gets openly burned -- a massive urban problem. CEEW notes that open waste burning contributes nearly 10 per cent of PM2.5 pollution in Indian cities. Unmanaged organic waste also releases methane -- a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide over a shorter time frame. The report estimates that emissions from India's waste sector rose by 226 per cent between 1994 and 2020, making it one of the fastest-growing contributors to national emissions. And things could worsen rapidly. By 2047, India's urban organic waste alone could touch 208 million tonnes annually. But CEEW argues that this crisis can still be turned into an economic engine. The study models three possible futures for India's organic waste sector. Under the "business-as-usual" scenario, India would continue with slow improvements in collection and treatment. Waste-sector emissions could rise to nearly 120 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2047. But under what the report calls the "accelerated policy scenario", India could fully collect urban organic waste



and process 95 per cent of it through composting and biomethanation. That could flip the emissions story entirely. Instead of becoming a pollution burden, the sector could generate net emissions reductions of nearly 68 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2047. The most aggressive scenario paints an even bigger picture. If India reaches 100 per cent collection and processing of urban organic waste - with a larger shift towards biomethanation and bio-CNG production - the market opportunity could rise to nearly \$62 billion by 2047. That pathway could also generate emissions offsets of more than 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. At the centre of this transition

positions waste management as clean-air infrastructure -- not merely a sanitation issue. "Waste management is clean-air infrastructure," said Prarthana Borah, Fellow at CEEW. Borah warned that unmanaged waste creates year-round pollution challenges, not just seasonal spikes during winter smog episodes. The report pushes for hyperlocal waste systems, especially for bulk waste generators such as hotels, restaurants, markets and large housing societies. Another striking finding is the sheer employment potential hidden inside the waste economy. According to the study, a typical 100-tonne-per-day biomethanation plant requires around 31 workers, including technicians, operators, chemists, logistics staff and unskilled labourers. A composting plant of similar scale employs around 28 workers. Under the accelerated policy scenario, direct employment in the sector could jump from around 4 lakh jobs today to 26 lakh jobs by 2047. That could create a massive new green workforce spanning collection, processing, logistics, maintenance, energy generation and fertiliser markets. The report also highlights an important policy shift already underway. In-



SpiceJet slapped with Rs 124.65 crore GST demand, faces registration cancellation

NEW DELHI, MAY 30

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Department has issued a tax demand of Rs 124.65 crore to low-cost carrier SpiceJet for alleged failure to file GST returns for several months, while the airline also faces proceedings for cancellation of its GST registration. According to officials, the department has issued a show-cause notice proposing cancellation of SpiceJet's GST registration over repeated delays and alleged non-compliance in filing statutory returns. The tax demand was raised following a provisional assessment conducted under Section 62 of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act and State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) Act, 2017, after the airline allegedly failed to file returns within prescribed timelines. GST authorities said SpiceJet had consistently committed irregularities in filing returns and repeatedly submitted returns beyond due dates. As per the assessment, the department

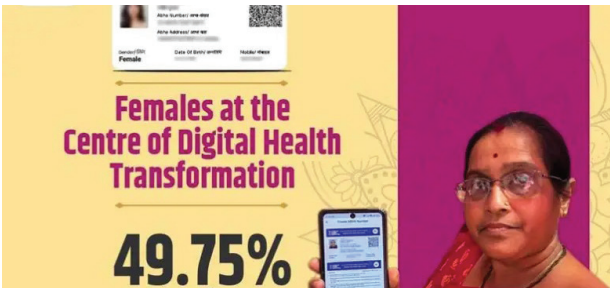
raised a demand of Rs 44.44 crore for November, Rs 43.79 crore for December, Rs 12.19 crore for January, Rs 12.10 crore for February and Rs 12.12 crore for March. Officials said the show-cause notice regarding cancellation of the airline's GST registration was issued on May 25, 2026, but the company has yet to complete pending compliance requirements. "If SpiceJet does not promptly file its pending returns and ensure compliance with its statutory obligations under the GST law, further action will be taken as per the rules," an official said. SpiceJet had reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 621 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2025, compared with a loss of Rs 458 crore in the year-ago quarter. The airline's revenue from operations fell 13 per cent to Rs 792 crore from Rs 915 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, according to an exchange filing. Spicejet shares on Friday settled at Rs 12.75, down 0.47 per cent apiece on the BSE.

Ayushman Bharat Tops 90 Crore ABHA Accounts

NEW DELHI, MAY 30

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA), has crossed the landmark milestone of 90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) across the country, the government said on Saturday. Uttar Pradesh leads with over 15.3 crore ABHAs, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra with 7.1 crore

each, Bihar with 6.3 crore, and West Bengal with 5.9 crore ABHAs. Significant contributions have also come from Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka, reflecting the nationwide adoption of digital health services. The achievement marks a major step in India's journey towards a connected, interoperable and citizen-centric digital health ecosystem. The growth in ABHA creation



has been consistent since the launch of ABDM. On a calendar year basis, cumulative ABHA creation increased from 14.7 crore in 2021 to 30.4 crore in 2022, 50.6 crore in 2023,

72.2 crore in 2024, and 84.5 crore in 2025, before crossing the 90-crore milestone in 2026, according to Health Ministry. "The creation of over 90 crore ABHAs reflects the growing participation of citizens, States, UTs and ecosystem partners in the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. ABHA is an important step towards empowering citizens with secure, consent-based access to their own health information,"

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh Annual Salary Sees 2.5% Jump. This Is How Much He Earned

Salil Parekh took home a fixed salary of Rs 7.97 crore and bonuses worth Rs 23.35 crore. The Infosys CEO exercising his stock options accounted for the lion's share of his compensation for the year.



Infosys CEO Salil Parekh's annual pay rose 2.5 per cent to Rs 82.6 crore (\$8.69 million) in fiscal year 2026, India's second-largest IT company said in its annual report on Friday. Parekh took home a fixed salary of Rs 7.97 crore and bonuses worth Rs 23.35 crore. The report did not disclose any information on whether Parekh's term as CEO would be extended, even as his current five-year stint is set to end in March next year. He is already the longest-serving non-founder CEO at the IT company. Parekh exercising his stock options accounted for the lion's share of his compensation for the year at Rs 50.75 crore. He had earned \$9.44 million in fiscal 2025 and \$7.9 million in fiscal 2024. The dip in the dollar figure for fiscal 2026 is because the Indian rupee fell 9.88 per cent versus the

US currency during the year. India's \$315-billion IT sector is facing another year of slowing growth as AI-linked disruption drives clients to rethink their tech spends. Earlier this month, Indian IT stocks fell to their lowest point in three years after OpenAI announced a new services-led venture. For fiscal 2027, Infosys last month forecast revenue growth between 1.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent in constant currency terms, which was lower than analysts' estimated range of at least 2 per cent to 4 per cent. For fiscal 2026, Infosys reported a revenue growth of 3.1% in constant currency terms, in line with estimates of 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent. K Krithivasan, CEO of Infosys' larger rival Tata Consultancy Services, earned \$2.96 million for fiscal 2026, while HCLTech and Wipro have not released their annual reports.

Import duty cut to improve cotton supply, lower input costs: Textile Ministry

NEW DELHI: (MAY 30)

The Centre's move to exempt all customs duties on cotton imports for five months till October 30 will ensure adequate availability of cotton for the textile industry, lower input costs and boost the competitiveness of Indian textiles, the Textile Ministry said on Saturday. Industry bodies welcomed the decision, terming it a "much-needed relief" for the apparel sector. "The measure is expected to augment the availability of cotton for the Indian textile and apparel sector and provide much-needed relief to the entire value chain," the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) stated.

Globe International Carriers profit rises twofold to Rs 11.62 cr in FY26

MUMBAI: (MAY 30)

Cargo transportation and logistics solutions provider Globe International Carriers Ltd on Saturday said its net profit zoomed over twofold to Rs 11.62 crore in 2025-26 following steady revenue growth and improved operational performance. The company's revenue from operations rose by 11.7 percent to Rs 174.92 crore in FY26 compared to Rs 156.65 crore in FY25, a statement said. The group's focus on efficiency, execution and business diversification helped deliver resilient results despite operating environment, Subhash Agrawal, Managing Director, Globe International said.

NMDC Steel Turns Profitable in FY26, Records Highest-Ever Production and Sales

HYDERABAD, MAY 30:

NMDC Steel Ltd. (NSL) has reported a remarkable turnaround in FY26, posting its first annual profit while achieving record production and sales volumes since the commencement of operations at its Nagarnar Steel Plant. The company recorded its highest-ever annual production of 23.25 lakh metric tonnes (MT) in FY26, a 62 per cent increase from 14.39 lakh MT in FY25. Sales also surged by 74 per cent to 24.55 lakh MT compared to 14.14 lakh MT in the previous fiscal.

Driven by strong operational performance, revenue from operations rose 60 per cent year-on-year to Rs 13,641.81 crore from Rs 8,503.05 crore in FY25. NSL reported a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 58.72 crore for FY26, marking a significant turnaround from a loss of Rs 2,373.78 crore in the previous year. Profit Before Tax (PBT) stood at Rs 75.78 crore against a loss of Rs 3,321.72 crore in FY25. EBITDA also turned positive at Rs 1,604.44 crore compared to a negative EBITDA of Rs 1,716.89 crore a year earlier. The company also delivered its best-ever quar-



terly performance during the fourth quarter of FY26. Production increased 45 per cent year-on-year to 6.42 lakh MT, while sales rose 40 per cent to 7.03 lakh MT. Quarterly revenue climbed 37 per cent to Rs 3,879 crore.

PAT for the January-March quarter stood at Rs 391.91 crore, compared to a loss of Rs 473.39 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. EBITDA improved to Rs 832.09 crore from a negative Rs 271.51 crore. A major milestone for the company was achieving an average capacity utilisation of 80 per cent within two years of starting operations. The achievement is considered one of the fastest operational ramp-ups for a greenfield integrated steel project in the global steel industry. Commenting on the performance, NMDC Steel

Chairman and Managing Director Amitava Mukherjee said FY26 marked a defining year for the company, with profitability, record production and sales, and operational stabilisation of the Nagarnar Steel Plant. He said the company would continue focusing on improving efficiencies, expanding its product portfolio and strengthening its market presence while progressing towards full capacity utilisation. With operations stabilised and profitability achieved, NMDC Steel expects to build on the momentum and strengthen its position in India's growing steel sector.

CNG prices hiked by Rs 2 per kg in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai

This is the second hike in less than a month, following an earlier revision on May 14. The cumulative Rs 4 rise is expected to impact daily commuters, taxi operators and commercial vehicle users who rely heavily on CNG.



following a similar Rs 2 per kilogram increase announced on May 14. The cumulative Rs 4 rise is expected to impact daily commuters, taxi operators and commercial vehicle users who rely heavily on CNG. The YMGL has not yet detailed the reasons behind the latest price revision. This comes just days after prices in Delhi were increased again by Rs 2 per kg, taking the retail price to Rs 83.09 per kg on May 26. The revision marked the fourth increase within 11 days and the third hike in just nine days, with

cumulative CNG prices in the national capital rising by Rs 7 per kg since May 15. The series of revisions began with a Rs 2 per kg increase on May 15, followed by hikes of Rs 1 per kg each on two separate occasions in the succeeding week. Despite the rise in CNG prices, rates of piped natural gas (PNG) for households and domestic LPG cylinders remain unchanged. The fuel price revisions come amid sustained pressure from rising global crude oil prices. Industry experts attribute the surge to growing concerns over potential disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments, amid heightened tensions involving the

US and Iran. The repeated increases are expected to raise operating costs for commuters, transporters and businesses, with analysts warning that higher transportation and logistics expenses could eventually translate into increased prices of essential goods and food items. Government officials, however, maintain that the price adjustments are necessary to offset rising import costs and ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies during a period of geopolitical uncertainty. As India imports nearly 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements, domestic fuel prices remain highly vulnerable to fluctuations in international energy markets.

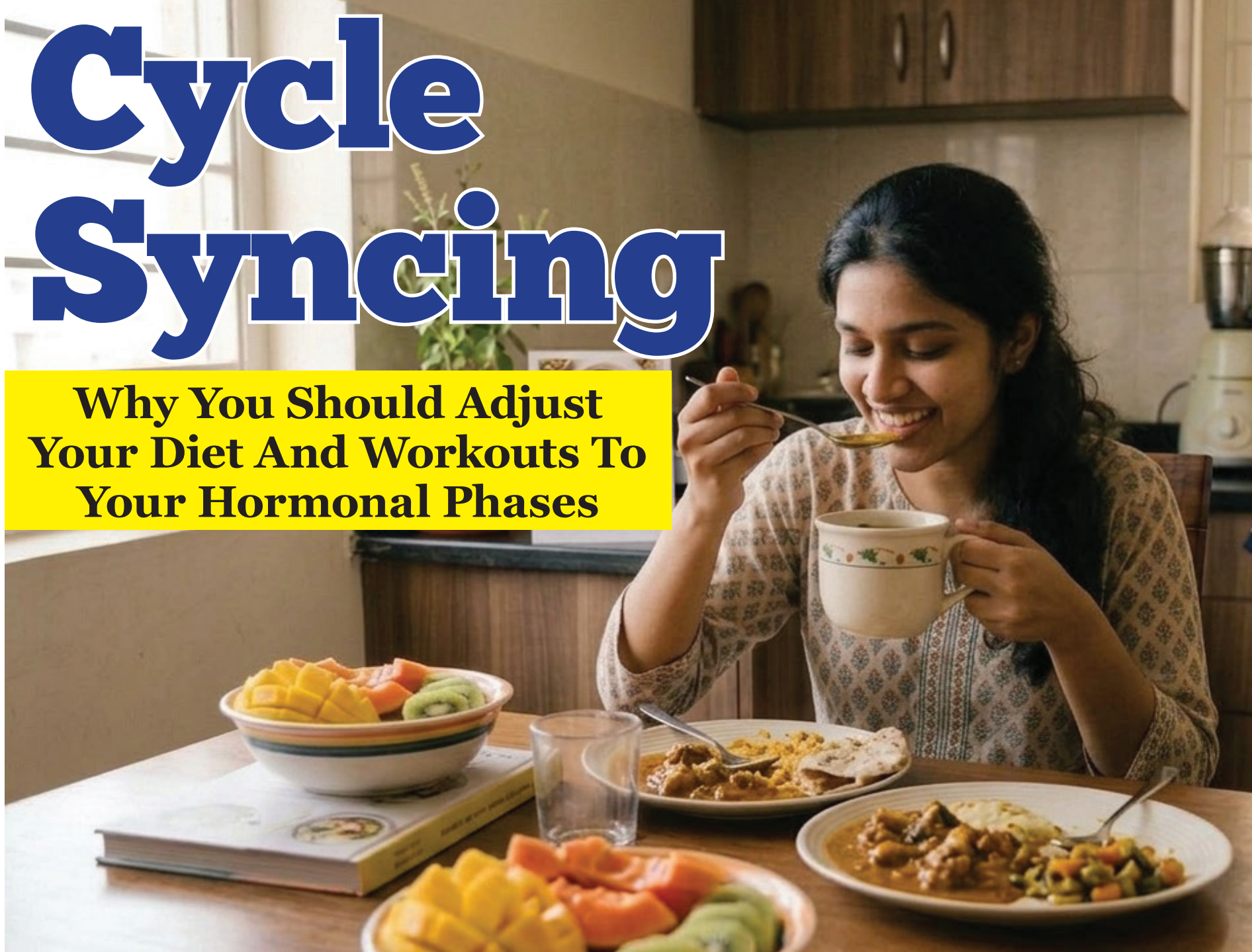
Digi Yatra enables over 10 crore journeys at 38 airports with 2.4 crore downloads

NEW DELHI, MAY 30

The Digi Yatra app has enabled over 10 crore seamless journeys with over 2.4 crore downloads across iOS and Android platforms, the government said on Saturday. The platform has reduced average airport entry processing times from 15 seconds down to just 5 seconds per passenger. Right now, Digi Yatra is active at 38 airports, and by next year, 27 more airports will be enabled. This rapid throughput has significantly optimised terminal infrastructure, reduced terminal congestion, and minimised manual processing overheads. The platform stands as one of the most successful digital innovations in global aviation today, said Civil Aviation Ministry. By eliminating physical boarding passes, the initiative supports environmental sus-

tainability by saving thousands of sheets of paper daily across participating airports. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu congratulated the Digi Yatra team for the 10-crore usage milestone. "It reflects the growing trust passengers are placing in seamless, paperless and contactless travel. The scale of Digi Yatra's adoption comes at a critical juncture. Daily domestic passenger traffic, which averaged below 2 lakh passengers in 2014, has now crossed the 5-lakh mark on numerous occasions over the last three years," said the minister. Supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make air travel more accessible and convenient, annual passenger traffic across Indian airports is projected to reach 50 crores by 2030 and double to nearly 100 crores by 2040, Naidu informed.





Cycle Syncing

Why You Should Adjust Your Diet And Workouts To Your Hormonal Phases

How To Follow Cycle Syncing (Phase-Wise Guide)

Menstrual Phase (Days 1-5)
In the menstrual phase, according to cycle syncing, you need to consume a diet that is rich in iron, such as leafy greens, lentils, legumes, and whole grains. The type of meals should be warm and easier to digest. Workout should entail practising light yoga and walking, and the main focus should be on focus, as well as rest and recovery.

Follicular Phase (Days 6-14)
The diet during the follicular phase should consist of fresh fruits and vegetables along with lean proteins that can nourish the body. Workout during this phase should involve moderate amounts of cardio and strength training. The energy levels begin to rise during this period, so the body should be able to utilise the energy levels accordingly.

Ovulation Phase (Mid-cycle)

The diet should consist of

high-fibre foods which are also rich in antioxidants, as your body, especially your gut, needs them. A workout should consist of high-intensity workouts and group fitness-related activities that force you to attain physical activity with an afterburn. The period of peak performance and endurance should be an ideal time to give your body a reason to exercise intensively.

Luteal Phase (Days 15-28)

The luteal phase should entail consuming a diet of complex car-

bohydrates and foods that are rich in magnesium. Workouts during this time should involve low-impact workouts such as pilates and stretching. With a central focus on stress reduction to give your body a break while also using muscles that can improve the body and mind.

Benefits Of Cycle Syncing

The supposed benefits of cycle syncing can be as follows, but remember that the effect on your body can vary as per the research- Improves energy levels Reduces

fatigue and mood swings

Supports hormonal balance

- Enhances workout performance
- May help with weight management
- Who Should Try Cycle Syncing?
- Women should try cycle syncing with extreme caution, as the effect on your body can differ based on factors that you can't control. It is best to consult a medical professional to take a safe approach to eating better and exercising in a manner that your body and mind can benefit from, instead of

simply chasing a trend.

Are There Any Limitations?

Yes, there are limitations, as limited large-scale scientific evidence exists on the effectiveness of cycle syncing. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution to tackle reducing energy levels. To attain a balance with your hormonal and physical health, you need consistency and tracking, Dr Manisha Arora, Clinical Nutritionist, explains, "Cycle syncing helps women tune into their hormonal changes. Adjusting diet and exercise accordingly can

The trend of cycle syncing is explained by Dr Manisha Arora, and learn how to adjust your diet and workout schedule according to your hormonal phases. Cycling syncing has limited scientific evidence backing its claims Cycle syncing is a popular wellness trend that involves changing your diet, exercise routine, and lifestyle habits around your menstrual cycle. The hormonal changes that occur in the body can be broken down into stages. These four stages affect your mood and ability to exercise and can even affect the way your body metabolises the food you eat. From menstruation, the follicular phase, ovulation, and the luteal phase, your energy levels, mood, and fitness levels could be adjusted to make sure you feel and function at your best. Research on this trend is limited as the area of women's reproductive health requires further investigation. Large data pool studies are needed to prove its efficacy, which involve women of all sizes and oestrogen levels, as hormones affect study findings greatly. But its popularity is fuelled by social media platforms that need scientific validity and also medical monitoring.

Why Hormones Affect Diet And Workouts

The idea behind cycle syncing comes from the effect that hormones have on the decision-making ability and productivity. These aspects can vary across the different phases in the cycle. This has been mentioned in the BMJ Journal, which details that cycle syncing may boost overall performance. Here is why: Because hormones such as oestrogen and progesterone play an active role in dictating the energy levels, metabolism, appetite, and even strength and endurance. Following the same diet and workout may not work in the different phases, so cycle syncing has become a popular

way to optimise women's health. But it is important to note that medical researchers say that strong scientific evidence is lacking, and the claims may be oversimplified and not universally applicable to you. It is also important to note that thorough medical testing is required to make sure your hormone levels are balanced and take the approach to optimised health accordingly. Hormonal changes are not uniform and vary based on an individual's body condition and factors present in their environment. The changes can differ cycle to cycle and on a day-to-day basis.

improve energy, mood, and overall well-being." Cycle syncing is worth exploring, but with major precautions as per its approach. You need to consult a nutritionist or dietitian. You can listen to and evaluate your medical tests and figure out the right approach for you.

Disclaimer: This content, including advice, provides generic information only. It is in no way a substitute for a qualified medical opinion. Always consult a specialist or your own doctor for more information. NDTV does not claim responsibility for this information.



High Blood Pressure Vs Low Blood Pressure

During Heatwaves: Which Is More Dangerous?

As temperatures continue to rise across many parts of the country, doctors are warning that heatwaves can place dangerous stress on the body, especially on the heart and blood vessels. While most people focus on dehydration and heatstroke, experts say both high blood pressure and low blood pressure can become serious health risks during extreme summer heat. However, according to health experts, low blood pressure caused by dehydration may become dangerous more quickly during heatwaves because it can rapidly affect blood circulation, organ function, and

body temperature control.

How Heatwaves Affect Blood Pressure

The human body naturally tries to cool itself during hot weather. Blood vessels widen, a process known as vasodilation, which helps release excess body heat through the skin. At the same time, the body sweats more to reduce temperature. But excessive sweating causes loss of fluids and important minerals like sodium and potassium. If these fluids are not replaced, blood volume drops, which can lead to low blood pressure.

Doctors explain that this combination of widened blood vessels and dehydration may result in:

- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Headaches
- Blurred vision
- Fatigue
- Fainting
- Severe dehydration
- Heat exhaustion or heatstroke

Why Low Blood Pressure Can Turn Dangerous Quickly

Dr Sanjay Verma, Associate Director, Internal Medicine, Fortis Escorts Heart

Institute, says dehydration-related low blood pressure can quickly reduce blood flow to vital organs such as the brain, kidneys, and heart.

When blood circulation drops suddenly, the body may struggle to deliver enough oxygen and nutrients to organs. This can lead to:

- Confusion or disorientation
- Sudden collapse or fainting
- Kidney stress or kidney injury
- Muscle cramps
- Rapid heartbeat
- * Dangerous overheating of the body

In severe situations, untreated dehydration and low blood pressure can progress into heatstroke, a life-threatening condition where body temperature rises above 40 degrees Celsius. Younger adults working outdoors for long hours, athletes, delivery workers, labourers, and people who ignore hydration are particularly at risk during heatwaves.

The Hidden Risks Of High Blood Pressure During Summer

While low blood pressure can become dangerous faster, uncontrolled high blood pressure also poses serious risks during extreme heat. During a heatwave, the heart works harder to maintain blood circulation and regulate body temperature. This added stress may increase the risk of:

- Heart attack
 - Stroke
 - Irregular heartbeat
 - Chest pain
 - Worsening heart failure
- People already living with hypertension may face complications if they stop taking prescribed medicines during summer due to fear of dehydration. Doctors strongly advise against stopping blood pressure medicines without medical consultation. Sudden changes in medication can destabilise blood pressure levels and trigger emergencies.

Who Is Most Vulnerable During Heatwaves?

Experts say certain groups face a much higher risk of blood pressure-related complications during extreme heat:

Elderly Individuals
Older adults often have reduced thirst sensation and may not realise they are becoming dehydrated. Their bodies also struggle more with temperature regulation.

People With Hypertension

Those with chronic high blood pressure are more vulnerable to heart strain and cardiovascular events during heatwaves.

Diabetics
Diabetes can affect hydration balance and kidney function, increasing the risk of both dehydration and circulation problems.

Outdoor Workers
Construction workers, traffic police, delivery personnel, farmers, and labourers exposed to direct sunlight for long hours face a higher risk of heat exhaustion and dehydration.

Children
Children lose fluids faster and may not recognise early signs of dehydration.

Heart Disease Patients
Individuals with existing cardiovascular disease are more likely to develop serious complications during extreme heat exposure.

Warning Signs You Should Never Ignore

Doctors recommend immediate medical attention if any of these symptoms appear during a heatwave:

- Confusion
- Fainting
- Chest pain
- Severe breathlessness
- Persistent vomiting
- High body temperature
- Inability to sweat
- Rapid heartbeat
- Extreme weakness
- Seizures

These symptoms may indicate heatstroke, severe dehydration, or cardiovascular stress, all of which require urgent treatment.

How To Stay Safe During Heatwaves

Health experts recommend several simple but effective precautions during extreme summer conditions:

Stay Hydrated
Drink water regularly, even before feeling thirsty. During excessive sweating, include electrolyte-rich fluids like ORS, coconut water, or lemon water. **Avoid Peak Heat Hours**
Try to stay indoors between 12 pm and 4 pm when tem-

peratures are highest.

Wear Appropriate Clothing

Loose-fitting, light-coloured cotton clothes help the body stay cool.

Monitor Blood Pressure

People with hypertension or heart disease should regularly monitor blood pressure during heatwaves.

Continue Prescribed Medicines

Do not stop blood pressure medication without consulting a doctor.

Eat Light Meals

Heavy oily foods may increase body discomfort during high temperatures.

Stay In Cool Spaces

Use fans, coolers, air conditioning, or well-ventilated rooms whenever possible.

Which Is More Dangerous?

According to experts, the answer depends on an individual's overall health condition and existing medical problems. However, dehydration-related low blood pressure often becomes dangerous more rapidly during heatwaves because it can quickly reduce blood flow to the brain, kidneys, and other vital organs. If ignored, it may lead to collapse, organ stress, or heatstroke within a short time. At the same time, uncontrolled high blood pressure remains a major long-term danger because heat stress can trigger heart attacks, strokes, and serious cardiovascular complications. Doctors emphasise that awareness, hydration, regular monitoring, and timely medical attention remain the best protection against heat-related blood pressure complications. **Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered medical advice. Always consult a qualified healthcare professional for diagnosis and treatment.**

Shooting World Cup

Manu Bhaker,
Samrat Rana add silver



NEW DELHI: The pair of Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana were pipped by World No 1 and defending World Champions Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai of China by just 0.3 points as the Indian pair secured silver in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event on the final day of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol at the Olympiaschießanlage in Munich, Germany. With this silver, India finished second in the medal tally with two gold and two silver medals behind China, which secured four gold and three bronze medals. Manu and Samrat had a slow start, shooting 100.0 after the first series of five shots each to be in third out of the four team finals, with Samrat hitting 51.0 and Manu a 49.0. Manu caught her rhythm in the second series, hitting a high 51.5.

SAFF Women's C'ship 2026

Blue Tigresses face
rivals Bangladesh



MARGAO (GOA): Though both sides are assured of their places in the knockout stage, there will be no shortage of intensity when hosts India face Bangladesh in their last Group B match of the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Sunday. With the Maldives, the third side in the group, losing both of its matches and crashing out of the tournament, India and Bangladesh have already qualified for the last four. Sunday's clash will therefore determine the Group B winners and could provide a significant psychological edge heading into the knockout rounds. India sit atop the group after an emphatic 11-0 victory over Maldives on Monday.

RUNNING

Gulveer Singh becomes first Indian
to clock a sub-four-minute mile



CLEVELAND: Gulveer Singh, the 27-year-old Asian Games bronze medallist in the men's 10,000m, became the first Indian runner to clock a sub-four-minute mile on Saturday at the 24th Annual Music City Track Carnival. The World Continental Tour event was organised at Lee University, Cleveland Campus, in the USA. Gulveer Singh posted a creditable time of 3:55.63 seconds to finish first in the Men's 1 Mile Pro event on Saturday. Christopher Knight, 20, representing the USA, was second with a time of 3:59.72, and Tristan Trevino, 21, also from the USA, was third with a time of 4:00.27. The Indian star distance runner based in the USA is preparing for the upcoming Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games in Japan.

PSG win UEFA Champions League as Arsenal suffer penalty shoot-out heartbreak

HUNGARY

Paris Saint-Germain held their nerve in a cagey Champions League final to retain the title by beating Arsenal 4-3 on penalties as Saturday's nail-biting show-down ended 1-1 after extra time, cementing the French side's status among Europe's modern greats.

Arsenal defender Gabriel blasted his spot kick over Matvey Safonov's crossbar at the Puskas Arena in Budapest, his miss confirming PSG as the first club to retain the trophy since Real Madrid completed their three-year reign from 2016 to 2018.

Long dismissed as glamorous underachievers despite vast resources, the Ligue 1 champions have now forged a dynasty under Luis Enrique, marrying attacking brilliance with resilience to establish themselves as the dominant force in European football.

"It's stronger than last year because we knew before the match just how difficult it would be to play against Arsenal," said Enrique, whose side had thrashed Inter Milan 5-0 a year ago to claim Europe's elite trophy for the first time.

"As a club and a city, it's incredible to win, and I think we deserved it over the course of the season. The final was a real battle," added the Spanish coach.

The outcome left Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice devastated but proud as his side finished their European campaign without losing a match, aside from the shootout defeat in the final.

"It's gutting. It's devastating to lose a Champions League final on penalties," he said. "But we try to

take a lot of perspective from how far we've come as a group.

"An incredible season. Given it absolutely everything up until this point. We took the game to penalties. It's a lottery."

Eleven days after celebrating their first Premier League title in 22 years, Arsenal looked set for a maiden triumph on Europe's biggest stage after Kai Havertz's sixth-minute opener and a first hour spent smothering PSG's vaunted attack.

However, the final in the Hungarian capital became chaotic, once PSG's Ousmane Dembele equalised with a penalty in the 65th minute, the pace turning frantic before exhaustion took the



match to a shootout.

Under Enrique, PSG have won the six shootouts they have contested, with the 56-year-old winning 12 of the 13 one-off club

finals as coach.

After brushing aside Premier League opposition on their way to the final by eliminating Chelsea and Liverpool, PSG were facing a

much sterner test against an Arsenal team playing their second Champions League final after losing to Barcelona in 2006.

Mikel Arteta's side took the lead when Marquinhos' clearance bounced off Arsenal's Leandro Trossard into the path of Havertz, who raced into the box and fired into the roof of the net.

He is the fourth player to score in two different European Cup or Champions League finals with two different clubs.

It was the nightmare scenario for PSG – trailing so early against the best defence in the competition.

Arsenal lived up to their reputation as the best team without the

ball and looked perfectly content with the script, doubling up on Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and suffocating the usual danger posed by the Georgian magician on the left flank.

PSG's Fabian Ruiz was unable to impose his usual rhythm in midfield and, despite monopolising possession for long spells, the French side struggled to carve out clear-cut chances.

By half-time, PSG had attacked 32 times, Arsenal three.

Arsenal, however, were flirting with the boundaries with their challenges and Cristhian Mosquera brought down Kvaratskhelia in the area, with Dembele converting the penalty to equalise with his eighth goal in the competition.

The momentum had shifted.

Jurrien Timber and Viktor Gyokeres replaced Mosquera and Martin Odegaard. Arsenal had a more attacking mindset but were exposed to PSG's counter attacks and at the end of one of them, Kvaratskhelia sped into the box, only for his left-footed effort to crash onto the outside of David Raya's post.

After controlling the tempo in the first half, Arsenal played into PSG's hands as the pace increased significantly, giving too much space to Kvaratskhelia or Bradley Barcola, who replaced the Georgian winger with seven minutes remaining.

In the 89th minute, PSG came close to giving the final an abrupt end as Vitinha's shot grazed the top of the net. Barcola also shot over the bar after a counter attack, with what would have been the last kick of the game.

“Fit India – Sundays on Cycle” Program at Gachibowli Stadium on June 7



HYDERABAD

To encourage greater public participation in sports and fitness activities, the Telangana Sports Authority (SATS) will organize the "Fit India – Sundays on Cycle" program at Gachibowli Stadium on June 7. The event is being held in connection with World Bicycle Day to promote awareness about healthy lifestyles among the public. The event will be attended by Tel-

angana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla as the chief guest. SATS Vice Chairperson and Managing Director, Dr. A. Soni Bala Devi, met the Governor at Lok Bhavan on Friday and invited him to the event. The Governor accepted the invitation and expressed his best wishes for the program's success.

Review meetings were held at the SATS office in Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium with representatives of various cycling associ-

ations to finalize arrangements for the cycling rally.

The event is being conducted under the slogan "Fitness Ki Dose – Aadha Ghanta Roz" (A Dose of Fitness – Half an Hour Every Day). Its objective is to raise awareness about health, fitness, and active lifestyles among students, youth, employees, NGO representatives, and the general public.

The cycling rally will start from the main gate of Gachi-

bowli Stadium and proceed through: IIIT Junction Gachibowli Flyover Pista House Junction Birla Institute of Technology and Science Cable Bridge Madhapur Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Road Biodiversity Road before returning to the stadium.

Officials estimate that around 2,000 cyclists will participate in the event. All participants will receive medals and certificates from the Telangana Sports Authority.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Soni Bala Devi said that cycling not only benefits health but is also an environmentally friendly mode of transportation. She noted that cycling plays a vital role in reducing pollution and promoting sustainable living. She also emphasized that participation by students, athletes, employees, and representatives of various organizations would help strengthen social bonds and community engagement.

Officials stated that those interested in participating can contact K. Madhu, Administrator of Gachibowli Stadium, at 9000033100 for registration and further details.

French Open: Parry stuns Anisimova to break Grand Slam, third-round jinx



PARIS

France's Diane Parry advances to the fourth round of a Major for the first time after a thrilling upset win over No. 6 seed Amanda Anisimova in a three-set battle in the French Open at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris on Saturday.

Before this year's French Open, Parry had reached the third round of a Grand Slam five times but had never advanced to the last 16. On Saturday, playing on Court Philippe-Chatrier in front of a raucous Parisian crowd, Parry finally broke through with a hard-fought three-set upset victory over No. 6 seed Amanda Anisimova, securing a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 victory in 2 hours, 44 minutes.

Both players saved multiple break points in the third set before Parry earned a break to move ahead 4-3, only for Anisimova to break back immediately. Four games later, the match was decided in a tiebreak. Parry dominated the breaker 10-3 to seal victory. "I think I just believed like all the matches I could win and go take it even in three sets," Parry told the media after her win. "I was feeling good physically. I felt like my game was disturbing her in some ways, so I was just trying to stay with this in my head and be able to go and take it in the end."

The victory was Parry's second career win over a top-10 opponent and snapped a seven-match losing streak against top-10 players. It also marked her eighth main-draw win at Roland-Garros, her highest total at any Grand Slam tournament.

Parry, the last French player in the

women's singles draw, has recently added the two-handed backhand to her game, something she says she is still getting used to.

"I started (using the double-handed backhand) before the season to work it to return, and it depends on the type of serve of my opponent, depending on the conditions and the player," she added. "Here, it's a bit difficult because there is a lot of rebound, so it's difficult to find the right distance. It depends on how I feel that day. It's not the same every day, because it's not a set shot for me yet. I have to adapt, depending on the player and the conditions."

She will next face unseeded Pole Maja Chwalinska, who defeated former world No. 3 Maria Sakkari in another three-set third-round battle on Saturday.

For Anisimova, it was her first third-round loss at a Grand Slam since Roland-Garros in 2020, when she fell to Simona Halep. Since that defeat, she had won eight consecutive third-round matches at majors. The American was playing her first clay-court event of the season after withdrawing from Madrid and Rome because of a wrist injury.

Anisimova added that her wrist is feeling fine, which is a positive for her to take away from the tournament. "I feel okay physically," she said. "Kind of hard to assess. I feel like I, even considering everything, could have played better, so I'm pretty disappointed. I probably just need to figure some things out for what to do differently next time. My wrist feels not so bad after a few matches, so that's a positive for sure."

T20 Mumbai League: Rahane, Shreyas Iyer, Sayali Satghare among captains present at grand season launch

MUMBAI

As the city gears up for the mega cricket carnival, the star captains of participating teams in the T20 Mumbai League 2026 and the inaugural T20 Mumbai Women's League came together for a grand season launch event in Mumbai on Saturday, setting the stage for what promises to be an exciting two weeks of high-voltage cricketing action starting June 1.

The event was attended by Ajinkya Naik, President, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), Rajdip Gupta, Chairman of the League Governing Council, the members of the Apex Council, League Governing Council, along with the members of all 11 teams and their operators,



came together to celebrate the beginning of an exciting cricketing season. Since its inception in 2018, the T20 Mumbai League has been a launchpad for some of the most promising cricketing talent, establishing itself as one of India's premier franchise-based domestic T20 tournaments. The upcoming season

will feature a host of global stars alongside emerging talents across both the men's and women's competitions. Ajinkya Naik, President, Mumbai Cricket Association, said: "It is a matter of pride for us that players like Ajinkya Rahane, Shardul Thakur, and Shreyas Iyer went on to represent India after play-

ing for Mumbai, and will now share the dressing room with youngsters and pass on their knowledge and experience. The exposure these young players will gain from playing alongside such stalwarts will be immense. Similarly, for the women's players, the opportunity to share a dressing room with established stars will be invaluable. Players like Shivam Dube and Suryakumar Yadav performed in the first season of the league and went on to win the T20 World Cup for India." Rajdip Gupta, Chairman, League Governing Council, said: "The main task I was assigned by the apex council members was to have the women's tournament started, and I would like to thank the apex council members.

India end Unity Cup campaign with a defeat against Zimbabwe

NEW DELHI

India's Unity Cup 2026 campaign ended in disappointment as the Blue Tigers suffered a second consecutive defeat, going down 0-1 against Zimbabwe in the third-place play-off at The Valley in London on Saturday. A first-half penalty from Prince Dube (33') proved decisive as Zimbabwe secured third place, while India's campaign ended without a goal. After falling 0-2 to Jamaica in the semifinal, head coach Khalid Jamil rang in four changes to his starting line-up. Vikram Partap Singh, Rahim Ali, Macarton Nickson, and Ricky Shabong were handed starts, with the latter making his first appearance in the starting XI just days after making his international debut as a substitute against Jamaica.

India entered the contest hoping to finish the tournament on a positive note, and while the game remained evenly contested in the early stages, Zimbabwe enjoyed greater control and appeared more dangerous whenever they moved forward. In the fourth minute, a dangerous cross was whipped into the Indian penalty area, but Sandesh Jhingan reacted brilliantly to stretch out a leg and clear the danger.



Bold Look, Big Impact for Aishwarya

Popular South Indian actress Aishwarya Rajesh has once again captured attention with her latest striking photoshoot that blends elegance, confidence, and contemporary fashion. Posing against a bright white backdrop, the actress exudes charisma in a fitted black ribbed crop top paired with classic denim jeans. With windswept hair, sharp lighting, and an intense sidelong gaze, the pictures highlight her commanding screen presence and effortless style.

Known for balancing glamour with performance-oriented roles, Aishwarya's latest look has quickly become a talking point among fans on social media. The minimalist setup and bold styling perfectly complement her confident personality, reinforcing her image as one of the most versatile actresses in South Indian cinema today.

Born on January 10, 1990, in Chennai, Aishwarya Rajesh began her journey in the entertainment industry as a television anchor and reality show participant before making her acting debut with the Tamil film *Avargalum Ivargalum* in 2011. She gained early recognition through *Attakathi* (2012), but it was her critically acclaimed performance in *Kaaka Muttai* (2015) that established her as a powerhouse performer. The role earned her the Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actress and opened the doors to a series of meaningful and commercially successful films.

Over the years, Aishwarya has impressed audiences with memorable performances in films such as *Pannaiyaram*, *Padmini*, *Vada Chennai*, *Kousalya Krishnamurthy*, and *Farhana*. Her ability to portray emotionally layered characters with natural ease has made her one of the most respected actresses across industries.

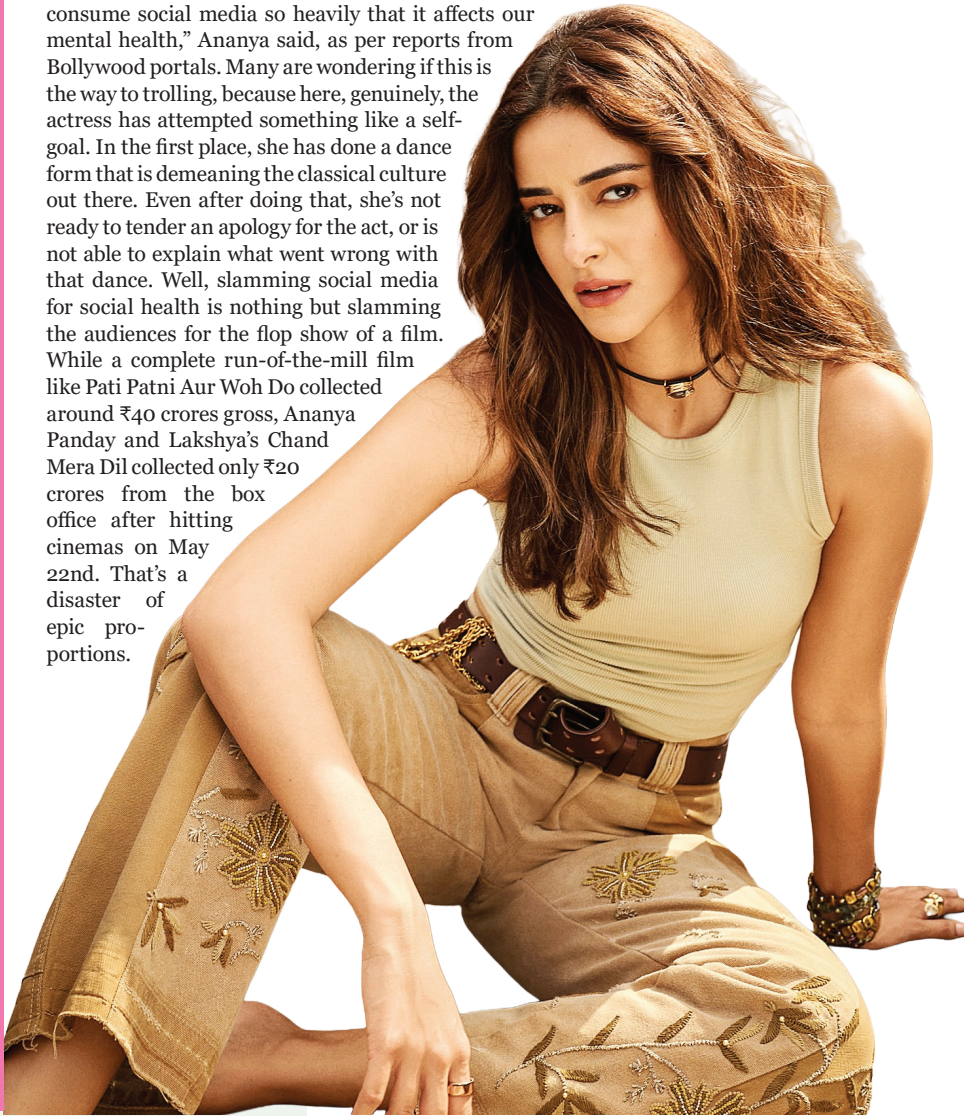
Expanding her footprint beyond Tamil cinema, Aishwarya has worked in Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi films, showcasing remarkable versatility and adaptability. With a growing list of ambitious projects, the actress continues to remain one of the busiest stars in the South film industry.

Her upcoming films include the Kannada project *Uttarakaanda* slated for release in 2026, along with highly anticipated ventures such as *Karuppar Nagaram*, *Oh! Sukumari*, and *Dhruva Nakshathram*. Fans are eagerly awaiting her next performances as she continues to experiment with diverse and challenging roles.

When thousands of people strongly called out the weird Bharata Natyam acts of Ananya Panday as unacceptable, many expected that the heroine would handle the whole fiasco with grace. For starters, in the recently released flop film "Chand Mera Dil", Ananya was seen performing a Bharata Natyam dance on stage, which the makers called a fusion act, but actually looked like a comedy-centric depiction of the sacred and 2000-year-old art form. Here's what Ananya's reaction is to the same.

Apparently, the actress stated that she doesn't deal with trolling any more and she's over it. "I mute every page on Instagram that gives me the slightest amount of anxiety. We consume social media so heavily that it affects our mental health," Ananya said, as per reports from Bollywood portals. Many are wondering if this is the way to trolling, because here, genuinely, the actress has attempted something like a self-goal. In the first place, she has done a dance form that is demeaning the classical culture out there. Even after doing that, she's not ready to tender an apology for the act, or is not able to explain what went wrong with that dance. Well, slamming social media for social health is nothing but slamming the audiences for the flop show of a film. While a complete run-of-the-mill film like *Pati Patni Aur Woh* Do collected around ₹40 crores gross, Ananya Panday and Lakshya's *Chand Mera Dil* collected only ₹20 crores from the box office after hitting cinemas on May 22nd. That's a disaster of epic proportions.

Ananya Has No Regrets, But Slams SM



Kiara Advani was told not to say 'Hi' on Toxic sets

There is still no official clarity regarding the release plans of Kannada superstar Yash's much-awaited film *Toxic: A Fairy Tale For Grown-Ups*. The film, which was initially expected to release earlier, has reportedly been postponed indefinitely, leaving fans eagerly waiting for an update from the makers.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Geetu Mohandas, *Toxic* features Bollywood actress Kiara Advani as one of the female leads alongside Yash. The film has already generated massive buzz due to its unique theme, large-scale production values, and the collaboration between Yash and Geetu Mohandas.

Meanwhile, Kiara Advani has opened up about her unusual and intense experience while working on the film. In a recent interview with *Bombay Times*, the actress revealed that director Geetu Mohandas adopted a highly unconventional filmmaking approach to help actors remain deeply connected to their characters throughout the shoot.

According to Kiara, the director would sometimes instruct her not to greet or interact with anyone on the set during specific shooting days. The idea was to ensure that the actors stayed completely immersed in the emotional space of their characters without distractions.

Recalling the experience, Kiara said Geetu Mohandas would ask her to arrive directly on the set and immediately step into the character's mindset, avoiding conversations not only with the crew but even with members of her own team. The actress described the process as both challenging and creatively enriching.



'Chennai Love Story' aims for July



Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya have paired up together. Their film is titled "Chennai Love Story". The film is being produced by SKN and Sai Rajesh, the successful duo behind hits such as "Colour Photo" and "Baby".

While Sai Rajesh has penned the story, Ravi Namburii is directing the film. Eteran music director Mani Sharma has composed the soundtrack. The first single, "Gu-

ruthundha" came out recently. The momentum continued with the release of the second single, "Vadhalane", which was launched by M. M. Keeravani. With both songs turning popular among music lovers, "Chennai Love Story" is expectations for the film. Meanwhile, post-production work is progressing rapidly. The makers are gearing up for a grand theatrical release in July and are expected to announce the official release date soon.

IT'S OFFICIAL: MAMITHA BAIJU'S PREMALU 2 SHELVED

Premalu was the film that transformed Mamitha Baiju into a sensation among young audiences. The romantic comedy emerged as a blockbuster in Kerala and its Telugu-dubbed version also found success, significantly boosting her popularity across the Telugu states.

Following the film's phenomenal run, the makers officially announced a sequel, raising expectations among fans eager to see the lead pair reunite on screen.

However, there now appears to be disappointing news for those fans. Actor Naslen, who played the male lead in "Premalu", has revealed that the sequel has been shelved.

Speaking in a recent interview, Naslen said the project could not move forward due to complications that arose during the script development stage. As a result, the team decided to drop the sequel despite the popularity of the original film. While "Premalu 2" may no longer be happening, Mamitha Baiju's career has continued to soar. She will next be seen opposite Suriya in "Vishwanath And Sons", one of the most anticipated Tamil films, which is scheduled to

Jayakrishna, Rasha Thadani introduced at Srinivasa Mangapuram

Jayakrishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary actor Krishna and nephew of Mahesh Babu, was officially introduced as the lead actor of "Srinivasa Mangapuram" at a special event held in Hyderabad. The film, directed by Ajay Bhupathi, also marks the Telugu debut of Rasha Thadani, daughter of Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon. The grand introduction event was held to coincide with the birth anniversary of Superstar Krishna. Addressing the gathering, Jayakrishna became emotional while speaking about his grandfather.

"It gives me immense joy to meet all of you on the occasion of my grandfather Krishna garu's birth anniversary. To me, my grandfather is like God. I cannot express in words the love and admiration I have for him. I believe his blessings will always be with me wherever he is," he said.

Rasha Thadani, who is making her Tollywood debut with the film, expressed her excitement about entering the Telugu film industry.

"I am absolutely delighted to make my Telugu debut with this movie. Working alongside Jayakrishna has been a wonderful experience, and I am looking forward to presenting this film to the audience," she said.

