

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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RCB Rule IPL Again

VIRAT KOHLI STARRED WITH THE BAT WHILE THE BOWLERS DELIVERED A DISCIPLINED PERFORMANCE AS ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU CLINCHED THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE IPL TITLE WITH A COMMANDING VICTORY IN THE FINAL.

STADIUM 11



SATWIK CHIRAG SHINE IN SINGAPORE

STADIUM 11

DEVYANI BOARDS AK47



BOX-OFFICE 12

CM Revanth to launch phase-II of INDIRAMMA HOUSING SCHEME TODAY

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

The Telangana government's flagship Indiramma Housing Scheme, aimed at fulfilling the dream of home ownership for economically weaker families, is set to enter a new phase. As beneficiaries under the first phase prepare to move into their newly constructed homes, the State government is gearing up to launch the second phase of the programme.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will visit Kumram Bheem-Asifabad district on Monday to participate in a series of events linked to the housing initiative.

At Kothaguda, the Chief Minister will take part in a mass housewarming ceremony along with beneficiaries whose houses have been completed under the first phase of the scheme. He will later address a public meeting at Kagaznagar X-Roads, where he will formally launch Phase-II of the Indiramma Housing Scheme, extending the government's efforts to provide permanent housing to poor and deserving families across Telangana.

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Revanth, top Congress leaders meet Kharge

Hyderabad, May 31: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Government Advisor Harkara Venugopal Rao, AICC Secretary Sampath Kumar, and others, made a courtesy vis-

it to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge at a hotel in Shamshabad on Sunday, as he was traveling through Hyderabad on his way to Gulbarga, Karnataka.

During this visit, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud held a dedicated meeting with Kharge

and participated in breakfast with him. Mahesh Kumar Goud provided Kharge with updates regarding the recent TPCC PAC meeting that took place at Gandhi Bhavan and informed him about the current activities in the state of Telangana.

KTR Challenges Revanth to CONTEST ELECTIONS

ONLY AFTER FULFILLING 420 PROMISES MADE TO TELANGANA PEOPLE

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to declare that he would contest future elections only after implementing the 420 promises and six guarantees made by the Congress party to the people of Telangana.

KTR alleged that the Chief Minister was once again attempting to mislead the people by declaring that he would not contest elections if electricity meters were installed on agricultural pump sets. Instead of issuing such statements, KTR said Revanth Reddy should publicly announce that he would not seek votes unless all the promises made to the people of Telangana were fulfilled.

He questioned why the Congress government was avoiding accountability on key promises, including housing for the poor under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, implementation of welfare guarantees, and various commitments made during the Assembly elections.



KTR alleged that the proposed separate "Farmers' DISCOM" was being created with the sole objective of eventually withdrawing the 24-hour free power supply being provided to farmers. He recalled that while in the opposition, Revanth Reddy had stated that three hours of electricity was sufficient for farmers and argued that the current proposal was aimed at translating that mindset into policy.

"The real intention behind the Farmers' DISCOM is to dismantle the historic 24-hour free power supply introduced by KCR. The

Congress government is trying to conceal its anti-farmer agenda while claiming that the initiative is intended to benefit farmers," KTR said.

He stated that the Congress government was conspiring to weaken one of the most significant welfare measures introduced by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). According to KTR, while publicly claiming commitment to free electricity, the government was pursuing policies that would ultimately deprive farmers of uninterrupted power supply.

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PM is working hard for country's development

UNION MINISTER KISHAN REDDY



HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Union Minister Kishan Reddy whirl noting that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has been hosting the 'Mann Ki Baat' program every month on the last Sunday of the month said that the PM engages with the public raising awareness about the prevailing social and economic conditions with-

in the country through the program. He said that every month, crores of people across the nation eagerly await the arrival of the 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast. "Families often gather together—whether in front of televisions, radios, or via mobile phones—to listen to the program every Sunday. As Prime Minister Modi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

COURT REMANDS BALKA SUMAN TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Former BRS party MLA Balka Suman suffered a major setback following controversial remarks he allegedly made regarding Singareni company offices. In connection with this case, the court remanded Balka Suman to judicial custody for 14 days. Subsequently, the police shifted him to Chanchalguda Jail. The Nampally police arrested Balka Suman on Saturday after he allegedly made controversial statements calling for the destruction of the Singareni assets. Immediately following his arrest, he was produced before a magistrate.

High drama unfolded during Balka Suman's arrest. Inside Telangana Bhavan, the BRS party activists and lawyers engaged in heated arguments with the police while



the arrest was being carried out. Balka Suman's lawyers and the BRS party representatives questioned as to how an individual could be arrested without prior notice? The police clarified that since the sections invoked against Balka Suman pertained to non-bailable offenses, there was no legal requirement to issue a prior notice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Y S Sharmila likely headed to Rajya Sabha from Karnataka

BENGALURU

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila is set to enter the Rajya Sabha, with the Congress high command reportedly deciding to field her from Karnataka in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

Sharmila meets

Rahul Gandhi

The development comes days after Sharmila met senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi. While the APCC chief publicly maintained that the meeting focused on organisational matters in Andhra Pradesh, party sources indicated that discussions also centred on her prospective Rajya Sabha nomination.

According to Congress in-



siders, the offer of a Rajya Sabha seat was part of the understanding reached when Sharmila joined the Congress and subsequently took charge as the party's Andhra Pradesh unit president.

"On the day the Karnataka chief ministerial reshuffle happened, Sharmila was called by the Congress high command, which also held meetings with

D. K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah. Following a series of consultations with the Congress leadership, Sharmila has been offered a Rajya Sabha berth. The commitment was made when she joined the party and assumed the responsibility of leading the Andhra Pradesh Congress," a senior party functionary told News-Meter.

Congress aiming for 3 RS seats from Karnataka

The Congress is expected to secure three Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka in the forthcoming elections, with Sharmila likely to be among the party's nominees.

Since taking over as APCC chief, Sharmila has emerged as one of the strongest critics of her brother and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, repeatedly attacking the previous YSRCP government's record and alleging widespread misgovernance.

Political observers believe her elevation to the Rajya Sabha could trigger a leadership reshuffle within the Andhra Pradesh Congress and help the party accelerate its long-term revival strategy in the state.

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WHEN AN ASTRONAUT PLANTS A TREE: A SPARK FROM SPACE TO SOIL

CLIMATE INNOVATION SUMMIT 2026, IIM BANGALORE

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

He has seen Earth from where few humans ever have. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to set foot aboard the International Space Station, the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 voyage, and pilot of the historic Axiom Mission 4 — began his address at the Climate Innovation Summit 2026 not with a rocket, but with a root. He planted a tree.

That single act carried a universe of meaning.

Group Captain Shukla, who spent 20 days, 2 hours and 59 minutes orbiting our planet

and conducted over 60 micro-gravity experiments aboard the ISS, shared a truth that only an astronaut can fully grasp: in space, there is no fresh air waiting, no flowing river, no field of grain. Every resource must be recycled, re-used, and respected. As he put it with disarming simplicity — "In space, your yesterday's coffee is your tomorrow's coffee." Recycling is not a choice up there. It is survival.

Space exploration, he reminded us, may seem impossible to many — yet it is precisely this pursuit of the impossible that drives humanity to innovate in material science, tech-

nology, and the art of living with less. The discipline of space teaches what Earth has forgotten: that every drop, every breath, every gram of matter is sacred.

And then came the line that silenced the auditorium. "In this entire galaxy, there is no other planet like Earth. Yet here we are — wasting, almost abusing, every resource we have been given, disconnected from the generations who must inherit this world. When you are in space, the Earth looks like heaven. And here, living on this heavenly planet, we keep searching for heaven elsewhere."

Group Captain Shukla gen-

erously appreciated the Green India Challenge* — the citizen-led movement built by Igniting Minds Organisation that has mobilised 196 million trees plantation and 44 million citizens under the leadership of the *Young Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha-2018-2024, Green Global Icon Mr. Jaganipally Santosh Kumar*. He recognised it as exactly the kind of grassroots accountability the planet needs: a movement where every citizen takes ownership of conserving our natural resources, one tree at a time.

This is the spark we carry forward. An astronaut who has touched the edge of the

cosmos returned to tell us that the greatest frontier is not out there — it is right here, beneath our feet, in the soil we plant, the water we save, and the air we protect for our children. The Earth is not a resource to be exhausted. It is the only heaven we will ever know.

Let us not search the stars for paradise while we burn the one we already have. Let us plant. Let us conserve. Let us reconstruct. Because as Group Captain Shukla showed us from 400 kilometres above the Earth, "the most beautiful thing in the universe is a living, breathing, green planet called home."



Remain vigilant about SIR: Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Former Minister and BRS Party Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav today called upon his party members to remain vigilant regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program.

He participated in and addressed a BRS party meeting for the Jubilee Hills assembly constituency held on Sunday at Telangana Bhavan in the city. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that the right to vote was a constitutional privilege and warned that there was a possibility of votes being illegally removed from the electoral rolls during the SIR program. He



noted that allegations and criticisms regarding the SIR program were emerging from across the country. He asserted that it was certain that former CM KCR would return as Chief Minister after two and a half years. He urged the party members to constant-

ly engage with the public, fight for their issues and highlight the failures of the current government.

He announced that a broad-level assembly constituency meeting would be organized on June 14th. He revealed that the party's Working Pres-

ident, KTR would attend this meeting as the chief guest. He instructed the party leaders and activists to remain alert regarding the SIR program, which is scheduled to commence on June 24th. Citing the potential for illegal removal of the votes, he called upon them to create public awareness to prevent such occurrences. Furthermore, he informed the gathering that the party membership drive would be conducted digitally. He directed the party leaders and activists to work in unity, go door-to-door and carry out the membership enrollment drive.

He alleged that the Congress party came to power by making impractical promises and subsequently deceived

the public. He stated that people from all sections of society across the state had been fed up with the Congress government. He stated that the entire public desires the departure of the Congress party and the arrival of KCR. He clarified that those, who work hard within the party would receive due recognition and a fitting position.

The party leader Maganti Sunitha (In-charge of the Membership Enrollment Program), P. Vishnu, former Corporation Chairman Ravula Sridhar Reddy and former Corporators Deddipya, Raj Kumar, Shafi, So-hail and others, participated in this meeting.

Adluri dares KTR to debate on Gurukul infrastructure

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Launching a scathing attack on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for SC, ST Welfare Adluri Laxman Kumar on Sunday accused the previous BRS government of neglecting welfare residential institutions for a decade while now attempting to mislead the public on Gurukul education reforms undertaken by the Congress government.

Addressing a press conference at the CLP Office in the Assembly on Sunday, the Minister said the Congress government under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is transforming the welfare education sector through massive investments in infrastructure, nutrition, quality education, foreign education support and transparent procurement systems, whereas the previous regime merely increased the number of institutions without creating adequate infrastructure.

"BRS has no moral right to speak about Gurukuls. They may have increased the number of institutions, but failed to construct even a single permanent Gurukul building for welfare students," he said.

Adluri Laxman Kumar challenged K.T. Rama Rao, who has been serving the nation as the Prime Minister for the past 12 years, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the people of the country on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Narendra Modi, and the Central Government. I sincerely hope that, in the days to come, the blessings, support and cooperation of the people will continue to be bestowed upon the Central Government and Modi's leadership in the same manner," he said.



lished.

"If BRS can prove that it constructed even one permanent Gurukul building during its tenure, I am ready for any debate, at any venue, on any date fixed by KTR," the Minister declared.

He alleged that most welfare institutions functioned from rented premises during the BRS government and that little attention was paid to providing quality infrastructure for SC, ST, BC and Minority students.

The Minister said the Congress government has launched one of the largest educational infrastructure programmes in the State by initiating the construction of 119 Integrated Residential Educational Institutions.

Each campus, he said, is being developed over 20 to 25 acres with an estimated investment of around ₹200 crore, equipped with facilities comparable to top corporate educational institutions.

"Our objective is to ensure that children from poor, Dalit, tribal, backward class and minority families receive the same educational opportunities available to students studying in elite private institutions," he said.

Telangana universities extend summer vacation until June 6 due to severe heat

Hyderabad, May 31: Universities in Telangana have announced an extension of the summer break for campus, constituent, and affiliated colleges until June 6. Previously, the vacation was set to end on May 31. This decision was made due to the extreme heat and high temperatures being experienced across the state. The extended break applies to all undergraduate and postgraduate programs. In their announcements, Osmania University, Palamuru University, and Telangana University confirmed the new vacation end date of June 6, with classes resuming on June 8. Kakatiya University and Satavahana University have also extended their summer vacation until June 5, with a reopening date set for June 6. Nonetheless, university administrators have instructed principals and faculty members in administrative roles to continue reporting to work as usual. Dr. Kadaru Surender Reddy, general secretary of the Telangana Government Colleges Gazetteed Teachers' Association and chairman of the Collegiate Education JAC, noted that under UGC regulations, degree colleges are entitled to ten weeks of vacation each year. Initially, state universities announced holidays only from May 1 to May 31.

He explained that due to faculty members' involvement in the State's education week celebrations and census responsibilities, and considering the ongoing severe summer heat, the association advocated for an extension of the vacation period to the Vice Chancellors and Registrars of various universities in Telangana.

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CM Revanth to launch phase-II of INDIRAMMA HOUSING SCHEME TODAY

FROM PAGE 1

Ahead of the Chief Minister's visit, elaborate arrangements are being made by the district administration. To oversee the preparations, Adilabad district in-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao arrived in Kagaznagar on Sunday after travelling from Secunderabad aboard the Vande Bharat Express.

During the journey, the Minister interacted with fellow passengers and exchanged views on various issues. He also had lunch onboard the train before proceeding to re-

view the arrangements for the Chief Minister's programme.

Krishna Rao is scheduled to inspect the public meeting venue, parking facilities, helipad, stage arrangements and other logistical preparations. He will subsequently hold a review meeting with district officials to assess the readiness of all departments involved in the event.

The first phase of the Indiramma Housing scheme has already seen the launch of construction works for 4.5 lakh houses across the State. Build-

ing on that momentum, the government has set a target of constructing an additional 2.5 lakh houses under the second phase.

The launch of Phase-II from Kumram Bheem-Asifabad district is considered significant, underscoring the government's commitment to providing secure housing and improving the quality of life of underprivileged families. The programme is expected to mark another important milestone in Telangana's ongoing efforts to ensure housing for all.

PM is working hard for country's..

FROM PAGE 1

approaches the completion of 12 years in office, his leadership has ushered in a wide array of reforms and transformative changes across the country. Revolutionary and modern methodologies have been introduced into the realm of governance. As part of the infrastructure development drive, national highways have been expanded, the railway network has been augmented and new trains have been introduced; furthermore, cutting-edge technology has been integrated into the railway sector and all railway stations have undergone modernization. While the country previously possessed only 70 airports, that number has now risen to nearly 150. In addition to inaugurating numerous new airports, world-class national highways of exceptional quality have been constructed across India," he said while addressing media persons.

Reddy noted that through the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana', roads had been constructed in every village across the country's remote

regions that previously lacked road connectivity and added that Numerous initiatives had been undertaken such as the development of tribal areas and the improvement of educational and healthcare facilities. He said that A program to supply free rice—at a rate of 5 kilograms per person per month—to 830 million people across the country had been sustained continuously for several years benefiting all impoverished citizens. He stated that through the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme, the PN had stood as a pillar of support for the poor by providing free medical coverage worth ₹5 lakhs to every eligible individual.

"Although many nations across the globe are currently grappling with various economic and social challenges, Prime Minister Modi is striving to ensure that all citizens of India can move forward with happiness and optimism. He is constantly endeavoring to provide the nation with corruption-free and efficient governance and leadership across all sectors. Consequently, India's prestige

and standing on the global stage have risen significantly. Today, while many nations are reeling under severe economic crises, India—bolstered by the cooperation and active engagement of its citizens—has successfully steered its economy back onto the right track and is surging ahead with great momentum," he said. He extended his special gratitude to all the citizens of the nation, who have consistently supported, blessed and stood firmly behind Narendra Modi over the past several years. "At this juncture, as we move forward under the able leadership of PM Modi, and the Central Government. I sincerely hope that, in the days to come, the blessings, support and cooperation of the people will continue to be bestowed upon the Central Government and Modi's leadership in the same manner," he said.

KTR Challenges Revanth to CONTEST ELECTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

Using a sharp analogy, KTR remarked that Revanth Reddy's concern for farmers was "as little as the amount of ghee in a ridge gourd." He described the Farmers' DISCOM as a noose around the neck of Telangana's farming community and alleged that its ultimate objective was the complete withdrawal of free electricity for agriculture.

KTR called upon not only farmers but also urban residents of Telangana to oppose what he described as a conspiracy against the agricultural sector. He said the people of Telangana had already realised that Revanth Reddy repeatedly failed to honour his commitments and that his latest statements regarding the Farmers' DISCOM lacked credibility.

The BRS leader urged the public to remember that the Congress government had failed to implement even a single major election promise and had deceived every section of society. He said farmers and citizens should remain vigilant against policies that could adversely affect their interests.

Recalling the power situation prior to the formation of Telangana, KTR said the Congress governments that ruled for six decades left the state plagued by severe power shortages and frequent outages. He noted that industries had been forced to declare power holidays and farmers had suffered immensely due to inadequate electricity supply.

KTR credited KCR with transforming Telangana's power sector within six months of

assuming office and ensuring uninterrupted 24-hour electricity supply across the state. He stated that KCR was the first leader in independent India's history to provide 24-hour free electricity to the agricultural sector and accused the Congress government of attempting to erase that legacy.

Speaking at a meeting of key party workers from the Cantonment constituency, KTR also criticised the Congress government for what he termed its failure to deliver meaningful development in Hyderabad over the last two-and-a-half years.

He reminded the gathering that during the Cantonment by-election campaign, ministers including Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy had promised to provide 6,000 houses in the constituency. However, despite two-and-a-half years in office, the government had not delivered even a single house to the people of Cantonment or Hyderabad, he alleged.

KTR highlighted several achievements of the previous BRS government under KCR's leadership, including the construction of major flyovers, underpasses and bridges, provision of 20,000 litres of free drinking water per household, construction of one lakh double-bedroom houses, and distribution of government land to poor families through GO 58 and GO 59.

He alleged that after coming to power, the Congress government had focused on demolishing houses belonging to poor people under the HYDRANA initiative rather than addressing

housing needs.

KTR further stated that despite repeated requests to the Union Government for the transfer of defence lands in Cantonment and for the construction of elevated corridors and skyways towards Karimnagar and Nizamabad, there had been little response. He claimed that sustained pressure from the previous BRS government had eventually yielded results.

He also recalled that the previous government had intervened with the Centre whenever defence authorities abruptly closed roads in Cantonment, ensuring that the grievances of local residents were addressed.

KTR urged party workers and citizens to remember the developmental works undertaken during the BRS administration, which had earned the party widespread support in Hyderabad. He remarked that while the Congress had been rejected across much of the country, it had unfortunately returned to power in Telangana.

During the meeting, KTR also provided guidance to party workers regarding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He advised leaders and cadre in the Cantonment constituency to remain united and continue fighting against what he described as the anti-people policies of the Congress government, while standing firmly with the people.

Former Minister Talasani Srinivasa Yadav and several senior party leaders were also present at the meeting.

COURT REMANDS BALKA SUMAN TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

FROM PAGE 1

A case was registered against Balka Suman under Sections 326(g), 351(3), 353(1)(b) read with 55 and 61(2)(a) of the BNS and Section 4 of the PDPPA Act. After taking him into custody and interrogating him for approximately six hours, the Nampally police shifted him to the Government Hospital in King Koti to conduct medical examinations. Subsequently, the police produced Balka

Suman before a magistrate at the latter's residence in Himayat Nagar.

However, prior to this, the magistrate expressed severe displeasure after the police reportedly forgot to bring the copy of the FIR. He questioned as to how the police could seek a remand without an FIR. Subsequently, following a request from the police, the judge agreed to have the FIR printed and to affix an attested signature to it.

Speaking to the media prior to his arrest, Balka Suman alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Vivek had hatched a conspiracy to send him to jail and that the harassment he was currently facing was a direct result of that plot. He stated that those in power intended to derive sadistic pleasure from incarcerating him while adding that these events were reminiscent of the days of the Emergency imposed by the Congress rulers in the past. He affirmed that, as a law-abiding citizen, he would cooperate with the police. He further clarified that he had not fled anywhere and was, in fact, attending a party program.

TG STUDENT DROWNS IN US RIVER AFTER SAVING 3 FRIENDS

HYDERABAD, MAY 31

A student from Telangana tragically lost his life while trying to save three friends from drowning in a river in Louisiana, USA.

Reports indicate that 24-year-old Anurup Reddy was enjoying an outing with friends at the Sabine River near Toro Road Park when three members

of the group began to struggle against the strong currents.

Anurup quickly rushed to their aid and managed to bring each of his friends back to safety. However, while he was trying to return to shore, it is believed that a fishing line became wrapped around his leg, hindering his movement in the water. As the current grew stronger, Anurup was unable to

free himself and reach the surface. Efforts by bystanders to rescue him were unsuccessful. He was later taken to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Anurup was originally from Kavadi-palli village in Abdullapurmet mandal, Ranga Reddy district. He was the second son of Rajender Reddy, a real estate businessman. Anurup had moved to

the United States nearly five years ago with his older brother, Ashrith Reddy, to pursue higher education. He had recently completed his Master's degree in Computer Science at the University of North Texas and was getting ready to start his professional career. The family and local NRI groups in the United States have begun arrangements to repatriate his remains to India.

Telangana Society Should Stand by the Movement Activists



■ **Telangana Movement Activists Joint Action Committee Convener Godhumala Kumaraswamy**

■ **Demanding the government to implement its promise to activists on a war footing**

■ **Solidarity rally in Hanumakonda welcoming the Telangana Movement Activists Identification Committee**

HYDERABAD

Families of those who sacrificed their lives for the formation of Telangana, along with many activists who participated in various struggles for statehood, were deceived by the previous BRS government. The Congress party had promised that, if elected to power, it would identify Telangana movement activists and provide each of them with a 250-square-yard house site. After more than two and a half years in office, the government has now constituted a committee for their identifica-



tion. While welcoming this step, Telangana Movement Activists Joint Forum State Convener Godhumala Kumaraswamy said that activists must unite and fight collectively to ensure the implementation of the government's initiative and secure their rights. He also called upon Telangana society to support those activists who made sacrifices for the achievement of statehood.

Speaking at a rally organized in Hanumakonda district for the rights of movement activists, which started from the Tanu Naik statue in Ekashila Park and proceeded to the Martyrs' Memorial and Ambedkar Center, Kumaraswamy stated that people from all sections of

society had made sacrifices for Telangana. He said that while major political leaders, government employees, and large businesspersons had benefited from the formation of Telangana, the activists who devoted their lives, time, and energy to the movement had not even received basic recognition and had been subjected to injustice.

He noted that the Congress party had promised justice to activists neglected during the BRS regime and had assured them of 250-square-yard house plots. Although it took two and a half years after coming to power, the formation of the committee is welcome. However, he demanded that the rehabilitation and welfare measures

for activists be implemented immediately and on a priority basis.

State Co-Convenor of the Telangana Movement Activists Joint Action Committee, Saddam Rajanna, who also participated in the event, said that activists who fought for Telangana are now forced to fight again for their own rights. He urged the Congress government to honor its promise, identify activists without delay, issue them identity cards, and ensure that they receive priority in all government welfare schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, All India OBC JAC Chairman Sayini Narendra demanded that the government immediately announce the terms of reference and operational guidelines of the committee. He warned that if political leaders, rather than senior movement activists, dominate the committee, it could lead to political disputes rather than effectively identifying activists and ensuring their welfare.

He emphasized that activists should be identified beyond political affiliations and party lines. He suggested forming district-level committees under the supervision of District Col-

lectors, with active participation from movement activists. He also pointed out that the government appears uncertain about the criteria for identifying activists. Recognizing individuals who participated in Telangana-related struggles in various sectors and issuing them official identity cards, he said, would be a matter of dignity and respect.

The rally was attended by leaders from various organizations, including Jaisingh Rathod, Bhattu Rajender, Navaratna Anand, Syed Ghouse, Chaparathi Kumar Gadge, Jannu Padma, Edunuri Rajamouli, Jallela Krishnamurthy, Kodapaka Devi, Dolak Yadagiri, Ramagiri Bikshapathi, Sammayya Rathod, Rajani Kanth, Prvasi Vikram, Tadishetty Kranthi Kumar, Shobha, Zubair, Nayeem, Thakur Moti Singh, Dommati Ravinder, Gandham Shobha, Poolakka, Cheruku Praveen Kumar, Ayesha Nasreen, Shaik Akram, M.N. Ahmed, Rahman, Kakkerla Prabhakar, Kedela Prasad, Manda Veeraswamy, Podeti Prashanth, Chiluvuru Ramachandram, Sudhamalla Ashok, Gaddam Sarath, Gurimilla Raju, Kattanna, Rudroju Naveen, Mukundachari, and others.

Crop Residue Burning Poses Serious Threat to Soil Fertility and Environment

■ **Farmers Should Adopt Sustainable Alternatives: EPDC Advisor Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy**

HYDERABAD

The Environment Protection Council (EPDC) has expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of crop residue burning in agricultural fields across the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In a joint statement issued on Sunday, EPDC National President S.C.H. Rangaiah, National Advisor Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, National Convener Thyagaraju Mudigonda, and other council representatives stated that while burning crop residues such as paddy straw, maize stalks, and other agricultural waste may appear to be a convenient and quick solution for farmers, it is an extremely harmful practice that adversely affects long-term agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.

According to the council, the burning of crop residues destroys essential soil nutrients such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Sulphur. It also eliminates beneficial microorganisms, earthworms, and other soil organisms that play a crucial role in maintaining soil fertility and ecological balance. As a result, soil health deteriorates significantly, leading to reduced crop yields and increased dependence on chemical fertilizers.

The council further emphasized that crop residue

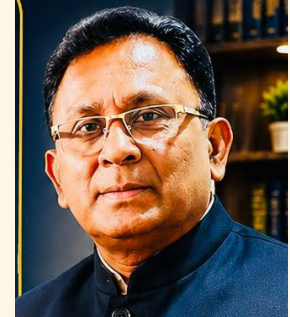
burning has severe environmental and public health consequences. The process releases large quantities of harmful pollutants, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane, and fine particulate matter such as PM 2.5 and PM 10, into the atmosphere. These pollutants contribute to air pollution and are associated with respiratory illnesses, asthma, allergies, eye irritation, and cardiovascular diseases.

are gradually destroying the very foundation of our agricultural system. Farmers should immediately discontinue this practice and adopt environmentally friendly alternatives. Soil conservation and environmental protection are essential for the future of agriculture."

The council urged the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to take proactive measures to curb crop residue burning at the grassroots level. It called upon the Chief Ministers of both states to translate their commitment to environmental protection into concrete action by issuing strict directives to district administrations and relevant departments.

EPDC also recommended that governments make modern agricultural machinery such as rotavators, happy seeders, and mulchers available to farmers at subsidized rates. Additionally, the council suggested providing incentives for the production of organic manure and bio-compost from crop residues. It further advocated for extensive awareness campaigns and scientific training programs in rural areas to educate farmers about sustainable crop residue management practices.

The council concluded by stating that agriculture, environmental protection, and public health are closely interconnected. Effective control of crop residue burning is essential to safeguard soil fertility, promote farmer welfare, protect public health, and maintain ecological balance for future generations.



As part of EPDC's awareness initiative, National Advisor Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy visited areas in and around Choutuppal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Sunday where crop residue burning had recently taken place. He interacted with several farmers and explained the adverse effects of burning agricultural waste on soil fertility, environmental health, and long-term farm productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said, "Land is not merely an asset inherited from our ancestors; it is a precious legacy that must be preserved and passed on to future generations. By burning crop residues, we

Cyberabad traffic police catch 293 for drunk driving during weekend checks

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 293 offenders.

The total cases booked 241 two wheelers, 11 three wheelers, 39 four wheelers and two heavy vehicles based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels 244 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml, 26 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml, 23 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml All the offenders will be produced before the Court.

Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of al-



cohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this

section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

In the last week (May 25 to 30) a total 173 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which four persons got fine along with Jail, five persons got fine and social service, 164 persons got fine only.

Hyderabad Traffic police book 475 drivers in two day

Hyderabad Traffic Police has conducted a two-day special drive on May 29 & 30 against drunken driving to ensure road safety. During the special drive, total of 475 drivers were caught driving vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

A total cases booked 397 two-wheeler riders, 36 three-wheelers and 42 were four-wheeler and other vehicle drivers. The BAC levels: 30-50 (90) cases, 51-100 (202) cases, 101-150 (96) cases, 151-200 (43) cases, 201-250 (24) cases, 251-300 (11) cases and 300 above (9) cases were booked. There will be zero tolerance on Drunk & drive violations and this special drive will continue.

Hyderabad's Sports Hackathon Showcased on Global Stage at GSIC APAC Summit Singapore



HYDERABAD

Hackathon India Brand owner and WTITC Chairman Sundeeep Kumar Makthala represented India as a distinguished panel speaker at the GSIC APAC Summit Singapore, one of the world's premier platforms dedicated to sports innovation, technology, and ecosystem development.

Makthala participated in the high-profile panel discussion titled "Transforming Ecosystems: Intersections of Technol-

ogy, Commercialization and Sustainability," alongside Dean Tan, Deputy Chief, Industry Development, Sport Singapore; Andrew representing the Australian Sports Technology Network (ASTN); and BJ Manalo, Founder of MTW Sports Management Services, Philippines.

The panel explored the future of sports ecosystems, focusing on how technology, commercialization, and sustainability can collectively drive transformation across the global sports industry. The dis-

ussion attracted leaders from sports organizations, innovation ecosystems, technology companies, startups, investors, and policymakers from across the Asia-Pacific region.

During the session, Makthala highlighted Hyderabad's pioneering Sports Hackathon@ - the World's First Stadium Innovation League - as a successful example of transforming sports infrastructure into innovation ecosystems. The initiative brought together athletes, innovators, startups, students,

technology professionals, and industry stakeholders to collaboratively develop solutions for the future of sports.

Speaking at the summit, Makthala emphasized that the future of sports innovation lies in building collaborative ecosystems that connect technology, talent, entrepreneurship, and community participation. He noted that sustainable growth can be achieved only when innovation is supported by strong partnerships and measurable impact.

The participation of WTITC at the GSIC APAC Summit further strengthens India's growing role in global innovation dialogues and highlights Hyderabad's emergence as a leading hub for technology-driven ecosystem development.

The GSIC APAC Summit Singapore is recognized as one of the region's leading gatherings of sports industry leaders, innovators, technology experts, investors, and policymakers, focused on shaping the future of sports through innovation and collaboration.(NSS)

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Man arrested for altering scooter number plate to evade traffic fines

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad city traffic police ascertained the involvement of an accused in use of fake number plate by tampering it as another registration number. Based on this information, the Tappachabutra police, Hyderabad city, have registered a criminal case and apprehended the accused Syed Omer Ahmed (24), a resident of Natraj Nagar in Jhirra, Hyderabad, for using a fake number plate by tampering the original registration number of his two-wheeler. During inspection, it was found that the accused Syed Omer Ahmed altered the vehicle registration number from TS12EP8323 (Activa) to TS12EB8323 (Activa) with the intention of misleading the enforcement authorities so as to avoid traffic challans. The accused by using fake registration number plate committed traffic violations, resulting in the traffic challans wrongly generated against the legitimate registered vehicle owner. The case was detected through coordinated efforts of the Hyderabad Traffic Police & Tappachabutra PS. The Hyderabad Traffic Police cautioned the general public that the use of fake or tampered number plates is a serious and punishable offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Allegation of Conspiracy to Create a Farmers

- **DISCOM and Privatize the Other Two DISCOMs**
- **Is the Chief Minister willing to hold a press conference and categorically state that no such attempt is being made?**
- **The government must clearly assure the public that free electricity will not be withdrawn and that electricity meters will not be installed on agricultural pump sets**
- **The state government is supporting the electricity-sector reforms being pursued by the Central Government.**
- **The Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) should seek farmers' opinions regarding the proposed Farmers' DISCOM.**
- **The ERC should not grant permission to a DISCOM that would adversely affect farmers under any circumstances.**
- **A case has already been filed on behalf of Telangana Jagruthi. If permission is granted, we will challenge it even in the Supreme Court**
- **If the Lakshmidvipalli Reservoir is not inaugurated before Dasara, a padayatra (foot march) will begin the very next day**
- **Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Chief of Telangana Rakshana Sena**

HYDERABAD

Chief of Telangana Rakshana Sena, Kalvakuntla Kavitha, alleged that the Revanth Reddy government is plotting to establish a new Farmers' DISCOM and eventually privatize the existing two power distribution companies. She challenged the Chief Minister to publicly declare through a press conference that no such move is being contemplated. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office in Banjara Hills on Sunday, Kavitha responded to remarks reportedly made by the Chief Minister during an informal media interaction regarding



the proposed Farmers' DISCOM, free electricity, and electricity meters for agricultural pump sets. She said that instead of making statements in informal interactions, the Chief Minister should clearly communicate his position through an official press conference. According to her, the government's previous failure to fulfill several public promises has led to skepticism regarding its assurances. Kavitha urged the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) not to approve any proposal that could harm farmers. She stated that if approval is granted, the matter would be challenged through legal avenues, including the Supreme Court. She added that a case has already been filed by Telangana Jagruthi.

"Does the Government Have the Courage to Rule Out Privatization?" Kavitha alleged that the government kept the Farmers' DISCOM proposal secret for six months and is now discussing it only through informal media interactions. She questioned why the government is not making a formal announcement if it truly has no intention of introducing electricity meters for farmers or withdrawing free power. She further alleged that the creation of a separate Farmers' DISCOM is part of a larger plan to privatize the

remaining two DISCOMs. If the government has no such intention, she challenged it to publicly declare that it would not seek votes in future elections if it proceeds with privatization. Referring to what she described as past failures, Kavitha claimed that promises relating to Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waivers, bonus payments for crops, procurement of paddy, and farmer insurance had not been fully implemented. She argued that these experiences make it difficult for farmers to trust the government's assurances.

"We Will Oppose It at Any Cost"

Kavitha reiterated that Telangana Rakshana Sena would strongly oppose the proposed Farmers' DISCOM. She requested the ERC to reject the proposal and emphasized that farmers, as the primary consumers under the proposed structure, should be consulted before any decision is taken.

She demanded public hearings in all 33 districts of Telangana and said that legal action would continue if the proposal receives approval. According to her, Telangana Jagruthi has already initiated legal proceedings and is prepared to pursue the matter up to the Supreme Court.

Concerns Over Power Sector Reforms

Kavitha alleged that the state gov-

ernment is supporting the Central Government's power-sector reform agenda. She claimed that recent policy measures related to solar panel and battery manufacturing favor large corporate groups while creating difficulties for smaller manufacturers. According to her, a recent government order provides only a short window for compliance and could disproportionately benefit large companies while harming thousands of small businesses and entrepreneurs. She demanded that the Central Government reconsider such measures and expressed support for any future protests by small business owners.

Demand for Progress on the Palamuru Project

Kavitha also called upon the government to accelerate work on the Palamuru project. She stated that repeated questions from her organization had compelled the Chief Minister to review the project's progress.

She urged the government to begin reservoir-related works at Lakshmidvipalli before Dasara. Failing that, she warned that she would undertake a padayatra starting the following day. She additionally criticized the government's handling of schools and raised concerns regarding the functioning of HYDRAA, alleging that it disproportionately affects poor families while failing to act against influential individuals involved in land encroachments.

Justice for Infant Victims

Kavitha also expressed concern over reports involving an infant allegedly suffering severe medical complications during treatment at a government hospital in Khammam. She called upon the Chief Minister and local ministers to ensure justice for the affected family and demanded financial support, including a deposit of ₹25 lakh in the child's name.

Celebrating Women Dairy Farmers

(01 June on the occasion of "World Milk Day")

Today, there is no family in the world that does not consume milk or milk products. In India, milk consumption has gained a prominent place as a heritage, a health provider, and a nectar food for family members even today. Drinking milk directly, using it in the form of tea, being a part of curd/buttermilk rice, eating sweets made from milk, using soft drinks made from milk, and using ghee or butter are common. Science, sustainable development, social impact, digital revolution, innovation, and public health sectors are having a direct impact on the dairy products sector. With the increase in dairy products, the White Revolution has gained momentum in India. Today, along with the White Revolution, green, clean, and future-friendly steps are being taken.

India - Largest Producer of milk

While world milk production is about to touch 1000 million metric tonnes in near future. India alone is expected to produce 250 million metric tonnes of milk in 2026, accounting for more than 25 percent of the world's milk production. In the last decade, per capita milk production in India has increased by 48 percent. There is a need to continuously increase milk production, make dairy products available, and make milk available to all sections of the population, especially poor children. Dairy products occupy a central place in the diet of Indians. According to the 2026 data, 250 million metric tons of milk are produced in India, 149.63 million metric tons in the European Union, 102.66 million metric tons in the US, 43.95 million metric tons in China, 32.50 million metric tons in Russia, 27.99 million metric tons in Brazil, and 61.32 million metric tons in New Zealand.



Milk as a nectar food: Milk is secreted by mammals with mammary glands. The thick white liquid with high nutritional value is called milk. Today, India, where the dairy movement continues, proudly observes "World Milk Day" on 01 June. With the increase in milk production, nutrition-conscious consumers, innovative companies, and a strong commitment to sustainable development are becoming possible. Milk contains many important nutrients such as calcium (29%), vitamin D (25%), potassium, proteins (17%), magnesium, selenium, phosphorus (23%), vitamin B-12 (15%), and riboflavin (23%).

World Milk Day-2026 Theme:

A lot of effort is being made to increase the income of rural farming families through alternative means with milk products. There are a large number of dairy industries in India that manufacture milk products. "World Milk Day" is being celebrated under the initiative of the "Food and Agriculture Organization" of the United Nations. The theme of World Milk Day 2026 is "Celebrating Women Farmers". Let us remember the women folk who are involved in milk production, bring awareness on benefits of milk production and make milk a part of our meals.

World Milk Day is a platform to explain the importance of milk, increase milk consumption, and achieve the goals of making milk a daily staple for people of all ages, especially children, for achieving complete health. If we can turn the poor sections of our society towards milk consumption today, tomorrow's public health will be assured, and today's children will become tomorrow's healthy citizens.

- Prof: Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
994970037.

Prime Minister Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' Inspires Youth: N. Ramchander Rao

HYDERABAD

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao enthusiastically listened to the 134th episode of Mann Ki Baat, hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with party leaders at the residence of Perika Suresh in KMIT Lane, Himayatsnagar, Hyderabad.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Ramchander Rao said that through every episode of Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Modi shares several inspiring and informative messages that are relevant to the nation. He stated that the outstanding performances of Indian athletes, the hard work they put in, and their success stories serve as a great source of motivation for the youth. He particularly praised the remarkable achievements and records being set by Indian sports persons in athletics, saying they are showcasing India's strength and talent on the global stage.

He also appreciated the Prime Minister for highlighting historical themes, including the maritime achievements and adventurous expeditions of Rajaraja Chola I. Ramchander Rao said that bringing such significant chapters of Indian his-



tory to public attention is commendable. Referring to the intense summer season, he noted that the Prime Minister had provided valuable guidance on health precautions that people should follow. He further said that emphasizing the importance of traditional indigenous beverages such as mango panna, sattu, and drinks made with sabja (basil) seeds would benefit the general public and promote healthier lifestyles. Ramchander Rao remarked that every episode of Mann Ki Baat offers new information and fresh inspiration. He urged the youth of the country to regularly listen to the program and draw motivation from its messages. The event was attended by BJP Telangana State In-charge Abhay Patil, MLA Payal Shankar, BJP State General Secretary Veerender Goud, BJP State Secretary Bharat Prasad, and other party leaders.

Good News from the Weather Department for the Telugu States

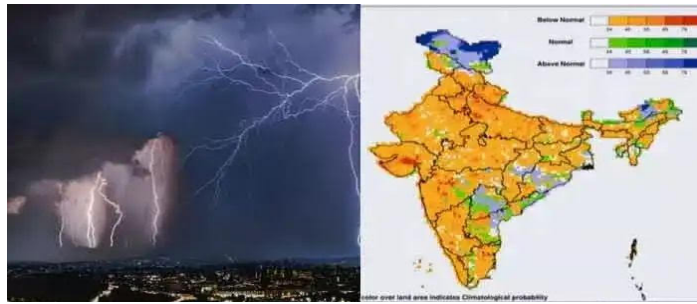
Higher-than-Normal Rainfall Expected This Time

HYDERABAD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has brought good news for the people of the Telugu states, who have been dealing with reports of scorching heat, unseasonal rains, and concerns over a possible Super El Niño. According to the IMD's latest long-range forecast for the 2026 southwest monsoon season, Telangana is likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall this year.

In particular, the central Telangana region, including Hyderabad, is expected to witness excess rainfall. Similarly, the monsoon is also expected to be favorable for the central coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Experts believe that these rains will provide significant relief to both states by benefiting agriculture, improving drinking water availability, and replenishing groundwater resources.



Nationwide Concern Over a 'Super El Niño'

While the outlook for the Telugu states appears encouraging, the broader national picture remains somewhat concerning. The IMD has warned that the strengthening Super El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean could result in below-normal rainfall in many other parts of India this year. The phenomenon may adversely affect the overall spread and performance of the southwest monsoon across the country. Given the uncertainty in weather conditions, meteorologists are advising people to use water resources carefully and

conserve every available drop. Fact Check

The text above reflects the claims in the original Telugu article. However, recent national IMD forecasts reported in multiple news outlets indicate that India as a whole may experience below-normal monsoon rainfall in 2026 due to developing El Niño conditions, although some regions could still receive normal or above-normal rainfall. So, it is possible for Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh to have favorable rainfall prospects even while the all-India monsoon outlook remains weaker than average.

A New Chapter in Singareni Welfare

- **1 Crore Accident Insurance - A Protective Shield for Workers' Families**
- **Scheme Introduced Through Telangana Government's Initiative Brings Relief to More Than 45 Families**
- **Telangana's Welfare Initiative Becomes a National Model and Expands Across India. Largest welfare initiative in the history of Singareni**
- **1 crore insurance coverage even for partial and permanent disability**
- **Natural death insurance coverage ranging from 10 lakh to 15 lakh**
- **Recently introduced 50 lakh health insurance scheme at a nominal premium**
- **Widespread appreciation for the Telangana Government's initiative**
- **Approximately 41 crore already disbursed as insurance benefits in Singareni**

SINGARENI BHAVAN

The person seen in the photograph is Mr. Nagula Rajaiiah. He has a son and a daughter. His son Santosh secured employment in Singareni through compassionate appointment. Tragically, Santosh lost his life in a road accident after serving the company for only 18 months.

Santosh was the sole breadwinner for Rajaiiah's family, which was already struggling with serious

health issues. The terminal benefits payable for his short period of service were limited. At such a difficult time, the ₹1 crore Accident Insurance Scheme introduced in Singareni through the initiative of the Telangana Government came as a lifeline for the family. Today, it provides crucial financial security to the elderly and ailing parents. Another beneficiary is Mrs. Pendra Latha, wife of late Ranjith Kumar, a Singareni employee. Ranjith Kumar died in a tragic accident while returning after visiting his month-old son. With no father and being the sole earning member of the family, his sudden demise left behind his wife, mother and infant son without support.

Since he maintained a salary account with a bank that had an agreement with Singareni, his family received ₹1 crore under the accident insurance scheme. The cheque was personally handed over by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Energy, Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu. Though the compensation cannot replace her husband, Mrs. Latha emotionally stated that it would help fulfill the responsibilities he had left behind and secure the future of her son. She said that without this scheme, her family would have faced an uncertain future.

These are not isolated cases. Similar sentiments are being expressed

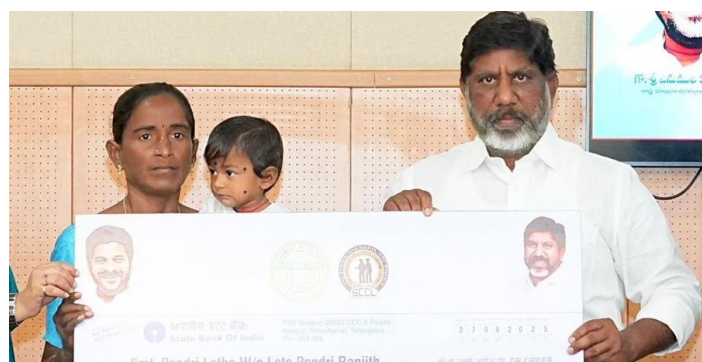
by more than 40 families who have received financial assistance through the free accident insurance scheme introduced in Singareni over the last two years with the support of the Telangana Government.

Today, this welfare initiative is not only benefiting Singareni employees but is also serving as a model across the country, providing security and support to thousands of families affected by unforeseen accidents.

A First-of-Its-Kind Welfare Initiative

In line with the Telangana Government's emphasis on employee welfare, Singareni became the first organization in the country to implement an accident insurance scheme providing coverage up to ₹1.25 crore. Launched in 2024 by Telangana Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, the scheme has emerged as a revolutionary welfare measure in the insurance sector. The initiative has inspired several coal companies and other organizations to explore similar welfare measures. Through special arrangements facilitated by Singareni and the State Government, multiple banks now provide accident insurance coverage to Singareni employees holding corporate salary accounts.

Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda and Indian Overseas Bank



provide accident insurance coverage up to ₹1.25 crore, while State Bank of India, Union Bank of India and Canara Bank provide coverage up to ₹1 crore. Singareni currently disburses salaries to 40,275 employees through various banking institutions operating in its areas.

No Premium Burden on Employees

While employees generally have to pay premiums under conventional insurance schemes, the Telangana Government's initiative enabled Singareni to negotiate arrangements whereby employees receive insurance coverage without paying any premium. The scheme has received widespread appreciation from employees and trade unions.

Financial Security for Bereaved Families

The sudden death of an employ-

ee often places immense emotional and financial strain on the family. The accident insurance scheme provides compensation ranging from ₹1 crore to ₹1.25 crore, helping families manage financial obligations, children's education and future responsibilities.

Over the past two years, State Bank of India has disbursed nearly ₹28 crore to the families of 32 deceased employees, while Union Bank of India has paid approximately ₹13 crore to the families of 13 employees.

Coverage for Permanent and Partial Disability

The scheme extends beyond accidental death coverage. Employees who suffer permanent or partial disability due to accidents are also eligible for compensation.

Recently, a worker named Satyanarayana from the Srirampur

Area lost both his legs in a mine accident. Under the accident insurance scheme, the bank provided ₹1 crore compensation to support his family.

Natural Death Insurance Coverage

In addition to accident insurance, State Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab National Bank provide free natural death insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh. Bank of Baroda offers coverage up to ₹15 lakh.

This benefit is also provided free of cost without any premium payment from employees.

50 Lakh Health Insurance at Nominal Premium

As an extension of the welfare initiative, State Bank of India has introduced a health insurance scheme providing coverage up to ₹50 lakh for employees holding corporate salary accounts.

For an annual premium of ₹8,906, the scheme covers the employee, spouse and two children below 25 years of age. Coverage remains valid up to the age of 63 years, with options for continuation thereafter at a revised premium.

Employees have welcomed this initiative, noting that both health security and life security are essential in the present day.

Insurance Coverage for Outsourced Workers

Nearly 30,000 outsourced workers are employed in Singareni. Recognizing their contribution,

the Telangana Government directed the management to coordinate with banks to extend insurance protection to them as well. Punjab National Bank has agreed to provide accident insurance coverage of ₹40 lakh to outsourced workers, while HDFC Bank offers coverage of ₹30 lakh.

In one recent case, Mr. Kambala Rajesh, an employee of STPP, Punjab National Bank provide free natural death insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh. Since his monthly salary was ₹25,000, his family received ₹50 lakh under the accident insurance scheme, providing valuable support to his wife and two young children.

Free Accident Insurance for Retired Employees

Following the Telangana Government's directions, discussions were held with banks to continue accident insurance benefits even after retirement.

As a result, several banks have agreed to provide free insurance coverage ranging from ₹30 lakh to ₹1 crore to retired employees who receive their pension through the respective banks.

What began as a welfare initiative in Singareni has since been extended to power utilities, state government organizations and government employees across Telangana. The scheme has now influenced similar measures for Central Government employees as well, making Telangana's welfare model a guiding example for the entire country.



Sardar Patel made India 'Ek Bharat', 'Akhand Bharat': Union Minister Shekhawat
HYDERABAD:

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, stated on Sunday that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a pivotal role in making India 'Ek Bharat' and 'Akhand Bharat'. Speaking at an event organised by Bharat Bharati to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel here, he emphasised that Patel not only prevented India from disintegrating but also united the country by integrating princely states through his diplomacy, intelligence, and courage. "We are gathered here to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It's not only a commemoration, but an opportunity to make a resolution, and this is an opportunity to bow down to the great personality, who not only made an unprecedented contribution in India's freedom movement but also did the great work of making India 'Ek Bharat' and 'Akhand Bharat'," he said.

Civil Defence Key to Disaster Management: Adityanath

LUCKNOW:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the role of civil defence personnel is no longer confined to wartime situations, but equally crucial in disaster management and relief, and ensuring prompt response during emergencies.

The chief minister chaired a review meeting on the functioning of the civil defence department here, where he stressed that the department's capabilities in relief and rescue, firefighting, first-aid, search and rescue, and disaster management should be further strengthened, an official statement said.

Adityanath directed officials to ensure that volunteers are trained in line with modern requirements and more people are involved in disaster management and civil defence activities.

Somanna Lays Foundation Stones for Railway Infrastructure Projects

HUBBALLI, MAY 31:

Shri V. Somanna, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, today laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 138 at Ajjampura. He also laid the foundation stone for a Pedestrian Subway between Ajjampura and Birur stations and later flagged off Train No. 11312 Hassan-Solapur Express with an additional stoppage at Channarayaptna Railway Station.

The Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 138 at Ajjampura is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹50.48 crore to enhance safety and improve road connectivity. The pedestrian subway between Ajjampura and Birur stations, being taken up at a cost of ₹5.10 crore, will provide a safe crossing facility for pedestrians and help prevent trespassing on railway tracks.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri G.H. Srinivasa, Hon'ble MLA, thanked Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways Shri V. Somanna for sanctioning the stoppage of the Hosapete-Bengaluru train at Shivani. He also requested the provision of additional passenger amenities at Ajjampura Railway Station. Shri S.L. Bhojgowda, Hon'ble MLC, expressed his appreciation and stated that the construction of the ROB in lieu of LC No. 138 would greatly benefit the local public by enhancing safety and connectivity. Addressing the gathering, Shri Kota



Srinivas Poojary, Hon'ble MP, Udipi-Chikkamagaluru, assured that based on public demand, efforts would be made to provide additional train stoppages at Ajjampura and Shivani stations. He further highlighted the various developmental initiatives undertaken in the constituency under the guidance of Hon'ble MoSR Shri V. Somanna and recalled that the Chikkamagaluru-Tirupati train service was flagged off last year.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the pedestrian subway, Shri K.S. Anand, Hon'ble MLA, Kadur, requested Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways Shri V. Somanna to upgrade Kadur Railway Station with additional passenger amenities, considering the substantial number of passengers from North Karnataka who travel

through Kadur en route to Dharmasthala. He also sought the provision of additional train stoppages at Kadur Railway Station to cater to the growing travel demand of the region. In his address, Shri V. Somanna, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, assured that Ajjampura Railway Station would be upgraded with additional passenger facilities in the coming days. He stated that during the current year, 17 pairs of train services had been regularised and passenger fares had been reduced by 30 percent.

The Hon'ble Minister further stated that Vande Bharat Sleeper services would be introduced shortly. He also informed that 61 railway stations across Karnataka are being redeveloped under

the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at an estimated cost of ₹2,000 crore. Later, Shri V. Somanna, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, flagged off Train No. 11312 Hassan-Solapur Express with an additional stoppage at Channarayaptna Railway Station. The additional stoppage has been provided to cater to the long-standing demand of passengers from Channarayaptna and surrounding areas, thereby improving rail connectivity in the region. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted the Government's focus on strengthening railway infrastructure and enhancing passenger safety. He noted that 13,800 unmanned level crossings have been eliminated across the country over the past decade and informed

that railway stations such as Hassan, Arsikere and Sakleshpur are being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He further stated that the Hassan-Solapur Express would greatly benefit passengers and improve connectivity across the region. Shri Kota Srinivas Poojary, Hon'ble MP, Udipi-Chikkamagaluru; Shri G.H. Srinivasa, Hon'ble MLA; Shri S.L. Bhojgowda, Hon'ble MLC; Shri D.S. Suresh, Former MLA, Tarikere; and Shri Mudit Mittal, Divisional Railway Manager, Mysuru Division, along with other dignitaries and senior railway officials, were present during the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Road Over Bridge at Ajjampura.

At the foundation stone laying ceremony for the pedestrian subway between Ajjampura and Birur stations, Shri K.S. Anand, Hon'ble MLA, Kadur; Shri H.K. Suresh, Hon'ble MLA, Belur; Shri Belli Prakash, Former MLA, Kadur; and Shri Mudit Mittal, Divisional Railway Manager, Mysuru Division, along with other dignitaries and railway officials, were present. During the flagging-off ceremony of Train No. 11312 Hassan-Solapur Express with an additional stoppage at Channarayaptna, Shri Shreyas Patel, Hon'ble MP, Hassan; Shri C.N. Balakrishna, Hon'ble MLA, Shrivani; Shri H.K. Suresh, Hon'ble MLA, Belur; along with senior railway officials and other dignitaries, were present on the occasion.

Southern Railway Announces Special Trains Between Thiruvananthapuram and Podanur

Chennai, May 31: To clear the extra rush of passengers during the summer season, Southern Railway has announced the operation of special trains between Thiruvananthapuram and Podanur on a temporary basis. Train No. 06079 Thiruvananthapuram North-Podanur Express Special will depart from Thiruvananthapuram North at 1.00 p.m. on June 3 and June 10, 2026 (Wednesdays), and arrive at Podanur at 6.45 a.m. the following day. In the return direction, Train No. 06080 Podanur-Thiruvananthapuram Central Express Special will leave Podanur at 5.00 p.m. on June 4 and June 11, 2026 (Thursdays), reaching Thiruvananthapuram Central at 7.15 a.m. the next day. The special trains will consist of two AC 2-tier coaches, two AC 3-tier coaches, three AC 3-tier Economy coaches, six sleeper class coaches, four general second-class coaches, one Divyanjan-friendly second-class coach and one luggage-cum-brake van. The trains will halt at major stations including Varkala, Kollam, Kottarakara, Punalur, Sengottai, Tenkasi, Kadayannallur, Sankarankovil, Rajapalayam, Srivilliputtur, Sivakasi, Virudunagar, Madurai, Kodaikanal Road, Dindigul, Oddanchatram, Palani, Udumalipettai and Pollachi en route. Railway authorities have advised passengers to make use of these special services and book tickets in advance to avoid inconvenience during the peak summer travel season.

Special Trains between Hyderabad and Mangaluru Central

CHENNAI, MAY 31:

South Central Railway has notified for special trains (Train on Demand) will be operated to clear extra rush of passenger during Summer as detailed below:

Train No. 07097/07098 Hyderabad - Mangaluru Central - Hyderabad Express Specials:

Train No. 07097 Hyderabad - Mangaluru Central Express Special will leave Hyderabad at 04.20 hrs on 03rd, 10th, 17th & 24th June, 2026 (Wednesday) and

reach Mangaluru Central at 09.30 hrs, the next day (4 Services) In return direction, Train No. 07098 Mangaluru Central - Hyderabad Express Special will leave Mangaluru Central at 20.00 hrs on 04th, 11th, 18th & 25th June, 2026 (Thursday) and reach Hyderabad at 04.00 hrs, the third day (4 Services) Coach Composition: 3- AC Two Tier Coaches, 5- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 4- General Second Class Coaches, & 2- Luggage cum Brake Vans

Why DK Shivakumar is opting for low-key Karnataka CM oath ceremony

DK Shivakumar decided to keep his June 3 oath-taking ceremony low-key after police raised concerns over traffic chaos in Bengaluru as his supporters book more than 17,000 vehicles for the event.

Chief Minister-designate DK Shivakumar on Sunday announced that his swearing-in ceremony on June 3 will be a low-key affair, citing concerns over traffic disruption in Bengaluru due to the anticipated influx of Congress workers and supporters from across Karnataka.

Shivakumar, who is scheduled to take oath as Karnataka's next Chief Minister at 4.05 pm at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday, said the decision was taken in consultation with party leaders and police authorities to ensure safety and minimal inconvenience to the public.

"Since it is a working day, we do not want chaos in



Bengaluru city. More than 17,000 vehicles have already been booked to bring party workers and supporters to the capital. Police officers were worried about traffic disruption and public grievances," Shivakumar told reporters. He said the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) had already informed party leaders that the ceremony would be restricted to key dignitaries.

"We have decided to have a low-key swearing-in function at Lok Bhavan to avoid chaos in Bengaluru. We also

will be done," he said.

Earlier this week, Siddaramaiah formally handed over the reins of Karnataka to DK Shivakumar. Shortly after the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) unanimously elected Shivakumar as its leader, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said the party would continue to rely on Siddaramaiah's experience and leadership, both in Karnataka and at the national level. Shivakumar's elevation was formalised at a CLP meeting held at Bengaluru's Vidhan Soudha, where Siddaramaiah, who stepped down as Chief Minister on May 28, proposed his successor's name.

The proposal was unanimously endorsed by party legislators, paving the way for Shivakumar to become Karnataka's next Chief Minister. Following his election, Shivakumar met Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot at Lok Bhavan and formally staked claim to form the new government in the state.

Punjab Holds Mega PTMs Across 19,000 Schools

According to the state government, the exercise was part of an event titled "Sikhya Da Maha Jashan", held to mark Punjab's top ranking in the NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Report 2026, where it claimed to have surpassed Kerala on key foundational learning indicators. Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said teachers and non-teaching staff were felicitated for their performance during the programme. The Punjab government on Saturday organised simultaneous mega Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) across more than 19,000 government schools in the state.

According to the state government, the exercise was part of an event titled "Sikhya Da Maha Jashan", held to mark Punjab's top ranking in the NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Report 2026, where it claimed to have surpassed Kerala on key foundational learning indicators. Education Minister Har-



lot Singh Bains said teachers and non-teaching staff were felicitated for their performance during the programme. Students, including board exam toppers, achievers of the English Edge Programme, and JEE qualifiers, were also given certificates and recognition.

The government said more than 20 lakh parents participated in the PTMs and related workshops, which focused on summer learning continuity, holiday homework management and developing study routines during the vacation period. Officials said teachers and school heads were trained through a live YouTube session ahead of the event. School Management Committees and facilitators were also deployed to assist in coordination and mobilisation. The minister described the performance as a milestone under the "Punjab Sikhya Kranti" initiative, adding that it was the result of collective efforts by teachers, students and parents.

Bengal Cabinet expansion today, 35 new ministers to be sworn-in

When Suwendu Adhikari took oath as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister on May 9, only five other BJP MLAs - Agnimitra Paul, Nisith Pramanik, Dilip Ghosh, Ashok Kirtania and Kshudiram Tudu - were sworn in alongside him.



ministers. "We stand committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of West Bengal," Adhikari said.

According to sources, several prominent BJP leaders are expected to be inducted into the Cabinet. The likely entrants include former TMC strongman Arjun Singh, cricketer-turned-politician Ashok Dinda, former Raja-

Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta, and BJP leader and actor Rupa Ganguly.

Tapas Roy, a former minister in the Mamata Banerjee government who later joined the BJP, is also expected to find a place in the ministry.

Several BJP legislators who retained their seats in the Assembly elections are also likely to be inducted. Among them

are Ajay Kumar Poddar, a second-term MLA from Kulti; Dipak Barman, a second-term MLA from Falakata; Sankar Ghosh, a second-term MLA from Siliguri; and Joyel Murmu, a three-time MLA from Habibpur. Most of the remaining inductees are expected to be first-time legislators.

When Adhikari took oath as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister on May 9, only five other BJP MLAs - Agnimitra Paul, Nisith Pramanik, Dilip Ghosh, Ashok Kirtania and Kshudiram Tudu - were sworn in alongside him. The West Bengal Council of Ministers can accommodate up to 44 ministers.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief ministers of all BJP-ruled

states, underscoring the significance of the party's victory in West Bengal.

The BJP had chosen May 9 for the oath-taking ceremony as it coincided with Rabindra Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The move was widely seen as an attempt to counter the Trinamool Congress's long-standing criticism that the BJP does not adequately represent Bengal's cultural identity.

In the recently concluded Assembly elections, the BJP ended the Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule in West Bengal, winning 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly. The Trinamool Congress was reduced to 80 seats, suffering its worst electoral setback since coming to power in 2011.

Phase 3 of SIR exercise begins in Odisha, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram

The Election Commission has initiated the enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur. The four states involved in the current phase together account for more than 3.67 crore electors.

The enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Manipur has started, the Election Commission said on Sunday. The poll authority had launched phase 3 of SIR in 16 states and three Union territories on May 14 in a staggered manner. During the enumeration phase which began on Saturday, Both Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct house-to-house visits to distribute, collect, and verify enumeration forms. Electors can submit their duly filled forms either through BLOs or online. Those whose forms are received by



the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) on or before June 28, will be included in the draft electoral rolls. Electors who are unable to submit their enumeration forms by the deadline can still apply for registration as a new voter through Form 6 along with the prescribed declaration form during the claims and objections period. The four states involved in the current phase together account for more than 3.67 crore electors. Odisha has the largest electorate with over 3.34 crore voters, supported by 38,123 BLOs and 8,391 BLAs.

Mizoram has 8.75 lakh electors, Sikkim 4.71 lakh, and Manipur 20.92 lakh electors. The Election Commission has appealed to all eligible voters to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision process and cooperate with election officials during the house-to-house enumeration drive to ensure accurate and inclusive electoral rolls. The EC said the Special Intensive Revision was launched to ensure that all eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls while preventing the inclusion of ineligible persons.

EDITORIAL

South Coast Railway Zone:
A New Growth Engine for
Andhra Pradesh

The formal commencement of the South Coast Railway Zone marks a significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh's development journey. As the state's first dedicated railway zone, it represents more than an administrative restructuring—it symbolizes a renewed focus on connectivity, economic growth, and regional progress.

Railways have long served as the backbone of India's transportation network, facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services across vast distances. The establishment of the South Coast Railway Zone is expected to strengthen this role by enabling more focused planning and efficient management of railway operations within Andhra Pradesh. With headquarters in Visakhapatnam, the zone is well-positioned to cater to the state's growing transportation needs and support its expanding industrial and commercial activities.

One of the most important benefits of the new zone will be improved connectivity. Andhra Pradesh is home to major ports, industrial corridors, educational institutions, and tourism destinations. Enhanced railway infrastructure and better operational coordination can help connect these growth centers more effectively, reducing travel times and improving access to markets and opportunities.

The logistics sector is also poised to gain considerably. Efficient rail transportation is essential for industries such as steel, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, seafood exports, and manufacturing. A dedicated railway zone can facilitate smoother freight movement, reduce transportation costs, and improve supply chain efficiency. This, in turn, can make Andhra Pradesh a more attractive destination for investment and industrial expansion.

The South Coast Railway Zone is also expected to create new employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly. Infrastructure development, station modernization, maintenance facilities, and allied services can generate jobs while contributing to local economic activity. Improved rail services can further encourage tourism, benefiting small businesses, hospitality establishments, and local communities.

Equally important is the potential for balanced regional development. Better rail connectivity can help bridge gaps between urban centers and smaller towns, ensuring that the benefits of growth reach a wider section of society. Improved accessibility often acts as a catalyst for education, healthcare, trade, and social mobility.

As Andhra Pradesh continues its pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development, the South Coast Railway Zone can play a transformative role. Its success will depend on efficient implementation, timely infrastructure upgrades, and a long-term vision focused on passenger convenience and economic growth.

The launch of the South Coast Railway Zone is therefore not merely the creation of a new administrative entity. It is an investment in the future of Andhra Pradesh—one that has the potential to accelerate growth, strengthen connectivity, and open new avenues of opportunity for generations to come.

Anxiety as a Growing Public Health Concern

In recent years, anxiety disorders have become a significant public health concern, as health services in many countries report increasing demand for mental health support and growing pressure on existing systems. Recent National Health Service (NHS) data show sustained demand for anxiety-related support, particularly among young people, along with continuing pressure on waiting times and widespread use of services such as NHS Talking Therapies. What was once often viewed as everyday stress is now more widely recognised as an important public health issue associated with modern lifestyles, economic uncertainty, and increasing psychological pressures across society.

Anxiety disorders are among

the most common mental health conditions worldwide, affecting hundreds of millions of people, according to the World Health Organization. Despite their prevalence, they are still frequently misunderstood as ordinary stress or dismissed as excessive worry. In clinical terms, they involve persistent and sometimes overwhelming disruption to how a person thinks, feels, and functions in everyday life.

Although anxiety disorders have long been recognised in clinical medicine, recent years have seen increased public awareness, greater reporting, and higher demand for treatment, together with more open discussion of mental health in everyday life.

Clinically, the National Health Service describes anxiety as an

overactive "fight, flight, or freeze" response of the body. This response is designed to protect individuals during short-term danger, but in anxiety disorders it may remain active even when no immediate threat is present. As a result, people may experience ongoing emotional distress alongside physical and psychological symptoms such as restlessness, fatigue, sleep difficulties, problems with concentration, muscle tension, and, in some cases, panic attacks that may feel similar to medical emergencies.

The effects of anxiety can influence many areas of life. At home, everyday responsibilities may feel overwhelming, with individuals often worrying excessively about finances, health, or relationships. In education, anxiety may affect concentration and memory and create fear surrounding tests or evaluation, sometimes leading to avoidance behaviours. In social situations, it can reduce confidence and make interactions more difficult, occasionally contributing to social withdrawal. Anxiety may also affect physical health, causing fatigue, headaches, digestive problems, and general exhaustion when stress persists over long periods.

The causes of anxiety are rarely straightforward. Research suggests that anxiety disorders result from a combination of biological vulnerability, psychological characteristics, and life experiences. Genetic predisposition, differences in brain chemistry, and personality traits such as sensitivity or perfectionism may interact with stressful or traumatic experiences. Importantly, anxiety is not considered a sign of weakness or personal failure, but rather the result of complex psychological and biological processes.

Equally important is the fact that anxiety can be treated effectively. The National Health Service states that early support can improve recovery outcomes. Talking therapies, particularly Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), are commonly used to help individuals recognise and change negative

thought patterns associated with fear and avoidance. Other forms of support may include counselling, guided self-help, and mindfulness techniques. In some cases, doctors may prescribe medication such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). Healthy lifestyle habits, including good sleep, regular exercise, a balanced diet, and reducing caffeine and alcohol intake, may also help improve symptoms.

There is also increasing emphasis on early self-management. Recognising the early signs of anxiety, rather than waiting for symptoms to become severe, may allow individuals to seek support earlier and manage symptoms more effectively. Simple strategies such as gradually facing feared situations, practising slow breathing techniques, and maintaining supportive social connections may help reduce the intensity and frequency of symptoms over time.

Ultimately, anxiety disorders should not be viewed as problems to be endured in silence. They represent an important public health issue affecting education, workplaces, families, and wider society. The challenge is not only medical but also social and cultural: reducing stigma, encouraging early support, and promoting open discussion and timely care. With appropriate treatment and understanding, anxiety can often be managed successfully, enabling individuals to regain daily functioning and improve their overall quality of life.



DR. KRISHNA KUMAR
VEPAKOMMA
Professor & Principal (Retd.)
Columnist



Prasanna Chaitanya

White Revolution enters a new phase: structural reforms key to sustaining dairy growth

India's dairy sector continues to anchor the rural economy, sustaining millions of households and serving as one of the most stable daily income sources in rural areas. It is also one of the most significant sectors for women's participation in rural livelihoods, making it both an economic and social pillar.

India produces around 230-240 million tonnes of milk annually, accounting for nearly 24% of global output and retaining its position as the world's largest producer. Per capita availability has risen to over 450 grams per day, significantly above global averages. Yet, these aggregate gains have not translated into proportionate improvements in farmer incomes or systemic efficiency.

Consumption gaps and shifting demand patterns:

Despite rising production, domestic consumption remains uneven due to persistent rural-urban income disparities. For a large section of rural and low-income households, milk continues to be a relatively expensive source of nutrition, limiting equitable consumption growth. At the same time, consumer trust is under pressure due to recurring concerns over milk adulteration. This has a direct bearing on demand stability. Compounding this, dietary preferences are shifting, particularly among younger consumers, towards

packaged beverages and carbonated drinks, gradually reshaping traditional dairy consumption patterns.

Productivity constraints and cost pressures:

India holds one of the world's largest bovine populations, yet average milk yield per animal remains significantly lower than international benchmarks. This productivity gap is driven by limited scientific breeding practices, inadequate availability of quality fodder, and slow adoption of modern animal husbandry techniques. Input costs are also rising steadily. Increasing expenditure on fodder and veterinary care has added pressure on small and marginal dairy farmers, compressing already thin profit margins and making the sector increasingly cost-sensitive.

Post-harvest losses and infrastructure gaps:

Milk's highly perishable nature makes cold chain infrastructure critical. However, rural India continues to face significant gaps in storage and transportation systems. Inadequate bulk milk cooling facilities and weak logistics networks result in substantial post-harvest losses, especially during peak summer months. These inefficiencies force farmers into distress sales at lower prices, while simultaneously affecting supply consistency and quality in urban mar-

kets. The result is a dual loss—income erosion at the producer level and instability at the consumer end.

Adulteration and intermediary dominance:

Milk adulteration remains a serious challenge with both public health and economic consequences. It undermines consumer confidence while directly harming genuine producers who bear rising production costs. At the same time, the supply chain continues to be dominated by informal intermediaries in several regions. Despite growth in organised procurement systems, a significant share of milk still flows outside formal channels, limiting price realisation for farmers and reducing overall transparency in the value chain.

Cooperative model under uneven stress:

The cooperative framework, which was central to the success of the White Revolution through the Anand model, played a transformative role in linking farmers to markets and empowering rural women. However, its performance has become uneven across states. While Gujarat and Karnataka maintain relatively strong cooperative ecosystems, several other regions face governance challenges, including administrative inefficiencies and political interference. In many cases, this has weakened institutional efficiency and decision-making capacity.

Policy push and the technology transition:

Government initiatives such as the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund, and the National Digital Livestock Mission aim to address structural bottlenecks through genetic improvement, infrastructure expansion, and digitalisation of livestock health data. The introduction of livestock identification systems and digital health records marks a significant step towards traceability, disease management, and data-driven planning in the sector.

The next phase: technology and value addition:

Long-term transformation will depend on deeper farm-level technological integration. IoT-based monitoring systems can enable real-time tracking of animal health and productivity. Automated milking systems can improve hygiene and efficiency, while blockchain-based traceability systems can enhance transparency across the supply chain. QR-code-based systems can further strengthen consumer trust. Equally critical is value addition. Products such as ghee, paneer, yoghurt, and flavoured milk can increase farmer incomes by an estimated 20-30%. Integration with e-NAM and digital commerce platforms can reduce intermediary dependence and expand market access.

Structural reform as the real imperative:

In the long term, sustained productivity growth will require advances in genomic selection, scientific breeding, and improved livestock management systems. Without these structural interventions, output growth alone will not translate into meaningful income gains. Milk in India is not merely a commodity. It is deeply linked to rural livelihoods, women's empowerment, and agricultural resilience. Strengthening infrastructure, ensuring fair pricing, and modernising the value chain are therefore not optional reforms but essential requirements.

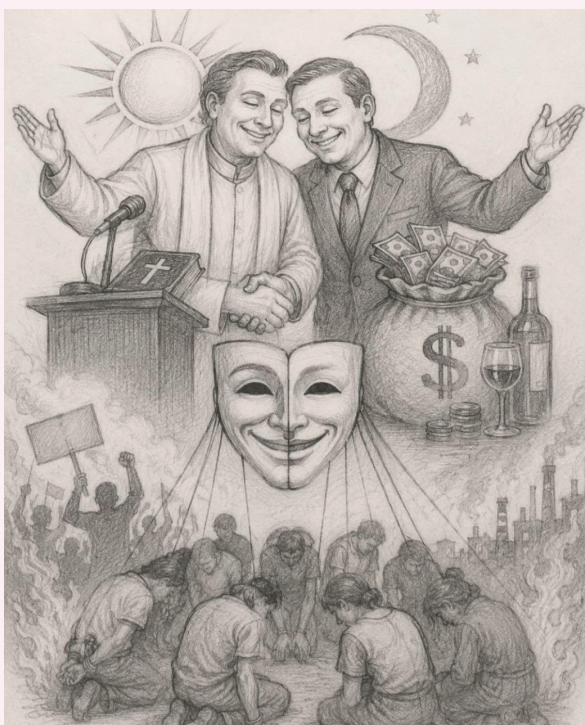
If India is to sustain its leadership in global dairy production, the next phase of the White Revolution must be defined by institutional reform, technological adoption, and equitable value distribution—rather than production growth alone.



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert - Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
Sri Jairam Competitive Academy



BOTH ARE THE SAME



They shine like Sun and Moon above,
With smiles of care, with words of love—
Yet cloak deceit in noble flame,
Two faces—yet they're both the same.

One chants of service, loud and clear:
"I see your pain, I hold it near!"
But every promise, every plea,
Is stitched in threads of trickery.

The other, too, with purse in hand,
Buys hearts and hope across the land.
With gold and wine they woo the crowd,
Then preach their lies with voices loud.

They swear on God, on sacred fire,
To cleanse the world, to lift it higher.
Yet hand in hand they chase the prize,
Their truths are traps, their vows are lies.

Once crowned, the first will grin with pride,
"Behold my power!" he will confide.
And call the second with delight
While shadows silence those who fight.

No sweat upon their palms we see,
Yet live in gold and revelry.
While we, beneath their schemes and games,
Are lost in toil, consumed by flames.

We dreamt they'd lift us from our grief—
But devils danced behind belief.
They drained our hope, devoured our will,
Yet still we bow, submissive still.

With polished robes and pious tone,
They break our backs, yet stand alone.
No tyrant wore a gentler mask
No villain dared so soft a task.

They rise again with newer names,
But play the same corrupted games.
And though we see, and though we know,
Still on our knees, we rise too slow.

So let this truth not fade or flee
No matter how disguised they be,
With crowns or coins, with faith or fame
Beneath it all, they're just the same.

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

EESL Finalises Comprehensive Action Plan for Economic Sustainability of Andhra Pradesh MSMEs

NEW DELHI, MAY 31:

In a major boost to sustainable industrial development in Andhra Pradesh, the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has finalised a comprehensive and time-bound action plan aimed at transforming the MSME ecosystem across the State through advanced global technologies in energy and water efficiency. The initiative follows the grand success of the AP MSME Growth Summit 2026 organised by the Industries Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and reflects the State Government's strong commitment towards industrial modernization, green growth and sustainable economic development. EESL Chief Executive Officer Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, in consultation with the AP MSME Development Corporation (APMSME-DC), has approved an extensive implementation Roadmap designed to strengthen the long-term economic sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Andhra Pradesh.

The initiative is expected to significantly:

- Reduce operational and

Plan to reduce operational costs for MSMEs. Generate green employment opportunities. Strengthen environmental sustainability. EESL expects significant benefits from advanced global technologies for MSMEs in key states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. EESL thanked Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for supporting Global Technologies in MSMEs. - EESL expects the AP initiative to emerge as one of India's largest MSME efficiency programmes.



maintenance costs for MSMEs

- Improve industrial productivity and competitiveness
- Generate large-scale green employment opportunities
- Promote efficient utilization of energy and water resources
- Strengthen environmental sustainability and climate resilience

EESL thanked the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for fully supporting the implementation of Global advanced Technologies and also handing over the work order issued by APMSME-DC to EESL during the AP MSME Growth Summit 2026 in the presence of Ministers for Industries and MSMEs TG Bharat and Kondapally Srinivas, Industries Secretary Dr. N. Yuva Raj and APMSME CEO M. Viswa. The ceremonial handover marked the official operational launch of one of India's most ambitious MSME sustainability and industrial efficiency initiatives under the Government of India's RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Programme and AP MSME & Entrepreneur Development Policy 4.0. Key Components of the Initiative Under the approved scope of work, EESL will undertake phased implementation of advanced technologies and sustainability programmes across MSME clusters in the State, including:

- Cluster mapping and diagnostic studies for 15 industrial clusters
- Investment-grade energy audits for 452 MSMEs
- Water audits for 300 MSMEs
- Deployment of advanced energy-efficient and water-efficient technologies
- The programme aims to enable MSMEs to adopt modern industrial practices that reduce costs, improve efficiency, enhance global competitiveness and ensure sustainable industrial growth. EESL's Core Responsibilities
- EESL will provide:
 - Cluster-level diagnostics and energy intensity mapping
 - Technical oversight and quality assurance
 - Standardized audit methodologies and reporting systems
 - MSME capacity building and awareness programmes
 - Integration support with the AP MSME ONE digital platform Massive Green Employment Potential A

major highlight of the initiative is its significant potential to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities across AP while building a robust green industrial ecosystem. The programme is expected to create opportunities in sectors such as:

- Energy auditing and technical consulting
- Manufacturing of energy-efficient equipment
- Installation, retrofitting and commissioning services
- Water management and recycling solutions
- Digital monitoring, automation and IoT services
- Operations and maintenance services
- MSME advisory and sustainability consulting
- Clean technology deployment and industrial supply chains.

Officials said the initiative could pave the way for the emergence of a completely new green industrial services economy in the state by creating demand for skilled professionals, auditors, technicians,

startups, Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), technology manufacturers and sustainability experts. Major Environmental Benefits. The initiative is also expected to deliver substantial environmental gains through systematic reduction in industrial energy and water consumption. The programme will contribute towards:

- Reduction in industrial carbon emissions
- Improved water-use efficiency
- Promotion of cleaner production practices
- Adoption of sustainable industrial technologies
- Advancement of India's Net Zero and climate commitments. Dr.N.Yuvaraj emphasized that the current Phase-I implementation is only the beginning of a much larger transformational industrial opportunity for Andhra Pradesh. EESL opened that strategic partnerships with industrially progressive states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh would help increasing a favorable ecosystem for implementation of advanced industrial technologies and sustainable manufacturing practices.



RPF of Northeast Frontier Railway Intensifies Safety and Anti-Crime Operations

MALIGAON, 31 MAY, 2026:

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway continued its sustained efforts towards ensuring passenger safety, preventing unlawful activities and safeguarding railway premises through a series of successful operations conducted across the zone on 25th and 26th May, 2026. During anti-crime drives and surveillance operations conducted on 25th May, 2026, RPF personnel achieved significant success in detecting unlawful transportation of liquor and narcotic substances. Several consignments of unclaimed liquor bottles were recovered from trains and railway stations under Alipurduar, Katihar and Dalkhola areas. In separate operations conducted at Agartala railway station, RPF teams recovered over 16 kg of ganja and handed over the seized items to the concerned authorities for further legal action. On the same day, RPF personnel also apprehended offenders involved in unlawful activities including ticketing irregularities and theft-related offences at railway

premises. Rescue operations were simultaneously carried out at Rangpara and New Bongaigaon railway stations, where minors were rescued and safely handed over to Child Welfare Committees for proper care and rehabilitation. As part of its humanitarian initiatives on 26th May, 2026, RPF teams rescued several minors from Guwahati, Silchar, New Bongaigaon and Dibrugarh railway stations and ensured their safe custody through coordination with Child Welfare Committees and child assistance agencies. In another important initiative carried out on 26th May, 2026, RPF personnel along with railway engineering officials conducted an eviction drive at the Amingaon Eco Park area to remove unauthorized encroachments from railway land, ensuring operational safety and security. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed towards ensuring a safe, secure and passenger-friendly railway environment through continuous vigilance, coordinated operations and public safety initiatives undertaken by the Railway Protection Force.

Northeast Railway Conducted 17th day of World Environment Campaign

GORAKHPUR, MAY 31, 2026

On the occasion of "World Environment Day" on the Northeast Railway, various programs related to environmental conservation were organized on the 17th day of the "World Environment Day Campaign," being conducted from May 15 to June 5, 2026. These activities were held at the headquarters and major stations of all divisions, workshops, depots, offices, railway colonies, and hospitals.

In this sequence, under the World Environment Day campaign on the Lucknow Division, various programs focusing on water and energy conservation were organized at major stations of the Lucknow Division under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager, Lucknow, Shri Gaurav Aggarwal. In this regard, awareness marches



(morning rallies) were organized at Gorakhpur, Lucknow Junction, and Basti stations to promote water and energy conservation, and passengers and staff were encouraged to save energy. People were made aware about the use of bio-composters. During this, energy-saving posters were distributed in offices, passengers were informed about the harmful effects of single-use plastic and its alternatives, and passengers as well as sanitation workers were provided

information about e-waste and its proper disposal.

On the Varanasi Division, under the supervision of Divisional Railway Manager, Varanasi, Shri Ashish Jain, water conservation campaigns were organized at Azamgarh, Varanasi City, Banaras, Bhatni, Ballia, Chhapra, Deoria Sadar, Ghazipur City, Mau, Prayagraj Rambagh, Siwan, and Salempur stations. Suggestions were given to passengers and staff to conserve rainwater, and a special clean-



liness drive was conducted in station premises, railway colonies, and nearby areas to maintain greenery. Tree plantation and plant distribution were also carried out at stations. Additionally, cloth bags were distributed to passengers and staff to reduce plastic pollution. At major stations, awareness activities such as morning rallies, monitoring of plastic pollution, social media campaigns to eliminate plastic pollution, and the use of posters and digital content

were conducted to educate passengers and staff about environmental protection and reducing plastic waste.

On the Izzatnagar Division, under the supervision of Divisional Railway Manager, Izzatnagar, Ms. Veena Sinha, various awareness and public participation programs on water and energy conservation were organized at different stations of the division. The objective of these programs was to promote water and energy conservation, environ-

mental sustainability, and the principles of Mission LiFE. During the campaign, railway employees, passengers, vendors, and other stakeholders at various stations, offices, and railway premises were made aware of water usage, water conservation methods, and energy-saving practices. People were encouraged to adopt LED lighting, switch off unnecessary electrical appliances, and follow energy-efficient behaviors. Posters and banners related to water conservation, energy efficiency, recycling, e-waste management, and sustainable lifestyles were displayed in railway premises to raise awareness among passengers and the general public. Special emphasis was also placed on adopting eco-friendly habits under Mission LiFE and encouraging public participation in conserving natural resources.



Free health check up camp organised in Noida

S N VERMA

Noida: Under the joint aegis of Sumitra Hospital, Sector-35, Noida, and RWA, Sector-19, a mega free health check-up camp was organized at the community centre located in Sector-19 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm today. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Ankit Gupta, Medical Director Sumitra Hospital, Shri R C Gupta, President, RWA, Sector-19 Sanjay Goel, Bharat Vikas Parishad and other dignitaries lit the lamp. People from the area participated in the camp in a big way and about 320 patients registered and benefitted from health check-up and treatment. Free consultation and examination facility was provided by various specialist doctors in the camp. A team of 22 doctors and staff from Sumitra Hospital participated in the camp. In the camp, patients were examined and given necessary consultations by general disease specialists, chest specialists, physiotherapists, gynaecologists, gynaecologists, paediatricians, ophthalmologists.

Free blood pressure check, ECG, Eurofometry, bone density check, sugar test, liver function test, PFT, fibroscan and other essential health tests were also done free of cost in the camp, which were benefitted by a large number of people. In addition, cervical screening and breast cancer screening were done by the She Wings Foundation in her mobile van. On this occasion, Dr. Ankit Gupta, Medical Director, Shri R C Gupta, President, RWA, Sector-19 and other distinguished members of the organisation and social workers were present. All made a significant contribution in making this public welfare health camp a success. Dr. Ankit Gupta, Medical Director Sumitra Hospital told the office-bearers present during the program that the main objective of Sumitra Hospital is to provide better health facilities to every section of the society and such health camps will continue to be organized in future.

Singer Suman Kalyanpur dies at 89

MUMBAI: (MAY 31)

Veteran singer Suman Kalyanpur, who gave her voice to hits such as "Na Na Karte" and "Tumne Pukara", passed away on Sunday evening at her residence due to age-related issues, a close friend said. "Suman ji

passed away at around 8 pm at her residence in Lokhandwala due to old age. She passed away peacefully. For the last few days she was listening to her own songs," Mangala Khadilkar, who authored the acclaimed Marathi biography 'Suman Sangdhi' on the singer, told PTI.

Parliament panel to review NEET leak, CBSE evaluation process on June 1-2

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education will meet on 1 and 2 June to examine the NEET paper leak, CBSE on-screen marking and the three-language policy. The hearings will bring education, health and examination officials before MPs as they seek answers on students' concerns and key policy issues. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports will hold meetings on June 1 and 2 to discuss the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, examination reforms, CBSE evaluation practices and the implementation of the three-language policy in schools. On June 1, the committee has summoned the Secretary of Higher Education, the Secretary of the Ministry of Health, the Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), and Gulshan Garg of the United Doctors Front. The panel will seek the NTA's views on the NEET-UG paper leak issue and discuss examination-related matters, including reforms in the conduct of tests. On June 2, the parliamentary panel will meet the Secretary

of School Education and the Chairman of the CBSE. Members are expected to examine the utility of the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system used in Class 12 CBSE examinations and discuss concerns faced by students because of the evaluation method. The committee will also review the implementation formula for the three-language policy in Classes 9 and 10 and seek clarifications on its rollout. The meetings come amid heightened scrutiny of the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. Members of a parliamentary panel on May 29 stressed the need to protect the sanctity of the NEET-UG examination and plug loopholes in the system while reviewing the ongoing investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), according to sources.

The Committee on Government Assurances, headed by AIADMK MP M Thambidurai, heard presentations from Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, NTA Director General Abhishek Singh, CBI Director Praveen Sood, senior Health Ministry officials and the Chairman of the National Medical Commission (NMC).

Law and Order Situation in Punjab Alarming

AAP Has Failed to Fulfil Its Promises: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, MAY 31

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party are working in tandem and share similar ideology. Referring to the recently held municipal elections in Punjab, he said the manner in which law and order was allegedly compromised has raised serious questions about the democratic system. He stated that by conducting the elections through ballot papers, the Punjab Government demonstrated that it was apprehensive about facing defeat in a transparent democratic process. Speaking to journalists in Kapurthala on Sunday, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the Punjab Government had made big promises to the people but failed to fulfil them. He added that the public now understands that develop-



ment cannot be achieved merely through announcements and false assurances.

The Chief Minister said that the Aam Aadmi Party government should inform the people how many of the promises made during elections have actually been fulfilled. He alleged that the expected progress in development works has not been achieved and that the law and order situation in the state has continu-

ously deteriorated. Gangster and criminal activities have increased in Punjab, leading to a growing sense of insecurity among ordinary citizens.

He further stated that the Punjab Government's anti-drug campaign, 'Yudh Nashe Virudh', has also failed to deliver the expected results. Instead of taking concrete measures to protect youth from drug abuse and eradicate the menace, more focus was on publicity. He said the government should have made more serious efforts in this direction, but the desired outcomes are not visible on the ground.

Double-Engine Government in Haryana Has Accelerated Welfare Schemes

The Chief Minister said that Haryana's double-engine government has worked to deliver public welfare benefits directly to

the people through various schemes. By integrating the Central Government's Ayushman Bharat Scheme with the State Government's Chirayu Scheme, lakhs of families in Haryana have been provided access to better healthcare facilities. He said the government has taken effective steps to ensure free treatment for poor and needy people.

He further said that the people of Punjab are increasingly placing their trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and his development-oriented policies, and in the coming times, they will work towards bringing the BJP to power in the state. He added that the people want development, good governance and accountability in politics and will no longer be satisfied with mere promises.

Chinese vloggers filming slums, narrow lanes in Bangladesh

DHAKA,

A group of Chinese nationals was seen filming slums, narrow lanes, and even inside the people's homes in Techpara of Bangladesh's Uttara, a report noted. As per the report, nobody, including local police, seems to know who they are, who they work for, or where the footage is going.

Mohammad Badal, a local resident, said that the Chinese vloggers entered houses and took various videos as well as when a fight broke out. They came back in a group with the police, Bangladesh's The Business Standard newspaper reported. They are very drawn to the local slums and houses of lower-income residents, he added. "I have been seeing them (Chinese vloggers) for around a year now. At one point, there was even tension in the area because of them. Local residents complained that they were entering houses without permission. Tenants of one house complained that they came into the kitchen area."

Pak has second-highest number of out-of-school children in the world

ISLAMABAD

According to Unicef, Pakistan has the second-highest number of out-of-school children in the world and UNESCO says that this reflects systemic inefficiencies in education access, internal efficiency and retention pathways.

An editorial in Pakistan's daily 'The News International' states that apart from those children who have never stepped into a school, the demography of the out-of-school children also comprises of early dropouts and late entrants. It highlighted: "Like most of the country's social problems, it disproportionately impacts women, rural residents and the poor. Solving the out-of-school crisis is thus not simply about building more schools."

Violence against minorities increased in Bangladesh after elections: Report

DHAKA

Christians in Bangladesh have been facing sectarian attacks, especially in regions where Jamaat-e-Islami has strong support. Open Doors UK and Ireland, which supports persecuted Christians, has reported that violence against minorities in Bangladesh which had already increased, has intensified following the election, a report said.

In February, Bangladesh held its first elections after the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had a zero-tolerance approach to Islamism. Since her ouster, Christians and Hindus have reported an increase in attacks, especially against those who have converted from Islam, according to a report in Christian Today.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won the elections, however, the Jamaat-e-Islami still managed to claim just under a third of the vote.

A Catholic priest was robbed of his passport and the equivalent of around £1,000 and assaulted in Dhaka's St. Eugene de Mazenod.

According to community leaders, violence has increased, especially in areas dominated by Jamaat-e-Islami. Since the election in February, more than 50 incidents have been reported in Bangladesh. In March, Hindu and Christian leaders held a protest in Dhaka, calling on the BNP government to guarantee the protection of minorities, according to a report in Christian Today.

Meanwhile, a leading international human rights organisation on Monday strongly condemned the alarming and systematic wave of violence against religious and ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities, in Bangladesh between January and April.

Justice Makers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) cited reports by the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM), which documented a total of 505 incidents across 62 districts spanning all eight divisions of the country -- exposing a deeply disturbing pattern of persecution, insecurity, discrimination, and impunity



targeting vulnerable minority communities.

These included "killings and suspicious deaths, physical assaults, kidnappings, sexual violence, attacks on temples and religious institutions, land grabbing, arson, looting, intimidation, and blasphemy-related persecution".

Expressing grave concern, the JMBF said that the 95 incidents of temple attacks and religious vandalism targeting temples and religious statues were recorded across 43 districts in Bangladesh, which amounted to direct assaults on religious freedom, cultural identity, and the right of minority communities to practise

their faith without fear.

It also added that 28 incidents of sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, that were documented across 23 districts, highlighted the gendered nature of violence frequently used to "terrorise" marginalised communities.

The rights body noted that the six blasphemy-related incidents reported in six districts demonstrated the continued misuse of religious sentiments to intimidate and persecute minorities. "These widespread and coordinated violations reflect a dangerous climate of intolerance, discrimination, and institutional failure that threatens the fundamental

principles of human rights, equality, secularism, and the rule of law in Bangladesh. The situation is deteriorating day by day, and unfortunately, the current BNP-led government has failed to take effective measures to prevent violence and ensure protection for religious and ethnic minority communities," said Shahanur Islam, JMBF founder and President.

The rights body called on the government of Bangladesh to immediately establish an independent judicial commission to conduct impartial, transparent, and credible investigations into all reported incidents of violence.

It also appealed to ensure accountability for perpetrators regardless of political affiliation or influence and provide urgent protection, compensation, and rehabilitation for victims and affected communities. JMBF also urged the government to enact a Minority Protection Act and establish an independent Minority Commission to safeguard the rights, dignity, and equal protection of all religious and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh.

Border dispute with India to be resolved by diplomatic dialogue, says Nepal PM

KATHMANDU

The first address by Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Sunday triggered a political storm as he claimed that the South Asian country has also encroached on Indian territory. Prime Minister Shah, who had unusually avoided addressing the Nepal Parliament in the past despite frequent calls from the opposition parties, answered the questions of lawmakers himself.

He made the remarks when he was quizzed about India's alleged encroachment of the disputed region of Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani region. Both Nepal and India claim sovereignty over these areas though the region is effectively under Indian control for de-



cade. "After becoming Prime Minister, I came to know that not only has India encroached on Nepal's land, but Nepal has also encroached on India's land in multiple places," Prime Minister Shah said.

"Both sides should sit down and look into the matter." He, however, did not disclose any details about where Nepal encroached upon Indian land.

And leaders from opposition parties immediately demanded answers on where Nepal encroached Indian lands. Some lawmakers called speaker DP Aryal to remove the Prime Minister's remarks from Parliament's record.

Border dispute has been one of the key irritants in bilateral relations. Nepal had already sent an official diplomatic

note to India and received a response. Replying to a separate question over India-China agreement to send Indian pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar through the disputed Lipulekh area, Prime Minister Shah said Nepal had already sent an official diplomatic note to India and received a response.

Shah said the disputes over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani would be resolved through diplomatic dialogue. He also gave some details about Indian response.

"The response states that both governments will form teams comprising historians, surveyors and experts familiar with the territory and seek a resolution through table talks," the Nepal PM added.

He said that Nepal had also

engaged in diplomatic discussions with China and the United Kingdom regarding the border dispute with India. It is probably the first time Nepal openly admitted it has held talks with the UK regarding the Nepal-India border dispute. "We have spoken not only with India and China but also with the UK government. Our view is that the UK should also take an interest, as the issue dates back to the period when British India left the region," Shah added. His controversial remark has come before Rabi Lamichhane, President of ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) of Nepal is scheduled to visit India on June 1-2. The proposed visit of Prime Minister Shah has however been uncertain.

US: Arcadia's former Mayor pleads guilty to working as unregistered agent of Chinese govt

WASHINGTON

Arcadia's former Mayor pleaded guilty to being an illegal agent of China in the US, local media reported. As per the court filings, Eileen Wang (56) was charged in April and agreed to plead guilty to accusations that she was asked by the Chinese government to promote propaganda in the US from 2020-2022.

Wang was elected to the City Council in 2022 and assumed the position of Mayor, a post that rotates among the Council members, Los Angeles Times reported. In April, she resigned as Mayor after the plea agreement was unsealed.

Arcadia officials and Wang's lawyers said the actions mentioned by federal authorities were taken before Eileen Wang assumed office. She appeared in court in Los Angeles to enter her plea. Wang faces up to 10 years in prison when she will be sentenced in October.

From late 2020 to 2022, Wang and her former fiancé, Yaoning "Mike" Sun used to run a website called US News Center that branded itself as a news source for Chinese Americans, according to Wang's plea agreement.

Wang and Sun used to comply with orders issued by Chinese government officials, sharing requested articles and sharing screenshots to Chinese authorities, showing how many people viewed the stories, as per the plea agreement. Earlier this year, Sun was sentenced to four years in prison after he pleaded guilty to charges that accused him



of secretly working for China. In 2021, Wang received a message from a government official about 'China's stance on the Xinjiang issue'.

At the time, news reports highlighted Chinese government's incarceration, persecution and "re-education" of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang province, Los Angeles Times reported.

As per the plea agreement, the message from the Chinese government official said, "There is no genocide in Xinjiang; there is no such thing as 'forced labour' in any production activity, including cotton production. Spreading such rumour is to defame China, destroy Xinjiang's safety and stability."

After receiving the message, Wang posted the article on her website and shared the link of her article with the Chinese government official, as per the court filing. According to prosecutors, Wang edited articles after receiving requests from officials, Los Angeles Times reported. In a statement, Wang's lawyers, Jason Liang and Brian Sun, said that Wang had pleaded guilty to the federal charge, however, "her posting of articles in no way should be construed as an inherently nefarious act."

Catholic bishops meet Pope Leo, highlight challenges faced by Christians in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

Catholic bishops, comprising three archbishops, four bishops, and a cardinal, from Pakistan visited the Vatican to submit their reports in different departments and meet Pope Leo XIV. Catholic Bishops' Conference of Pakistan President Bishop Samson Shukardin of Hyderabad, highlighted the challenges faced by Christians in Pakistan, a report has said.

He spoke about the misuse of blasphemy laws, systematic discrimination, and the increasing number of forced conversions and marriages that target young Christian girls in Pakistan, according to a report in International Christian Concern. Last week, minority rights organisations requested Pakistan's federal government to introduce constitutional reforms with a goal to strengthen protection for religious minorities, women and children as part of the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment Bill, a report has said.

equal rights. He said that many Christians in Pakistan face constant social and systemic discrimination in their daily lives. During the meeting, the bishops invited Pope Leo XIV to visit Pakistan. The Vatican has not released an official travel announcement. However, Pope Leo expressed his interest in the request, assuring the delegation of his desire to visit Pakistan in the future, according to a report in International Christian Concern.

Last week, minority rights organisations requested Pakistan's federal government to introduce constitutional reforms with a goal to strengthen protection for religious minorities, women and children as part of the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment Bill, a report has said.

Rights body issues alert for possible genocide in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

A genocide watchdog has issued an alert for genocide monitoring in Pakistan amid the growing rate of human rights violations, a report said. The organisation Genocide Watch called for genocide monitoring in Pakistan in a report it issued earlier this month, which said that Pakistan

is now at stage 3 of genocide (discrimination). "Because discrimination against women and minorities is deeply embedded in society, and violence against them is both widespread and tolerated, Genocide Watch considers Pakistan to be at Stage 3: Discrimination and Stage 5: Organisation. Deepening divisions along religious, gender,

and political lines, reinforced by restrictive laws, censorship, and weak protections, place the country at Stage 6: Polarisation. The continued targeting of vulnerable groups through violence, persecution, and displacement further reflects elements of Stage 9: Persecution," the report noted.

"These stages refer to the developments or circumstances

that cause, incite, or bring about the deliberate destruction of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group," said Turkish journalist Uzay Bulut, writing for American media outlet PJ Media.

The targets of this discrimination are religious minorities (Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Shia, Ahmadiyya), political opposition, women, and gays.

Women face the most severe consequences as they face acid attacks, forced and child marriages, rape, trafficking, forced conversion and domestic abuse.

With the Lahore High Court ruling that marriages after puberty are valid under Islamic law in 2025, girls marriage remains widespread in Pakistan, with millions married before the age

of 18. Pakistan ranked last in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. According to the Genocide Watch report, journalists, activists, and academics face censorship, violence, threats, arrests, and murder, which are perpetrated by the Pakistani government and contribute to growing self-censorship and restricted public discourse.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy warns of major Russian strike

WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Russia is preparing a fresh large-scale assault involving drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, while urging the United States to accelerate the supply and production of air defence interceptors that Kyiv says are critical to protecting civilians.

In an interview with CBS News' "Face the Nation" with Margaret Brennan, Zelenskyy said Ukrainian intelligence and information shared by Western partners indicated a high probability of a major Russian attack in the coming days.

"Today at night or tomorrow at night, high percent, of course, nobody knows 100 per cent but there is a high percent," Zelenskyy said, adding that Ukrainians would be urged to use bomb shelters and take extra precautions.

The Ukrainian leader said Russia continued to launch daily attacks and had recently carried out one of its largest barrages of the war.

"Last massive attack... it was 600 drones... and about 30 plus ballistic missiles," he said, describing ballistic missile defence as Ukraine's "biggest



deficit". Zelenskyy revealed that he had sent letters to both the White House and the US Congress requesting additional support, particularly anti-ballistic missile systems and interceptors.

"This is the priority for us, and big, big challenge," he said. "We have deficit with anti ballistic. This is big problem."

The Ukrainian President argued that the issue was no longer one of funding but of manufacturing capacity. He said current production levels were insufficient to meet growing global demand.

"...60, 65 missiles per month for today's challenges, it's nothing," he said. "We need to do production wider."

Zelenskyy again pressed Washington to allow Ukraine

to manufacture Patriot missile components under licence.

"I asked previous administration, I am asking today's administration, give Ukraine licenses. We will increase the production of Patriot missiles," he said.

The Ukrainian leader also said Russia appeared to be testing NATO responses through drone incidents involving neighbouring countries.

"Russia uses this just to attack politically and by weapon pressure on NATO countries to look at the reaction," he said, referring to reported drone incidents affecting Romania and other countries near Ukraine.

On diplomacy, Zelenskyy said he remained willing to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin but argued that stronger



sanctions were needed to bring Moscow to serious negotiations. "I think we need more sanctions. I think we need more pressure," he said. "More sanctions, more pressure, they will be ready for the dialogue."

He also suggested that Britain, France and Germany could play leading roles in future European mediation efforts, while noting Turkey's previous involvement in prisoner exchanges.

Zelenskyy criticised recent easing of some sanctions on Russian oil exports, arguing that such moves indirectly strengthened Russia's war effort. "Lifting sanctions is a help for the soldiers of Russia. It's very helpful for their defence industry," he said.

The Ukrainian President

also renewed allegations that Russia had forcibly removed thousands of Ukrainian children. He said Kyiv had identified about 20,000 children and managed to return roughly 2,200. "We need more help. We need more help. We need thousands children to get them back," he said.

Zelenskyy further disclosed that Ukraine was pursuing drone technology partnerships with European and Middle Eastern countries and hoped to finalise a major agreement with the United States.

He said cooperation between American artificial intelligence firms and Ukrainian battlefield innovators could become "the most powerful in the world".

Asked what was needed to move the proposed drone partnership forward, Zelenskyy replied: "Yes, we need President Trump to say yes."

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022 and has become Europe's largest conflict since World War II.

The war has resulted in hundreds of thousands of military casualties and widespread destruction across Ukraine, while prompting extensive Western military and financial support for Kyiv.

5 dead after collapse during illegal mining in China's Yunnan

BEIJING

Five persons died and one other was injured when a collapse occurred during illegal mining activities in Huize County of China's Yunnan Province on Sunday, officials said.

The incident took place at around 4:30 a.m. in Baiwu village of Nagu Town in Huize County, according to local authorities. Emergency response, public security, fire-fighting, health and natural resources departments from the city of Qujing and Huize County launched rescue operations, pulling out all six trapped individuals and taking them to the hospital for treatment, Xinhua news agency reported.

Five of the rescued people succumbed to their injuries. The other survivor is now in stable condition and out of life-threatening danger. An investigation into the cause of the collapse is underway.

Earlier in May, a coal mine accident in north China's Shanxi Province left 82 dead. A gas explosion hit the Lishenyu coal mine in Qinyuan County at 7:29 p.m. on May



22, when more than 200 people were down the shaft, according to the county's emergency management bureau.

A total of 123 people received treatment at hospitals, including two who were in critical condition and two in serious condition, while 119 others sustained minor injuries. Multiple rescue teams took turns going down the mining shaft.

The investigation team said it will thoroughly ascertain the cause of the accident, clarify the responsibilities of local authorities, industry regulators and the enterprise involved, and mete out strict penalties in

accordance with laws and regulations. Deadly accidents are common in China's coal mining industry, due to which safety standards have been tightened in recent years, but accidents still occur.

Earlier in 2025, three people were trapped following a coal mine accident in Shaanxi Province. The accident occurred when part of an underground tunnel collapsed in Zhenping County, in the city of Ankang. Eight workers were carrying out rectification work at the site when the collapse happened, with five of them managing to escape safely.



Students Seek Clarity at Career Crossroads as Counselling Demand Surges

The days when students were expected to choose between engineering and medicine are rapidly fading. Today's students are exploring a wide range of career options, from artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and business analytics to psychology, sustainability, biotechnology and fintech. While this expansion of op-

portunities has opened new doors, it has also created uncertainty, making career choices more challenging than ever before. As students from CBSE, ICSE, IB and State Board schools prepare for key academic decisions after Classes 10 and 12, career counselling has emerged as a crucial support system.

Career experts say that the demand for professional guidance has increased significantly in recent years, particularly after the Covid-19 pandemic, as students and parents seek clarity in an increasingly complex education and employment landscape. According to career counsellors, the challenge facing students today is not

a lack of ambition but the overwhelming number of choices available. Rapid technological advancements, especially in artificial intelligence and automation, have further complicated decision-making, with many students worried about job security and the future relevance of certain professions.

"Students are exposed to a vast range of career opportunities, but many are familiar with only a few conventional options. At the same time, the rise of AI has created concerns about whether some careers will remain viable in the future," said Hyderabad-based career counsellor Nazlin Ukani. She noted that demand for career counselling has risen by nearly 40 to 50 per cent over the past three to four years.

Career counselling today extends far beyond offering simple advice. Counsellors spend considerable time understanding students' personalities, interests, academic strengths, emotional challenges and family expectations before suggesting suitable career paths. Many

professionals also employ psychometric assessments to evaluate aptitude, personality traits, learning styles, emotional intelligence and behavioural tendencies.

Experts believe these assessments play a key role in helping students understand their true strengths and align their academic choices with long-term career goals. "Psychometric assessments provide valuable insights into a student's natural abilities, interests and preferences. They help identify career options that match the individual's personality and potential," explained career counsellor Roshini Makhani.

However, counsellors emphasise that test results alone are not enough. Assessment outcomes are com-

bined with personal interactions, academic performance and behavioural observations to provide meaningful recommendations. In many cases, the analysis reveals strengths students were previously unaware of, opening pathways to careers they had never considered.

Several students have benefited from this process. One Class 11 student shared that he was caught between science and commerce due to family expectations. While he performed well in mathematics, he struggled to develop an interest in physics and chemistry. A psychometric assessment revealed strong numerical and analytical abilities, along with a natural inclination towards finance and business-related careers.

"After understanding my strengths and discussing the results with a counsellor, I realised commerce would provide better opportunities aligned with my interests, particularly in finance, fintech and actuarial sciences," the student said.

Counsellors also help students overcome self-doubt and fear. Shweta Agrawal, another career counsellor, recalled advising a student who wanted to pursue medicine but was worried about clearing the NEET examination. Through assessment and counselling, the student gained confidence in his abilities while also learning about alternative career opportunities in fields such as physiotherapy, nutrition and pharmacy.

Experts say one of the

most significant shifts in recent years is the growing interest in interdisciplinary and emerging careers. Students are increasingly looking beyond traditional professions and exploring fields that combine multiple skill sets.

"Today's learners are eager to build unique career paths rather than simply follow conventional routes," said counsellor Naveena Bhayani. She noted rising interest in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, business analytics, cybersecurity, psychology, economics, food technology, sustainability, supply chain management and stock market-related careers.

Career experts also observe a positive change among parents. Compared to

previous generations, many parents are becoming more supportive of their children's interests and are increasingly aware of the importance of mental well-being. While parental expectations continue to influence career decisions, counsellors report fewer conflicts and greater openness to exploring diverse career options.

As the world of work continues to evolve at a rapid pace, career counselling is increasingly helping students make informed decisions, discover hidden strengths and pursue careers that align with both their abilities and aspirations. For many young people standing at crucial academic crossroads, it is proving to be an invaluable guide towards a more confident future.

Studying in Ireland

Transparency, outcomes, and career value for Indian students



For a growing number of Indian students and their families, the decision is no longer limited to where to study but increasingly centres on what outcomes their investment will yield. Across geographies, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, there is a noticeable shift towards more outcome-driven decision-making. Students and parents are asking sharper, more consequential questions such as, what is the return on investment? Will the degree be recognised world over? Will this degree lead to proper employment? And how transparent is the system that we are enrolling into? The answer to these questions is increasingly becoming visible in Ireland, which is offering not just academic integrity but also clarity, excellence and accountability that help generate strong career outcomes for students.

Academic excellence in a welcoming environment: The higher education system of Ireland is based on quality, credibility and global recognition. The universities here consistently rank in the top 1-5% worldwide, and generate degrees that are widely recognised by employers and institutions globally.

For an Indian student, this ensures that the education they receive is not only valuable but also relevant. Furthermore, Ireland as a country is ranked second on the Global Peace Index and has also been recognised amongst the top five safest countries, a major concern at a time wherein safety and inclusivity are becoming pivotal to study-abroad decisions. Ireland has consistently maintained its reputation in committing to global talent. Under its Global Citizens 2030 Policy, attracting international students, learners and researchers is considered a national priority. This policy reflects not only the intent, but also the continuous effort to create an inclusive, supportive and well-connected academic realm. The country also emphasises its strong regulatory environment. Education institutions work under a strict quality framework and ensures, through the Trust-Ed Mark, that what is promised to students, is delivered in practice. In an environment, where information is often vague or arbitrary, this level of accountability is critical.

Outcome-focused education for a changing workforce:

Indian students and families alike are deeply focused on employability and they are right to do so. With the costs of international education rising, there is no room for uncertainties and doubts; education must translate into concrete career outcomes.

Ireland also has a critical skills occupation list which has details of jobs that are sought after currently—something worth looking into if a student is planning their trajectory post study, either in Ireland or worldwide. Ireland's higher education system is closely attuned to the industry requirements and standards. As a hub for global leaders in technology, life sciences, finance, and consulting, the country offers its students exposure to sectors that are prominently shaping the future of work. Graduate employability at Irish institutions varies from 80-97%. According to Higher Education Authority's Graduate Outcome Report from 2024, 80.2% of graduates are employed 9 months after graduation. Industry and academics often work hand in hand in creating programmes at universities where there is a skill shortage, or harnessing partnerships that give students exposure to the work environment and which may lead to a job. Each institution will offer their own collaboration, or instance, University of Limerick has a cooperative education programme for undergraduate students which is a compulsory 6-8 months' work placement for students especially from Tier 2 and 3 cities, many of whom might be seeking global exposure for the first time, this clear-cut road from classroom to career readiness is valuable. Building confidence through accountability: Trust is built not only through policy, but through consistent outcomes. Irish institutions place strong focus on student access, from transparent fee structure to accessible academic and career support. Students are not abandoned to navigate the perils of the system alone, they are guided, supported, and prepared for both academic and professional success.

National data is a testament to this commitment. The Student Survey.ie 2023, which recorded responses from over 39,000 students across 21 institutions, captures the strength of student engagement and support systems in Ireland's higher education system. Over 53% of students have rated the quality of their education as high, and amongst them, more than 92% have reported a positive overall experience and would choose the same institution again.

1. AI Reshapes Career Choices Among Students

Students are increasingly choosing courses in AI, machine learning, data science and cybersecurity as employers seek digital skills. Educational institutions are introducing specialized programs to meet growing demand.

2. Skill-Based Learning Overtakes Traditional

Degrees

Companies are placing greater emphasis on practical skills, certifications and internships. Students are pursuing online courses and industry certifications alongside regular degrees to improve employability.

3. Rise of Alternative Careers Beyond Engineering

and Medicine

Fields such as sports management, digital marketing, content creation, game design, environmental science and forensic psychology are attracting growing interest among students.

4. Mental Health Concerns During Board and Entrance Exams

Academic pressure, com-

petition and uncertainty over admissions continue to affect student well-being. Schools are strengthening counselling and wellness programs to address stress and anxiety.

5. Gap Year Gains Acceptance Among Indian Students

More students are taking a year off after Class 12 to prepare for competitive exams,

develop skills, gain work experience or explore career interests before pursuing higher education.

6. Demand for Overseas Education Remains Strong

Despite rising costs, students continue to seek higher education opportunities abroad, particularly in Canada, Australia, Germany and the UK, with a focus

on technology and business programs.

7. Internships Becoming Essential for Career Success

Employers increasingly prefer graduates with practical work experience. Students are taking up internships as early as Class 11 and during undergraduate studies to build professional skills.

8. Parents Becoming Career Partners Instead of Decision-Makers

Career experts report a shift in parental attitudes, with more families encouraging students to pursue careers aligned with their interests and strengths rather than traditional professions.

9. Emerging Careers in Sustainability and Green Technology

As environmental concerns grow, students are exploring careers in renewable energy, climate research, environmental management and sustainable business practices.

10. Gen Z Students Prioritize Work-Life Balance

Young people are increasingly evaluating careers based on flexibility, personal growth and mental well-being rather than salary alone, influencing career choices across sectors.





Virat Kohli's fastest fifty powers RCB to back-to-back titles

IPL 2026
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi dominates, wins top honors following record-breaking campaign



AHMEDABAD: While Royal Challengers Bengaluru etched their name into history by securing their second consecutive IPL title after defeating Gujarat Titans in a thrilling five-wicket final at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, it was Rajasthan Royals' teenage phenom Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who stole the show at the post-match presentation, sweeping the major individual awards of IPL 2026 after a truly unforgettable season. The 15-year-old prodigy delivered one of the most spectacular individual campaigns the IPL has ever witnessed. He ended the tournament as the leading run-scorer, amassing a staggering 776 runs to claim the Orange Cap. His fearless and consistent strokeplay captivated fans, and his phenomenal batting also earned him the Most Valuable Player and Emerging Player of the Season awards.

AHMEDABAD
Powered by Virat Kohli's fastest half-century in the IPL, Royal Challengers Bengaluru sealed back-to-back IPL title triumphs by completing a clinical chase of 156 and beating Gujarat Titans by five wickets in front of their passionate fans at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday. Kohli smashed a 25-ball fifty and remained unbeaten on 75 off 42 balls – laced with nine fours and three sixes, also his highest score in the IPL playoffs. He also continued his remarkable streak - RCB have not lost a game since 2025 whenever he has scored a fifty.

Supported by Venkatesh Iyer's brisk 32, Kohli's masterly innings ensured the defending champions never lost grip of the chase and finished the job with authority to claim successive IPL crowns. Both sides had entered the final eyeing their second IPL title and aiming to join the elite club of Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders as multiple-time champions.

RCB, who won their maiden trophy in Ahmedabad in 2025, have now become only the third team after MI and CSK to successfully defend their title, while extending the streak of Qualifier 1 winners lifting the trophy to nine seasons. The win also means Josh Hazlewood remains unbeaten in white-ball finals while Krunal Pandya has emerged victorious in every IPL final he's played in.

GT, champions in 2022 at the same venue, were undone by disciplined RCB bowling and the scheduling grind of playing their third game at a third venue in six days, having reached Ahmedabad only on Saturday night due to inclement weather.

Washington Sundar's fighting fifty gave GT a total of 155/8, but Rasikh Salam Dar's three-for and early strikes from Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept them in check. Kohli's landmark knock then turned the final into a one-sided affair, reaffirming his reputation as the man for the big occasion. With this clinical triumph in Ahmedabad, RCB have not only defended their crown but also cemented their place among the league's most successful franchises, apart from having the rare honour of holding both WPL and IPL titles at the same time. RCB's chase of 156 began with Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer tore into Gujarat Titans' new-ball attack. Kohli unfurled a flurry of wristy flicks (one of which went for a jaw-dropping six) and pulls against Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj, and race 28 off just 10 balls in just four overs, while Iyer smashed 32 off 16 deliveries despite battling a right knee niggle.

The pair brought up RCB's fifty inside 21 balls - the fastest in an IPL final - and ensured the asking rate was never a concern from the get go. Iyer eventually lobbed a pull to mid-on off Siraj and Rabada, who had conceded 37 in his first two overs, eventually dismissed Devdutt Padikkal cheaply when he sliced to third man.

But by then, the damage had already been done by RCB. Rajat Patidar joined Kohli and kept the tempo high by pulling Siraj for six, before swivelling off Jason Holder for four. Kohli, meanwhile, continued to keep going despite GT trying some mind games through Sai Sudharsan's chatter. But GT struck right after first time-out when Patidar holed out to long-on off Rashid Khan, who trapped Krunal Pandya plumb lbw in the same over.

With Tim David joining the boundary hitting act, Kohli got his fifty in 25 balls after pulling Arshad Khan though short mid-wicket for a boundary, despite struggling with cramps in his right leg. Though David gave a feather edge behind off Arshad Khan after GT got the decision in their favour via review, Kohli and Jitesh Sharma hit exquisite fours to take RCB closer.



'Don't need to step up every time, there are guys all around who can win,' says Kohli

AHMEDABAD

Virat Kohli believes Royal Challengers Bengaluru's successful IPL title defence was built on conviction rather than pressure, with the defending champions trusting their strengths throughout a campaign that ended with a commanding victory over Gujarat Titans in the final. After guiding the chase with an unbeaten 75, Kohli explained that the atmosphere within the dressing room was markedly different from last season, when RCB ended their long wait for a maiden IPL trophy.

"Well, I said to a few of the boys that it doesn't feel like the same pressure as last year. We knew what kind of ability we have in the group. We topped the table. There's a reason why we got here first," Kohli said after RCB clinched a second consecutive title. The former RCB captain said the team never lost sight of the formula that had made them the competition's most consistent side during the league stage. "And we just said one thing: if we stick to our cricket, if we execute our plans, we are the best team in the comp. And there's a reason why we have done well so far in the group stage. We ended up topping the league stage."

That confidence was reflected in the final as Bengaluru produced a clinical all-round display to become only the third franchise in IPL history to defend its title. "And yeah, it's just the skill sets we have,



the maturity, the composure of the guys just shone through again tonight and it was a clinical performance," the veteran batter said.

However, Kohli admitted there was a period after the mid-season break when RCB's path to the final was not entirely straightforward. A defeat followed by a nervy win over Mumbai Indians briefly tested the team's momentum.

"To be fair, after the break, we had a couple of losses. I mean, one loss and then we had a close win against MI. I'd say that week for us was a bit tricky because we wanted to finish top," he stated.

According to Kohli, the narrow victory against Mumbai became a turning point in the campaign as he said, "But as soon as we got that win against MI, the belief kicked back in. Then we had a comprehensive win against KKR and

then, yeah, just ended up topping the table and just on our way to the finals."

Kohli reserved his greatest praise for the squad's depth, highlighting how match-winners emerged throughout the season, removing the burden from any one individual.

"It's amazing. We've had to wait for so long. And then, you know, just to have a group of guys where you feel like you're stepping onto the ground, you don't need to be the one to step up every time. There's guys behind you, around you, who can win games of cricket for you," the former India captain noted.

He pointed to the contributions of both the bowling attack and the batting unit, singling out several players who played crucial roles during the title run.

Patidar praises RCB's faith after back-to-back IPL titles as Kohli leads victory

AHMEDABAD: Rajat Patidar struggled to find the right words after he led Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their second consecutive IPL title on Sunday. He said the achievement felt surreal and was something he had never imagined when he joined the franchise. "It feels superb. When we came here, there were many memories from last year. I don't have words to express how I feel, but it's very good," Patidar said after RCB secured a solid five-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The RCB captain praised the team's careful planning and the consistency of the bowling attack throughout the season. "It was clear planning. When we win the toss, it was easy to chase. The way Bhuvu, Hazlewood, Rasikh, KP Suyash, and Shepherd bowled was impressive throughout the tournament," he said. Patidar's team delivered another strong performance to defend their title, becoming only the third team, alongside Mumbai Indians.

If we'd have gotten 180-190, it'd have been a good match, says GT skipper Gill

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill admitted his side fell short of making a big score in the IPL 2026 final, conceding that a bigger total could have changed the complexion of the contest, where they lost by five wickets at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Gill's reflection came after Royal Challengers Bengaluru defended their crown in front of a packed crowd, powered by Virat Kohli's unbeaten 75 - his fastest IPL fifty coming off 25 balls. Kohli's knock helped RCB chase down 156 with two overs to spare, and ensured the side joined Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings as the only teams to defend their IPL title successfully. "If we'd have gotten 180-190, it'd have been a good match. Maybe a little two-paced but not too much. There's some early movement for pacers. We lost early wickets and never got momentum. We felt we'll be in the game if we took 1-2 wickets in the powerplay," said Gill at the conclusion of the game.

ASIAN U20 ATHLETICS
Gujarat farm labourer's daughter Kajal Vaja sprints to silver



GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat's rising sprint star Kajal Vaja has once again demonstrated that determination, discipline, and relentless hard work can propel athletes from humble beginnings to the international podium. The 19-year-old sprinter from Chorwad village in Junagadh district played a pivotal role in India's silver medal-winning performance in the women's 4x100m relay at the 22nd Asian U-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong on Sunday. Representing India alongside Bhavna (Tamil Nadu), Arti (Haryana), and Nipam (Uttar Pradesh), Kajal helped the quartet clock an impressive 45.05 seconds to claim the silver medal while rewriting the national U-20 record. The Indian team surpassed the previous national mark of 45.08 seconds.

French Open: Zverev weathers early storm, sets up QF with Jodar

PARIS

Alexander Zverev fought back from a slow beginning and a tough challenge from Jesper de Jong to reach the Roland Garros quarter-finals for the sixth straight year, continuing his quest for his first Grand Slam win. The second-seeded German player in Paris overcame an early deficit to beat lucky loser De Jong 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-1 in a fourth-round match on Court Philippe-Chatrier that took two hours and 14 minutes.

De Jong, ranked World No. 106, began confidently and quickly took a 3-0 lead in the first set, momentarily challenging one of the tournament favourites. Nevertheless, Zverev gradually adjusted from the baseline, gaining control of the match and ultimately defeating the Dutch player through his greater consistency and better shot selection.

"In the beginning it was a bit difficult. I didn't start off strong and he started off really fast and really well. But once I found my rhythm, I felt very comfortable on the court and that's the most



important thing for me. I feel like my game is there, now it's about showing it on the match court," Zverev said in his on-court interview.

The victory continues a remarkable streak of consistency for the 29-year-old at Roland Garros. By advancing to the quarter-finals for the eighth time in his career, Zverev tied for sixth place in the Open Era records for most last-eight appearances at this clay-court Grand Slam. Having finished as the runner-up in Paris last year and reaching three Grand Slam finals overall, Zverev remains a strong contender for his career's biggest prize. In the match against De Jong, he converted four out of seven break points created and grew more dominant as the match went on.

Singapore Open 2026: Satwik-Chirag clinch men's doubles title

SINGAPORE

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the Singapore Open BWF World Tour Super 750 title with a come from behind win over Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Fikri in the men's doubles final here on Sunday.

The fourth seeded Indian combination dominated the summit clash after losing the opening game against the third seeded Indonesian pair to win 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in an hour and 13 minutes to being the first Indian doubles combination to clinch the Singapore Open.

The Singapore Open triumph will be the third Super 750 crown for the Indian combination, having won the French Open in 2022 and 2024. They had also won the Indonesia Super 1000 title in 2023.

Satwik and Chirag, who last won a title on the BWF World Tour at the Thailand Open 2024, have been in good form since playing an important role in India's bronze medal



winning performance in the Thomas and Uber Cup in May.

They then reached the finals of the Thailand Open earlier this month and followed it up with a title winning show here this week.

Having ended world champions Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae's 34-match unbeaten run in the semifinals, Satwik and Chirag started the final by opening up a 5-2 lead but their Indonesian opponents then kept pace with them to pocket the game.

The Indians then relied on their attacking instinct to win six straight points from 8-8 to take control of the second game. Though Alfian and Fikri

managed to save two game points, they could not avoid the decider.

With the momentum firmly in their favour, the Indians opened up a 11-5 lead. The Indonesians did close the gap at 11-12 but the eventual champions once again found that additional gear to earn five match points, converting the second to kick off their trademark celebrations.

"I am bit numb today as we have won a title after a gap of two years. Before coming here, we were a bit nervous because we had not done very well here in the past. But this week was special," said Satwik after the title triumph.



French Open: Jodar rallies from two sets down to beat Busta, reaches maiden Grand Slam QF

PARIS

Rafael Jodar continued his remarkable comeback campaign with a stirring victory over compatriot Pablo Carreno Busta, recovering from two sets down to reach his first Grand Slam quarter-final at Roland Garros on Sunday. The 19-year-old Spaniard looked headed for defeat after dropping the opening two sets but responded in emphatic fashion, winning 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 in a gripping three-hour, 41-minute battle on Court Suzanne-Lenglen. Busta, seeking a third Roland Garros quarter-final appearance, made the stronger start. The former world No. 10 controlled the early exchanges with his trademark consistency from the baseline, repeatedly exposing openings with his backhand to edge both the first and second sets by identical 6-4 scorelines.

With the experienced Spaniard firmly in command, Jodar needed a dramatic shift in momentum to keep his tournament alive. That turning point arrived at the start of the third set. The teenager began playing with greater patience, cutting down on unforced errors and refusing to be drawn into rushed exchanges. The change in approach immediately paid dividends as he raced through the third set 6-1, suddenly swinging the momentum in his favour.

'Police Complaint' Trailer, Special Songs Unveiled on Superstar Krishna's Birth Anniversary

Hyderabad, May 31: The trailer and two special songs from the upcoming horror-action thriller Police Complaint were launched at a grand event held at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad on Saturday. The launch coincided with the birth anniversary of legendary actor Superstar Krishna, making the occasion even more special for the film's team. Produced by Balakrishna Maharana under the MSK Pramida Sri Films banner and directed by creative filmmaker Sanjeev Megoti, Police Complaint is slated for a theatrical release on June 12.

A highlight of the event was the release of a tribute song celebrating Superstar Krishna and featuring references to several of his iconic films. Actor Krishna Sai, a devoted admirer of the late star, appeared in the song

alongside actress Preeti Sundar. The lyrics and composition were penned by director Sanjeev Megoti. Another special number, Nuvvatta Sootta Unte, featuring actress Krithi Varma, was unveiled by Telangana DIG Ramanareddy.

Speaking at the event, Producers Council Secretary Prasanna Kumar praised the tribute song and lauded the team for organizing the launch on Krishna's birth anniversary. He also commended director Sanjeev Megoti for delivering quality cinema on limited budgets.

DIG Ramanareddy expressed confidence in the film, saying it appeared to be built on a strong concept and wished the team success.

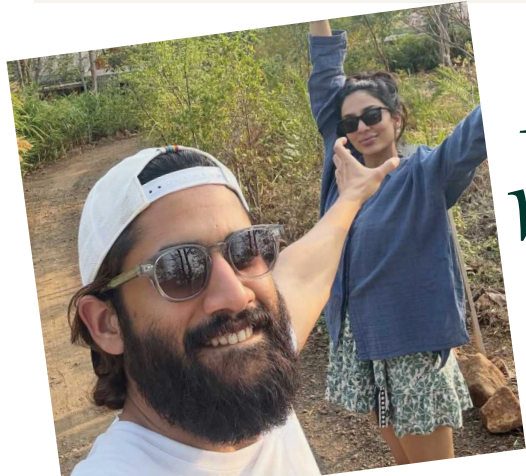
Krishna's longtime makeup artist Madhava Rao appreciated the trib-

ute song and said Krishna Sai's performance reminded audiences of the legendary actor. Actor Krishna Sai said he was honoured to be part of a song dedicated to his favourite actor, Superstar Krishna, and expressed confidence that the film would become a major success. Director Sanjeev Megoti revealed that the film was completed in just 45 days with the participation of 52 senior artistes. He described the story as a unique "Chain Reaction of Karma" concept blended with horror, action and suspense. Recalling his experience with Superstar Krishna, the director said the veteran actor once delivered a four-page dialogue in a single take. Actresses Krithi Varma and Preeti Sundar thanked the director for the opportunity and expressed happiness

at being associated with the project. Combining horror, action, comedy, romance and thriller elements, Police Complaint stars Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Naveen Chandra, Krishna Sai, Ragini Dwivedi, Aditya Om, Ravi Shankar, Prithvi Raj, Krithi Varma, Srinivasa Reddy, Saptagiri and others in key roles. The technical team includes cinematographer SN Harish Sondakoppa, editor Anugaju Renuka Babu, art director K.V. Ramana, production designer Kondapaneni Muralidhar, and music directors Arohana Sudheendra, Sanjeev Megoti and Sudhakar Mario. With its intriguing "Chain Reaction of Karma" theme and a blend of horror, action and suspense, Police Complaint is gearing up to entertain audiences when it arrives in theatres on June 12.



NC's birthday wish, Sobhita's 'Bangaaram' reply

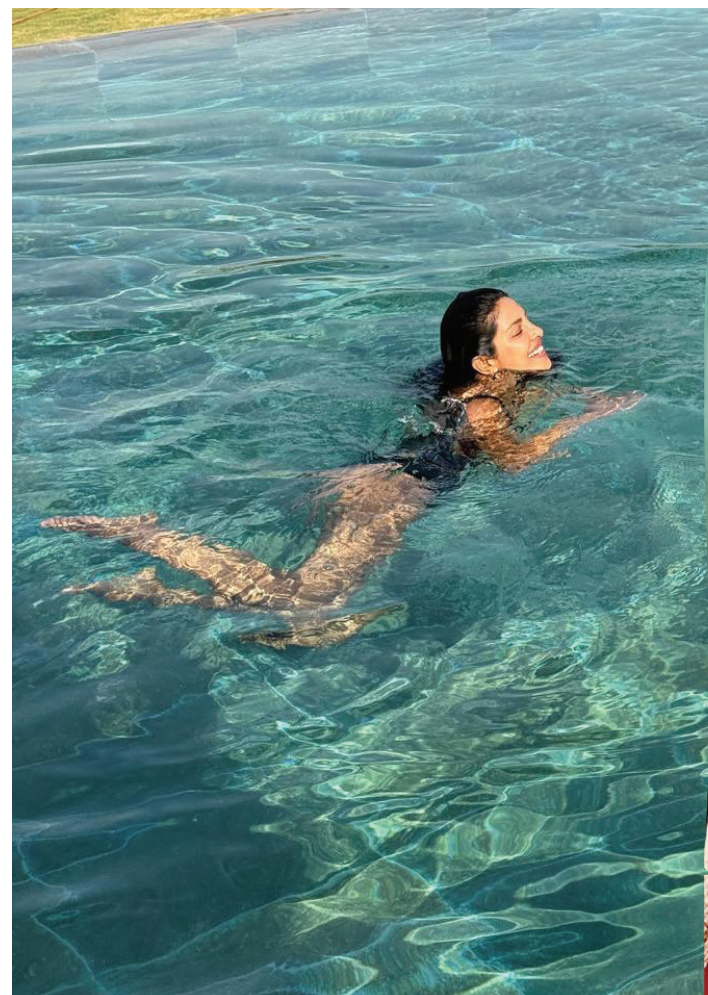


Naga Chaitanya took to social media on Sunday to wish his wife Sobhita Dhulipala on her birthday. Along with his heartfelt message, he shared a series of candid and previously unseen photographs, including a few adorable couple selfies. Expressing his affection and gratitude,

Chaitanya wrote, "Happy birthday my lady @sobhitad. Grateful I get to do life with you," accompanied by a red heart emoji. Sobhita's response quickly caught the attention of fans. Thanking her husband for the sweet gesture, she replied, "Thank you bangaaram," using the affectionate Telugu term for a loved one.

The exchange delighted their followers, who flooded the comments section with birthday wishes and messages of love for the couple. Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala got married in December 2024 after dating for some time. Chaitanya was previously married to actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Priyanka Chopra unwinds poolside on a day off from 'Varanasi'



Priyanka Chopra is currently busy shooting for "Varanasi", director SS Rajamouli's ambitious action-adventure film starring Mahesh Babu. Despite the scorching summer heat, the actress has been actively participating in the film's ongoing schedule in Hyderabad.

With Sunday appearing to be a day off from filming, Priyanka decided to unwind and beat the heat with a refreshing swim. The global star took to Instagram to share a series of poolside pictures and videos that quickly grabbed attention.

Dressed in a black monokini, Priyanka struck several stylish poses by the pool and also shared a video from

her relaxing swim session. In addition to the pool pictures, she posted snapshots of her self-care routine, including a face mask, along with pictures of enjoying kala jamun fruits.

Captioning the post, she wrote, "Sunday done right... now summer here I come..." Priyanka plays Mandakini in "Varanasi", a film said to blend mythology, time travel, and action-adventure elements. Mahesh Babu stars in the lead role, while Rajamouli is mounting the project on a grand scale.

The much-awaited "Varanasi" is currently scheduled for release in April 2027.



DEVYANI BOARDS AK47

Actress Devyani Sharma, who won acclaim for her performance in the popular web series Save the Tigers, has joined the cast of Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 (AK47), the much-awaited family entertainer starring Venkatesh Daggubati and directed by Trivikram Srinivas.

The actress has been roped in for a significant role in the film, which is currently being shot in Hyderabad. Her addition has generated fresh interest in the project, with fans eager to know more about her character.

The film marks the reunion of Venkatesh and Trivikram, a combination that previously delivered memorable hits such as Nuvvu Naaku Nachav and Malliswari. Srinidhi Shetty plays the female lead, while Nara Rohit, Pujita Ponnada, Rao Ramesh and Brahmaji feature in key roles. Devyani became a familiar face among Telugu audiences through Save the Tigers and has also appeared in films such as Bhanumathi & Ramakrishna, Romantic, Shaitaan and Anaganaga.

She will next be seen in Save the Tigers Season 3, which is set to premiere on June 19. Produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under the Haarika & Has-sine Creations banner, Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 has music composed by Harshavardhan Rameshwar. The makers are expected to announce further details, including the release date, in the coming weeks.

Mahesh Recalls 'Forever My Hero'

Actor Mahesh Babu and his wife Namrata Shirodkar paid heartfelt tributes to legendary actor and Mahesh's father, Superstar Krishna, on his birth anniversary on May 31.

Mahesh shared a cherished photograph with his father and wrote, "Forever my hero... Happy Birthday Nanna." Namrata posted a monochrome portrait of Krishna and captioned it, "Remembering you with love always. Happy birthday Mamayya!"

The posts drew an emotional response from fans and members of the film industry, who fondly remembered the late actor's immense contribution to Telugu cinema.

Krishna, whose full name was Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna Murthy, was one of the most influential stars in Telugu film history. Popularly known as "Superstar Krishna," he appeared in more than 350 films during a career spanning over five decades.

A recipient of the prestigious Padma Bhushan, Krishna was widely respected for his versatility, experimentation and contribution to the growth of the Telugu film industry. His legacy continues through generations of actors and filmmakers.

Krishna passed away on November 15, 2022, at the age of 79 following a cardiac arrest. Even years after his demise, he remains a beloved figure among Telugu cinema fans, with his birth anniversary and film anniversaries continuing to be celebrated across the state.