



**CURTAINS DOWN**  
**Panahi bags top prize at Cannes film festival**  
Iranian auteur banned from leaving country for more than 15 years wins the Palme d'Or at the French Riviera with revenge thriller  
WORLD » PAGE 15



Alert issued after Liberian-flagged cargo vessel lists off Kochi  
SOUTH » PAGE 7



Where does the RBI's surplus funds come from?  
FAQ » PAGE 13



Gill takes over the Test reins for India  
SPORT » PAGE 16



**NEARBY**  
**Hoax bomb calls create panic in Vizag, Vijayawada**  
VIZAKHAPATNAM / VIJAYAWADA  
Anonymous phone calls claiming that bombs were planted in the railway stations of Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam kept security personnel on their toes on Saturday. » Page 3  
RAPPORT  
SHOES, ACCESSORIES  
VIJAYAWADA - GUNTUR  
M.G.ROAD - LAKSHMIPURAM  
CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 4 & 7  
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

## Modi calls for Centre-State synergy

At NITI Aayog's Governing Council meet, PM seeks cooperation to speed up development, and asks States to develop world-class tourist hubs; T.N. seeks a higher share of Central tax revenues; Punjab bemoans 'step-motherly treatment'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
Even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted the States to come together with the Centre to speed up development across the country at the 10th meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council on Saturday, several States — such as Tamil Nadu and Punjab — voiced their grievances with the Centre, while others presented plans to boost their growth.  
Chief Ministers and Lieutenant-Governors of most of the States and Union Territories, as well as Union Ministers, attended the meeting chaired by Mr. Modi on the theme of "Viksit Bharat@2047".  
"We have to increase

the speed of development," Mr. Modi said, according to a NITI Aayog statement. "If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible."  
The Prime Minister urged every State to develop at least one tourist spot to international standards, in line with a "one State, one global destination" approach. "We must work towards the inclusion of women in our workforce," he said. "We must make laws and policies so that they can be respectfully integrated in the workforce."  
Voicing concerns for the States, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin "demanded a rightful share for States in Central taxes". He noted in a post on X following the meeting that the



Call for cooperation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Ministers M.K. Stalin and N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday. PTI

States currently received just 33.16% from the Central tax pool, against the promised 41%.  
Saying Tamil Nadu is India's most urbanised State, Mr. Stalin further called for a dedicated urban transformation mission along the lines of AMRUT 2.0. "I also urged a #CleanGanga-style

project for Cauvery, Vaigai and Thamirabarani, with names in English for national coherence and regional pride," he said.  
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann largely focused his inputs on water-related issues facing his State, but also called for increased financial sup-

port from the Centre and spoke about the "step-motherly treatment" being meted out to the State by the Centre.  
**Development plans**  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu suggested the creation of three focused sub-groups of States, which would work with the Centre and NITI Aayog to fast-track progress toward Viksit Bharat by 2047.  
Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai proposed a "3T" model to develop his State by 2047, focussing on technology, transparency, and transformation.  
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8  
CONG. SLAMS CENTRE » PAGE 9

## Miss England cites 'ethical concerns' to quit pageant in India

**Siddharth Kumar Singh**  
HYDERABAD  
Miss England 2024 Milla Magee has withdrawn from the ongoing Miss World 2025 pageant being hosted in Telangana, citing personal and ethical concerns. The 24-year-old, who arrived in Hyderabad on May 7, returned to the U.K. on May 16.  
In a statement to British tabloid *The Sun*, Ms. Magee expressed disappointment with the pageant's environment, which she said did not align with her expectations of 'beauty with a purpose'. Contestants were reportedly expected to wear make-up at all times and remain dressed in ball gowns throughout the day. "Tipping point came when they were allegedly asked to socialise with middle-



aged men as a gesture of appreciation for their financial contributions to the event," *The Sun* said.  
Julia Morley, Chairperson and CEO of Miss World Organisation, dismissed the claims as 'completely unfounded and inconsistent'.  
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

## Monsoon arrives in Kerala a week early

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI  
The southwest monsoon has arrived in Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a statement on Saturday, a week earlier than the normal onset date and three days earlier than the department's predicted date of May 27.  
This is the earliest the monsoon has reached Kerala since 2009.  
The monsoon is expected to be pushed further into Goa, parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, more parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, parts of the west-central and north Bay of Bengal, some parts

of north-eastern India, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, and Sikkim within the next three days, the IMD said. A factor that could have aided the monsoon's early onset was a pre-cyclonic storm forming over the Konkan-Goa coast that was expected to make landfall late on Saturday.  
The monsoon's early arrival in Kerala will translate to early arrivals in other parts of India only if the strength of the monsoon currents are continuously sustained.  
HEAVY RAINS IN KERALA » PAGE 7  
MONSOON MAY ENTER A.P. IN THREE DAYS » PAGE 6

## Film bodies' attitude irks Pawan

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA  
The film associations have not met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu even after a year of the NDA coming to power, which reflects their lack of respect and gratitude for what the government is doing for them, observes Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan.  
In a press release on Saturday, Mr. Pawan Kalyan said the State government would henceforth engage with representatives of the film associations only and not at the individual level.  
FULL REPORT » PAGE 6

## A.P. targets to achieve \$2.40 trillion GSDP by 2047, says Naidu

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA  
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has asserted that A.P. has a favourable atmosphere for investments, and the government is focussed on its Swarnandhra objectives, which are in alignment with the Viksit Bharat vision.  
Addressing the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday, Mr. Naidu highlighted the availability of abundant natural resources, other geographical advantages, and the ur-

ban-rural synergy model of development being followed by the government with due focus on adoption of advanced technologies.  
He said plans were on the anvil to achieve the targeted \$2.40 trillion GSDP by 2047 through new policies and data-centric planning and governance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted the Chief Ministers of other States to replicate some of the development plans made out by the A.P. government.  
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

## Afghan artists, traders get Indian visas after long gap

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI  
India has resumed granting several categories of visas to citizens of Afghanistan, including to business people and artists, according to a notification on a government website.  
India had suspended all kinds of visa after the Taliban took over the government of Afghanistan in August 2021. On August 17 that year, an "e-Emergency X-Miscellaneous visa" was announced for stranded Afghan citizens, but most such visas were only granted to those from the Hindu and Sikh communities.  
The Indian government



has not made any official announcement on the resumption of visa services for Afghan citizens. However, a government source told *The Hindu* that a new online visa module for Afghans was rolled out in the last week of April. "Afghans are getting visas for trade, medical [purposes], and other categories," the government source said.  
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

## Pak. violated Indus treaty spirit with war, terrorism: India at UN

**Press Trust of India**  
UNITED NATIONS  
India has ripped through Pakistan's "disinformation" on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) at the UN, asserting that Islamabad violated the spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that sought to hold hostage lives of civilians, religious harmony, and economic prosperity.  
"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Waters Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible

**Envoy to the UN calls out 'disinformation' by Pakistan on the Indus Waters Treaty that has been held in abeyance by India**  
manner as an upper riparian state," Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to UN, said on Friday at the UN Security Council Arria-formula meeting called by the Permanent Mission of Slovenia on 'Protecting Water in Armed Conflict - Protecting Civilian Lives.'  
Noting that the Pream-

ble of the IWT describes that it was concluded 'in a spirit of good will and friendship', Mr. Harish said that "Pakistan has violated the spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India."  
He pointed out that India has formally asked Pakistan to discuss the modifications of the Treaty on several occasions in the past two years but Islamabad continues to reject these.  
"Pakistan's obstructionist approach continues to prevent the exercise of full utilisation of legitimate rights by India," he said.

## Archaeologist defends report on Keezhadi excavations after ASI's request for revision

**B. Kolappan**  
CHENNAI  
Archaeologist K. Amarnath Ramakrishna has firmly defended his conclusions on the excavations at the ancient site of Keezhadi in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu in his response to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which had requested that he rewrite and resubmit his report.  
"The view expressed by you regarding further examination of the sequence is against the well-reasoned and conclusive findings of the excavation at the site," Mr. Ramakrishna wrote in a letter to Hema-



sagar A. Naik, Director (Exploration and Excavation) at the ASI. According to Mr. Naik, the three chronological periods identified in the excavation require proper nomenclature or reorientation. Additionally, the proposed time bracket for Period I (8th century BCE to 5th century BCE) requires more concrete justification. Mr. Naik had cited suggestions made by two experts and asked Mr. Ramakrishna to

revise his report by incorporating the necessary corrections, in order to proceed further.  
"The chronology of the Keezhadi excavation has been evaluated in accordance with standard archaeological procedures. The periodisation of the site was reconstructed based on stratigraphic sequences, cultural deposits, material culture, and Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating," said Mr. Ramakrishna, who had submitted his report in January 2023.  
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

## Top Maoist leader among two killed in Jharkhand

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA  
Two Maoists, including Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad supreme Pappu Lohra, alias Suryadev Lohra, were killed during an exchange of fire with security forces in Latehar district of Jharkhand on Saturday.  
Lohra, a zonal committee member, carried a bounty of ₹10 lakh, whereas Prabhat Ghanju, the second Maoist killed, had a bounty of ₹5 lakh.  
FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8

## OPENING DOORS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

HIGHEST PACKAGE

₹ **51 LPA**

OFFERED BY Microsoft

OVERALL OFFERS

**1200+** PLACEMENTS | **2500+** INTERNSHIPS  
OF 2025 BATCH

### Our Superstars



<b>B. Shiva Krishna</b> CSE - BATCH 2025	<b>Thangallapally Nihal</b> CSE - BATCH 2025	<b>Bijigiri Vignesh</b> CSE - BATCH 2025	<b>Ambati Krishna Sai</b> CSE - BATCH 2025	<b>Jonnadula Sahith</b> CSE - BATCH 2025	<b>Harsha Vardhan</b> CSE - BATCH 2025
<b>51 LPA</b> Placed @ Microsoft	<b>44 LPA</b> Placed @ Salesforce	<b>44 LPA</b> Placed @ Servicenow	<b>44 LPA</b> Placed @ Servicenow	<b>34.5 LPA</b> Placed @ PayPal	<b>34.5 LPA</b> Placed @ PayPal

380 students placed in Accenture from Batch 2025

### WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE SRU

- > **Scholarships** for Meritorious Students
- > Ph.D. & Post-Doc faculty from **World-Class Universities, IITs & NITs.**
- > State-of-the-Art **Campus Facilities**
- > Experiential **Learning Methodology**
- > Wide Range of **Extra Curricular Activities and Clubs**
- > Robust Alumni Network with **Global Reach**
- > Hands-on Learning for **Skill Development**
- > Curriculum Aligned with **Industry Trends**
- > One-to-One **Mentoring Support** and **Academic Advising** for Students.
- > A hub for quality research with India's highest **Ph.D. Fellowship** — up to ₹80,000/ Per month.

#### Academics

- Degree with Honours | Minor | Specializations
- Branch / Specialization Change Option in II year
- Internships / Semester Abroad

**50+** Collaborations with Foreign Universities

**Faculty Listed in Top 2% World Researchers**

#### SRIX

SR Innovation Exchange

**First Private University with a Technology Business Incubator in Telangana**

**160** Startups | **57+ Cr** Funds Raised by Startups | **10+ Cr** Funds Disbursed to Startups

**56000+** Global Certifications by Students

### 100+ Programs

#### World Class Programs in UG, PG & Ph.D.

- **School of Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence**  
B.Tech. (CSE - AI & ML | Cybersecurity | Data Science | Gaming & ARVR | Cloud Engineering and DevOps Engineering) / BCA / MCA / M.Tech / Ph.D.
- **School of Engineering**  
B.Tech. (ECE | EEE | ME | CE) / M.Tech / Ph.D.
- **School of Business**  
B.Com / BBA / MBA / E MBA / Ph.D.
- **School of Agriculture**  
B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture / M.Sc / Ph.D.
- **School of Sciences and Humanities**  
B.Sc / M.Sc / Ph.D.

#### INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM (IEP)

Make your choice:

**3+1**

Year 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Study at SR University & 4<sup>th</sup> Year Study at Partner Universities, USA

**2+2**

Year 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Study at SR University & Year 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Study at Partner Universities, USA

In Collaboration with US Universities



#### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ACCELERATED PROGRAM (IBAP)

**BBA + MBA / MS**  
(FINANCE/BUSINESS ANALYTICS)

**3+2**

3 years Study at SR University & 2 years Study at UMass Lowell, USA



**BS @**

The University of Melbourne, Australia

**2+2**

2 years Study at SR University & 2 years Study at The University of Melbourne, Australia



**170+ Acres Lush Green Sprawling Campus**

On Campus Separate Hostels for Boys & Girls:  
Home Away From Home, Nutritious Tasty Food,  
Clean Water, Clean Rooms, & WiFi.

#### SR UNIVERSITY

Ananthasagar, Hasanparthy,  
Warangal - 506371, Telangana, India

Follow US: /SRUniversity

For More Details Contact:

**+91 8331003030**  
**+91 8331004040**

[www.sru.edu.in](http://www.sru.edu.in)



FOLLOW US

# Hoax bomb calls create panic in Vijayawada, Vizag

Anonymous caller claimed to have planted explosives in railway stations, on Lokmanya Tilak Terminal Express, on Besant Road; police find that call came from Maharashtra

**Rajulapudi Srinivas**  
VIJAYAWADA/  
VISAKHAPATNAM

Anonymous phone calls claiming that bombs were planted in the railway stations of Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, on Lokmanya Tilak Terminal Express and on the busy Besant Road in Vijayawada kept security personnel on their toes on Saturday. However, all the calls turned out to be a hoax.

After the Police Control Room (PCR) in Vijayawada received a call around 6.50 a.m., claiming that bombs had been planted in public places, the police sounded an alert and conducted checks in Vijayawada railway station. Bomb Squads, along with sniffer dogs, rushed to the spot and scanned the entire Besant Road. As a precautionary measure, shop owners downed their shutters.

Government Railway Police (GRP) Inspector J.V. Ramana said that Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads (BDDS) scanned the railway station.

"Three sniffer dogs,



Search operations on Besant road in view of an anonymous bomb threat call, in Vijayawada. G.N. RAO

BDDS and City Security Wing (CSW) officials checked the luggage, restaurants, parcels, waiting halls and other places on all platforms and confirmed that the call was a hoax," Mr. Ramana said.

During the investigation, the police found that the call came from Maharashtra. Similar calls were made in Maharashtra on May 23. "The call was made from a stolen mobile phone. As per the police personnel who received the call in the PCR, the call-

er spoke in Hindi," said South Zone ACP D. Paavan Kumar. "After receiving the call, we alerted the police in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, Railway Protection Force (RPF), BDDS and the GRP," the ACP said.

RPF Assistant Security Commissioner Kota Joji said an investigation is on.

Hours later, an anonymous call claiming that a bomb had been planted on the Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminal-Visakhapatnam Express, which ar-

rived at Visakhapatnam railway station around 1.45 p.m., created panic in the city. Teams from the city police, GRP, RPF, Bomb Squad and Dog Squad did a thorough check of all compartments.

Police sources said a suspicious bag was found in one of the coaches during the inspection. The personnel found clothes, soap, a mobile phone and other items in the bag.

Later, it was reportedly found that a passenger had inadvertently left it behind.

## COVID cases rise to 4 as 2 test positive in NTR district

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh reported two new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, both from NTR district, according to information received from Special Chief Secretary, Health, M.T. Krishna Babu.

While reports of a 64-year-old man from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district testing positive emerged, the same was not updated in the overall State COVID report as of 9 p.m. The caseload in the State stands at four, including the Konaseema case.

The 23-year-old woman from Pithapuram Colony in Visakhapatnam, who had tested positive on May 22, recovered, while the two persons from NTR district were in home isolation. From May 1 to 24, a total of 134 RTPCR tests had been conducted - 59 in Visakhapatnam, 67 in Kakinada district and 8 in NTR district. Meanwhile, the Health Department has instructed the secondary and tertiary hospitals in the State to keep isolation wards, oxygen cylinders, ventilators, and laboratory facilities, PPE kits, N95 masks, triple layer masks and rapid kits ready.

## New childcare clinic inaugurated in city

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rammohan on Sa-

turday inaugurated Abhyasa Child Development Centre and Adolescent Guidance Clinic, in the city. The clinic caters to chil-

dren with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ADHD, behavioural challenges and speech and motor delays, a release said.

## INBRIEF

### Two killed after car knocks down motorcycle in Palnadu

Two persons were killed after the motorcycle they rode was allegedly knocked down by a car at Bodilapadu village in Palnadu district on Saturday. According to Police, the deceased were identified as J. Venkateswara Rao and J. Koteswara Rao of Gundlapadu in Veldurthi mandal. Both were returning home when the incident occurred.

### DGP reviews security for TDP Mahanadu in Kadapa

Director-General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Saturday reviewed the security arrangements made for the TDP Mahanadu, scheduled to be held in Kadapa from May 27 to 29. The DGP, along with Additional DGP (Law and Order) N. Madhusudhan Reddy, Kurnool and Ananthapuram Range DIGs Koya Praveen and Semushi Bajpai, asked the police personnel to ensure tight security arrangements.

### Collector distributes prosthetics to 130 people

Prosthetics can build confidence in differently-abled persons and those who lost their arms and legs in accidents to get on with their lives with courage, said NTR District Collector G. Lakshmi. The Collector was speaking at a mega medical and dental camp, where artificial limbs and wheelchairs were distributed at the Basavapunniah Bhavan in Vijayawada on Saturday. The camp was organised by the NTR Trust and Sudheekshan Foundation.

## Three electrocuted while shifting house

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

Three persons were reportedly electrocuted in a colony near Benz Circle in Vijayawada on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Challada Prasad (61), his sister S. Mutyavali (54) and his friend U. Radha (43).

Prasad, a native of Samarlakota in East Godavari district, visited his sister along with Radha. Mutyavali stayed in an apartment in the colony.

While at the house, Pra-

sad came into contact with an electric cable while packing some household items. Radha and Mutyavali rushed to his aid but were electrocuted as well.

Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao, Deputy Commissioner of Police K.G.V. Saritha, YSRCP leader Devineni Avinash and others visited the spot.

The incident occurred when the family was about to shift the house, said Patamata CI V. Pavan Kishore, who is investigating the case.

NATIONAL SILK EXPO

DIRECT WEAVERS EXHIBITION & SALE

29 May to 2 June

Summer & Wedding Special

All latest variety & new design

150+ certified weavers & best designers from all over India

• Silk, Cotton Saree • Designer Wear • Ethnic Wear • Kurti • Fashion Jewellery • Home Linen • Much More

A Plus Convention Center

Opp. Lalitha Jewellery, Vijayawada

M: 9441987009 | Entry Free | All UPI Online / Debit & Credit Cards Accepted

ANDHRA PRADESH SOCIAL WELFARE RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SOCIETY

H.No.12-467-9, 1st Floor, Moksha Sai Plaza, Beside Ratnadeep Super Market, Bypass Road, Tadepalli-522501, Guntur District, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.

NOTIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY ON CONTRACT BASIS

Rc.No.HR-I /2824793/ 2025      Dated:23-05-2025

Applications are invited from eligible candidates who has relevant experience in IIT/NEET coaching for the following posts as "Faculty" on Contract basis to work at IIT-NEET coaching centres in the State under APSWREIS:

SUBJECT-WISE FACULTY POSTS FOR IIT-NEET COACHING CENTRES								
S. No	Center Name	Boys / Girls	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	Botany Zoology	Total	
1	Cheepurupalli, Vizianagaram District	Girls	1	1	2	0	1	5
2	Sikrishnapuram, Visakhapatnam District	Boys	1	2	2	0	0	5
3	Pithapuram, Kakinada District	Girls	1	2	1	1	1	6
4	Dwaraka Tirumala, Eluru District	Girls	1	1	2	0	0	4
5	Kuntamukkala, NTR District	Girls	0	2	1	1	0	4
6	Adavitakkellapadu, Guntur District	Boys	1	0	2	1	1	5
7	Singarayakonda, Prakasam District	Girls	1	2	2	1	1	7
8	Kuppam, Chittoor District	Girls	1	2	2	0	0	5
9	B. Pappuru, Anantapur District	Boys	1	2	1	1	1	6
10	Chinnatekur, Kurnool District	Boys	0	0	1	1	0	2
<b>Total:</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>49</b>

Interested candidates possessing the prescribed qualifications and experience may apply. Detailed notification regarding qualifications, experience, application process, and application fee will be available on the APSWREIS website <https://swreis.ap.gov.in> from 26-05-2025.

Note: No. of posts may vary as per the requirement

PRASANNA VENKATESH.V, I.A.S., SECRETARY, APSWREIS

**Timings**  
VIJAYAWADA

SUNDAY, MAY. 25	RISE	05:35	SET	18:34	
	RISE	03:37	SET	16:46	
MONDAY, MAY. 26		RISE	05:35	SET	18:35
	RISE	04:25	SET	17:54	
TUESDAY, MAY. 27		RISE	05:35	SET	18:35
	RISE	05:21	SET	19:03	

**Vijayawada Weather** max min

Machilipatnam	36	24
Guntur Town	39	26
Vijayawada City	35	23

**Vijayawada City Today**  
34°C The weather will be warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower to occur. Night will be comfortable.

**Vijayawada City Tomorrow**  
33°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be warm and uneasy. Spell of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower will occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025  
All rights reserved.

Inners for Winners

VESTS

BRIEFS • TRUNKS

INSIDE-OUT COMFORT  
READY FOR EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY.

Made with ultra-soft, breathable cotton, Ramraj Innerwear moves with your child from morning to evening.

CONFIDENCE FOR STUDENTS

Shop Online at  
[www.ramrajcotton.in](http://www.ramrajcotton.in)

Available at Ramraj Showrooms and All Leading Textile Shops

**THE HINDU**

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## CREATE YOUR FUTURE WITH AP'S NO. 1

INTERNATIONAL DAY-CUM-BOARDING SCHOOL AT OAKRIDGE VISAKHAPATNAM

- ➔ PERSONALISED LEARNING
- ➔ WORLD-CLASS CURRICULUM & INFRASTRUCTURE
- ➔ SAFE AND SECURE BOARDING ENVIRONMENT

SCAN TO AVAIL UP TO 50% BOARDING SCHOLARSHIP\* FOR GRADES 9, 11 & IBDP

▶▶▶ APPLY BEFORE 15TH JUNE

80966 61110

WEEKLY, FULL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL OPTIONS AVAILABLE

ACCREDITATIONS: Cambridge International Programme, Cambridge International Education, CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (CBSE), INDIA

OAKRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL VISAKHAPATNAM  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

# Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

## Kamadhenusilks

Besant Road, VIJAYAWADA - 2. Ph : 2574220

f /kamadhenusilks 98488 51011 kamadhenusilks@gmail.com



## కామధేను సిల్క్స్

బీసెంట్ రోడ్, విజయవాడ-2. ఫోన్ : 2574220

f /kamadhenusilks 98488 51011 kamadhenusilks@gmail.com

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

#### COSMOPOLITAN

**CHEERFUL, PRETTY**, 28, 160cm, warm, well-educated (EU Master's), cultured. Well-to-do, open-minded family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste & language no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

**HINDU CNB** 40 Pharma Hyderabad, Never Married, looking for suitable working groom from same city. 909477007

**HINDU GIRL** 39/59 BA Economics Chennai. MSC Economics, UK, Senior Professional in MNC at Chennai mixed parentage, from a business family / Abroad, well educated, professional, well settled. Ct: 91 99203 08857

#### DIVORCEE

**KIND, ATTRACTIVE**, 40, 165cm, well-read (UK MSc), enterprising, Cultured S Indian family (ITian father). Seeks mature, compatible partner. Community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

#### DOCTOR

**CSI CHRISTIAN** Nadar Kanyakumari District 28/154 MD Dermatology seeks same sect Doctor groom, PG/Student preferred. Send resume: 9487542271.

**27/172CMS/MUSLIM, BRIDE/MS ENT** Seeks Suitable PG Doctor/Civil Services groom from Muslim. Ct: 7339157563

**WE ARE** looking alliance for our daughter aged 23 residing in Chennai height 167cm Doctor fair looking R C christian looking suitable alliance contact number 9444469062 email pram39@yahoo.com

**DOCTOR ALLIANCE** invited from a well-settled, like minded liberal affluent cultured family for our daughter MBBS 28 years, height 160 cms, beautiful slim fair US Citizen based in Texas. Kindly contact with family details, pictures and birth chart by email at rolapragada@yahoo.com, cell 8106116633. Jai Shri Sai.

**MGM ASSOCIATE** Consultant, MCh, Surgical Oncologist, 30, fair, pillai, veg, 172cms looking for doctor/professional veg groom from Chennai. WhApp 6383189302

**REDDY 34/165CM MBBS, MS** Seeks Suitable Groom from Chennai / Dubai / Singapore CNB 8925640111

**PARENTS OF Doctor Gynaecologist MS (OBG) FMSAS** 91 born Hindu Naidu Newer Married looking for a suitable well settled Doctor Groom CNB 9047020797 chitram.bsgr@gmail.com

**24/165CMS/ARYA VYSYA, BRIDE/MS** Data Science/Analytics PG Dr/Business Groom from same caste. Ct: 7339157563

**31, MBBS, MS (OG), Hindu Pillai** Salem, seeks P.G. Doctor groom in Pillai/Mudaliyar/Chettiar, Father - ADSP (Retd). Contact: 94425 22723.

**31, MBBS, MS (OPHTHALM), DNB & Fellowship** from Salem, seeks P.G. Doctor in FC, BC, MBC, Father Inspector of Police (Retd). Ct: 9498102561

**IYER GIRL, Vadama / 28 / doing MS** General Surgery, Seeks any Brahmin Doctor Groom with qualification MS, MD (in clinical subjects), MCh / DM from Good family background, preferably settled in Chennai. Contact through WhatsApp only. 8925480199

**Mudaliyar Bride born Dec1993 Doctor MS General Surgery Chennai** seeks Doctor Groom MS/MD from Mudaliyar/Vellalar. Contact: 7904339374

#### GOVT / QUASI GOVT

**SC, AD, Bank Employee, Age : 32,** Tripathi. Wanted Bank Employee or Government Employee: 9000180420

#### KANNADA

**HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda**, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

#### NRI

**Hindu Telugu** never Married 45 Years, 168 MS USA very Fair Working Bride seeks 45-48 Yrs never married working Groom in USA, CNB 9866274192. Only US working should contact.

#### TAMIL

**TAMIL MUSLIM** 25/175 O & G pursuing seeks prof qualified groom Ct: 8220042091 mudalihal@gmail.com

**MUSLIM GIRL** 38 yrs, seeks unmarried, qualified, employed Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779

**RC GIRL** 30/170 cm, Working in Kerala Soft - HR, Parents Keralite Settled in Chennai. Based Groom from a Good Family Background. 9345262574

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvananthapuram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct. 9443643415

**CHRISTIAN, CASTE** no bar, Age 37, MBBS, MD, Doctor at GH, Income 40 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900316

**VANNIA KULA** Kshatriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/9962781009

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 25



Estd. under The Chanakya University Act 2021 (Karnataka Act No. 37 of 2021)



# Be the makers of a better tomorrow



## Programmes that power tomorrow

Join the knowledge movement led by Eminent Leaders, Global Thinkers and Nation Builders

### Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

#### B.A. (Hons.)

Economics  
Political Science and International Relations

#### B.Sc. (Hons.)

Psychology

#### Chanakya Fellowship in Social Sciences, CFSS

1 year residential P.G. Diploma in Social Sciences

#### M.Sc. Psychology

Clinical Psychology  
Counselling Psychology  
Workplace Psychology

#### M.A.

Economics

#### Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Community Development  
Human Resources Management  
Medical and Psychiatric Social Work

**B.A. (Hons.) with Civil Services Examination Preparation (C.S.E.P.)**

## Admissions Open 2025-26

3-year and 4-year (Hons.) Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes

### Management Sciences

#### B.Com. (Hons.)

Accounting and Taxation  
Digital Banking and Finance

#### B.B.A. (Hons.)

Business Analytics  
Digital Enterprise Management  
International Business  
Service Management  
Start-up and Business Innovation

#### M.B.A.

Business Analytics and Consulting Finance  
Human Resources Management  
Logistics and Supply Chain, Management  
Marketing

**PGCET Code MBA: B400**

**B.Com. (Hons.) Accounting and Taxation - Professional Track (For CA Aspirants)**



### Law, Governance and Public Policy

#### 5 year integrated

#### B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)

#### BBA., LL.B. (Hons.)

#### LL.M

Corporate and Commercial Law

#### M.A.

Public Policy



### Biosciences

#### B.Sc. (Hons.)

Biotechnology

#### M.Sc.

Biotechnology and Bioinformatics

### Mathematics and Natural Sciences

#### B.Sc. (Hons.)

Chemistry

Minors: Physics & Biotechnology

#### M.Sc.

Data Science

### Engineering

#### B.Tech

Computer Science Engineering  
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence(AI)

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Electronics Engineering (VLSI and Embedded Systems)

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Civil, Construction, and Sustainability Engineering  
Biotechnology and Bioengineering

**KCET Code B Tech: E306**

#### B.C.A. (Hons.)

Data Science  
Software Engineering

#### M.C.A.

Data Science  
Cyber Security  
Software Engineering and Management

**PGCET Code MCA: C543**



### Our Global Collaboration



### Vibrant campus life with world class infrastructure



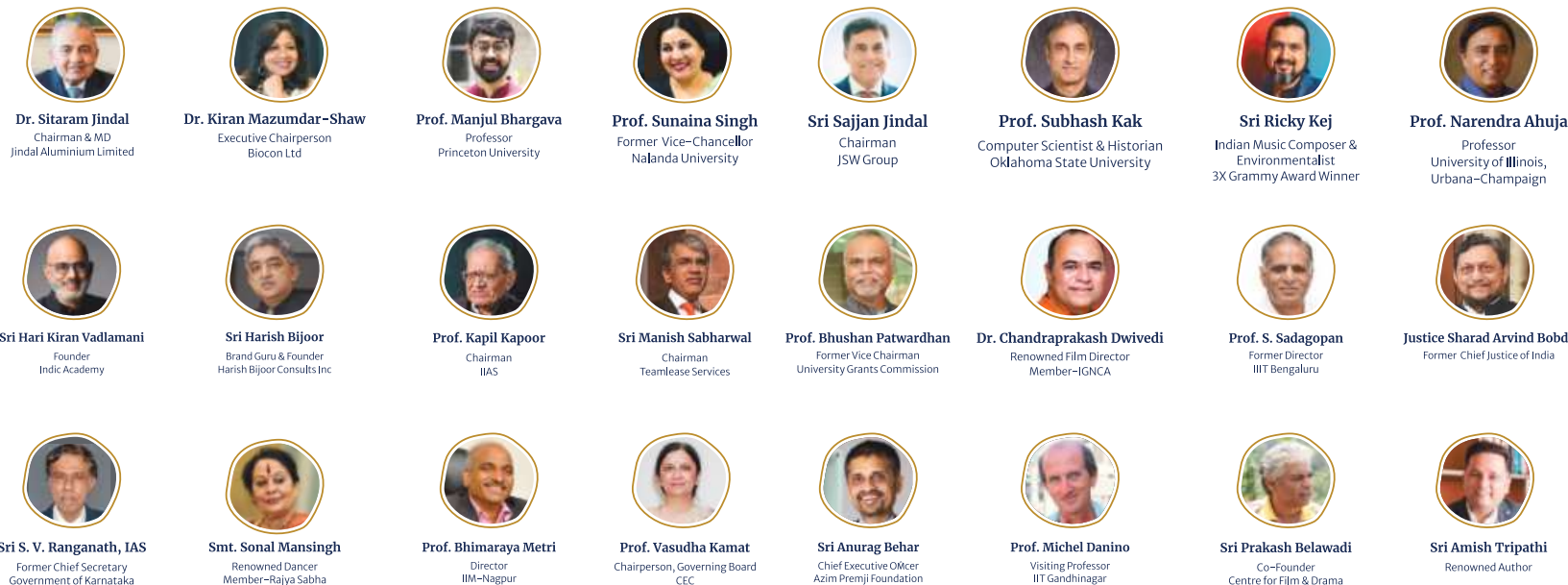
**116** Acres of Green Campus

**50+** Programmes Offered

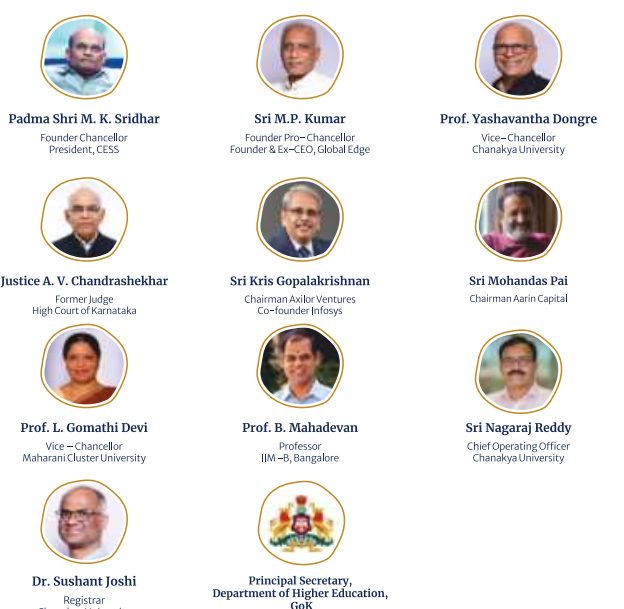
Students from **28** States Celebrating Diversity

**6** Centres of Excellence focusing on Research and Impact

### International Advisory Council



### Board of Governors



Chanakya University Global Campus  
Near Kempegowda International Airport  
**Bengaluru**



**+91 8550 8550 92/94**  
admissions@chanakyauniversity.edu.in  
[www.chanakyauniversity.edu.in](http://www.chanakyauniversity.edu.in)

## Andhra Pradesh

## From Page One

## A.P. eyeing \$2.40 trillion GSDP by 2047: Naidu

Mr. Naidu suggested that a national-level committee be formed to use technologies in governance on a much wider scale. He had a discussion with Mr. Modi on issues like governance, new policies and investment opportunities in various sectors.

## Yoga Day

On the International Yoga Day scheduled to be observed on June 21, Mr. Naidu said the government was making arrangements to organize it in a grand manner in Visakhapatnam, in which Mr. Modi would be taking part, and that awareness on the benefits of yoga were being spread by conducting Yoga Month from May 21 to June 21.

Referring to the Swarnandhra vision, he said it offered a scalable, inclusive model for national development and rooted in family-centric governance, innovation, digital infrastructure and sustainability.

Reaffirming the State's commitment to lead by example in driving national transformation through strong, coordinated leadership at both the State and the Union levels, he praised India's remarkable rise over the past decade under the visionary leadership of Mr. Modi, highlighting India's rise from the world's 10th to 4th largest economy, on track to become the 3rd largest by 2047.

## INBRIEF

## RGUKT admission for special category students from May 28

Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) will conduct verification of certificates for special category students from May 28 to 31, for admissions for academic year 2024-25. RGUKT Admissions Convenor Prof. S. Amarendra Kumar said, verification of certificates for Children of Armed Personnel (CAP) will be done on May 28 and 29, for Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) category May 29, NCC May 29 to 31, Sports category May 28 to 30, at Nuzvid IIT campus. Students who did not mention the category in the application forms can also attend with documents, he said.

## ADC Chairperson visits parks in New Delhi, Gurugram

Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Chairperson D. Lakshmi Parthasarathy visited Aravalli Biodiversity Park at Gurugram and Bharat Asean Maitri and Nehru Parks in New Delhi. The visits are part of a study tour for transformation of Amaravati into a nature-friendly capital city. The Chairperson enquired about the development activities undertaken by the authorities as her study focused on how greenery initiatives were implemented in a way that even summer heat felt like winter due to the lush vegetation.

## TUDA should be a role model for institutions, says chairman

Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) should become an example for other institutions, its new chairman, C. Divakar Reddy, said on Saturday during an introductory meeting with officials. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of TUDA vice-president N. Maurya. On the occasion, he asked the officials to make sure that TUDA funds are not misused. He said that due care should also be taken in the upcoming layouts. He directed the officials to work carefully to ensure transparency in all development works and layouts carried out within TUDA limits.

## Pawan Kalyan objects to 'disrespectful attitude' of film associations

The government will engage with representatives of film bodies only and not at individual level, he says, adds that policy aiming at honing skills in 24 crafts associated with movies is on the cards

V. Raghavendra  
VIJAYAWADA

The government is preparing a comprehensive film development policy that is aimed at developing the skills of people involved in the 24 crafts, from production to distribution, and adopting advanced technologies.

"While doing that, the government has decided to henceforth engage with representatives of the film associations only and not at the individual level," Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan said on Saturday.

The film associations had not met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu even after a year of the NDA coming to power, which reflected their lack of respect and gratitude for what the government was doing for them. The government planned to grant industry status to films and was taking other steps required for the good of all those dependent on the film industry, but the film bodies, like the film cham-



The film associations have not met the Chief Minister even after a year of the NDA coming to power, which reflects their lack of respect and gratitude for what the government is doing for them.

K. PAWAN KALYAN  
Deputy Chief Minister

ber, producers council, and the Movie Artists' Association, seemed to have forgotten how the previous government had treated senior actors and technicians with disdain and subjected them to hardship, Mr. Pawan Kalyan observed.

In contrast, the NDA Government fully supported the release of an Akkineni Nagarjuna film. The government promised before the elections that it would extend all support to the film industry, he said.

Mr. Pawan questioned why producers continued to submit individual petitions for increasing ticket

prices during their releases instead of coming together for structured negotiations. He emphasised that persons such as Dil Raju, Allu Aravind, D. Suresh Babu, Y. Supriya, Chinnababu, C. Ashwini Dutt and Naveen Yerneni should make collective efforts for the betterment of the film industry's growth.

The statement mentioned that Mr. Pawan had initiated discussions with the departments for the development of the industry, wherein the officials noted that many theaters were being run by leaseholders instead of the owners. Further, Mr. Pawan

asked the State Taxes Department to investigate whether taxes were being properly collected from those leaseholders.

It was stated that there would be a review of discrepancies between reported ticket sales and actual tax collections. Food inspectors and officials of the Legal Metrology Department were conducting inspections in the wake of complaints of overpricing of food and beverages in theaters.

Besides, the statement said the Cinematography Department had been instructed to report the number of multiplex theaters and the practice of dividing single-screen theaters into two or three screens and operated as multiplexes.

The government was investigating whether there was a difference in ticket rates between these and regular single-screen theaters. In this regard, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Guntur, Kakinada, Tirupati and Rajamahendravaram would be monitored, Mr. Pawan said.



A streak of lightning flashing in the skyline of Vijayawada, as heavy rain lashed the city on Saturday. G.N. RAO

## Monsoon may reach State in next 3 days

The Hindu Bureau  
VIJAYAWADA

With the southwest monsoon arriving in Kerala on Saturday, a week ahead of the normal date of onset, the State is likely to witness an early arrival too.

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, S. Stella says the monsoon is expected to arrive in the State within the next three days. Usually, the monsoon sets in Andhra Pradesh around June 4, four to seven days after its onset in Kerala. At present, the three regions of South Coastal A.P., North Coastal A.P. and Rayalaseema are experiencing pre-monsoon showers.

May, which started on a cooler note, has witnessed rain for the most of it, while the day temperatures remained below 42 degrees Celsius, according to the data available with the IMD.

The State has received

88.5 mm of rain against the normal of 39.2 mm between May 1 and May 21, a departure from the normal by 126%, according to the IMD. Again, there is a forecast of heavy rain, accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, in isolated places across the State until May 30.

An IMD bulletin says that in addition to conditions being favourable for the advancement of southwest monsoon into Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other States, a low-pressure area is likely to form over the west-central and its adjoining north Bay of Bengal around May 27. These two factors may lead to heavy rain in the State.

On May 24, Ichchapuram in Srikakulam district received the day's maximum of 46.25 mm rain, according to the realtime data updated as of 7 p.m. on the A.P. State Development and Planning Society.

## Fans warn of action if Pawan's movie screening is disrupted

The Hindu Bureau  
TIRUPATI

Ahead of the release of Pawan Kalyan's movie 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' and the rumblings in the film industry, his fans have threatened to jump into action if the 'industry stalwarts' did anything that disrupted the screening of the film.

JSP Tirupati in-charge K. Kiran Rayal appealed to the governments in A.P. and Telangana to amicably settle the issue.

He was referring to the call given by the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC) to stall screening of films from June 1, a decision that however hangs in balance.

Addressing a media conference here on Saturday, he made it clear that he was speaking as a fan and not on behalf of the party.

## State govt. mandates procurement of Burley tobacco at ₹12,000 per quintal

Sambasiva Rao M.  
MARTUR (BAPATLA)

The State government has mandated the tobacco companies to procure Burley tobacco from farmers at ₹12,000 for quintal for Grade A and ₹5,400 for quintal for Grade B varieties.

Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu, after a meeting with stakeholders at the camp office of Parchur MLA Yeluri Sambasiva Rao on Saturday, directed the companies to start purchasing the produce from Sunday. The members of Cabinet Sub-Committee on agriculture prices, including Mr. Atchannaidu and Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, held the meeting with all the stakeholders, including tobacco growers, farmers associations, companies representatives, officials from Indian Tobacco Board and others.



Ministers K. Atchannaidu and Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Parchur MLA Yeluri Sambasiva Rao inspecting the Burley tobacco stocks at Suravarapalli in Bapatla district on Saturday.

Mr. Atchannaidu said the companies should not return the tobacco over quality or other parameters. They must purchase the entire tobacco produced in Andhra Pradesh, estimated around 70 million kg.

He assured that the State government would support the farmers and tobacco companies as well by extending financial assistance for processing the Burley tobacco. The government have to spend at least ₹17 for processing a kg

of Burley tobacco and ₹200 crore have been allocated for that purpose. Once the tobacco is processed, then it could be stored for more than one year and the companies could use the produce in the next year as well.

"The government will procure tobacco from farmers through A.P. Markfed, if needed, at the end of the season," the Minister said.

He assured the farmers that the government would monitor the entire pro-

## Tobacco ryot 'ends' life

The Hindu Bureau  
MARTUR (BAPATLA)

A 41-year-old farmer, identified as Thallapaneni Srinath, hailing from J. Pangu-luru mandal in Bapatla district, died allegedly by suicide on Saturday. Recurrent losses in farming for the past three years are suspected to have driven him to take the extreme step. People battling suicidal thoughts can seek help by dialling 100.

curement process, till the sale of the last kg of the produce.

Tobacco Board Chairman Yashwanth Kumar Chidipothu said the Board had extended support to farmers, though it did not have a mandate with respect to the Burley tobacco.

## Anjaneyulu, Vamsi shifted to hospital

The Hindu Bureau  
VIJAYAWADA

Suspended IPS officer and former DG (Intelligence) P. Sitarama Anjaneyulu, who was in judicial custody in the alleged APPSC recruitment scam, fell ill on Friday midnight. Police shifted him to Vijayawada jail dispensary and to GGH later. Mr. Anjaneyulu was suffering from high blood pressure, the doctors said.

Former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, who was in police custody, fell ill at Kankipadu police station in the early hours on Saturday. "Vamshi suffered from breathing problem and vomiting. He was rushed to Kankipadu PHC, and the doctors referred him to the GGH," the police said. After providing treatment to the former MLA, the police produced him before the Nuzvid magistrate, and he will be shifted to the Vijayawada jail, DSP Gannavaram Ch. Srinivas said.

## Will it be the endgame for the banned Maoists?

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Sumit Bhattacharjee  
VISAKHAPATNAM

The killing of Nambala Kesava Rao (70), alias Basavaraju Chhattisgarh has hit the banned CPI (Maoist) hard.

The Maoists are already on the backfoot with the operations at Karregutta in Chhattisgarh, as part of Operation Kagar and Black Forest. But, can the killing of Basavaraju be termed as the endgame for the Maoist? Going by their six-decade existence, it may not be so.

In the early 1990s, after the unified A.P. government launched a counter-offensive with the formation of the Greyhounds, the Maoists, then referred to as CPI (ML) PWG (Peo-



Arms and ammunitions recovered during an operation that killed 27 Maoists in Narayanpur. PTI

ple's War Group), were reduced to a single dalam. They, however, bounced back to own up the formation of a "liberated zone" in Chhattisgarh. As per the security analysts, the entire scenario reversed now.

Greyhounds had pushed the Maoists from A.P. to Chhattisgarh and Odisha, and then the police forces in these States were not equipped to handle the level of guerilla war-

fare by the Maoists. Now, Telangana and A.P. have Greyhounds, touted to be one of the best in guerilla warfare, and all LWE-affected States such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha have trained special forces.

Maharashtra has C-60, Odisha has the SOG (Special Operations Group), and Chhattisgarh the CRPF CoBRA and the DRG (District Reserve Guards).

"We have strengthened Intelligence network, we have high-end technological support and we work as a team," said a senior police officer from A.P.

## What went wrong?

Security analysts opine that the Maoists made a few costly mistakes.

The Maoists have two verticals - the political wing and the military wing. Since the formation of CPI (Maoist) in 2004, the focus has been on developing the military wing. The political wing has been neglected. This has distanced them from the people and a large part of the intelligentsia, who have once supported them ideologically.

The killing of tribals branding them as informers did not go well with the sympathisers. There have been ideological clashes

between members of the Central Committee too.

The external support base of the banned party has shrunk so much that even after the killing of their top leader, the protest has been almost negligible.

This is evident from the lack of adequate and strong protest from various quarters even after the death of the top most leader, pointed out a former Maoist.

"We deviated from the focus area and paying the price now. Ever since the focus shifted to military tactics, most of our organisations had taken the back-seat," he added.

The question that looms large is will Maoists be able to re-mobilise the political side, while keeping the military flock with them, or, as experts suggest, will it be the endgame for the outfit?

## TTD adopting technology to ensure better services to devotees: EO

The Hindu Bureau  
TIRUMALA

The TTD is adopting technology to ensure better services to devotees, says Executive Officer J. Syamala Rao.

Addressing the media after 'Dial your EO' programme, he listed tech-upgrades introduced, which included AI, upgradation of Facility Monitoring Systems, WhatsApp Governance, Aadhaar integration, kiosk-based services, and partnership with Google to enhance transparency. A WhatsApp-based feedback system had also been introduced, he said.

## Three drunk police constables run riot on Tirumala; suspended

G.P. Shukla  
TIRUMALA

Three APSP constables on Friday entered the Tirumala while reportedly being drunk; alcohol is strictly prohibited on Tirumala. The police personnel were identified as B. Rajasekhar, K. Omkar Naik and Sheik Sirajuddin, all belonging to the Kurnoor Second Battalion.

According to sources, the trio, reportedly tasked with getting a police vehicle repaired, went to Tirupati, got drunk and drove recklessly on the ghat road while returning to the town. They rammed into other vehicles before crashing into a culvert on

Tirumala's D-Type quarters area, bursting a tyre in the process.

Security at the Alipiri checkpoint failed to inspect the vehicle owing to its police markings, which allowed the drunk constables to reach the town unchecked. They also hurled abuses, vitiating the temple atmosphere, sources said. While Sirajuddin fled, the other two were subjected to a breathalyser test, in which they registered 300 points, well above permissible limits. The police booked them and APSP Commandant Deepika Patil suspended all three.

The incident drew criticisms from political and religious circles.

# Cargo vessel lists off Kochi coast; 21 rescued

Liberia-flagged container vessel lists 38 nautical miles southwest of Kochi; six to eight cargo containers have fallen off the ship; Kerala State Disaster Management Authority alerts public not to touch the cargo if it washes up along the shore; situation is being monitored by the Indian Coast Guard

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOCHI

An accident involving a Liberia-flagged container vessel, *MSC ELSA 3*, leading to the fall of potentially dangerous cargo approximately 38 nautical miles southwest off Kochi created a scare leading to an extraordinary alert by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) on Saturday evening.

It alerted the public neither to approach nor touch the cargo in the event of it washing up along the Kerala shore. The 184-metre-long ship had left the Vizhinjam port on May 23 and was supposed to reach Kochi on Saturday. The MSC Ship management, which owns the vessel, sought urgent assistance from the authorities following a 26-degree list of the vessel around 1.25 p.m., a defence communication said.

It is learnt that 21 of the 24 crew members have been rescued by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), while the rest three are expected to board rescue vessels. On the type of cargo that the fallen containers had, sources say it will be ascertained based on the feedback from the ship operator. This is because it is



**Lost balance:** The container vessel that tilted approximately 38 nautical miles southwest of Kochi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

learnt to be carrying multiple cargo, including potentially harmful cargo, if inhaled.

The ICG is coordinating the rescue operations by

deploying ships and aircraft in the area. One ship of the Indian Navy and two ICG ships remain deployed in the area. An ICG Dornier aircraft dropped additional

life rafts near the vessel to facilitate further evacuation.

The Director-General, Shipping, in coordination with the ICG, issued directives to the ship's managers for providing urgent salvage services for the distressed vessel. The situation is being monitored closely by the ICG to prevent loss of life and damage to the environment.

### Issues warning

In an extraordinary development, KSDMA member-secretary Shekhar L. Kurikose issued a series of audio clips warning the public about potentially dangerous cargo from the

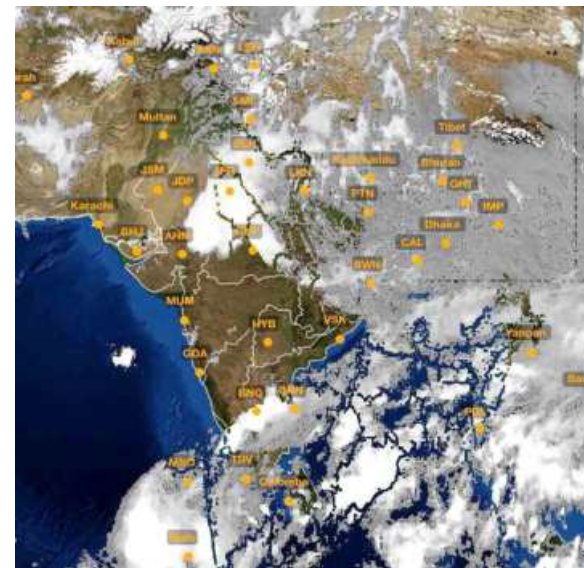
vessel around 5.15 p.m. According to initial information, six to eight cargo containers have fallen off the ship.

The alert also warned about a potential oil spill along the shore probably between central and northern Kerala. The KSDMA issued the alert based on the information shared by the ICG.

The KSDMA asked people to reach the emergency response support system at 112 or the police station concerned in the event of containers getting swept shore. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board has been alerted to deal with a potential oil spill.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Sunday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN				
Agartala	.....	34.4	.....	26.4	Kozhikode	.....	63	.....	27.0	.....	24.4
Ahmedabad	.....	43.0	.....	30.3	Kurnool	.....	34.0	.....	27.1	.....	27.0
Aizawl	.....	10	.....	31.6	.....	22.7	Lucknow	.....	38.8	.....	27.0
Allahabad	.....	37.0	.....	27.2	Madurai	.....	36.0	.....	25.7	.....	24.3
Bengaluru	.....	0.4	.....	26.6	.....	21.7	Mangaluru	.....	18.3	.....	30.7
Bhopal	.....	36.2	.....	27.2	Mumbai	.....	0.2	.....	34.7	.....	25.6
Bhubaneswar	.....	34.2	.....	27.2	Mysuru	.....	1	.....	28.2	.....	21.0
Chandigarh	.....	37.2	.....	29.7	New Delhi	.....	38.2	.....	28.4	.....	27.2
Chennai	.....	28	.....	35.6	.....	25.2	Port Blair	.....	12	.....	28.0
Coimbatore	.....	3	.....	27.8	.....	22.4	Puducherry	.....	2.8	.....	32.3
Dehradun	.....	36.3	.....	24.6	Pune	.....	12.6	.....	27.6	.....	22.8
Gangtok	.....	20.8	.....	17.0	Rajpur	.....	3.2	.....	34.5	.....	26.6
Goa	.....	0.5	.....	35.0	.....	25.8	Ranchi	.....	30.9	.....	23.0
Guwahati	.....	29.0	.....	23.0	Shillong	.....	24	.....	24.1	.....	16.8
Hubballi	.....	0.2	.....	32.4	.....	24.8	Shimla	.....	29.4	.....	19.4
Hyderabad	.....	1	.....	31.3	.....	22.7	Srinagar	.....	27.5	.....	18.0
Imphal	.....	42.0	.....	31.2	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	96	.....	29.6	.....	23.0
Jaipur	.....	76	.....	27.6	.....	24.4	Tiruchi	.....	3	.....	33.7
Kochi	.....	25.4	.....	17.8	Vijayawada	.....	19	.....	35.2	.....	23.4
Kohima	.....	1	.....	34.4	.....	26.6	Visakhapatnam	.....	34.5	.....	28.0
Kolkata	.....	15	.....	11.8	.....	81	.....	81	.....	81	.....

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITY	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday	
Ahmedabad	.....	15	.....	116	.....	81	.....	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bikaner, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 191
Bengaluru	.....	10	.....	40	.....	55	.....	indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Palakkaipur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17
Chennai	.....	9	.....	14	.....	52	.....	
Delhi	.....	12	.....	31	.....	60	.....	
Hyderabad	.....	11	.....	14	.....	35	.....	
Kolkata	.....	9	.....	24	.....	23	.....	
Lucknow	.....	10	.....	45	.....	45	.....	
Mumbai	.....	9	.....	52	.....	35	.....	
Pune	.....	9	.....	83	.....	79	.....	
Visakhapatnam	.....	8	.....	48	.....	17	.....	

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.  
**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## INBRIEF



### Initiative launched to foster culture of entrepreneurship

Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Kondapalli Srinivas launched Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Andhra Pradesh Entrepreneurs Development Forum and CII Tirupati Entrepreneurs Development Forum in Tirupati on Saturday. He also unveiled the CII Project 'Abhivrudhi Padham lo Swarna Andhra Pradesh Nuthana Prayanam.' Addressing the gathering, he said, "The A.P. government has launched the flagship programme 'One Family, One Entrepreneur', with a mission to foster a culture of entrepreneurship in every household. This initiative plays a pivotal role in the development of MSMEs as drivers of self-reliance, innovation and job creation."

### Toddler raped, killed by relative in Andhra Pradesh

A three-year-old girl was raped and murdered allegedly by a 26-year-old man at Jammalamadugu in YSR Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh on Friday. The incident occurred when the parents of the girl were busy at a wedding of their relatives. According to the police, the accused was a relative of the girl. He was playing with her at the function. He was in an inebriated condition. He allegedly lured the girl by offering her a banana to an isolated area and committed the crime.

### IMA A.P. offers support to FMGs

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VIJAYAWADA

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Andhra Pradesh, has come out in support of the Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs), who have been waiting for Permanent Registrations for a year, and demanded an immediate resolution. The IMA, on May 23, said that after studying the problems faced by the FMGs in the past few months, it has taken a decision to stand by them. The IMA urged the medical council to take appropriate steps for the welfare of these students.

### Compartments to house 2.5 lakh participants for Yoga Day

**The Hindu Bureau**  
VISAKHAPATNAM

The district administration is busy making arrangements for the 'International Yoga Day' event scheduled to be held in the city on June 21. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan and many other dignitaries set to attend the programme, the event is likely to gain global attention.

A series of coordination meetings are being organised at the collectorate in this regard. The meeting

on Saturday was presided over by Minister for Home V. Anitha. During the meeting, Visakhapatnam Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad gave a presentation on the plan and other arrangements to the attending Ministers and other public representatives.

He called for strict coordination among various departments, stressing the need to achieve a Guinness World Record. He said the 2.5 lakh participants of the event should be arranged along a 26.5-km stretch from RK Beach's Kali Mata Temple to Bhemili. The main stage will be set up

along a 4-km stretch between Kali Mata Temple and YMCA, where dignitaries such as the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, other Ministers and prominent personalities will participate.

He said 127 compartments will be arranged along the 26.5-km stretch - one compartment every 200 metres. Each will accommodate at least 1,000 participants. Each will have an in-charge person, a medical team and 10 volunteers drawn from NCC and NSS.

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**  
**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**  
**In fond memory**  
**Prof. S. Krishnamurthi**  
1985  
**Ratnadevi**  
2012  
*Always remembered for their love & blessings*  
By their Son & Family

**TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT**  
Vijayawada : 0866-2553033/44  
Guntur : 83414 43366  
Ongole : 98481 70977  
W.Godavari : 96429 93433  
Tirupati & Kadapa : 97041 06892  
Nellore & Anantapur : 98497 93093  
THE HINDU  
South India's No.1 English Daily

**Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder**  
Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**  
Or write to us at [customercare@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customercare@thehindu.co.in)  
Scan the QR code to register your feedback  
THE HINDU thehindu.businessline.  
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR

**MADHYA PRADESH TOURISM BOARD**  
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U75302MP2017NPL043078  
6th Floor, Lily Trade Wing, Jahangirabad, Bhopal (462008), M.P., India  
Website : [www.tourism.mp.gov.in](http://www.tourism.mp.gov.in)  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
NIT No. AND SYSTEM No. PROJECT NAME  
NIT No. : 3335/PLG/MPTB/2025/PANNA AND SYSTEM NO. 2025 MPTB\_425586 DATED 22.05.2025 "Request for Proposal for Preparation of Zonal Master Plan for Eco Sensitive Zone of Panna National Park and Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary of M.P."  
NIT No. : 3335/PLG/MPTB/2025/RALAMANDAL AND SYSTEM NO 2025 MPTB\_425599 DATED 22.05.2025 "Request for Proposal for Preparation of Zonal Master Plan for Eco Sensitive Zone of Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary of M.P."  
NIT No. : 3335/PLG/MPTB/2025/ROPEWAY AND SYSTEM NO 2025 MPTB\_425769 DATED 22.05.2025 "Expression of Interest for Development of Ropeway Projects On Dbot Model at Following Locations: 1- Omkareshwar 2- Bhojpur 3- Salkanpur 4- Raisen Fort 5- Janapur"  
MPTB invites offers from agencies for Selection of an Agency for above mentioned projects. The detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/www.tourism.mp.gov.in> For any other information please contact Mob. No.+91-9425184809 or E-mail at [jdplg.mptb@mp.gov.in](mailto:jdplg.mptb@mp.gov.in) Last Date and Time for online submission of the RFP is 24.06.2025 at 5:00 PM.  
M.P. Madhyam/120239/2025 MANAGING DIRECTOR

**SPORTSTAR INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE**  
Play now & start winning!  
1. Which state government has been a key promoter of Indian hockey and has sponsored the national men's and women's teams since 2018?  
2. Which Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper, who announced his retirement after the Paris 2024 Olympics, played his farewell tournament by helping India clinch a bronze medal and making 50 saves?  
3. In the fiercely contested men's field hockey tournament at the 2024 Olympics, India's captain scored in nearly every match, including a memorable brace in the bronze medal game. Who was he?  
Scan QR code or visit [newsth.live/SSIPLPA](http://newsth.live/SSIPLPA) to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. Top 3 winners\* every day win gift vouchers.  
Yesterday's poster: Josh Hazlewood  
Yesterday's Winners:  
1. Kumar,M, Bangalore | 2. Zeenath Shakir, Chennai | 3. Manabendra Karmakar, Jagdalpur

**Classifieds** LIFE MADE SIMPLE THE HINDU  
**SITUATIONS VACANT**  
**EDUCATIONAL**  
**VACANCIES**  
ST.JOHN'S MATRIC Hr.Sec.School, Selvaraj Nagar, Thiruninravur-602024, Chennai. Wanted Trained/Untrained, Expd/Fresh PGTs.TGTs in Tamil, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Computer Science, History, P.E.T, French, Headmistress for primary and middle. Attractive Salary with Accommodation 9444761611, 9944814199, 9600109693. Apply @ Immediately. [sjohnsteachersinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sjohnsteachersinfo@gmail.com)  
**Schools**  
A saga of 43 Years  
★ Robotics  
★ 3D Printing.  
★ Drone Making  
**DON BOSCO SCHOOL**  
Affiliated to CBSE  
Guru Nanak Road, Opp. Auto Nagar Colony, Vijayawada-7  
0866-2477470  
0866-2471617  
81252 65651  
**GENERAL**  
**SAARC MASTS**  
An EdTech Software Development Company  
**SAARC MASTS TECH PVT LTD,** Coimbatore  
Requires Immediately  
**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE**  
Locations: Pan India  
**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS**  
Locations: Pan India  
**QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER**  
Location: Coimbatore.  
Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2025  
For more details, visit our careers page: <https://www.saarcmaststech.com/career>  
Mob: 74488-89430  
**netkampus**  
**BUSINESS OFFERS**  
**FINANCE**  
BUSINESS UNSECURED Loans for biz expansion new Project NPA & all other business min 1 Crore Above. 7736821639 / 7736631639.  
**COLLEGES**  
2025-26 శాస్త్ర విభాగములకు ప్రభాస్ కాలేజీస్ కేంద్రకర్తలకు విజయవాడ -3.  
Inter, Degree, PG & B.Ed., ఆధునిక పాఠశాల కార్యక్రమం ప్రారంభం  
Ph : 7670941483, 9963472819.  
**INDUSTRIAL NEEDS**  
**CIRCUIT BALL MILL BY FLSMIDTH FOR SALE!**  
We have 4 nos Circuit Ball Mill by FLSmidth as per the specifications given below, in working condition for immediate sale.  
CM#1 - 2.9M dia X 10.4M long @ 22tp 1030 KW  
CM#2 - 3.5M dia X 10.4M long @ 40tp 1567 KW  
CM#3 - 3.5M dia X 9.6M long @ 40tp 1470 KW  
CM#4 - 3.5M dia X 10.4M long @ 40tp 1545 KW  
For further details, call Anand Kumar - 97905 87707

**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM**  
Ground & 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sri Narayana Bhawan, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020  
O.A. No. 1051 OF 2024  
Between:  
State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Balaji Nagar, Siripuram Junction, Administrative Unit, Visakhapatnam Rep. by it's Chief Manager ... Applicant And:  
1. Sri Chenchugulla Manoj Kumar ... Defendants  
2. Sri Chenchugulla Kullayappa Kumar ... Defendants  
1. Sri Chenchugulla Manoj Kumar s/o Chenchugulla Kullayappa Kumar, D.No.12/405, Station Road, Near Sai Baba Temple, Nuzvid, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, 521201.  
2. Sri Chenchugulla Kullayappa Kumar s/o Chenchugulla Chintappa, D.No.12-631-A, Nuzvid Station Road, Nuzvid, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521201.  
**SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY RELIEF PRAYED FOR SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED**  
1. Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of sum mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear and file a written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on 06-06-2025 to answer the claim.  
2. You are directed to collect the OA COPY AND annexure on your appearance before the Tribunal.  
3. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement.  
4. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a Pleader / Advocate duly instructed.  
5. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.  
Sd/- Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons  
**READ FRONTLINE**  
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1993  
EVERY FORTNIGHT.  
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT [www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe](http://www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe)

## From Page One

PM Modi calls for  
Centre-State synergy

The first sub-group of the three suggested by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, according to a release by the State government, should be on GDP growth and aim at boosting “investments, manufacturing, exports, and job creation, supported by central Viability Gap Funding for PPP projects”. The second sub-group, on population management, would “help India leverage its demographic advantage” while also preparing for upcoming challenges such as ageing and low fertility. The third sub-group would focus on “technology-driven governance, utilising AI, quantum computing, drones, and digital platforms for real-time, citizen-centric administration”.

Under Mr. Sai's 3T plan, Chhattisgarh would increase its per capita income by ten times and double its GSDP in the next five years, he said, also presenting a longer-term plan for the State. “As part of this long-term development agenda, the government has prepared a comprehensive strategy named the ‘Chhattisgarh Anjan Vision Document’, which outlines integrated plans for economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability,” the Chhattisgarh government said in a release.

Notably, Mr. Sai also reaffirmed the Union government's deadline to make Chhattisgarh “completely Naxal-free” by March 2026.

Miss England Magee  
quits pageant in India

Following Ms. Magee's exit, Charlotte Grant, the Miss England runner-up, has arrived in Hyderabad to take her place in the competition, continuing England's representation at the pageant, confirmed a representative from Miss World Organisation.

“Earlier this month, Milla Maggie requested to leave the competition due to a reported family emergency involving her mother's health. We responded to Milla's situation with compassion and immediately arranged her return to England, placing the well-being of the contestant and her family first. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that certain UK media outlets have published false and defamatory statements, allegedly made by Milla Maggie, regarding her experience in India. These claims are completely unfounded and inconsistent with the reality of her time with us,” Ms. Morley said in a statement.

Afghan artists, traders get  
Indian visas after a gap

A portal for “New AFGHAN Visa” has been added to the indianvisaonline.gov.in website, where “Afghan nationals may apply for online visa.”

The categories of visas that have been listed on the portal are “student, business, medical, medical attendant, entry, and UN diplomat.”

The guidelines say that the applicant must upload “a recent front facing photograph with white background and photo/bio page of Passport and National Identity Card (Tazkira) containing personal details such as name, date of birth, nationality, expiry date, etc.”

Artists, cultural personalities, academicians, and professionals intending to visit India to participate in cultural events or activities sponsored by reputed institutions for a short duration without remuneration may apply for “entry visa”, the portal said. “Children from previous marriages of an Afghan national who is presently married to an Indian Citizen/Person of Indian Origin/OCI cardholder” may also apply under this category.

Afghans who own property in India, dependent parents of a student visiting India for higher education, and parents of a student below the age of 18 may also apply for entry visas, the portal said. Under the “business” category, sportspersons and coaches – including those engaged in commercial sports events in India, on contracts with remuneration – may apply. The portal added that the category would be open to Afghans coming to establish an industrial or business venture and to those required to travel frequently on long-term business activities, as well as for investors and their dependents.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

Archaeologist defends  
report on excavations

Mr. Ramakrishna, who led the Keezhadi excavation, clarified in his response that he had already accepted the suggested changes in nomenclature and had communicated them to the ASI in a letter dated April 10, 2023. More than two and a half years later, the ASI has now asked him to resubmit the report to make it “more authentic.”

In his reply, Mr. Ramakrishna explained that the final conclusions presented in the report were based on detailed findings and were supported by comprehensive documentation.

Mr. Ramakrishna also emphasised that all relevant maps, plates, and drawings had been provided in high-resolution formats, both in soft and hard copies, to the ASI at the time of submission. “Hence, there is no chance of anything being missing. However, if anything is found to be missing, it will be corrected,” he added.

Top Maoist among two leaders  
gunned down by Jharkhand Police

Two Maoists, including JJMP supremo Pappu Lohra, alias Suryadev Lohra, are killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Ichabar forest; police recover one injured cadre, an INSAS rifle, and 20 bullet shells from the spot

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA

Two Maoists were killed during an exchange of fire with security forces in the Ichabar forest of Latehar district in Jharkhand on Saturday.

The deceased are Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP) supremo Pappu Lohra, alias Suryadev Lohra, Lohra, zonal committee member, who was carrying a bounty of ₹10 lakh, and Prabhat Ghanju (₹5 lakh).

Jharkhand police spokesperson and Inspector-General (Operation) Amol V. Homkar told *The Hindu*, “There was an input in Latehar police station about JJMP movement by a team led by their supremo Pappu Lohra and others. Latehar SP [Superintendent of Police] Kumar Gaurav planned an operation along with the local Jharkhand Police team.”

Ahead of that, for verification of the information received and necessary action by the Superintendent of Police, Latehar, a raiding team was formed with the officers and force of the district police under the



Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad's leader Pappu Lohra, who was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Latehar district. PTI

leadership of sub-inspector Ravindra Mahali, Latehar Police Station, and sent to the spot.

He further said, “When the team was searching the jungle patch, the JJMP team started firing, and the police retaliated. The area was searched after the exchange of fire was over, and two bodies and one injured person were recovered from the place of occurrence along with an INSAS rifle and other

material.”

Apart from the INSAS rifle, the police recovered 20 bullet shells, two pouches containing magazines, and one motorcycle.

Firing continued from both sides for about half an hour, after which, seeing the increasing pressure of the police, the Maoists took advantage of the jungle and bushes and managed to escape.

Asked about the reward the Maoists were carrying,

Mr. Homkar said, “From initial identification and sources, they have been identified as the supremo of JJMP Pappu Lohra, who was carrying a reward of ₹10 lakh, and one Prabhat Ghanju, who was the sub-zonal commander carrying the reward of ₹5 lakh.”

“One cadre member has been arrested, who has a bullet injury and was shifted to the hospital for medical treatment. One of our jawans also got hit by a bullet and was evacuated. He has been shifted to Ranchi for treatment,” he said.

## Search still on

In this encounter, constable Awadh Singh was injured and was immediately sent to Sadar Hospital, Latehar, for treatment.

The exchange of fire took place early in the morning, and a search is still being carried out in the area.

Mr. Homkar asserted that the entire operation was carried out under the guidance of Jharkhand Director-General of Police Anurag Gupta.

The cadre member was identified as Ashish Kumar, father of Suneshwar Singh,

resident of Kothil village under Latehar Police Station.

According to the police, Lohra had been associated with the JJMP organisation since 2009-10 and had committed heinous crimes such as collecting levy by spreading terror in the adjoining districts, including Latehar.

He had also become an obstacle to development works and harmed the general public by intimidating them, along with his supporters.

Lohra was responsible for killing Deputy Commandant Rajesh Kumar of Jharkhand Jaguar in September 2021. In August 2024, an encounter took place between Lohra and Jharkhand Jaguar under the Latehar Police Station, in which two jawans – sub-inspector Nagendra Pandey and Constable Ram Singh Surin – were injured by bullets in their legs.

In March 2021, Vishnu-dev Singh, son of Raghunandan Singh, resident of Bingada in Latehar, was shot dead by Maoists of the JJMP. In May 2020, Lohra and his members killed a common citizen.

Alleged  
fraudster  
deported  
from U.S.

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Alleged fraudster Angad Singh Chandhok, who had an Interpol Red Notice against him, was deported from the U.S. on Saturday in an operation “closely coordinated” by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), officials said.

He was brought to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, where the CBI detained him and later put him under arrest, they said.

He was produced before a special court, which sent him to judicial custody.

Chandhok, who was wanted in a case of allegedly cheating Union Bank of India in 2014, had managed to escape to the U.S. in 2016 with his family members to escape from the legal proceedings.

In 2017, the CBI got the Interpol Red Notice against him, which alerts all the member countries to locate and detain the wanted person. “Efforts are continuing for the return of family members of the subject, who are other wanted accused in this case. The return of the subject, the main co-conspirator in the fraud, will help in starting the trial,” the agency said.

Meitei flag display by Arambai  
Tenggol on Shirui peak sparks row

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

The display of a flag representing seven Meitei clans on the Shirui peak in Manipur's Tangkhul Naga-majority Ukhrul district has triggered a row.

A unit of the Arambai Tenggol, a Meitei radical group that gained notoriety during the ethnic conflict with the Kuki-Zo tribes, allegedly put up the seven-coloured ‘Salai Taret’ flag during the Manipur Tourism-organised Shirui Lily Festival.

Tangkhul groups reacted to the display, and slogans were shouted by a group of men – the video went viral on social media – standing on what appeared to be the top of a mound. They construed it as a desecration of their revered hill, the source of many rivers and streams in the Ukhrul district.

The Tangkhul Naga Long, the apex social body of the community, said the act was an “utterly disgraceful and despicable attempt by the Arambai Tenggol to tarnish and obfuscate the spirit and



The seven-coloured ‘Salai Taret’ flag displayed by a group of young men on the Shirui peak. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

meaning of the Shirui Lily Festival for petty and dirty political gains at the wrong place and time.”

The Tangkhul Katam-nao Saklong, the apex student body, said the festival embodies peace, ecological consciousness, and cultural pride of the Nagas inhabiting the region. “It is, therefore, an act of grave provocation that individuals, reportedly affiliated with the Arambai Tenggol, specifically a faction identifying itself as the Cobra Team Unit 58, hoisted the Meitei flag,” it said.

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist

Council of Nagalim, or NSCN (I-M), said the Arambai Tenggol had courted a controversy on the joyous occasion with an unfounded narrative.

It asserted that the ‘Salai Taret’ flag has no cultural, historical, or political connection with the Tangkhuls. “Thus, the Arambai Tenggol has again proved themselves as nothing but a bunch of ‘warmongers’ provoking the nerves of the peace-loving Tangkhuls,” the extremist group said on Saturday, seeking an unqualified apology from the Meitei radical group within 48 hours for

“hoisting” the flag in an area “far from their socio-religious jurisdiction”.

## ‘Not a territorial claim’

The Arambai Tenggol issued a statement later in the day, urging the Tangkhul bodies to examine the context of the flag-related video with care. It said the slogans raised, including ‘Long live Manipur’, were messages of love and unity, and they did not disrespect or threaten any community.

“The valley of Manipur, and the people of Arambai Tenggol, embrace and honour the spirit of peaceful coexistence among all indigenous communities who respect the unity and integrity of Manipur,” the group said.

It said that the flag should not be construed as a territorial claim or provocation, just as the display of any country's flag on the Himalayas does not imply ownership of the peaks.

“Our intent was never to offend or incite, but only to stand in solidarity with our traditions, just as others do across our diverse State and nation,” it added.

Artillery's firepower  
reverberates during  
Operation Sindoor

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

While the precision strikes by the Indian Air Force and the joint aerial defence with the Army were widely displayed during Operation Sindoor, the Army's Regiment of Artillery, along with Army Air Defence, played a major role in hitting terror targets in the initial phase and in the exchanges along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

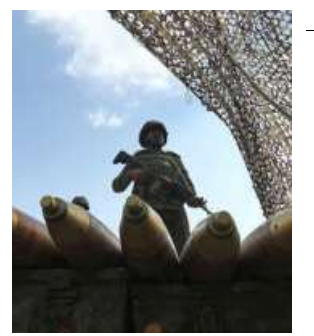
Seven of the nine terror targets identified under Op Sindoor were hit by the Army. A majority of them were hit by the artillery regiment using precision long-range Excalibur rounds and loitering munitions. “As far as the Army's role in Op Sindoor is concerned, protection was by Air Defence and firepower was by the artillery regiment,” an official observed.

Most of the targets, especially in PoK, were within 6-16 km from the border, another official noted, adding that the type of weapon chosen depends on the range and nature of target and the 155-mm artillery is very accurate in a flat trajectory.

## Heavy shelling

Pakistan resorted to heavy shelling using heavy calibre artillery guns and armed drones in Tangdhar, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar, Rajouri, Akhnoor and Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in some losses and injuries to Indian Army personnel, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh had said in a media briefing on May 8. “Pakistan Army also suffered major losses in Indian retaliatory fire,” she said.

Between May 7 and 10, Pakistan resorted to heavy shelling using small arms, mortars and heavy artillery – including 105 mm and 155 mm artillery guns – to which the Indian Army responded effectively, officials said. The heavy



An Indian soldier stands next to artillery shells in Poonch sector of Jammu region, on May 20.

shelling continued on the night of May 10 even after the understanding to stop all firing came into effect at 5 p.m. that day.

## Precision projectiles

In 2019, the Indian Army had procured the Excalibur precision rounds for all its 155-mm artillery guns that extend the range. The procurement was fast-tracked in the aftermath of the Balakot episode in February 2019. The Excalibur precision-guided projectile is co-developed by Raytheon and BAE Systems Bofors.

The Army has revised the profile of its artillery regiments as a result of the lessons drawn from the Ukraine war, with a focus on a mix of mobility and augmented long-range firepower, based on a detailed study by the Regiment of Artillery along with the Operations Branch. An effort is already under way to convert all artillery guns to medium 155-mm gun systems and this is expected to be achieved by 2042.

The Army has several artillery guns – Bofors, M777 and Soltam – that were all used, officials said. In response to heavy shelling by Pakistan, concentrated artillery hits were undertaken by the Indian Army causing extensive damage to several enemy bunkers along the LoC, an official noted.

New automation software, Shakti, was incorporated a few years ago to speed up the process of firing, officials said.

COCOMI launches civil disobedience  
campaign against President's Rule

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), on Saturday, launched a “civil disobedience campaign against President's Rule administration” and a “public boycott” of Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The announcement followed the expiry of its 48-hour general strike from midnight of May 21. The strike was against the masking of the words ‘Manipur State Transport’, allegedly by security personnel, on a bus carrying

**Decision followed the end of a strike over masking of words ‘Manipur State Transport’ on a bus**

journalists to cover the Shirui Lily Festival.

While imposing the strike, the COCOMI sought an apology from the Governor for the bus incident. It also demanded the resignation of the State's Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh, Chief Secretary P.K. Singh, and Director General of Police Rajiv Singh. The organisation held the trio res-

ponsible for the incident that “undermined the identity of Manipur, its name, pride, and respect”.

Reiterating the demands, the COCOMI said in a statement: “The refusal of the Governor and the Presidential Rule administration to acknowledge and apologise for this deep insult to the State's identity, confirms their disconnect from the ground reality and their disdain for the sentiments of the people.”

It announced mass protests, rallies, torch processions, and sit-ins across Manipur, specifically outside the Raj Bhavan, Cen-

tral government offices, and the district headquarters.

The COCOMI urged the citizens to cease all cooperation with Central government offices “whose decisions have repeatedly undermined the State's dignity”.

It also appealed to the communities, students, women's groups, and civil society organisations to take active roles in organising cultural expressions of Manipuri identity, and door-to-door and loud-speaker campaigns to build momentum to push the demands.

## Cong. slams Centre, terms NITI Aayog an 'ayogya body'

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday to discuss the way ahead for achieving a 'Viksit Bharat', Congress leader Jairam Ramesh slammed the body and took a dig at the BJP-led Union government.



Jairam Ramesh

"Today's meeting of the NITI Aayog - an ayogya (unqualified) body if ever there was one - is yet another exercise in hypocrisy and diversion," he said in a post on X.

The Congress leader went on to question how a government led by the BJP would build a Viksit Bharat (developed India) and what kind of a future it would be.

"What kind of a Viksit Bharat would it be 'if those in power destroy the bonds of social harmony by their malicious words and deeds... subvert Parliament, judiciary, universities, media, and Constitutional and statutory authorities to fulfil their nefarious goals,'" he asked.

What sort of development would it be "if the values that India has always

stood for are systematically assaulted in full glare of the world", he further questioned.

Mr. Ramesh continued, "What sort of Viksit Bharat will it be with sharpening economic disparities and inequalities even as wealth continues to accumulate in the hands of a few?"

### BJP's retort

Responding to Mr. Ramesh's criticism in remarks to newswires, BJP national spokesperson Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain said Saturday's meeting was one of "Team India" to decide on the path for the country's development.

"Jairam Ramesh is finding fault in this too," he said, adding that it appeared as if Mr. Ramesh was determined to finish off the Congress.

# India will not be silenced by terror attacks, says Tharoor

Before departing on a five-nation trip, the Congress leader says the multi-party delegation is a mission of peace and hope, and will one day remind the world that India stands for all the values 'we need to preserve in the world today'

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who is leading a multi-party delegation to five countries, has asserted the mission will give the world the message that "we will not be silenced by terrorism" and that "we don't want the world to look away either".

Mr. Tharoor made the remarks late on Friday night just before his delegation left for a visit to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and the United States.

In a video message posted on X, Mr. Tharoor said: "I'm heading off to five countries leading an all-party delegation to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and the United States, and the reason we are going is to speak for the nation, to speak about this horrendous crisis we were subjected to in which our country was attacked by terrorists in the cruellest possible way."

The Thiruvananthapuram MP said the delegation was a mission of peace and



India's message: The parliamentary delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor in New Delhi on Saturday before departing for the Operation Sindoor global outreach. ANI/X

hope, and would one day remind the world that India stood for all the values "we need to preserve in the world today".

"We need to speak up with clarity and conviction for our country, for our response and to give the world the message that we will not be silenced by terrorism and we don't want the world to look away either," the MP said.

"We don't want indifference to triumph over the truth. It's a mission of peace. It's a mission of

hope. And it's a mission that will one day remind the world that India stands for all the values we need to preserve in the world today of peace, of democracy, of freedom, and not of hatred, killing and of terror. *Jai Hind*," he said in his video message.

Mr. Tharoor posted pictures of the delegation members at the airport before boarding the flight.

The delegation led by Mr. Tharoor comprises the MPs Shambhavi (LJP-RV), Sarfaraz Ahmed (JMM),

G.M. Harish Balayogi (TDP), Shashank Mani Tripathi (BJP), Bhuvaneshwar Kalita (BJP), Milind Deora (Shiv Sena), and Tejasvi Surya (BJP) and former diplomat Taranjit Sandhu. It will travel to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil, and the U.S.

The delegation is likely to underscore Pakistan's links to al-Qaeda, which was behind multiple terror strikes across the world, including the 9/11 attack.

If terrorism is a "rabid dog", Pakistan is its "vile

handler", and the world must unite to tackle it, Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee said.

### Speech in Japan

Mr. Banerjee, who is part of the all-party delegation led by JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha to Japan to highlight India's unwavering stand against cross-border terrorism and expose Pakistan, said: "We are here to convey the truth - India refuses to bow down."

"We will not yield to fear. We have learnt to respond in a language that they understand," he said during a fiery speech in Tokyo on Saturday. "If terrorism is a rabid dog, Pakistan is its vile handler. We must first unite the world to tackle this wild handler - else it will continue to breed more rabid dogs," he said.

"We will ensure India remains responsible. All our responses and actions have been precise, calculated, and non-escalatory," he said.

The delegation to Japan interacted with members of the Indian diaspora at the Embassy.

## Plea in HC on 'communal' media reports of rape case

The Hindu Bureau  
BHOPAL

A writ petition has been filed in the Madhya Pradesh High Court against the State government and two Hindi language newspapers for allegedly publishing "communally inciting coverage" of the Bhopal rape and blackmail case, using terms such as 'love jihad' in a manner that the petitioner claims defames the Muslim community.

The petition, a copy of which has been reviewed by *The Hindu*, was filed on May 19 by a Bhopal-based resident from the Muslim community, who has chosen to remain anonymous. The petitioner, through his counsel Deepak Bunde, has sought the registration of a criminal case against the editors of the two newspapers, and directions to the State government to curb divisive reporting by media organisations on sensitive issues.

Mr. Bunde said the matter has been tentatively listed for June 19, following the summer court recess.

The petition pertains to multiple complaints of sexual assault and blackmail lodged by students of a college over the past month.

## 'We should be so powerful that none can conquer us'

Ishita Mishra  
NEW DELHI

At a time when language has become a bone of contention between the States and the Centre, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said that it is the Sangh that provides a "thread to put all diversities in one garland of unity".

Speaking on national security, Mr. Bhagwat said India should become so powerful that even if multiple powers come together, they cannot conquer us.

To a question during an interview with the *Organiser*, an RSS-backed magazine, on how the Sangh promoted inclusivity given India's linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity, Mr. Bhagwat stressed that every worker in Sangh worked for the uplift of the nation, irrespective of his religion and language.

"Come and see yourself, people speaking all languages, and from all backgrounds work together in the Sangh...upholding the sense of one nationhood and unity and integrity of the nation," he added.

# Rahul visits shelling-hit Poonch, vows to amplify voice of the affected

Peerzada Ashiq  
SRINAGAR

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday comforted students who lost their classmates, surveyed the damage to civilian homes, and visited the damaged structures of a gurdwara, a Muslim seminary and a Christian school in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, which was badly affected by the recent Pakistani shelling.

Mr. Gandhi called on the students of Class 5 from the Christ School, Poonch, where a Pakistani shell exploded and snuffed out the lives of twins Urwa Fatima and Zain Ali. "I am sorry for your loss. We are proud of you. You are extremely brave children. It was a frightening situation," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mingling with the students shaken by the shelling in Poonch that left 14 civilians, including four children dead, Mr. Gandhi underlined the need to respond to the situation "by studying hard, playing hard and making friends". He also met with the students of Jamia Zia-ul-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Poonch on Saturday with the people affected by Pakistani shelling. The recent attack left 14 civilians, four of them children, dead in the district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Uloom here and the family of Mohammad Iqbal, a teacher killed in the shelling. He surveyed the Shri Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara here.

Referring to the false reports of Mr. Iqbal being a terrorist, Mr. Gandhi assured the family of justice and extended them support in the face of misinformation.

"Don't worry, everything will return to normal," Mr. Gandhi told the local people. He was seen ven-

turing inside the shell-hit homes to assess the extent of damage. Several people complained of poor compensation in the face of large-scale devastation.

### 'Salute resilience'

"It's a big tragedy. People have died. I heard them. They want me to raise a few things at the national level. I will do that," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Their pain will not go unheard. We promise to amplify their voices, demanding justice,

dignity and peace," he said. Mr. Gandhi said he witnessed stories of broken homes, scattered belongings, tearful eyes, and the painful loss of loved ones was in every corner. "These patriotic families bear the brunt of war with courage and dignity every time. I salute their resilience," he said.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra said Mr. Gandhi was the first national leader to come here.

## W.B. teachers to up the ante if govt. 'fails to meet deadline'

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

'Untainted' teachers protesting against the cancellation of their appointments in West Bengal schools by the Supreme Court declared on Saturday that they will wait till Monday for the State government to grant them an audience, failing which they might escalate their agitations.

A protesting teacher urged the government to meet them and discuss the way forward.

The top court on April 3 upheld the Calcutta High Court's 2024 order cancelling the appointments of 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staff over irregularities in recruitment. Protests erupted among 'untainted' teachers.

## NDA CMs, Deputy CMs to discuss good governance schemes

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Twenty Chief Ministers and 18 Deputy Chief Ministers of the States ruled by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will participate in a day-long brainstorming on good governance on Sunday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the meeting. BJP president J.P. Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah too will be participating in the deliberations," read a BJP statement.

### Twin resolutions

Being coordinated by the BJP Good Governance Department, the meeting will also pass two resolutions. The first one will be to con-

gratulate the defence forces and the Prime Minister on the success of Operation Sindoor. In another resolution, the NDA CM Conclave will congratulate the Central government on its decision to conduct caste enumeration during the ensuing Census.

"A significant part of the deliberations at this conclave will be devoted to the discussion on best practices by different NDA State governments. The respective CMs will be make presentations on their initiatives," it stated.

The meeting will also deliberate on the forthcoming events such as the first anniversary of the NDA government, and completion of a decade of International Yoga Day, said the party.

## UPSC to start authentication of Aadhaar from next exam cycle

Aloysius Xavier Lopez  
CHENNAI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will be starting the process of integrating Aadhaar identity authentication with the on-line application process in the next examination, UPSC Chairman Ajay Kumar said here on Saturday.

Speaking to presspersons on the sidelines of a meeting of the Standing Committee of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions, Mr. Kumar said the process was part of the efforts to ensure greater transparency.

"The Public Service Commission plays an extremely important role in ensuring that the best candidates get selected for civil services all over the country. We will collectively make an endeavour both at the Union level and the State level to make sure that we perform our work diligently," he said.

The Standing Committee meeting on May 24 and 25, hosted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, in the city will discuss various issues relating to the recruitment process for the government services, fair and transparent ex-

amination process, sharing best practices, use of technology in the examination process, and managing legal issues that may come up in the recruitment process.

TNPSC Chairman S.K. Prabakar said the meeting would debate critical issues and arrive at clear directions for proceeding further. "Our discussions have been extremely productive in the past," he said.

Haryana Public Service Commission Chairman Alok Verma, the Chairman of the Standing Committee, participated.

**RAJASTHAN STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Post: Khand Bhawan, Jaipur, Distt. Jaipur, PIN-302006, 227514, E-mail: rajseeds@rajseeds.com, www.rajseeds.com  
CIN:U72302RJ1975NOC001731, www.rajseeds.org

F6( ) Mktg/ Dhaincha openTender/ Kharif-2025/4196 Date :- 21/05/2025

**NIB /2025-26/Mktg-02**

Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Limited, Jaipur invites E-Procurement Bids from interested seed production companies/organizers/suppliers to supply Dhaincha TL/CS seed for Kharif - 2025 for Rajasthan.

Bid documents are available on website <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/> [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) or [www.rajseeds.org](http://www.rajseeds.org) / [agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in](http://agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in) from 21.05.2025 to 27.05.2025 Last date and time of online submission of Bid is 2:00 pm on 27.05.2025 RSSC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid.

UBN No. : SD52526GLOB00012  
Raj.Samwad/C/25/2949 Managing Director

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
O/o. The Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), GHMC, Hyderabad  
Tender Notice No. 04/SE(P-WZ)/GHMC/2025-26/ Date: 24-05-2025

Sl.No.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Start date	27-05-2025 from 04.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	04-06-2025 at 03.00 PM, Location: O/o, Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC 5th Floor, GHMC, Head Office, Tank Bund, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	18-06-2025 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	18-06-2025 after 04.00 PM
5.	Opening of Price bid	20-06-2025 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in) to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to [sasrdsppwz@gmail.com](mailto:sasrdsppwz@gmail.com). Address of the officer concerned: Sri. G. Sree Lakshmi, SE/P-WZ, Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Projects-WZ, GHMC  
DIPR R.O.No.2434-PPCL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 24.05.2025

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (Divyangjan)**  
(Dept. Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)  
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112, Tamil Nadu - India.  
Phone: 044 - 27472104, 27472046, 27472113, 27472423 Toll Free No: 18004250345  
Email: niepmd@gov.in, niepmdhrd@gmail.com, website: www.niepmd@nic.in, - (Re-Accredited by NAAC B-2" Cycle) - ISO 9001:2015-

**ADMISSION NOTICE- 2025-26**

Course & Duration	Last Date for receipt of Application
M.Phil - Clinical Psychology (2 Years)	15.07.2025
Bachelors of Physiotherapy (BPT) (4 1/2 Years)	Admission through CET-2025, please visit <a href="http://admission.svnirtar.nic.in/">http://admission.svnirtar.nic.in/</a> or State Selection Committee, DME Govt. of Tamil Nadu
Bachelors of Occupational Therapy (BOT) (4 1/2 Years)	
Bachelors in Prosthetics and Orthotics (BPO) (4 1/2 Years)	Admission through CET-2025, please visit <a href="http://admission.svnirtar.nic.in/">http://admission.svnirtar.nic.in/</a>
Bachelors in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (B.A.SLP) (4 Years)	
Post Graduate Diploma in Early Intervention PGDEI (1 Year)	15/07/2025
M.Ed. Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) (2 Years)	06/10/2025
B.Ed. Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) (2 Years)	01/09/2025
D.Ed. Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) (2 Years)	Will be announced by RCI
Diploma in Indian Sign Language Interpretation (2 Years)	Will be announced by RCI
Diploma in Office Automation and Assistive Technology** (1 Year)	As per Bharathidasan University norms
Certificate Course in Care Giving (RCI) (10 Months)	Will be announced by RCI
Certificate Course in Care Giving - Parents (06 Months)	31/05/2025

Note: \*\*Eligible only for Divyangjan (PwD)  
1. No application fee for Divyangjan (PwD) 2. For details on application process: eligibility, norms, guidelines and curriculum refer to the prospectus in [www.niepmd.nic.in](http://www.niepmd.nic.in) 3. OBC/SC/ST/PwD Scholarships as per TN Govt./State Govt./ National Scholarship Portal schemes are applicable

Sd/- Director

## IN BRIEF



## Assam's Nagshankar becomes model for turtle conservation

Nagshankar in Assam's Biswanath district has been designated a model temple for turtle conservation. Padma Hazarika, MLA, acknowledged the temple on behalf of the local communities at an event on World Turtle Day on Friday. "Nagshankar's role in promoting conservation of turtles at the grassroots level makes it a model temple in this regard," he said. The event was organised by the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam State Zoo, Nagshankar Temple Committee, DBT-NER Biotech Hub Chaiduar College, and conservation groups Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India, Aaranyak, and Help Earth.

## Bengal government bans 137 substandard medicines

The West Bengal Department of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday issued a notification to ban 137 medicines that did not meet the drug quality standard. It has also issued a notification to retailers and wholesalers for quality check. This comes as the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) found over 196 inferior drugs across India. The State government has been cracking down on the usage of fake and lower-grade medicines; multiple raids across drug godowns have led to the discovery of huge amounts of substandard medicines. In February, fake medicines worth around ₹17 lakh were seized from a godown in Howrah.

## Gujarat man held for sharing sensitive info with Pak. spy

The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested a contractual health worker posted in the border district of Kutch for allegedly sharing sensitive information about military establishments with a Pakistani spy, officials said on Saturday. Accused Sahdevsinh Gohil, 28, was lured by a Pakistani agent, who identified herself as Aditi Bharadwaj, to share information about under-construction as well as existing establishments of the Border Security Force and Indian Navy in the area, said the ATS in a release. Since June 2023, he had reportedly shared photos and videos with the spy for money. His phone has been sent for a forensic analysis. PTI

## Akhilesh questions U.P. govt. over DGP appointment

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday criticised the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh for its failure to appoint a permanent Director-General of Police (DGP) in the State. If the government couldn't give a permanent DGP, what permanent framework for law and order would it give to the State, he asked. "In the BJP rule, police stations are being raided, police itself are filing FIRs against police and also accusing each other of kidnapping. Now the children of U.P. play 'police-police' instead of 'thief-police'," he said in a post on X. Since May 2022, the State has appointed many acting DGPs with Devendra Singh Chauhan given the charge for 11 months.

## SUDOKU

		8		5	9			2
3								
			8	4				1
	6		9			3		
	9	1				6	8	
		4			1		9	
	1			8	6			
								8
5			3	7		1		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	5	7	8	2	3	4	1
2	1	7	4	5	3	8	6	9
3	8	4	9	1	6	7	2	5
1	9	2	3	4	5	6	8	7
4	3	6	8	9	7	5	1	2
7	5	8	2	6	1	4	9	3
6	7	9	1	3	8	2	5	4
8	4	3	5	2	9	1	7	6
5	2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8

## Lancet report validates India's stigma study for sickle cell disease, terms it a 'robust tool'

ICMR-SCD Stigma Scale for India is the first in India and fourth globally; scales capture information on several aspects of stigma such as familial and reproductive, social disclosure, illness burden, interpersonal, and healthcare interaction challenges; to be available to researchers immediately

Bindu Shajan Perappadan  
NEW DELHI

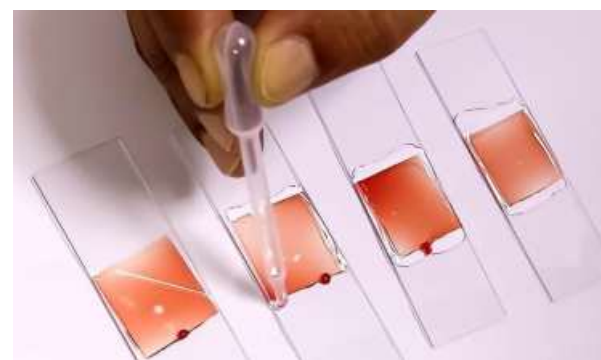
India accounts for the second-highest prevalence of sickle cell disease (SCD) globally, following sub-Saharan Africa. However, not much research has been done, and no stigma measurement tool was available to India before the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently developed India's first ICMR-SCD Stigma Scale for India (ISSSI).

The three scales available globally were unsuitable due to India's diversity. The findings underscore the scales' psychometric robustness and utility in clinical and research settings,"

according to an article published in the *Lancet* (regional health South-East Asia) this month. ISSSI is the first in India and the fourth globally.

People with SCD often suffer from severe pain episodes, chronic fatigue, swelling, infections, and potential organ damage, significantly impacting their quality of life.

"This study explicitly developed and validated the ISSSI. The finalized scales capture multidimensional aspects of stigma, including familial and reproductive, social disclosure, illness burden, interpersonal, and healthcare interaction challenges. The findings underscore the scales' psychometric robustness and utility in clinical and research settings,"



The three stigma scales available globally for the disease were unsuitable due to India's diversity. GETTY IMAGES

said the article.

It added that the methodological rigour employed in the scale development makes it a robust tool for understanding SCD-related stigma among Indian SCD patients and their caregivers in clinical and research contexts.

"The ISSSI will be avail-

able to the mission and researchers immediately," said the article.

Meanwhile, the study was conducted across six SCD-endemic districts in India - Alluri Seetharama Raju in Andhra Pradesh, Anuppur in Madhya Pradesh, Chhoteudepur in Gujarat, Kandhamal in Od-

isha, Mysuru in Karnataka, and Udalguri in Assam.

These sites were selected to capture a wide range of socio-cultural and geographical contexts. Each district presents unique demographic and socio-economic characteristics, including variations in access to healthcare and awareness of SCD.

Sickle cell disease is caused by the inheritance of two mutated  $\beta$ -globin genes, one from each parent, leading to the production of abnormal haemoglobin, known as sickle haemoglobin. SCD is a significant public health problem in many regions, impacting populations in several countries.

The development of the ISSSI represents a significant advancement in un-

derstanding and addressing the multifaceted impact of SCD, including stigma. India has now announced the national sickle cell anaemia elimination mission to eliminate SCD as a public health problem, implementing various SCD management interventions and assessing their impact is inevitable.

In India, SCD represents a pressing public health concern, particularly within tribal communities, where the prevalence is considerably higher when compared with the general population. Limited healthcare access, socio-economic challenges, widespread misconceptions, and inadequate knowledge about the disease compound the burden of SCD in India.

## SC sets aside life imprisonment in murder case on grounds of insanity

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has set aside the life imprisonment of a man in a case of murder on the ground that there is "reasonable doubt" that he committed the crime in a fit of insanity.

The court dismissed the Chhattisgarh Police's argument that a medical examination on the man had found him normal.

However, a Bench of Justice A.S. Oka, who retired on May 24, said the medical check on the man, Dashrath Patra, was conducted five years after the crime, and thus "meaningless".

The trial court had sen-

ted Patra to life imprisonment for bludgeoning a man to death in 2018. The State High Court had confirmed the punishment.

The top court order said the onus of proving a defence of insanity lay on the accused. "The burden to prove legal insanity is on the accused. It is enough if a reasonable doubt is created about the mental state of the accused at the time of the commission of the offence. The standard of proof to prove insanity is only a reasonable doubt," the court observed in the recent order.

The court, in its order, referred to judicial precedents which settle the law on the defence of insanity. "Even if the accused was



not able to establish conclusively that he was insane at the time he committed the offence, if the evidence placed before the court raise a reasonable doubt about the ingredients of the offence, including *mens rea* [intention] of the accused, the court would be entitled to acquit the accused," the Bench quoted from past

decisions.

In the current case, the top court found witness testimonies that Patra suffered from bouts of insanity.

Under Section 84 of the Indian Penal Code, a person is exonerated on the ground of unsoundness of mind if he, at the time of doing the act, is incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that it is contrary to law.

"The law lays down that no act done by a lunatic is an offence. The reason is that a lunatic is not in a position to defend himself. Right to defend a charge is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," the court noted.

## New COVID variants detected in India, JN.1 is most common

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

One case of the newly emerging COVID-19 variant NB.1.8.1 and four instances of the LF.7 type have been detected in India, according to Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) data.

As of May 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) classifies LF.7 and NB.1.8 subvariants as Variants Under Monitoring, not as Variants of Concern or Variants of Interest. But these are the variants that are reportedly driving the rise in COVID-19 cases in China and parts of Asia.

According to data from the INSACOG, one case of

NB.1.8.1 was identified in April in Tamil Nadu, and four cases of LF.7 were detected in Gujarat in May.

In India, the most common variant remains JN.1, making up 53% of the samples tested, followed by BA.2 (26%) and other Omicron sublineages (20%).

As of May 19, the country had 257 active COVID-19 cases.

A meeting chaired by the Director-General of Health Services and attended by experts from the National Centre for Disease Control, ICMR, and other key health institutions recently reviewed the situation. However, several regions have reported localised increases.

## Deadlines set to resolve Arunachal film institute issues

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Deadlines have been set for various agencies to resolve the infrastructure and academic crises in the Film and Television Institute, Arunachal Pradesh (FTI-AP).

The first batch of students at the institute located in Jote went on an indefinite academic strike on May 15, barely two months after their two-year post-graduate diploma course started in March. They alleged administrative apathy and broken promises regarding basic amenities and academic necessities.

The FTI-AP is situated at Jote in Papum Pare district, 24 km from the State's capital, Itanagar. Its foundation was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi eight years ago.

Taking serious note of the grievances of the students, Papum Pare Deputy Commissioner Jiken Bommen convened a meeting with all the stakeholders on Friday.

Devesh Budhani, the Executive Engineer of the Central Public Works Department handling the project, said the classroom theatre building housing the performance labs would be handed over to the FTI-AP management by May 31. He also said the



The foundation of the institute, located in Jote, was laid by the Prime Minister eight years ago.

girls' hostel would be ready by June 15, followed by the sound studio and preview theatre.

Rajesh Dawe, the Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the State's Department of Power, said an agreement had been signed with the National Institute of Technology nearby to share its express line with the FTI-AP for a year to ensure uninterrupted electricity. "The film institute should apply for an express line of its own for seamless power supply," he said.

On debris falling from the construction site of a water treatment plant on the campus, the Executive Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department, Ngunang Niya, said a temporary lift-water system had been put in place. "We are trying to finish the work as soon as possible," he said.

## Nominations window is now open for businessline Changemaker Awards 2025

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

It is yet again the time to celebrate the unsung heroes amongst us, those who through their actions and deeds, have deeply influenced change in society, communities, mindsets or in physical spaces to make the world a better place to live in. The *businessline* Changemaker Awards 2025 is open for nominations till June 30.

If you know of people who have brought about change in your community or in society at large, please support them by nominating them for the *businessline* Changemaker Awards 2025. Individuals who have been change agents can also nominate themselves.

Six editions of the awards have been held since 2018, the year *The Hindu businessline* stepped into its 25th year of publishing. The 2021 edition could not be held due to the pandemic.

## Five categories

Nominations can be made across five categories of awards - Changemaker: Social Transformation; Changemaker: Digital Transformation; Changemaker: Financial Transformation; Young Changemaker and Iconic



Changemaker. One flagship award goes to the Changemaker of the Year which is awarded to a person or an organisation that has ushered in far-reaching change. Once the nomination window closes, the applications will be screened and evaluated by *businessline* along with our knowledge partners (Deloitte and Ashoka). The shortlisted nominees will be validated by our validation partner (Niiti Consulting) before the list is sent to an independent jury to pick the winners in each category.

In 2024, the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, the world's largest railway coach manufacturer, which has redefined Indian rail travel with the Vande Bharat trains, setting new benchmarks in speed, comfort, and safety, was awarded Changemaker of the Year.

The Iconic Changemaker of the Year award went to Ashok Jhunjhunwala, a

visionary innovator who transformed communication, mobile payments, energy, and entrepreneurship in India, pioneering impactful solutions and fostering a thriving ecosystem at the IIT Madras Research Park that has empowered scores of entrepreneurs.

The awards for 2024 were given away by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Defining the award, Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, *businessline*, said, "The Changemaker Awards exemplify the fact that we are always looking for change in a positive manner either in business or society. These awards can be a great inspiration and recognition for those whose work has positively impacted communities and society." Scan the QR code or use this link for nominations: [thbl.news/BLCM2025ED](https://thbl.news/BLCM2025ED)

The decision on interest rate was made at the 237th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of the EPFO, chaired by Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Delhi on February 28.

## Govt. ratifies EPF interest rate at 8.25% for 2024-25

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

The government has ratified the rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) at 8.25% for the financial year 2024-25, enabling the retirement fund body EPFO to deposit the annual interest accumulation in the post-retirement funds of over seven crore subscribers.

The EPFO on February 28 decided to retain the interest rate of 8.25% on EPF deposits for 2024-25, equal to the rate provided in the preceding fiscal. The approved rate of interest for 2024-25 was sent for concurrence of the Ministry of Finance.

"The Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to an 8.25% rate of interest on the EPF for the 2024-25 fiscal year, and the Labour Ministry sent a communication regarding this to the EPFO on Thursday (May 22, 2025)," a Labour Ministry official said.

Now, the interest amount as per the rate ratified for 2024-25 will be credited into the accounts of over seven crore subscribers of EPFO.

The decision on interest rate was made at the 237th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of the EPFO, chaired by Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in Delhi on February 28.

# Business



**Booster dose:** Neomycin, Gentamycin, Erythromycin, Streptomycin and Diclofenac Sodium are among those in the list. REUTERS

## Centre rolls out PLI scheme for 11 pharma products

**N. Ravi Kumar**  
HYDERABAD

The Centre's Department of Pharmaceuticals is inviting applications from drug-makers for a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to encourage setting up new manufacturing capacities for as many as 11 eligible products.

Neomycin, Gentamycin, Erythromycin, Streptomycin, Tetracycline, Ciprofloxacin and Diclofenac Sodium figure in the list. These are either unsubscribed or partially subscribed eligible products, the Department said in a notification earlier this month. June 14 has been set as the last date for the manufacturers to submit the applications.

Conditions such as allocation according to available capacities, incentive ceiling in respect of products, and limit of incentive up to the production tenure, which will be up to FY28 for chemical synthesis products and up to FY29 for fermentation-based products, have to be complied with. Companies that were granted approval earlier, but subsequently withdrew or whose approval was cancelled are not eligible to apply, it said.

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India has urged its members to take advantage of the decision.

The scheme presents a significant opportunity to enhance their manufacturing capabilities in critical pharmaceutical compo-

nents, Pharmexcil Director General Raja Bhanu said.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals' decision is in continuation of India's emphasis on encouraging domestic manufacturing of critical key starting materials, drug intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients. Four years ago the government had rolled out PLI schemes for 14 key sectors, which included bulk drugs, medical devices and pharma, with an eye on boosting production, generating jobs and boosting exports by incentivising domestic manufacturing.

The scheme for KSMs, DIs and APIs, whose guidelines were issued in July 2020 and revised in October the same year, cover a total of 41 products and has a financial outlay of ₹6,940 crore, as per official documents.

In March 2025, the government had announced that 764 applications have been approved under the schemes for the 14 key sectors and investment of around ₹1.61 lakh crore (\$18.72 billion) reported till November 2024. Incentive of around ₹14,020 crore have been disbursed under the PLI schemes for 10 sectors, including large-scale electronics manufacturing (LSEM), IT hardware, bulk drugs, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, telecom and networking products, food processing, white goods, automobiles and auto components and drones and drone compo-

## Tech lay-offs' cascading effect on India's economy

Any meltdown in the global tech industry will be fatal for the economy as tech professionals are driving the country's home, car, and lifestyle markets with their fat pay-checks, caution experts

**Mini Tejaswi**  
BENGALURU

About 90 out of 100 senior tech professionals earning between ₹45 lakh and ₹70 lakh per annum today carry "a solid fear of losing jobs on their faces," observed an IT sector recruiter who had interviewed them for various positions in the last one month.

This fear seems to be spreading rapidly among techies. Following Microsoft's lay-offs on May 13, Blind, which specialises in anonymous professional communities and workplace feedback, surveyed 3,543 U.S. professionals to gauge job insecurity across companies. Respondents were asked just one yes/no question: "Do you think you'll lose your job in the next year?" Almost half, 47%, said "yes".

**'Elephant in the room'**  
"The fear of getting laid off is the biggest elephant in the room for the majority of senior and super senior tech professionals in India today. Any mass firing announcements by bellwethers can instantly bring down the morale of the entire industry," said B.S. Murthy, CEO Leadership Capital, a CXO hiring firm based in Bengaluru.

The context of this fear is clear. Multinational corporations have eliminated more than 1,05,000 positions worldwide this year. 20% of there were in India and some 45% of the lay-offs were in redundant positions in HR, support, content and coding, said Tholons in a study titled Layoffs Landscape. Tholons is a technology, innovation and investment firm with offices in Bengaluru and New York.

Major tech players including Meta, Amazon, and Indian start-ups have trimmed approximately 28,000 domestic positions since January 2025, while



**The axe effect:** Major tech players including Meta and Amazon have trimmed about 28,000 domestic positions since Jan. REUTERS

Microsoft laid off about 6,000 employees in its latest round of job cuts, affecting several divisions across the company and geographies, including India. This has led to panic right up to the top in the tech sector, according to industry observers.

"What began as post-pandemic corrections is now a permanent structural change catalysed by AI. A squeeze in the global tech market has drastically changed the economic realities for all," said Avinash Vashishtha, former chairman and MD, Accenture (India) and executive chairman at Tholons.

### Why the squeeze?

The reason is, Fortune 1000 global tech buyers have started decreasing their IT budgets and they won't be spending anything more this year than what they spent last year for technology buying. "Large corporations are not spending any additional money this year, instead they want things to be done with fewer people and with less money," said a CTO at an Indian tech firm not wanting to be identified.

According to him, the business outlook for technology in America is not looking good, leading to board members of large

tech buying firms impressing upon their respective IT heads to cut budgets by 10-20%. This means bad news for tech providers the world over, including Indian systems integrators.

Under this changing market scenario, tech vendors, with a new mandate to offer additional value for less cost, are forced to innovate, and invest in AI-driven automation.

Since the advent of generative AI such as ChatGPT, things have changed drastically for the tech industry. And with the emergence of DeepSeek, with its large language model supporting technical reasoning, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency, many tech providers, including competitors like ChatGPT, are doubtful of their future in providing AI solutions.

Phil Fersht, CEO and Chief Analyst at London-based HFS Research said, a majority of global IT buyers prefer to approach niche specialist firms for their AI investments than traditional services firms.

"Many of the leading Indian firms lack depth of resources in specialist consulting and are too focused on lower cost delivery talent," he opined.

According to Mr. Fersht, the impact of tariffs and ongoing uncertainty is also putting great strain on tech

buyers.

Indian tech firms currently have excess staff in two categories: senior managers and managers. The 'bulging middle' typically refers to managers who are between senior leadership and front-line employees.

"When automation fully sets in, tech firms may eliminate a large number of people in these two senior layers," Mr. Murthy predicted.

However, Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, a specialist staffing firm argued despite sustained headwinds and adversities in the market, the last four fiscals had witnessed net headcount grow in the Indian tech sector.

### Macro-economy effect

Indian tech sector, according to Nasscom estimates, contributed over \$283 billion to India's GDP in FY25. Of this an overwhelming \$225 billion were in export earnings and another \$58 billion in domestic business. Nasscom wagers that the sector is on a trajectory to reach the \$300 billion mark in the current fiscal, with the industry expected to contribute \$1 trillion to India's GDP by 2030.

Industry watchers said any meltdown in the global tech industry could trigger more lay-offs, which could impact the Indian economy in multiple ways including a shrinkage in long-term asset creation, decline in car purchases, postponement of first/second home buying, trimming spends on expensive lifestyle products, refraining from foreign holidays and even shopping and eating out could be put on a "judicious mode".

"With chances of more lay-offs in the tech world, banks may not easily give loans. This scenario will impact home/apartment sales and car/high-end bike sales," said a senior executive at a leading bank.

## INBRIEF



### NTPC Q4 profit rises 22% to ₹7,897 cr. on higher revenue

State-owned power giant NTPC on Saturday reported a nearly 22% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹7,897.14 crore in the March quarter of FY25, aided by higher revenue from its generation business. The power major had reported a net profit of ₹6,490.05 crore in the January-March period of 2023-24, the company said in an exchange filing. NTPC's total income increased to ₹51,085.05 crore in the latest March quarter from ₹48,816.55 crore in Q4 FY24. PTI

### Goyal meets EU counterpart second time in a month on FTA

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has met European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic in Brussels, their second meeting within a month, to discuss the proposed free trade agreement (FTA), currently under negotiation between the two regions. Mr. Goyal travelled to Brussels on May 23 from Washington, while India's chief negotiator L. Satya Shrinivas and his team are already at the EU headquarters for the FTA negotiations. PTI

### 'SC stayed ₹5,712-crore GST notice sent to First Games'

The Supreme Court has granted a stay on a ₹5,712-crore GST notice sent to fintech firm One97 Communications-owned real money gaming platform First Games, a regulatory filing said on Saturday. The Directorate General of GST Intelligence, New Delhi had issued a show cause notice to First Games in April. One97 Communications, which owns Paytm brand said the tax matter is an industry-wide issue and not limited to First Games. PTI

### U.S. FDA issues 2 observations to Dr. Reddy's Telangana plant

The United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) has issued a Form 483 with two observations to Dr. Reddy's active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) manufacturing facility in Telangana. The U.S. FDA conducted a good manufacturing practices (GMP) inspection of the facility (CTO-5), Miryalaguda from May 19-24. "We have been issued a Form 483 with 2 observations, which we will address within the stipulated timeline," the company said in a filing.

## 'Avacados Australia wants a part of India's health foods sector'

**Lalendu Mishra**  
MUMBAI

A growing health-conscious consumer base and increased exposure to global food trends is driving interest among Indians in international food and fruits, said John Tyas, CEO, Avocados Australia, an entity that promotes Australian avocados in key global markets.

"India is an exciting and high-potential market for Australian avocados. Continued efforts in education, retail partnerships, and supply chain enhancements will be key to sustained growth," Mr. Tyas told *The Hindu*. "We are looking forward to collaborating with industry partners to drive long-term success in India," he added. "The Indian avocado mar-

ket is very much in its infancy," he said.

With the Indian market flooded with Tanzanian avocados, Australia is focusing on its value proposition - consistent quality, superior taste, and year round availability.

"Our aim is to integrate avocados into Indian eating habits beyond just Western-style consumption," Mr. Tyas added.

**மத்திய சித்த மருத்துவ ஆராய்ச்சிக் குழு**  
(ஆயுஷ் அமைச்சகம், இந்திய அரசு)  
இ.எஸ்.டி. ராஜ், தாமிரவரம் சாண்டோரியம், சென்னை-600047.  
**केंद्रीय सिद्ध अनुसन्धान परिषद्**  
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
जी.एस.टी. रोड, तामिऱवऱरम सान्डोरियम, चेन्नई - 600047.  
**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN SIDDHA**  
(Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India)  
GST Road, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai - 600 047.  
Phone: 044-2621 2421, 2621 1621, e-mail: ccrs-ayush@gov.in, www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in

Advt. No.01/2025

Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS), invites applications for the following positions for various Projects under Intra Mural Research (IMR) and other Contractual positions

Sl.No	Name of Position	Number of Posts	Place of posting
1	Domain Expert (Siddha)	03	CCRS, HQ., & CCRS Units.
2	Research Associate (Siddha)	10	CCRS, HQ., Chennai.
3	Junior Research Fellow (Botany)	01	
4	Junior Research Fellow (Siddha)	01	SCRJ, Chennai
5	Consultant (Siddha)	01	NIIMH, Hyderabad
6	Consultant (Admin)	01	SCRU, Goa.

Last date of submission of application is **10.06.2025**. The Name of position is required to be superscribed on the envelope containing the application. The date of Personal Interview will be notified only to the eligible candidates through the Council's website and email. Further details regarding eligibility, educational qualifications, age, experience, remuneration, tenure of contract and other terms and conditions etc. are available at the Council's website: [www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in](http://www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in)

Date: 25.05.2025 Director General, CCRS

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA STATE**  
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
NIT No.03/SE/AVN/CL/AVN/AMRUT 2.0(Spl. Tranche)/2025-26/151 Dt.23.05.2025  
Name of the work: MA & UD - PHMED - Rejuvenation of Water Body Projects in 45 ULBs (50 projects) under AMRUT 2.0 (Special Tranche) in the jurisdiction of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam and Warangal PH Divisions in Package-I, Total Estimated Cost: Rs.132.45 Crores. Bid Submission Start Date: 26.05.2025 @ 11.00 AM, Bid Submission Closing Date: 11.06.2025 @ 04.30 PM. For details visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> Contact No: 97046 01864, 93929 20307. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.M. Circle, Warangal.  
DIPR R.O.No.2429-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 24.05.2025

**CR RAO ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (AIMSCS)**  
University of Hyderabad Campus, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500046.  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender No. 001/CRRAO/NSM/ Last date of submission of bids: 25-26/05-01 16 June 2025  
Invitation for bids with respect to the tender for Design, Site Preparation, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, O&M and AMC services of **Basic Infrastructure for the establishment of a Data Center** at CR Rao AIMSCS under NSM.  
For further details visit <https://crraaimscs.res.in/tenders.php> Sd/- DIRECTOR CR Rao AIMSCS

**AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) - U40109RJ2006GC011452  
Regd. Off: VidyaSishwan, Panchsheel Nagar, Malabarwell Road, Ajmer- 305 004. (TURN-KEY WORKS CIRCL)  
Phone: +91-145-2644507, E-mail: setvavvn2022@gmail.com.  
No. AVVNI/SE (TW)/XEN (TW-I)/AEN(TW-II)/NIT /TN-452(Lot-1 to 15)/LRC/D.358 Dt. 23.05.2025  
NIT No/ PACKAGE No.- AJP/SE/TW/TN-452 (Lot-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14&15)  
E Bids in two parts (Techno Commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible contractors for NIT against package nos. AJP/SE/TW/TN-452 (Lot-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15) for awarding contract of construction of various 33/11 KV GSS and associated 33 and 11 KV line & Erection of 33 KV line on Labour Rate for Jhunjhunu/ Nagaur / Deedwana-Kuchaman/Bhilwara/Rajsamand/Chittorgarh/ Salumber under domain of Ajmer Discom. All the details regarding tender is available at our website <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvni> and [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in). Further in future corrigendum/extension, if any shall be published only at [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in). UBN: AVV2526W50800130  
Raj.Samwad/C/25/2971 Superintending Engineer (TW)

**KERALA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (KSWMP) LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP), invites proposals against a request for proposal for hiring **"Communication Consultant for Implementing Communication Activities"**. RFP along with Terms of Reference is available at [www.kswmp.org](http://www.kswmp.org) and <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>. Interested and eligible Consultants shall submit their Proposals on or before **16:00 hours, on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2025** through the e-procurement portal of the Government of Kerala at <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>. A pre-bid conference will be held via online mode at **03.00 PM on 30 May 2025**. Link will be available in the website.  
D3/413/2025/1&PRD Sd/- for Project Director  
Upper Ground Floor, Transit Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 14, Kerala, India. Telephone: 0471 - 2333011 E-Mail: [tenderkswmp@gmail.com](mailto:tenderkswmp@gmail.com), Website: [www.kswmp.org](http://www.kswmp.org)

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
Victoria Cross Vijayeta Gaurav Singh Upa Bhanwar, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001  
Corporate Identity No. U410109U200156025867  
E-mail ID: [cgmpucl@yahoo.com](mailto:cgmpucl@yahoo.com), Website: [www.ucl.org](http://www.ucl.org), Telephone No. 0135-2762444, Fax No. 0135-2763839  
Websites: [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)  
**CORRIGENDUM FOR PURCHASE OF POWER UNDER LONG TERM PROCUREMENT AGAINST TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 21/CE(COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025**  
The amended tender process and activities timeline modifications against tender specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025 are as under:-

Sl. No	Event	Date & Time
1.	Application due date	16-06-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
2.	Announcement of Pre-qualified Applications	06-07-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
3.	Letter of Award (LOA)	Within 30 days of Bid due date
4.	Validity of Bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
5.	Signing of PSA-DBFOO	Within 30 days of issue of LOA

Hard Copy of B.G/proof of EMD should reach in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL on or before the due date of application  
All other terms and conditions shall remain as per tender specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025. Superintending Engineer (commercial)  
No: 293/EE(cm)/UPCL/A-2 Dated: 23/05/2025

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS | Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity | Toll Free No. 1912 | "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from [www.ucl.org](http://www.ucl.org)." (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 1804185 0405 / Fax No. 0135-2760911)

**CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED**  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)  
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)  
METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035  
**E-Tender Notice**  
**National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**  
CMRL invites tenders through CPP Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible firms, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the assignments mentioned below:  
Tender No: **CMRL/CP/DR-43-CON/2025** "Design and Construction of Entry Exit Structures along with Connecting Bridge for Elevated Metro Stations of Corridor 3 at Nehru Nagar, Kandanchavadi, Perungudi, Thorapakkam, Mettukuppam, PTC Colony, Okkiyampet, Karapakkam and Okkiyam Thorapakkam Including Civil, Architectural Finishes and all associated works."  
(i) Tender document available from: 30/05/2025  
(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 10/07/2025 up-to 15:00 Hrs.  
Tender No: **CMRL/CP/DR-44-CON/2025** "Design and Construction of Metro Station Entry/Exit Structures Integrated with Commercial Spaces and connecting through Link Bridge at Sholinganallur and Thorapakkam Station including Civil, Plumbing, E&M, HVAC, Architectural Finishes and all associated works"  
(i) Tender document available from: 30/05/2025  
(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 10/07/2025 up-to 15:00 Hrs.  
Tender No: **CMRL/CP/DR-45-CON/2025** "Design & Construction of Grade Separators at Perungudi Junction and SRP Tools Junction including Service Road, Electrical, Drainage and Misc. Works"  
(i) Tender document available from: 30/05/2025  
(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 14/07/2025 up-to 15:00 Hrs.  
For further details, please visit : [www.chennaiMetroRail.org](http://www.chennaiMetroRail.org) : For NIT For Managing Director Director (Projects)  
DIPR/2553/Tender/2025 Chennai Metro Rail Limited

## Blue light increases mutations in yeast DNA, finds IISER study

Vasudevan Mukunth

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Thiruvananthapuram, have found that blue light can greatly increase the number of genetic mutations in yeast.

The findings suggest prolonged exposure to blue light could also pose similar risks to other organisms. This will need more research to confirm. These effects of blue

light exposure also go beyond its known impact on sleep cycles and vision.

The study was conducted in the laboratory of Nishant K.T. His fellow authors were PhD scholars Nikilesh Vijayan and Sameer Joshi and postdoc Praseetha Sarath. The findings were published in *PLoS Genetics*.

The DNA of living organisms changes slightly over time thanks to mutations. One kind of mutation is called loss of heterozygosity (LOH): when a cell loses genetic diversity at certain parts of its DNA. LOH can help evolution along but can also result in diseases. Scientists are trying to understand how common environmental factors like light, temperature, and the availability of nutrients influence these mutations.

In the new study, the researchers used yeast cells – the kind used in baking bread – that had a mixed genetic background, which can be used to track LOH events. They grew these cells over about 1,000 generations in different environments: normal conditions (i.e. control group), exposure to blue light, low sugar, high temperature, salty conditions, ethanol, and oxidative stress.

Each environment had 16 yeast populations grown independently. After 1,000 generations, the researchers sequenced the DNA from each population to assess genetic changes. They found that every

condition tested led to more LOH mutations compared to normal conditions, but the extent of changes varied greatly by environment. Blue light was especially damaging: these cells had by far the most LOH mutations. The light caused large sections of DNA to lose genetic variation, making significant parts of the genome uniform. This occurred because blue light produced reactive oxygen molecules, like hydrogen peroxide,

that damaged DNA. The team also found that blue light induced unique kinds of DNA mutations. For example, it oxidised DNA bases, causing errors in DNA copying. “Our work provides a mechanistic basis for using chronic blue light exposure as a novel antifungal agent through its genotoxicity. This is important as there is increasing resistance of pathogenic yeast to antifungal drugs,” Prof. Nishant said.

## SNAPSHOTS



### Hydrogel lenses allow people to see near-infrared light

Scientists have reported in *Cell Press* hydrogel contact lenses that allow humans to see near-infrared light. They use nanoparticles that absorb photons of lower energy and release one at higher energy, upconverting 808 nm, 980 nm, and 1,532 nm light into the primary colours. The material is biocompatible. The team said it will allow first-responders to track victims during disasters. Light of 800-1,600 nm also penetrates water-rich tissue allowing clinicians to observe subsurface features sans cameras or scopes.

## Does neurodegeneration start with blood vessel damage?

Despite decades of research, the precise mechanisms driving neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's have remained elusive; two studies published recently revealed a startling possibility: that the trouble might begin long before neurons die

Manjeera Gowravaram

Our brain depends on a finely tuned network of neurons and protective barriers to function smoothly. This intricate setup underpins every thought, memory, and movement we make. But as we age, or under certain conditions, this system can break down.

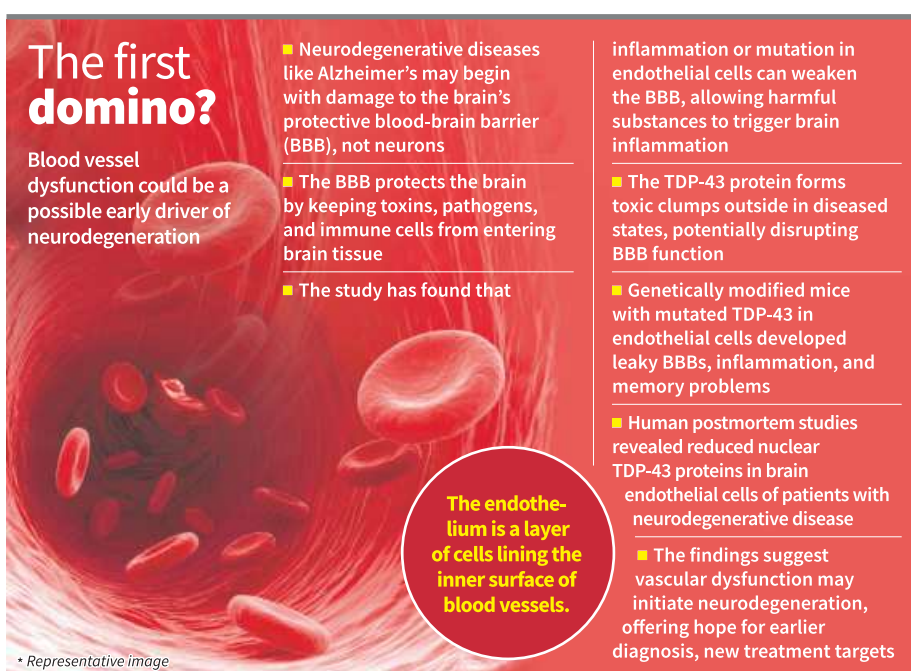
Neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's slowly damage neurons, leading over time to severe memory loss, confusion, and loss of independence. Despite decades of research, the precise mechanisms driving these diseases have remained elusive.

Two studies published recently in *Science Advances* and *Nature Neuroscience* have revealed a startling possibility and a potentially compelling new piece to the puzzle: what if the trouble begins long before neurons die?

The studies suggest that damage to the blood-brain barrier (BBB) may in fact be the first domino to fall in neurodegenerative diseases.

The BBB is one of the brain's most critical protections. It is made up of tightly packed endothelial cells that line blood vessels in the brain. Their job is to gatekeep: letting in vital nutrients while keeping out toxins, pathogens, and harmful immune cells.

“Endothelial cells are the first cells exposed to what we eat, what infections we carry, or even the medications we take,” Ash-



ok Cheemala, lead author of the *Science Advances* study, said. “If these cells become inflamed or damaged, the barrier becomes leaky. When that happens, harmful substances can slip into the brain and trigger inflammation.”

This inflammation can lead to neuron death, causing memory loss and cognitive decline.

The TDP-43 protein regulates RNA and ensures proper gene expression inside cells in a process called splicing. Under healthy conditions, it is located in the nucleus of cells. But in people with neurodegenerative diseases, it goes rogue.

“If it accumulates in the cytoplasm, it starts to form toxic aggregates that can spread from one cell to another,” Mr. Cheemala said. While these aggregates have primarily been studied in neurons, re-

searchers have been wondering whether endothelial cells that make up the BBB are also affected.

King's College London neurologist Jemeen Sreedharan said, “TDP-43 is found in virtually every cell in the body, not just in the brain... So its presence in endothelial cells isn't surprising. What's interesting is the idea that its dysfunction in these cells could kickstart the disease process.”

### Leaky barriers

To investigate, the team used genetically modified mice carrying a disease-causing mutation in the *Tardbp* gene that encodes TDP-43. “Even a single point mutation in TDP-43 in endothelial cells was enough to cause BBB leakage, brain inflammation, and behavioural changes in mice,” Mr. Cheemala said. As they aged, these

mice showed increased leakage of molecules from the bloodstream into the brain, evidence of a compromised barrier.

The researchers found that key proteins holding the BBB together, like claudin-5 and VE-cadherin, were lost, allowing molecules from the bloodstream to leak into brain tissue. These mice also displayed memory problems. The team also injected fluorescent dyes and tracked their penetration into the brain, analysing changes in the structure and protein composition of the BBB to verify their findings.

“This mutation is present from early development, even before birth,” Mr. Sreedharan said. “These mice don't develop obvious brain disease but they do have vascular abnormalities. That points to blood vessel dysfunction as a possible early driver of

neurodegeneration.”

The team also analysed over 1,30,000 individual brain-cell nuclei from post-mortem human brain samples from 92 donors aged 20-98, including both healthy individuals and those with certain neurodegenerative conditions. They profiled the RNA and nuclear proteins at the single-nucleus level and examined molecular changes in various brain cells. “We specifically looked at TDP-43 levels in the nuclei of endothelial cells. In patient samples, the nuclear TDP-43 was dramatically reduced compared to healthy controls,” Mr. Cheemala said.

The findings mirrored those of the mouse model. Loss of TDP-43 caused β-catenin to disintegrate, ramping up inflammatory signalling. The team also identified a specific group of damaged capillary cells that had low TDP-43 and high inflammation, suggesting they'd shifted from maintenance to damage mode.

Mr. Sreedharan cautioned: “Post-mortem studies are limited by variability in tissue quality and timing. But combining those with controlled mouse models makes the case much stronger.”

The findings open a window for early diagnosis and prevention. “It's compelling to think a disease we've long considered neuron-specific may actually start in the vasculature,” Mr. Sreedharan said.

(Manjeera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and works as a freelance science writer)

## Antimalarial agents sidestep insecticide resistance

The Hindu Bureau

Researchers reported in *Nature* on May 22 that they had identified compounds that could target the deadly malaria-causing parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* during its developmental stages in *Anopheles* mosquitoes, potentially enhancing efforts to control malaria in an affordable way in the resource-poor areas where it is often endemic.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there were 263 million malaria cases in 2023, up 4.3% from 2022. About 94% of all cases and 95% of all deaths in that year were reported in African countries. Last year, India's Health Ministry said the country had exited the WHO's High Burden to High Impact group in 2024, meaning it longer needs to mount intensive efforts to fight the disease.

Even so, the National Vector Borne Diseases Control has estimated that “about 95%” of India's population “resides in malaria endemic areas”.

While the fight against malaria was boosted by the rollout of the WHO-recommended malaria vaccines RTS,S and R21, an important, cost-effective method to stave off malaria infections is to use nets sprayed with insecticide. But according to the new paper, the nets' impact often levels off when mosquitoes acquire resistance. To this end, the study has thrown up a suite of specific compounds that can be sprayed on the nets and which the researchers have said will confer both long-lasting and resistance-proof protection against *P. falciparum*.

The root of this effort is the idea that rather than killing mosquitoes, killing the parasites could be



Compounds targeting malaria-causing parasite during its development in *Anopheles* mosquitoes have been identified. AP

more effective.

The researchers screened 81 compounds with known antimalarial properties, targeting the early developmental stages of *P. falciparum* within mosquitoes. These compounds were applied to the bodies of female *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes before they ingested an infected blood meal. Then the researchers assessed the mosquitoes' pa-

rasite burden a week later by counting the number of oocysts, an important phase of the *P. falciparum* lifecycle when it proliferates into its infectious form.

They shortlisted 22 compounds that mitigated parasite infection, including endochin-like quinolones (ELQs) – antimicrobial agents known for their potent action against many human parasites. ELQ-456

in particular completely blocked parasite infections while ELQ-331 tamped down the infection's spread.

When mosquitoes landed momentarily on surfaces treated with these compounds, ELQ-456 emerged as the most promising candidate. They also found that when mosquitoes briefly contacted a combination of ELQ-453 and ELQ-613, *P. falciparum* infections in their bodies were kept to a significant degree from maturing to their infectious forms.

Next, the researchers evaluated ELQ compounds by incorporating them into polyethylene films like those used in insecticide-treated nets. Reportedly, the films effectively inhibited parasite development in both standard and insecticide-resistant mosquito strains even after they were stored for a year in the open.

Finally, the team assessed the potential for these agents to induce antimicrobial resistance in the parasite. Team members found that ELQ compounds with similar mechanisms of action didn't induce resistance across pathways other than their own (a.k.a. cross-resistance). They also raised mutated parasite strains that could resist the agents and reported that even then their transmissibility was significantly impaired.

The team concluded in its paper that the agents' “straightforward synthesis is a promising indication of cost-effectiveness, and ... with additional process chemistry optimisation, manufacturing-scale synthesis, and bulk net production and procurement, these compounds will be an affordable and effective addition to bed nets even in the current highly competitive market.”



### Sensitive teeth? Blame ancient arthropod armour

Using hi-res scans, researchers have said the late-Cambrian fossil *Anatolepis* is an arthropod and not the earliest dentine-bearing “fish”. Thus, the first unquestionable dentine in vertebrates now appears 40 million years later. Comparing other fossil and living skeletons, they found evidence linking early vertebrate dentine to touch-sensitive sensors in arthropods. The authors concluded that dentine first evolved as armour for arthropods and was later repurposed inside the mouth to make teeth.



### Blood, urine may reveal ultra-processed food intake

In a new study, researchers used chemical fingerprints in blood and urine to create a marker of ultra-processed foods (UPF) consumption. They found 191 serum and 293 urinary metabolites that rose or fell with habitual UPF intake. They found these multi-metabolite signatures could serve as biologically grounded biomarkers of UPF exposure and reduce reliance on self-reported data. Validation in more diverse populations is still required, however.



## Question Corner

### A lunar surprise

Why do the two sides of the moon look different?

The earth's moon is tidally locked: one side always faces the earth and the other side always faces away. So when scientists got their first look at the moon's far side, they were surprised to find it looked very different from the near side. NASA's GRAIL mission recently reported small month-on-month changes in the moon's gravity caused by tides on earth. The scientists found evidence that the moon's near side seemed to be warmer, softer, and slightly molten. They predicted a temperature difference of 100-200°C between the hemispheres. Because

warmer rock melts more easily, their models suggested there is still a partly molten layer of rock 800-1,250 km beneath the near side surface. Long ago, this layer could have erupted to form dark lava plains that dominate the near side. As the interior slowly cooled, the eruptions would have faded years ago. The moon's far side crust is thicker, so the magma may never have made it to the surface. The findings join others to understand why the earth's closest cosmic companion is also Janus-faced.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

# FAQ

## Why is a growing lion population a worry as well?

How is a 'lion census' conducted in India? Where are they found apart from the Gir forest in Gujarat?

Jacob Koshy

### The story so far:

The Gujarat Forest Department this week released results from the 16th Lion Population Estimation, popularly referred to as the 'lion census.' This was the first such census since 2020.

### What are its key findings?

India's wild lion population, all of which is concentrated in Gujarat, has risen by 32% from 2020-25, with 891 lions reported in the latest survey. The number of adult females – an indicator of future growth – rose 27% to 330 individuals. While the heart of the lion population continues to be Gir, the current population estimate includes new satellite populations. They have been spotted at Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Jetpur and adjoining areas, Babra-Jasdan and adjoining areas, increasing the total number of Asiatic lions in satellite populations to 497 across nine such regions. The lion population has increased by 70.36% in the past decade (523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025), whereas the area of distribution has increased by 59.09%, the report noted.

Amreli district reported the highest population of 339 lions. This was followed by the Gir-Somnath district region (222 lions) and Junagadh (191 lions).

### How has the spatial coverage of lions grown?

From 1995 to 2001, the area where lions are present expanded from 10,000 sq. km to 12,000 sq km, marking a 20% increase. By 2005, it reached 13,000 sq. km, showing an 8.3% rise over the previous estimate. A more substantial expansion occurred between 2005 and 2010,

with the area growing to 20,000 sq. km, an increase of 53.8%. In 2015, the spread rose further to 22,000 sq. km, a 10% increase. From 2015 to 2020, the range extended to 30,000 sq. km, reflecting a 36.4% growth. Finally, by 2025, the area reached 35,000 sq. km, registering a 16.67% increase over the 2020 figure. This progressive expansion demonstrates consistent range growth and is attributed to conservation efforts and natural lion dispersal. From 1990 to 2025, the area has grown about five-fold whereas the lion population has grown about three-fold.

Experts point out that while Gujarat can host up to 2,000 lions, it is critical that they live in pristine regions with preferably no human presence

### How are lions counted?

The latest survey was undertaken from May 10-13, 2025. The estimation spanned approximately 35,000 sq km, covering 11 districts and 58 tehsils. The region was divided into 735 sampling units and each sampling unit had an enumerator and two assistants, ensuring thorough survey and data collection. "Observations of direct sightings were recorded in the prescribed forms, including the characteristics of each individual. Digital cameras were used to capture photographs to aid individual identification. The cross-verification with adjacent sampling units, sub-zones, zones, and regions helped ensure accuracy and remove the duplication," the report noted. To improve transparency and credibility, experts from various fields, members of the State board for wildlife, and individuals experienced in group dynamics and pride behaviour were invited as independent observers. The estimation exercise involved 3,254 people, the report noted.

### Can the lion population expand unabated?

The growth in lion numbers, while a positive sign as far as conservation goes, has its own challenges. For one, the rise in lion presence in areas outside the core zone – a phenomenon observed since over a decade and a half now – is a worry. This means lions are present in places with human settlements, which may lead to more animal-human conflicts causing economic losses for those living in close proximity to the lions. It has been established over decades that lions are growing in Gujarat not only due to conservation efforts by the Gujarat government, such as ensuring adequate prey like wild boars, but also the "tolerance" exhibited by resident communities like the pastoral Maldharis towards the animals. Over the years, they have shown that they are accustomed to lions preying on their cattle, though such losses are compensated for by the government. However, experts such as Y.V. Jhala, former Dean, Wildlife Institute of India, have said that while Gujarat can host up to 2,000 lions, it is critical that they live in pristine regions, with preferably no human presence.

### What are future plans for lion conservation?

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a 'Project Lion' conservation programme worth ₹2,927 crore. The first step under this is to develop the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary within Gujarat which already hosts a substantial population of 17 lions. Other plans include involving communities in tourism and creating greater incentives for conservation.

## Where does the RBI's surplus come from?

How much will the Reserve Bank of India transfer to the Central government for 2024-25? What are the reasons for a record transfer of surplus funds? Why isn't it a dividend? How does the central bank make money? What is the Contingent Risk Buffer?

T.C.A Sharad Raghavan

### The story so far:

Putting an end to much speculation, the Reserve Bank of India's Central Board on Friday announced that it had decided to transfer ₹2.69 lakh crore to the Central government as a surplus for the year 2024-25. This is a record high transfer, 27% higher than the ₹2.11 lakh crore transferred the previous year, which itself was a record at the time.

### What had the government budgeted for?

This ₹2.69 lakh crore is also higher than what the government itself budgeted – ₹2.56 lakh crore – as dividend or surplus from the RBI, and the public sector banks and insurance companies. With the RBI's share itself exceeding this amount, this means the government's total collections from this category is likely to be far in excess of what it budgeted.

However, things have not always been so easy for the government when it comes to the RBI's surplus. There have been strong arguments on both sides in the past on what should be done with the surplus the RBI earns, including some reportedly caustic remarks by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

### Where does the RBI get its surplus?

Before getting into the past controversies, it's

The RBI made a surplus on higher foreign exchange sales and higher earnings on forex assets

important to first understand how the RBI earns money, and also why what it transfers to the government isn't called a 'dividend'. The RBI is not a company in the traditional sense with shareholders, and so it cannot issue dividends.

But it is a 'full-service' central bank, meaning that not only does it target inflation, issue currency, and regulate the banking sector, it is also the last resort lender to the government of India and the various State governments.

The RBI can earn significant profits from some of these functions. For example, the process of issuing currency allows for the RBI to earn something called seigniorage. Seigniorage is basically the difference between the face value of a currency and the cost it took to produce that currency. When the RBI issues currency, say, a ₹500 note, the commercial banks have to 'buy' these notes from the central bank at the full face value (in this case, ₹500) even though it might have cost a fraction of that to actually produce that note.

This counts towards the RBI's revenue. Then, the central bank also lends money to the Central government, State governments, and commercial banks with interest. This interest, too, adds to the RBI's revenue. Third, the RBI makes investments in other countries' bonds as well, not only earning interest on these, but also potentially benefiting from currency exchange rate fluctuations.

According to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, after the RBI has made provisions for bad and doubtful debt and has met all its expenses, including any provisions it needs to make towards buffer funds, "the balance of the profits shall be paid to the Central Government".

The debate, thus, is on the size of the buffer the RBI should maintain.

### What kind of buffer levels does the RBI maintain?

The main buffer fund the RBI maintains is called the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB), which is basically a safety net in the event of a financial stability crisis.

In 2018, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to determine the RBI's Economic Capital Framework (ECF), including how big the CRB should be. At the time, the committee recommended that the CRB should be in the range of 5.5-6.5% of the RBI's balance sheet. This was adopted by the RBI in 2019.

The Jalan committee also recommended that the ECF be reviewed every five years, which is

what the RBI's central board just completed doing. The central board decided that the CRB range would be widened to 4.5-7.5% from 2024-25 onwards.

During 2018-19 to 2021-22, the RBI kept the CRB at 5.5% of its balance sheet, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy. This was then hiked to 6% in 2022-23 and 6.5% (the maximum limit at the time) in 2023-24. For 2024-25, the RBI board has decided to keep the CRB at the new highest limit of 7.5% of the central bank's balance sheet.

The profits of the central bank have been such that – despite this higher provisioning – it could still manage to transfer a record ₹2.69 lakh crore to the Central government.

### Have these transfers happened in the past without controversy?

In short, no. While the surplus transfers haven't been the sole reason for acrimony between the RBI and the Ministry of Finance, it has certainly played a significant part.

Take, for example, the statement by then RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya in 2018 in which he lamented that the RBI was "neither an independent nor an autonomous institution" and that governments that do not respect the central bank's independence will "come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution".

It was never officially clarified what this was about, but reporters covering the beat at the time knew a large part was about the government demanding large transfers of surpluses, and the RBI resisting.

Then, there's the explosive passage in former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg's book *We Also Make Policy*, in which he recounts that – during a meeting with then RBI governor Urjit Patel in September 2018 – PM Modi told Mr. Patel that he was like a "snake who sits over a hoard of money".

Both Mr. Acharya and Mr. Patel resigned soon after their disagreements with the government. The matter subsequently died down, especially once the Jalan committee formula was adopted.

### Are such large transfers the new normal?

The higher transfer this year was on account of higher foreign exchange sales by the RBI, higher earnings on its foreign exchange assets and from its liquidity management tools.

As Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, noted, the RBI's foreign exchange sales – a significant driver of profits – may not be at the same level next year.

However, on the other hand, the RBI has also now provided itself a wider band for the CRB. So, if next year it decides to keep it at the lower end of 4.5%, then it could have a larger amount left over to send to the government.



Big bonus: The 'full service' central bank is the last resort lender to the Central and State governments. REUTERS

## How will land ports closure impact the region?

How will it affect Bangladesh's readymade garments sector? What about other sectors like agriculture? What are the exceptions to the May 17 order? Why has the northeast been dragged into the tussle between India and Bangladesh? Will it affect other countries in the region?

Kallol Bhattacharjee

### The story so far:

On May 17, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade shut down all land ports with Bangladesh for export of apparel (readymade garments) from Bangladesh. The order also shut down the northeastern land ports with Bangladesh to restrict the export of specific items from Bangladesh. The move is being interpreted as a fallout of the downturn in relations between New Delhi and Dhaka. The two sides are yet to develop a fully functional relationship after the fall of the Hasina government last August.

### What is the May order?

Stopping import of readymade garments from Bangladesh through all land ports, the order said, "Import from Bangladesh shall not be allowed from any land port; however, it is allowed through Nhava Sheva and Kolkata seaports." That apart, the order also banned export of fruit, fruit flavoured drinks, processed food items (baked goods, snacks, chips and confectionery), cotton and cotton yarn waste, plastic and PVC finished goods except pigments, dyes, plasticisers, and granules, and wooden furniture from Bangladesh through land ports of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. The same goods were also banned from entering India through the land customs stations of



Shut down: A BSF official checks trucks before they depart from India at the India-Bangladesh border of Petrapole, in 2024. REUTERS

The impact on readymade garments is likely to be significant in Bangladesh

Changrabandha and Fulbari. The order has clarified that import of fish, LPG, edible oil and crushed stone from Bangladesh will remain unaffected.

### What led India to issue this order?

India said the order was aimed at ensuring reciprocity in trade with Bangladesh. On April 13, Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue imposed a ban on the import of cotton yarn from India through land ports. That apart, Bangladesh also stopped export of Indian rice through the Hili land port in West Bengal. Indian officials further said that Bangladesh had been carrying out aggressive checks of Indian trucks over the past several months. All these factors were taken into account in stopping the entry of readymade garments through Indian land ports. In all, there are 24 operational land ports between India and Bangladesh, and several other crossings are being developed.

### How is India justifying the decision?

The order came into immediate effect on May 17, officials said. However, the order and the list of items on it are expected to be reviewed from time to time. The sea ports too are not expected to remain open for all items from Bangladesh as there will be mandatory checks and reviews of all items from Bangladesh exported through Indian sea ports. The Indian side further claimed that Bangladesh has been cherry-picking issues and that several comments by top leaders indicated that they were treating the northeast as a "captive market" for Bangladesh's products, while Indian goods are not being given transit. Citing Prime Minister Modi's speech on the northeast, Indian officials said the northeast is integral to the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). The "equal market space now available in the resource-rich northeast is expected to give a fillip to manufacturing and entrepreneurship in the region under the Atmanirbhar Bharat schemes and policies," they said.

### How has Bangladesh responded?

Bangladesh has not issued any official response so far though off the record Bangladeshi officials have expressed disappointment over the way this step was initiated by the Indian side. They

said Bangladesh was not intimidated about Indian plans and that they got to know of the decision through media reports which caught traders and transporters unawares.

To India's accusation of Bangladesh unilaterally stopping India's cotton yarn and rice exports, Bangladesh officials said that these moves were enforced to control corruption on their side. Commerce Adviser S.K. Bashir Uddin of the interim government of Bangladesh has said a preliminary review is on about the impact that the Indian order will have on the economic prospects of Bangladesh. He said that in terms of furniture and agro products, the impact on Bangladesh will not be widespread, but the impact on readymade garments is likely to be significant.

### Will India's order affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan?

India claims that the order will not affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan. However, it is understood that overland trade blockade will naturally impact flow of orders from Bangladesh to Nepal because of frequent disruption. The order has also created a ripple effect making investment planners careful before venturing into Bangladesh.

### Is the decision to shut land ports part of a larger issue between India and Bangladesh?

Indian officials say the order is a "message to Bangladesh" in response to remarks regarding India's northeast made by interim government chief Mohammed Yunus in China during the March 26-29 visit, which were unacceptable. In a meeting with Chinese business houses, Prof. Yunus had described the northeast as a "landlocked" region that is suffering from developmental bottlenecks, urging China to access the region through Bangladesh. He had pitched Bangladesh as the "guardian of the ocean" suggesting that Bangladesh's coastline is available to China to develop industrial and commercial links with India's northeast. Indian officials have said that the closure of land ports (Integrated Check Posts and Land Customs Stations) is also a message to the interim government of Bangladesh which has warned towards Pakistan, accused of exporting cross-border terrorism to J&K. Indian officials said the order to restrict readymade garments was taken as it will affect nearly \$700 million worth of textile exports from Bangladesh to India. Though it is a small part of the total \$50 billion worth of exports from Bangladesh, it is expected to send a message to the global community about Bangladesh's moves.

# PROFILES

## His own Marshal

**Asim Munir**

The Pakistani General, who was promoted as Field Marshal in the wake of Operation Sindoor, portrays himself as a strongman in a country plagued by multiple crises and a vacuum of strong political leadership. He does so by embracing religion, ideology and anti-India sentiment – a potent mix favoured by Pakistan's military rulers

**Stanly Johny**

“We are different from Hindus in every possible aspect of life”, said Gen. Asim Munir, Pakistan's Army chief, on April 17, while speaking at a gathering of expatriates in Islamabad. “No matter where you live, remember – your roots lie in a high civilisation, noble ideology, and proud identity.” He added that Kashmir “will be our jugular vein, we will not forget it, we will not leave our Kashmiri brothers in their historical struggle”. Five days later, armed terrorists gunned down 26 civilians, mostly tourists, in Kashmir's Pahalgam. The Resistance Front, which India believes is a front of Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, immediately claimed responsibility (it later denied any role in the killing).

On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, an air strike at terror sites inside Pakistan. Pakistan responded with more fire, leading to both sides launching missile attacks. At the end of the four-day aerial combat, Pakistan's coalition government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, showered Gen. Munir with praise. On May 21, the government promoted Gen. Munir as Field Marshal, the highest rank in the military. Gen. Munir is the second Field Marshal in Pakistan's history, after Field Marshal Ayub Khan.

Not long before becoming the most powerful man in Pakistan, Lieutenant-General Asim Munir was the shortest-serving head of the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), the spy agency. He was appointed ISI head in October 2018 by the then Army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. But eight months later, he was replaced with Lt. Gen. Faiz Hamid on the insistence of then-Prime Minister Imran Khan. The cricketer-turned-politician, who came to power a few months earlier, was still enjoying warm ties with the military establishment. While there was no official word on why the ISI chief was fired, an alleged audio clip of a former leader of Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, surfaced in 2022 in which he accused the former Prime Minister of sacking Lt. Gen.

Munir for “exposing corruption” of his wife, Bushra Bibi.

The tables would soon turn for Mr. Khan. The PTI leader, who fell out with the military, was ousted from power in April 2022 through a no-confidence vote. As he was trying to make a comeback Lt. Gen. Munir was appointed the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). It was hardly a secret that Mr. Khan's PTI was steadfastly opposed to Lt. Gen. Munir's appointment. But Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his brother Nawaz Sharif, had their way in picking the successor of Gen. Bajwa, who retired on November 29, 2022.

Mr. Khan has been in jail since May 2023. And his PTI party, which was banned from contesting the February 2024 election, is in disarray. A coalition of former rivals, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party of the Bhuttos, is in power, under Shehbaz Sharif's premiership, with the direct blessings of Gen. Munir.

**Early days**

Asim Munir entered the service through the Officers Training School programme in Mangla. He started his military career as a Second Lieutenant in 1986 when military dictator Gen. Zia-ul-Haq was ruling Pakistan.

As a Brigadier, he commanded Pakistani troops in the Northern Areas, which includes Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, under Gen. Bajwa. After Gen. Bajwa became the Army chief in November 2016, Lt. Gen. Munir rose through the ranks quickly. He was appointed Military Intelligence Director-General in 2017 and became a (three-star) Lieutenant-General in September 2018. In the same year, Gen. Bajwa promoted him as the ISI Director-General, but his fallout with Mr. Khan cost him the job. However, Lt. Gen. Munir survived Mr. Khan's ire. He was posted as Gujranwala Corps Commander for two years and then moved to the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi as Quartermaster General, in charge of supplies.

Pakistani media termed him a “devout”, “clear-headed” soldier committed to protecting the interests of the military and the state. There were instances of Lt. Gen. Munir acting



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

swiftly to shield the military and the ISI from public criticism. In July 2018, Islamabad High Court judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui criticised the ISI, saying the agency was manipulating judicial proceedings to get favourable decisions. Justice Siddiqui was sacked in October that year by President Arif Alvi on a recommendation from the Supreme Judicial Council for misconduct, a few days after Lt. Gen. Munir became the ISI chief.

Political analyst and author Shuja Nawaz writes in his book, *The Battle for Pakistan*, that the Supreme Court's decision was an example of Lt. Gen.

Munir's “overreach”. Mr. Nawaz writes that Lt. Gen. Munir has the “reputation of a hardliner” and “a tough officer rooted in Islamic tradition”.

By the time Gen. Munir took over as the Army chief, Pakistan-India ties had already hit a low. Lt. Gen. Munir was the ISI chief when the Pulwama attack took place in February 2019, in which 40 Indian personnel were killed. India retaliated by launching an air strike in Balakot, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under Gen. Bajwa, Pakistan oversaw the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, which seemed to have given a sense of victory to the establishment – a feeling

that did not last long.

At home, the military, which has always remained the power behind the throne, faced a credibility crisis after Mr. Khan was jailed. As relations with the Afghan Taliban soured, the Pakistani military and the Government started cracking down on Afghan refugees in the country. Under Gen. Munir's watch, insurgency and political rebellion gathered momentum in Balochistan. Moreover, Pakistan is also teetering on mounting economic problems, with an IMF bailout package coming to the country's help.

**Consolidated power**

But for Gen. Munir, crises were opportunities to consolidate power in his hands. He has got Pakistan's most popular politician, who challenged the establishment, right where he wanted – in prison. He has a weak federal Government in Islamabad that survives largely on his support. Even as India signalled openness to limited engagement, Gen. Munir invoked the two-nation theory and intensified rhetoric on Kashmir. In a country plagued by multiple crises and a vacuum of strong political leadership, Gen. Munir is positioning himself as the new strongman. To that end, he embraces religion, ideology and anti-India sentiment – a potent mix historically favoured by Pakistan's military rulers. “Our religions are different, our customs are different, our traditions are different, our thoughts are different, our ambitions are different. That was the foundation of the two-nation theory that was laid there. We are two nations,” he declared on April 17, about Hindus and Muslims. A massacre of Indians followed in Kashmir.

By promoting him as Field Marshal, Islamabad seeks to reiterate the narrative that under Gen. Munir's leadership, the military effectively responded to India's May 7 strikes. But for tactical messaging, the government has further weakened the institutional balance in a country where the military has always been the markhor in the room. As Ved Prakash Malik, former Indian Army chief, noted, “a Field Marshal never retires...”

**THE GIST**

Before becoming the most powerful man in Pakistan, Gen. Munir was also the shortest-serving head of the ISI. After taking over the leadership of the spy agency, he was fired within eight months after he allegedly exposed the corruption of Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi

Lt. Gen. Munir was the ISI chief when the Pulwama attack took place in February 2019 in which 40 Indian personnel were killed. Under his watch, Pakistan also oversaw the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, which seemed to have given a sense of victory to the establishment – a feeling that did not last long

By promoting him as Field Marshal, Islamabad seeks to reiterate the narrative that under Gen. Munir's leadership, the military effectively responded to India's May 7 strikes. But for tactical messaging, the government has further weakened the institutional balance in a country where the military has always been the markhor in the room

## Lady with the lamp

**Banu Mushtaq**

The *Heart Lamp* author and International Booker Prize Winner documents stories from unheard corners, jotting down every aspect of the women's lives, their drudgery, anxieties, as also their joy

**Sudipta Datta**

Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq has been lending expression to the voiceless for five decades, and when Deepa Bhashti came on board as translator, her stories leapt across linguistic barriers and provincial borders. On Tuesday, Mushtaq's *Heart Lamp*, translated from Kannada to English by Bhashti, won the International Booker Prize for 2025.

This is the first honour for Kannada, a language Mushtaq says has “cosmic wonder and earthly wisdom”, on this stage. It's also the first time a collection of short stories has been feted, and the second time in three years an Indian writer has got the top prize. Geetanjali Shree had won for *Tomb of Sand*, translated from the Hindi by Daisy Rockwell in 2022.

*Heart Lamp* (And Other Stories/Penguin) is a selection of 12 tales, written between 1990 and 2023. An array of characters have walk-on parts – maulvis, toughish brothers, grandparents, uncles, broods of children – but the spotlight is firmly on Muslim girls and women on the margins, searching for a toehold in a claustrophobic patriarchal world. It was published originally in Kannada (*Haseena Mattu Itara Kathegalu*) by Abhiru-



chi Prakashana, Mysuru. One of the stories in *Heart Lamp*, ‘Black Cobra’, was made into a feature film, *Hasina*, by Girish Kasaravalli.

A lawyer and activist based in Hassan, Mushtaq, now 77, was inspired by the Bandaya Sahitya movement of the 1980s which urged women to write about their lived experiences. An empathetic observer and listener, Mushtaq began documenting stories from unheard corners, jotting down every aspect of the women's lives, their drudgery, anxieties, as also their joy. “This book is my love letter to the idea that no story is local. [It] was born from the belief that no story is ever small, that in the tapestry of human experience every thread holds the weight of the whole,” she said in an impassioned acceptance speech high on grace and gratitude.

Most of the women she writes about lack agency over their bodies. They are

often powerless, financially dependent, and have little say over any other aspect too, particularly education. Girls are withdrawn from school at the drop of a hat.

**Dash of wry humour**

If they are married, like Mehrun in the title story, it means they can never return to their parents' home; whatever the husband's misdemeanours, Mehrun is asked to bear it or look away. When she can't take it anymore, it's her daughter Salma who pulls her from the brink. When this spirit of sisterhood works, women extend a hand to others; when it doesn't, there's misery and silent tears deep into the night. Her stories have wry humour too – in the last, a mother weary after giving birth, appeals to god: ‘Be a woman once, Oh Lord!’

Like Sara Aboobacker, who wrote about Muslim women in coastal Kerala and Karnataka, and was

critical of patriarchy and other issues, Mushtaq too has been outspoken about women's lack of choice in matters of faith and reproductive rights. Both writers faced the wrath of fundamentalists.

For making Mushtaq's stories gain a global readership, Bhashti's “radical translation” has come in for praise. Bhashti writes in the translator's note that between them they know more than six languages. Bhashti retains the rhythms of the many Kannadas spoken in the region. For instance, Mushtaq speaks Dakhni at home, whose base is Urdu with loan words from Persian, Marathi, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu – but her language at work and on the street is Kannada.

Booker Jury Chair Max Porter said the radical translation hits “viscerally.” Both writer and translator harped on the richness of Kannada and hoped it would lead to more translations from other “magical” languages of South Asia.

Calling literature one of the “last sacred spaces where we can live inside each other's minds, if only for a few pages,” Mushtaq hoped her win would “light the way for more stories that defy borders.” The finest of literature offers an honest mirror, and surely Mushtaq holds a luminous one.

## Developer-turned-diplomat

**Steve Witkoff**

The U.S. President's Special Envoy to Middle East uses the negotiation skills and mindset that helped the duo crack complicated property deals to tackle complex geopolitical issues

**G. Sampath**

In November 2024, while appointing Steven C. Witkoff as Special Envoy to the Middle East [West Asia], U.S. President Donald Trump said that “Steve will be an unrelenting voice for peace.” Since then, Mr. Witkoff, 68, in the words of an American analyst, has morphed from Trump's ‘Middle East Envoy’ into the ‘Envoy of Everything’.

In less than six months, he managed to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas (which has since lapsed), another ceasefire with the Houthis, got Russia to release a jailed American school teacher, persuaded Hamas to release an Israeli-American hostage, had Russia and Ukraine agree to resume truce talks, and got Iran back to the negotiating table over its nuclear programme. That's an impressive run of achievements for any diplomat, let alone somebody with no formal diplomatic training and no background in international relations.

At one level, it helps to be the President's long-time golf partner. It helps even more if you are a businessman from the same industry as the President (real estate), and both subscribe to its distinctive set of values – pragmatism, realism, and a belief that



ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

cracking deals and making money trumps all else. At another, Mr. Witkoff has trod the well-worn path of billionaire tycoons who begin by funnelling millions of dollars into a Presidential campaign, and after their chosen horse wins the race, manoeuvre themselves into a position from where they orchestrate a sweet convergence of interests between state policy and private business. However, Mr. Witkoff is one of the few men outside the Trump clan who enjoys his absolute trust. It is this dynamic – he can pick up the phone and call the President any time – that set Mr. Witkoff apart from other notional contenders for the role of one of the U.S.'s top diplomats. Mr. Witkoff's interlocutors value the fact that they are negotiating with someone who actually speaks for the U.S. President and not another functionary from the State Department.

Such a high level of trust is earned over time. Mr.

Witkoff's relationship with Mr. Trump goes back to the 1980s, when he was working for a law firm that handled Mr. Trump's real estate transactions. Mr. Witkoff is on record saying that when he first met Mr. Trump, he wanted “to be like him.” He acted on that impulse, transitioning from legal work to the real estate business.

Mr. Witkoff has stood by Mr. Trump at critical times, such as after the January 2021 riot at the Capitol. Within the Republican Party, he has been Mr. Trump's prime troubleshooter. Acting as Mr. Trump's emissary, he flew out to meet fellow Republicans who were not exactly fans of Mr. Trump. Mr. Witkoff negotiated with them – the likes of Brian Kemp, Nikki Haley, one-time rival Ron DeSantis – and eventually lined them up in Mr. Trump's corner.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Witkoff believe that the negotiation skills and mindset that helped them crack

complicated property deals are superior to the staid toolkit of traditional diplomacy. That partly explains Mr. Witkoff jetting off for one-on-one meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who he has met at least four times. It also explains the U.S.'s departure from protocol in talking directly with Hamas. Ever the pragmatic deal-maker, finding Benjamin Netanyahu to be an obstacle, Mr. Witkoff bypassed him, which is how he got the American-Israeli prisoner freed.

Mr. Witkoff's desire to be the West Asia Envoy also needs to be seen in the context of his links to sovereign wealth funds from Gulf countries, including the Qatar Investment Authority, which bailed him out of a real estate deal gone wrong. The penchant for approaching geopolitical problems through the real estate lens found grotesque expression in Mr. Trump's idea, backed by Mr. Witkoff, that Gaza should be depopulated and redeveloped as a Mediterranean Riviera. As someone who shares Mr. Trump's vision, Mr. Witkoff's USP is his ability to market that vision to foreign interlocutors, but sans the Trumpian brashness, which could be fatally jarring in diplomatic realms populated by large yet fragile egos.

**SAN DIEGO**

**Six, including pilot and passengers, killed in San Diego plane crash**



A Cessna 550 Citation on Thursday crashed in San Diego's Murphy Canyon neighbourhood amid dense fog, killing all six onboard, including music agent Dave Shapiro. The plane clipped a power line while coming down and caused fires at the crash site. The pilot had reported poor visibility prior to descent. AFP

**SEOUL**

**S. Korea is concerned by China's 'no-sail zone' in overlapping waters**



South Korea expressed concern to China over a "no-sail zone" in the Yellow Sea's Provisional Measures Zone, where their exclusive economic zones overlap, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday. China declared the zone until May 27, citing military training. Seoul is "assessing legality under international maritime law". AFP

**SYDNEY**

**Thousands remain isolated as floods ease in eastern Australia**



Tens of thousands in New South Wales remain isolated on Saturday after severe flooding, with over 10,000 properties damaged. Floodwaters were slowly subsiding but more than 20 emergency warnings remained in place, with the focus shifting to assessing properties and delivering supplies to cut-off communities. AFP

**ISTANBUL**

**Turkiye, Syrian leaders meet in the wake of U.S. decision to lift curbs**



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa [Abu Mohammad al-Jolani] in Istanbul on Saturday. The meeting included Foreign and Defence Ministers and intelligence chiefs. It followed the U.S. decision to lift sanctions on Syria, aiming to support regional cooperation. REUTERS

**'Muhammad Yunus to stay as head of Bangladesh interim government'**

None of the 19 advisers, who function as Ministers, plan to resign as they consider their responsibilities significant; a meet discussed the interim government's three main goals — conducting elections, implementing reforms, and ensuring justice

**Press Trust of India**  
DHAKA

**M**uhammad Yunus will remain as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, an adviser in his Cabinet said on Saturday, two days after a key ally said he had mulled resignation.

"He (Yunus) didn't say he will leave. He said that while we face many obstacles in carrying out the work and responsibilities assigned to us, we are overcoming them," Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud told reporters after an unscheduled meeting of the advisory council.

"He (Yunus) is definitely staying," Mr. Mahmud said. He added that none of the



**Green light:** Muhammad Yunus says there are obstacles in fulfilling his duties but added that these challenges are being overcome. AP

advisers were going anywhere as "the responsibility entrusted to us is a significant one; we cannot abandon this duty".

The chief adviser's decision to stay in office came two days after he told stu-

dent-led National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders that he was mulling resignation as he felt "the situation is such that he cannot work", citing difficulties in working amid the failure of political parties to find com-

**Student leader fears intervention by Army**

**Agence France-Presse**  
DHAKA

Nahid Islam, leader of the National Citizen Party (NCP) made up of many students who spearheaded the uprising that ousted premier Sheikh Hasina,

mon ground for change.

As many as 19 advisers, effectively Ministers, joined the abruptly called closed-door meeting.

The chief adviser's press wing later issued a "statement from the advisory

warned an Army-backed government could replace Bangladesh's interim government, fearing an "anti-democratic" future like 2007. He said military's role was "to ensure national security", not interfere politically.

council", saying the two-hour long meeting included detailed discussions on "three primary responsibilities entrusted to the interim government - elections, reforms, and justice".

**Russia strikes Kyiv, swaps 307 prisoners with Ukraine**

**Agence France-Presse**  
KYIV

A massive Russian drone and missile attack on Kyiv on Saturday wounded at least 15 people, even as Russia and Ukraine continued the biggest prisoner swap since the start of Moscow's invasion.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 14 ballistic missiles and 250 attack drones overnight, adding that it downed six missiles and 245 drones.

Kyiv was "the main target of the enemy attack", the air force said in a statement.

"With each such attack, the world becomes more certain that the cause of prolonging the war lies in Moscow," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X.

"Only additional sanctions targeting key sectors



**Major attack:** An explosion of a drone lights up the sky over the city during a Russian drone strike in Kyiv on Saturday. REUTERS

of the Russian economy will force Moscow to cease fire," he said. Officials said 15 people were injured in Kyiv itself and five civilians were killed by Russian strikes in the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions.

The Russian military meanwhile said Ukraine had targeted it with 788 drones and missiles since Tuesday.

Meanwhile Russia's Defence Ministry said each side exchanged 307 prisoners of war on Saturday via Belarus, a Kremlin ally. It said the Russian POWs would receive psychological and medical help in Belarus before travelling on to Russia. Both sides received 390 people in the first stage on Friday and are expected to exchange 1,000 each in total.

**After Israeli strikes, 79 bodies brought to Gaza hospitals**

**Associated Press**  
CAIRO

The bodies of 79 people killed by Israeli strikes have been brought to hospitals in the past 24 hours, Gaza's Health Ministry said on Saturday — a toll that does not include hospitals in the battered north that it said are now inaccessible.

The dead over the past day in Israel's renewed military offensive included nine of a doctor's 10 children, ranged in age from

seven months to 12 years old, it added.

Israel's military in a statement said it struck suspects operating from a structure next to its forces, and described the area of Khan Younis as a "dangerous war zone". It said it had evacuated civilians, and "the claim regarding harm to uninvolved civilians is under review". An earlier statement on Saturday said Israel's air force struck over 100 targets in Gaza over the past day.

**Cannes awards its Palme d'Or trophy to Iranian film *It Was Just an Accident***

**Associated Press**  
CANNES

Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi's revenge thriller *It Was Just an Accident* won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, handing the festival's top prize to a director who had been banned from leaving Iran for more than 15 years.

Cate Blanchett presented the award to Mr. Panahi, who three years ago was imprisoned in Iran before going on a hunger strike. The crowd rose in a

thunderous standing ovation for the filmmaker.

The Cannes closing ceremony followed a major power outage that struck southeastern France on Saturday in what police suspected was arson. Only a few hours before stars began streaming down the red carpet, power was restored in Cannes.

The Grand Prix, or second prize, was awarded to Joachim Trier's Norwegian family drama *Sentimental Value*, his lauded follow-up to *The Worst Person in the World*.



Jafar Panahi

Kleber Mendonça Filho's Brazilian political thriller *The Secret Agent* won two big awards: best director for Mr. Filho and best actor for Wagner Mou-

ra. Best actress went to Nadia Melliti for *The Little Sister*.

Saturday's ceremony brings to a close a 78th Cannes Film Festival where geopolitics cast a long shadow, both on screen and off. Shortly before the French Riviera extravaganza, which is also the world's largest movie market, U.S. President Donald Trump floated the idea of a 100% tariff on movies made overseas.

Most filmmakers responded with a shrug, calling the plan illogical.

**Woman who stabbed 18 in Hamburg acted on her own: police**

**Agence France-Presse**  
BERLIN

A German woman accused of a mass stabbing attack at a train station in Hamburg was to appear before a judge on Saturday, while the number of victims wounded rose to 18, police said.

The suspect, a 39-year-old woman, was arrested at the scene of the attack on Friday at Hamburg's main station, which stunned the city in the

middle of the evening rush hour.

Hamburg police spokesperson Florian Abbenseth said there was no evidence of a "political motive", and the woman may have been "experiencing a psychological emergency".

She was arrested without resistance after the attack, which emergency services said had left at least four victims with life-threatening injuries. The suspect is thought to have "acted alone", police said.

**Sport**

**Napoli ascends to fourth Serie A crown**

**EURO LEAGUES**

**Agence France-Presse**  
NAPLES

Napoli climbed back to the top of Italian football after sealing the Serie A title on Friday, bouncing back from disaster to win the Italian championship for the fourth time. Scott McTominay and Romelu Lukaku netted in a 2-0 win over Cagliari at a packed and wild Stadio Diego Armando Maradona as Napoli secured its second league crown in three years on the final day of the season.

Napoli finished the season a point ahead of closest rival Inter Milan which won 2-0 at Como, the outgoing champions' opponents having to play half the match with 10 men after goalkeeper Pepe Reina



**On top again:** Di Lorenzo leads Napoli's celebrations after pipping Inter to the post in the final game of the season. GETTY IMAGES

was sent off just before half-time of his last match.

Friday's triumph crowned a season which started with few thinking Napoli could challenge Inter after finishing 10th as reigning champion last term. Conte has taken Na-

poli by the scruff of the neck but did nothing to squash rumours he will leave in the summer after one season in Naples due to his frustrations at a lack of investment from owner Aurelio De Laurentiis.

Inter's win meant noth-

ing as another Scudetto party was kicked off in Naples by the fans' new heroes McTominay and Lukaku.

**Immediate impact** Scotland midfielder McTominay immediately made an impact on a team still reeling from last season's disaster.

Kylian Mbappe virtually wrapped up the European Golden Shoe award with a brace as Real Madrid beat Real Sociedad 2-0 in LaLiga on Saturday, on an emotional home farewell to Carlo Ancelotti and Luka Modric. Mbappe scored twice to take the lead in the Golden Shoe standings.

**The results: Serie A:** Como 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (de Vrij 20, Correa 51); Napoli 2 (McTominay 42, Lukaku 51) bt Cagliari 0. **LaLiga:** Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 38, 83) bt Real Sociedad 0.

**SNAPSHOTS**

**Djokovic wins Geneva Open, clinches 100th ATP title**

GENEVA: Novak Djokovic finally clinched his 100th career singles title by beating Hubert Hurkacz 5-7, 7-6(2), 7-6(2) in more than three hours to become the Geneva Open champion on Saturday. Djokovic lost his two previous finals since his 99th title win nine months ago at the Paris Olympics at Roland-Garros. The 100th was after a typically tough and hard-working match, two days after his 38th birthday and surrounded by his family in the Swiss city where some relatives reside. "I'm just grateful to clinch the 100 here," Djokovic said. "I had to work for it." Djokovic joins Jimmy Connors, who has a record 109 titles, and Roger



**One for the album:** Djokovic has joined Connors and Federer in the elite 100-club. REUTERS

Federer on 103 as the only men with a century of tournament wins in the Open era. The three-time French Open champion heads back to Paris looking to add to his 24 Grand Slam singles titles.

**Norris takes pole for Monaco GP** MONACO: Lando Norris put

- Norris (McLaren); 2. Leclerc (Ferrari); 3. Piastri (McLaren); 4. Hamilton (Ferrari); 5. Verstappen (Red Bull); 6. Hadjar (Racing Bulls); 7. Alonso (Aston Martin); 8. Ocon (Haas); 9. Lawson (Racing Bulls); 10. Albon (Williams).
- 11. Sainz (Ferrari); 12. Tsunoda (Red Bull); 13. Hulkenberg (Stake F1); 14. Russell (Mercedes); 15. Antonelli (Mercedes).
- 16. Bortoleto (Stake F1); 17. Bearman (Haas); 18. Gasly (Alpine); 19. Stroll (Aston Martin); 20. Colapinto (Alpine).

**Bashir spins England to innings win**

NOTTINGHAM: Shoaib Bashir claimed six wickets in the second innings as England beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 45 runs on day three of the one-off Test at Trent Bridge on Saturday.

**The scores:** England 565/6 decl. bt Zimbabwe 265 & 255 in 59 overs (Williams 88, Bashir 6/81). **PoM:** Bashir.

## HOPES FADE

The medical guys told us Shami is not fully fit, reveals Agarkar



FILE PHOTO

It's the medical guys who told us that he had been ruled out of the series though we were hoping that he would be available for some part. But if he's not fit at the moment, it's very difficult to keep waiting. He is not fully fit — Chief selector Ajit Agarkar on Mohammed Shami's exclusion for the England tour.

## LEADERSHIP ROLE

'Wicketkeeper can see the game well, that's why Pant is Gill's deputy'



FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar talked about Rishabh Pant's role as the new vice-captain of the Indian Test team. "Pant has been one of our best batters in Test cricket over the last four-five years. A wicketkeeper can see the game well, and that's why he is Shubman Gill's deputy," Agarkar said.

## GLAD TIDINGS

I was eagerly waiting for the news: Karun on getting the Test nod



R.V. MOORTHY

Karun Nair said that he was very grateful to be back in the Indian Test team. "Very happy and proud, and very fortunate as well. I was eagerly waiting for the news. I have been batting really well in the last 12 to 16 months, and it is about keeping my processes the same and going out there and doing the things that have worked for me".

## RED-BALL CREDENTIALS

Sai Sudharsan has not been picked based on IPL form, reveals Agarkar



FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Sai Sudharsan has not been picked based on IPL. He has shown the right temperament and has the game to succeed at the top level... we have been looking at him for a while — Ajit Agarkar, chief selector, on Sai Sudharsan's inclusion in India's squad for the five-match Test series against England.



The 18: The players who will represent India in the five-Test series against England. PTI

## Gill takes over as India looks into the future

The Punjab player is handed the Test captaincy; Sai Sudharsan, Arshdeep get maiden call-up; Agarkar says Bumrah unlikely to play all five matches

## INDIA IN ENGLAND

Amol Karhadkar  
MUMBAI

Shubman Gill has been anointed as Indian cricket's 37th men's Test captain. He will lead an 18-member squad that will tour England for a five-match series, starting June 20.

Ajit Agarkar, the chairman of the national men's selection panel, announced Rishabh Pant as Gill's deputy while announcing the squad here on Saturday afternoon.

While Karun Nair and Shardul Thakur have been recalled to the Test squad, B. Sai Sudharsan and Arshdeep Singh received maiden call-ups in India whites.

"Over the last year or so, we have looked at Shubman at various times. You take a lot of feedback from the dressing room as well. Obviously he is very young," Agarkar said.

"We have seen the im-

provement — I know it's T20 cricket for Gujarat Titans — but we take feedback from a lot of people, and we are hopeful that he's the guy who can... it's obviously going to be, like it always is, a high-pressure job. But we are hopeful we have picked the right guy. He is a terrific player and our best wishes for him."

When asked if K.L. Rahul could have been a better choice for a critical tour, considering his experience as captain in the past, Agarkar stressed that the selectors have invested in Gill with an eye on the long run.

"You don't pick captains for one or two tours. We want to invest in something that's going to help us going forward. You are always hoping that its the right call. We have seen some progress over the last year or two with him," he said.

Agarkar conceded that the selection committee looked beyond Jasprit Bumrah — who led India in two of the five Border-Ga-

vaskar Trophy matches — due to Bumrah's importance to the set-up as a bowler.

"I don't think he is available for all five Tests. That's what the physios and the doctors have told us. Needless to say how important he is," Agarkar said. "Whether he is fit for three or four Tests, he is going to win us a few Test matches. We are just glad that he is fit after the setback he had in Australia. He is more important to us as a player (than as a captain)."

**The squad:** Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rishabh Pant (Vice-capt., wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, B. Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Kumar, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, M. Prasadh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, and Kuldeep Yadav.

**The schedule: First Test:** June 20 to 24, Headingley; **Second:** July 2 to 6, Edgbaston; **Third:** July 10 to 14, Lord's; **Fourth:** July 23 to 27, Old Trafford; **Fifth:** July 31 to August 4, Kennington Oval. All matches start at 3.30 p.m. IST.

## 'Dear cricket' gives Karun 'one more chance'

N. Sudarshan  
BENGALURU

In December 2022, after being dropped from Karnataka's Ranji Trophy squad for the first time since his debut in 2013-14, Karun Nair let out a fervent plea. "Dear cricket, give me one more chance," he posted on X.

That public prayer was finally answered by Indian cricket's supreme gods on Saturday when they chose the 33-year-old for the upcoming five-Test series against England. Karun last played for India in March 2017 against Australia at Dharamshala.

Sarfraz Khan, who didn't get a single game across five Tests in Australia, may have been unlucky to miss out, but Karun has broken the door open. After being snubbed by Karnataka, he moved to Vidarbha ahead of the 2023-24 Ranji season, and found a second wind as a First Class batter.

In his first foray at his adopted home, he scored



Karun... back in the swing. FILE PHOTO: NIRMAL HARINDRAN

690 runs in Vidarbha's run to the Ranji Trophy final. Last edition, he went one step further, smashing 863 runs as Vidarbha won the title.

In 2023 and 2024, he also played County cricket in England for Northamptonshire, averaging 83 from three matches (249 runs)

and 48.70 from seven outings (487 runs) respectively.

"We feel that he's batting well enough," chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said.

"Also, now with Virat [Kohli] not there, [we are] clearly lacking a little bit of experience in the batting."

The selection for the England tour marks a life-has-come-a-full-circle moment for Karun. It was against England that he made his Test debut in 2016 in Mohali, and scored a triple hundred in Chennai against Alastair Cook's men.

But he suffered the ignominy of being not chosen for the very next game, and during the 2018 sojourn to England, saw Hanuma Vihari leap-frog him and make his debut.

These two memories, along with exit from Karnataka, hurt him, but also drove him.

With the latest reward, he can give them all a quiet burial and march forward with confidence.

## It's surreal, says Sai Sudharsan

Santadeep Dey  
AHMEDABAD

B. Sai Sudharsan had to work his fingers to the bone in domestic cricket, prove his mettle on the green tops of Surrey, and then annihilate bowlers in the ongoing IPL 2025 to finally break down the proverbial selectors' door and earn his maiden Test call-up for the tour of England on Saturday.

As he addressed the media ahead of Gujarat Titans' final league game against Chennai Super Kings, the Orange Cap hol-



Sai Sudharsan. VIJAY SONEJI

der looked visibly elated. "Feels great, very special, and surreal also. Any young cricketer wants to play Tests for the country. That's the ultimate goal."

The 23-year-old batter is

'grateful' to have Shubman Gill, his GT captain, double up as his Test skipper. "I have seen him for the last four years — such a talented and skilful batter. He will bring laurels to the country. Very happy to play under him in my first Test series," Sai Sudharsan said.

Sridharan Sriram, CSK's assistant bowling coach, heaped praise on Sai Sudharsan. "He (Sai Sudharsan) is an amazing player, no doubt about it. The way he has blossomed as a batter over the past 24 months is phenomenal".

## Responsibility should drive Gill in India's transition phase

N. Sudarshan  
BENGALURU

Shubman Gill's ascent to Indian Test captaincy at once seems like a normal rite of passage and not so.

There was hardly any doubt that he was the chosen one, considered the next batting great after Virat Kohli, and by extension the next man to carry the hopes of a billion odd people.

Yet, here was a player who until 15 months ago did not have an assured spot in Tests, did not have much captaincy experience and even now averages only 35.05 from 32 matches, albeit in a bowler-friendly era.

Ahead of the new World Test Championship cycle, the hope is for responsibility to drive Gill, just like it drove the now-retired duo

With the giant shadow of Ashwin no longer there, left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep should come into his own. Picking Easwaran, Karun, and to an extent Shardul, shows that form in domestic cricket still matters.

of Kohli and Rohit Sharma, and see if his incredible ODI prowess and recently acquired T20 acumen — both as a batter and captain at Gujarat Titans — propel him into a higher orbit.

**Train of thought** In fact, placing faith in talent and potential seems to be an integral part of the selectors' train of thought in multiple picks, prime among them being those of B. Sai Sudharsan and Arshdeep Singh, both of whom have largely underwhelming First Class numbers.

There is no Mohammed Shami, and by the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar's own admission, bowling ace Jasprit Bumrah is not in a position to play all five Tests. This puts immense pressure on Mohammed Siraj, and Prasadh Krishna and Akash Deep, who both have played just a combined 10 Tests.

**Pant's value** Rishabh Pant as vice-captain is an affirmation that the wicketkeeper-batter's travails in white-ball cricket will not diminish his worth as a colossal red-ball performer.

Picking Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, and to an extent Shardul Thakur, shows that form in domestic cricket still matters.

With the giant shadow of R. Ashwin no longer there, left-arm wrist-spin-

ner Kuldeep Yadav should come into his own.

Despite having made his debut in 2017, Kuldeep has played just 13 matches spread across nine series.

Though Ravindra Jadeja offers great bowling control, chips in with the bat, and is still supremely fit and moves across the turf like a Rolls-Royce, Kuldeep ought to be the go-to option.

**Guiding force** With Kohli and Rohit having slipped into the sunset, K.L. Rahul, whose place in the side has forever been a topic of discussion, will be the senior-most batter (58 Tests).

But the 33-year-old comes with sound technique and a calm head, and it is expected that he will fully embrace the hand-holding job.



In the hot seat: Gill will look to lead from the front. FILE PHOTO



Cool head: Rizvi guided Capitals home in a big chase. R.V. MOORTHY

## Rizvi does it for DC; a setback for PBKS

## IPL-18

Anish Pathyil  
JAIPUR

Punjab Kings suffered a setback in its quest for securing a place in Qualifier 1 after a six-wicket loss at the hands of Delhi Capitals in IPL 2025 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Saturday.

Karun Nair's anchoring innings of 44 and Sameer Rizvi's 25-ball unbeaten 58 helped the side chase down the 207-run target with three balls to spare.

Impact Player K.L. Rahul and captain Faf du Plessis got off to a quick start in the chase, combining for a 50-run stand within five overs. Both batters fell in successive overs, leaving Karun and Sediqullah Atal to rebuild the innings.

The Afghan batter had an eventful IPL debut, launching two sixes and surviving two dropped chances before being dismissed for a 16-ball 22 by PBKS debutant Praveen Dubey.

Karun collected four boundaries off as many balls against Praveen, ensuring Capitals did not concede the momentum. Despite losing his experienced partner five overs from the

end, Rizvi continued his penchant for boundaries to see his team across the line.

Earlier, after putting PBKS in, Mukesh Kumar and Mustafizur Rahman stuck to a back-of-a-length approach, pinning down the openers. Mustafizur (three for 33) removed Priyansh Arya early.

Josh Inglis collected a few quick runs by using the horizontal bat shots to counter the lengths employed, but was stumped while charging Vipraj Nigam.

Shreyas Iyer (53, 34b, 5x4, 2x6) ensured that the run rate hovered over nine with his take down of spin, bringing up his fifth half-century of the season in the process. Du Plessis' ploy to bring back the opening bowlers paid immediate dividends, with both Nehal Wadhwa and Shashank Singh falling cheaply.

Marcus Stoinis (44 n.o., 16b, 3x4, 4x6) ensured the innings clicked back into gear with some brutal hits. The Australian ensured his team went past the 200-run mark, but it proved inadequate.

## Next assignment

PBKS: May 26 vs MI  
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

## SCOREBOARD

**PUNJAB KINGS**  
Priyansh Arya c Stubbs b Mustafizur 6 (9b, 1x4), Prabhsimran Singh b Vipraj 28 (18b, 4x4, 1x6), Josh Inglis st. Stubbs b Vipraj 32 (12b, 3x4, 2x6), Shreyas Iyer c Mohit b Kuldeep 53 (34b, 5x4, 2x6), Nehal Wadhwa c du Plessis b Mukesh 16 (16b, 1x4), Shashank Singh c Stubbs b Mustafizur 11 (10b), Marcus Stoinis (not out) 44 (16b, 3x4, 4x6), Azmatullah Omarzai c Rizvi b Kuldeep 1 (3b), Marco Jansen c Stubbs b Mustafizur 0 (2b), Harpreet Brar (not out) 7 (2b, 1x6); Extras (nb-2, w-6); Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 206.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-8 (Priyansh, 1.5 overs), 2-55 (Inglis, 5.2), 3-77 (Prabhsimran, 7.5), 4-118 (Wadhwa, 12.3), 5-144 (Shashank, 15.4), 6-172 (Shreyas, 17.2), 7-174 (Omarzai, 17.6), 8-197 (Jansen, 19.3).

**CAPITALS BOWLING**  
Mukesh 4-0-49-1, Mustafizur 4-0-33-3, Mohit 4-0-47-0, Vipraj

4-0-38-2, Kuldeep 4-0-39-2.  
**DELHI CAPITALS**  
K.L. Rahul (Impact Player for Mukesh) c Shashank b Jansen 35 (21b, 6x4, 1x6), Faf du Plessis c Priyansh b Harpreet 23 (15b, 2x4, 1x6), Karun Nair b Harpreet 44 (27b, 5x4, 2x6), Sediqullah Atal c Arshdeep b Praveen 22 (16b, 2x6), Sameer Rizvi (not out) 58 (25b, 3x4, 5x6), Tristan Stubbs (not out) 18 (14b, 2x4); Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-3); Total (for four wkts. in 19.3 overs): 208.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-55 (Rahul, 5.3), 2-65 (du Plessis, 6.4), 3-93 (Atal, 10.1), 4-155 (Karun, 14.6).

**KINGS BOWLING**  
Arshdeep 4-0-35-0, Omarzai 4-0-46-0, Harpreet 4-0-41-2, Jansen 4-0-41-1, Praveen (Impact Player for Prabhsimran) 2-0-20-1, Stoinis 1.3-0-21-0.

**ToSS:** Capitals; **PoM:** Rizvi. Capitals won by six wickets with three balls to spare.

# All eyes on Dhoni as CSK meets GT

The stakes are high for the Gujarat franchise as a win will guarantee it a top-two finish while Super Kings have nothing to lose in their final match

**IPL-18**

**Santadeep Dey**  
AHMEDABAD

The cricketing fraternity is officially hours away from morphing into amateur sleuths as Chennai Super Kings looks to plunder Gujarat Titans' home-base when the teams play their final IPL 2025 group-stage fixture at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday.

The stakes are higher for GT, guaranteed a top-two finish if it wins.

A loss could still see newly appointed India Test skipper Shubman Gill's side getting two shots at making the final, but it would have to wait for other results. CSK, already eliminated, has nothing to lose.

But come Sunday, mathematical equations will be put on the back burner. Spectators and the broadcaster alike will have their eyes peeled to catch the subtlest change of manerisms of a 43-year-young M.S. Dhoni.

Over the past few years, CSK's last games of a season have drawn less attention for reasons surrounding the match itself, but more for the possibility of the dreaded retirement announcement from the side's talisman.

Social media had flown off the handle when eagle-eyed fans spotted a pattern



**Gearing up:** Urvil and Brevis at the nets. VIJAY SONEJI

## Today's matches

 <b>Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.</b> <b>HEAD-TO-HEAD</b> Played: 7 GT 4   CSK 3 <b>PREVIOUS MEETING</b> GT won by 35 runs, 2024	 <b>Delhi, 7.30 p.m.</b> <b>HEAD-TO-HEAD</b> Played: 29 SRH 9   KKR 20 <b>PREVIOUS MEETING</b> KKR won by 80 runs, 2025
---	---

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIHOOTSTAR

of dots and dashes on their beloved *Thala's* T-shirt ahead of the 2025 pre-season training. It turned out the cryptic message read 'One Last Time' in Morse code. In a rare occurrence, Dhoni's parents added fuel to the rumours by attending a match at Chepauk.

So, it won't be surprising to have Danny Morrison tickling the big elephant in the room at the toss again. However, the *Madras makkal* (people of Chennai) can only hope the reply is what they have been fond of hearing since 2020.

## Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	0.602
Punjab Kings (Q)	13	8	4	1	17	0.327
Royal Challengers (Q)	13	8	4	1	17	0.255
Mumbai Indians (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	1.292
Delhi Capitals	14	7	6	1	15	0.011
Lucknow Super Giants	13	6	7	0	12	-0.337
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	5	6	2	12	0.193
Sunrisers Hyderabad	13	5	7	1	11	-0.737
Rajasthan Royals	14	4	10	0	8	-0.549
Chennai Super Kings	13	3	10	0	6	-1.030

\* Till the PBKS-DC match on May 24

Q: Qualified

## KKR, SRH look to close out disappointing season with a win

**Vivek Krishnan**  
NEW DELHI

At this time last year, Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad were in the process of zealously fine-tuning their plans for the IPL final.

Right through the summer of 2024, they had stamped their imprints by producing some riveting cricket, and were fully deserving of a shot at the grand prize at a floodlit M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Cut to the present, the situation is distinctly different.

At seventh and eighth in the 10-team table, they are laggards whose forlorn fate in the tournament was sealed long before the culmination of the league phase.

They will face each other at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday in a contest of no consequence.

Both teams have been let down by their batting departments.

In KKR's case, the fact

that skipper Ajinkya Rahane is the only one with more than 300 runs paints a sorry picture.

During the course of this season, the team was shot out for 116 versus Mumbai Indians, and failed to chase down 112 against Punjab Kings.

For SRH, Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma did smash scintillating centuries that were responsible for Pat Cummins' men racking up the season's two biggest totals - 286 for six while batting first against Rajasthan Royals and 247 for two in a triumphant chase against PBKS. But beyond these glimpses of individual brilliance, the consistency needed collectively to stitch together a playoff-entering run was missing.

**Introspection needed**  
Introspection over their inadequacies is bound to follow.

But before that, they will seek to close out a disappointing season on a winning note.

# Sinner believes he is up for the Paris challenge

**FRENCH OPEN**

**Associated Press**  
PARIS

Jannik Sinner passed his first test back on tour after a doping ban - a run to last weekend's final at the Italian Open, where his tennis felt good and looked good, and the statistics he studied afterward backed that up.

Now comes a whole new set of challenges for the 23-year-old Italian at the French Open, which begins on Sunday: a crowd that could be pulling for his local opponents instead of for him; the extra rigours of best-of-five-set matches instead of best-of-three; the added pressure and importance of a major tournament.

A year ago on the red clay in Paris, Sinner made it to the semifinals before blowing a two-sets-to-one lead and losing to his top rival, eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz. Despite that setback, Sinner rose to the top of the ATP rankings on the day after the French Open concluded, marking his first appearance at No. 1.

"The goal (in Rome) was to win couple of matches, and I ended up in the final, which is a huge extra for me," said Sinner, who was defeated by Alcaraz for the title there. "Hopefully this can give me, then, some confidence for here in Paris."

**Zverev unfazed**  
German tennis player Alexander Zverev said on Friday that his plane was hit by lightning on the way to



**On the charge:** World No. 1 Sinner will look to add the French Open title to his collection. AP

## Sunday's picks

- WOMEN**
- 1-Sabalenka vs Rakhimova
  - 4-Paolini vs Yuan
  - 8-Zheng vs Pavlyuchenkova
  - 13-Svitolina vs Sonmez
- Kvitova vs Golubic
- MEN**
- 8-Musetti vs Hanfmann
  - 12-Paul vs Moller
  - 13-Shelton vs Sonogo
  - 15-Tiafoe vs Safullin
  - 21-Machac vs Hays

6:45 p.m., and we took off from Hamburg," said Zverev, last year's runner-up at Roland-Garros and seeded No. 3 this year.

"We got struck by lightning. We had to do an emergency landing back in Hamburg."

**Swiatek confident**

Former World No. 1 Iga Swiatek was in a defiant mood as she looked to put a turbulent start to the season behind her ahead of the French Open.

The 23-year-old has failed to reach a final this season and has dropped to fifth in the ranking. However, her early exit from the Italian Open has given Swiatek more time to prepare, and she said she has used that time well.

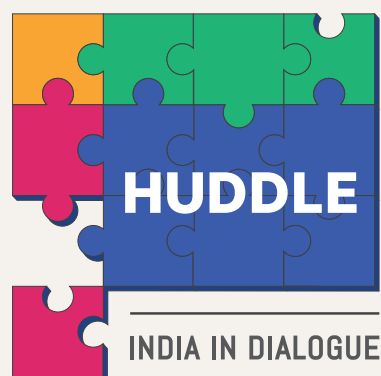
Paris for the French Open and had to turn around, delaying his arrival for the clay-court Grand Slam tournament. He ended up getting in at around 3 a.m.

"We were supposed to fly on Friday evening at

# Tune into India's biggest stage for the boldest conversations.



Presents



Co-powered by



For two days, the voices that shape India's present and future took centre stage at The Hindu Huddle. Now, those same conversations are coming to you. Watch **40+ leading speakers across 17+ sessions** of meaningful dialogue - only on **Times Now**.

**Key Speakers**



**Ranil Wickremesinghe**  
Former President, Sri Lanka



**Palanivel Thiaga Rajan**  
Hon'ble Minister, Information Technology and Digital Services, Tamil Nadu



**P. Rajeeve**  
Hon'ble Minister, Law, Industries, and Coir, Kerala



**Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya**  
Health and Social Sector Policy Adviser



**Anurag Kashyap**  
Director, Producer, Actor



**Suparna Mitra**  
Chief Executive Officer, Watches and Wearables Division, Titan



**Hemant Malik**  
Wholtime Director, Divisional Chief Executive - Foods, ITC



**Dr. Preetha Reddy**  
Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals



**Dr. Anoop Misra**  
Chairman, Fortis C-Doc Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences

**Date: May 25, 2025**

**Time: 12 noon on Times Now**

**Channels: TATA Play - 604 Airtel Digital TV - 387**

Associate Partners

Energy Partner

Realty Partner

Luxury Car Partner

Knowledge Partner

State Partners

Radio Partner

Gift Partner

Broadcast Partner

Outdoor Media Partner



## INBRIEF



## Kush Maini wins Monte Carlo Sprint Race

Kush Maini secured victory in the Monte Carlo Sprint Race for DAMS Lucas Oil, converting pole position around the Principality with a lights-to-flag performance on Saturday. The Indian held off fellow Alpine Academy talent Gabriele Mini, who finished second for PREMA Racing. Luke Browning inherited third for Hitech TGR after a time penalty for Campos Racing's Arvid Lindblad. This was Kush's second F2 victory, the previous one in the Sprint Race in Hungary in 2024.

## Indian boys beat Pakistan 2-0 for 11th place in Jr. Davis Cup

Prkaash Saran and Tavish Pahwa won their singles matches in the super tie-break to help India beat Pakistan 2-0 in the match for the 11th place in the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Saturday. Japan beat Korea 2-0 in the final, and Chinese Taipei beat China 3-0 in the match for the third place.

**The results: Play-off 11th place:** India bt Pakistan 2-0 (Prakash Saran bt Abu Bakar Talha 6-7(2), 6-3, [10-4]; Tavish Pahwa bt Mikael Ali Baig 4-6, 6-2, [12-10]).

## Naraen Pranav clinches air rifle bronze

Naraen Pranav won the air rifle bronze in the Junior World Cup shooting in Suhl, Germany, on Saturday. After having topped qualification with 632.1, Naraen was overtaken by Huang Liwanlin of China and Brader Peiser of USA to the gold and silver respectively.

**The results: 10m air rifle: Men:** 1. Huang Liwanlin (Chn) 250.3 (631.7); 2. Brader Peiser (USA) 250.0 (632.0); 3. Naraen Pranav 227.9 (632.1); 12. Abhishek Sekhar 626.6; 17. Himanshu 625.8; 20. Priyanshu Kumar 624.7; 35. Bhanu Praneeth 622.1.

## LIVE TELECAST

**Roland Garros:** Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.

**IPL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.

**LaLiga:** FanCode, 5.30, 7.45 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday).

**Formula One:** Monaco GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

**Premier League:** SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.

## Srikanth through to first final in six years at the Malaysia Masters

The 32-year-old dishes out a superlative game to outwit world No. 23 Tanaka in a thriller; he will take on second seed Feng in summit clash



**Job done:** Srikanth showed glimpses of his vintage self with sharp net play and attacking flair to get past Tanaka. GETTY IMAGES

## BADMINTON

Press Trust of India  
KUALA LUMPUR

Indian shuttler K. Srikanth entered his first men's singles final of a BWF event in six years with a straight-game win over Japan's Yushi Tanaka at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The 32-year-old, a 2021 World Championships silver medalist, dished out a superlative game, showing glimpses of his vintage self with sharp net play and attacking flair to outwit world No. 23 Tanaka 21-18, 24-22 in a thrilling contest.

"I'm pretty happy. It's been a while," Srikanth said after the win. He will face second-seeded Chinese Li Shi Feng in the summit clash on Sunday.

This is Srikanth's first final appearance on the BWF World Tour since finishing runner-up at the 2019 India Open.

A former world No. 1, Srikanth — currently ranked 65 — has endured a rough patch over the past few seasons due to form and fitness issues.

Srikanth had reached the quarterfinals at the Thailand Open Super 300 earlier this year, while his last semifinal appearances came at the Swiss Open and Macau Open in 2023.

In the opening game,

Srikanth committed a few errors while trying to counter Tanaka's pace and trailed 1-5.

With some fine straight slices and round-the-head smashes, the Indian closed the gap, but the Japanese kept a five-point cushion with a crisp cross smash.

Srikanth constructed rallies and forced errors from the diminutive Japanese to make it 8-9, though Tanaka held a three-point lead at the break.

The Indian levelled at 14-all and surged to 19-16 lead with a superb cross-court return. A down-the-line smash earned him two game points, and he converted to take the opener.

Tanaka again started strongly in the second

game, leading 3-0 and 7-2 as Srikanth missed a few chances.

But like in the first game, Srikanth responded with aggression, narrowing the deficit to 8-9 and levelling scores with a sharp net kill. Tanaka made soft errors as Srikanth moved ahead 13-10, but the Japanese fought back to make it 17-11. After an intense battle, Srikanth earned a match point off a net error, but Tanaka saved it to leave the scores level at 20-20.

A tight net shot gave Srikanth a second match point, but Tanaka's quick return made it 22 all. A backhand push from Srikanth caught the line, and he sealed the match as Tanaka hit wide.

## Meropi and Shamrock may fight out the finish in main event

BENGALURU: Meropi and Shamrock may fight out the finish of the H.H. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races on Sunday (May 25). False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

**1. MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (1,400m),** rated 00 to 25, 1.30 p.m.: 1. Sea Diamond (5) P. Sai Kumar 62, 2. Chinky Pinky (9) Aleemuddin 61.5, 3. Thrill Of Brazil (7) Tauseef 61.5, 4. Striking Fortune (4) R. Ajinkya 61, 5. Southern Aristocrat (1) A. Prakash 60, 6. Firefinch (3) Jagadeesh 59.5, 7. Joyful Spirit (8) Sai Kiran 59, 8. Sacred Creator (2) Ramswarup 57.5 and 9. Burning Arrow (6) Angad 56.

**1. JOYFUL SPIRIT, 2. SEA DIAMOND, 3. STRIKING FORTUNE**

**2. MINISTERIAL PLATE (1,100m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.00: 1. Global Hart (4) Angad 56, 2. Konkrah (8) Sandesh 56, 3. Night Raider (9) Arvind K 56, 4. Quebec (1) Trevor 56, 5. Allegro Dance (2) Darshan 54.5, 6. Black Diamond (3) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 7. Contessina (6) Suraj 54.5, 8. Star Serenade (5) P. Tejeshwar 54.5 and 9. Whitney (7) R. Manjhi 54.5.

**1. QUEBEC, 2. CONTESSINA, 3. KONKRAH**

**3. BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (1,400m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.30: 1. Alamgir (-) 56, 2. Darrington (9) R. Vaibhav 56, 3. Edmonton (5) Kuldeep S 56, 4. Hidden Dreams (3) Angad 56, 5. Resplendence (6) A.A. Vikrant 56, 6. Rosario

(7) G. Vivek 56, 7. Star Studded (1) Suraj 56, 8. Jalwa (8) C.A. Brisson 54.5, 9. Moon Star (4) Akshay K 54.5, 10. Queen Maxima (2) Darshan 54.5, 11. Sassy Sarah (1) S. Shareef 54.5 and 12. Xanthe (10) Sandesh 54.5.

**1. XANTHE, 2. STAR STUDDED, 3. EDMONTON**

**4. PENDRAGON PLATE (Div. II),** (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3.00: 1. Basilica (3) Neeraj 60, 2. Days Date (1) R. Vaibhav 58, 3. Flash (5) Rayan 56.5, 4. Most And More (9) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 5. Count Baste (7) Tauseef 56, 6. Anchorage (6) C.A. Brisson 55.5, 7. Legendary Impact (4) G. Vivek 55.5, 8. Lorven Luv (10) Hindu S 54.5, 9. Selection (8) Sai Kiran 54 and 10. Daiki (2) Angad 52.5.

**1. LEGENDARY IMPACT, 2. BASILICA, 3. SELECTION**

**5. V.T. VELU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m),** rated 40 to 65, 3.30: 1. Rock Bank (4) Akshay K 60, 2. Armory (5) Angad 58.5, 3. Kristallos (7) Trevor 58, 4. Odysseus (11) Neeraj 58, 5. Eagle Day (2) A. Prakash 57.5, 6. Ibrahimovic (8) Arvind K 57, 7. Mystikos (10) Likith Appu 57, 8. Storm Shadow (3) S.F. Ansari 57, 9. Live The Dream (6) R. Ajinkya 56.5, 10. Wolf Creek (12) C. Umesh 56, 11. Dedication (9) Sandesh 55 and 12. Gold Empire (1) Yash 53.

**1. GOLD EMPIRE, 2. ROCK BANK, 3. ODYSSEUS**

**6. H.H. JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,400m),** 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4.00: 1. Knotty Charming (9) Antony 60, 2. Shamrock (8) Suraj 60,

3. Magileto (-) 57, 4. Santorino (4) Arvind K 57, 5. Meropi (10) Trevor 55.5, 6. Prana (5) G. Vivek 55, 7. Shubankar Pie (11) N.S. Parmar 54.5, 8. Miss American Pie (10) N.S. Parmar 54.5, 9. Galahad (1) Akshay K 54, 10. The Leader (2) I. Chisty 52.5 and 11. Uchchalshravas (6) Neeraj 52.5.

**1. MEROPI, 2. SHAMROCK, 3. PRANA**

**7. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (1,200m),** rated 20 to 45, 6-y-o & over, 4.30: 1. Oxytocin (3) R. Pradeep 61.5, 2. Lady Invictus (6) Vishal Bunde 61, 3. Solo Prince (1) Arvind K 59, 4. Able One (7) P. Mani 56.5, 5. Chisox (8) A. Anamo Hangal 55.5, 6. Mega Success (2) Salman Khan 55, 7. Infinite Spirit (4) Vinod Shinde 53, 8. Princess Jasmine (5) Likith Appu 52 and 9. Spirit Dancer (9) G. Vivek 52.

**1. OXYTOCIN, 2. SPIRIT DANCER, 3. SOLO PRINCE**

**8. PENDRAGON PLATE (Div. I),** (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. True Punch (6) Ramswarup 62, 2. Knotty Affair (5) Asirvatham 61, 3. Thessalian (7) G. Vivek 61, 4. Fortis (4) Shreyas S 59.5, 5. Anzac Parade (10) Arjun 57, 6. Peridot (3) V. Vishva 56, 7. Real Happiness (11) G. Praveen 54, 8. Striking Arrow (1) Vinod Shinde 54, 9. Honeypot (9) Angad 53.5, 10. Sienna Princess (2) Sai Kiran 52.5 and 11. Equalizer (8) Hindu S 52.

**1. FORTIS, 2. THESSALIAN, 3. SIENNA PRINCESS**

Day's best: QUEBEC  
Double: XANTHE - FORTIS  
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

## Circle Of Dreams claims the War Hammer Million

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi trained Circle Of Dreams (Akshay Kumar up) won the War Hammer Million (1,400m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (May 24).

The winner is owned by M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. S.R. Sanas, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, Mr. Amit Dilip Thacker & Dr. Ram H. Shroff rep. Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd.

**THE RESULTS**

**1. ROYAL TERN PLATE (1,200m):** VEGATHA (I. Chisty) 1, Zephyrine (Arvind K) 2, Big B (Angad) 3 and Hyperdrive (R. Vaibhav) 4. Not run: Mahler, Midnight Blue, Vorfreude and Assurances. 3-3/4, 3-3/4 and Snk. Im 14.37s. Rs. 11 (w), 10, 12 and 26 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 49, FP: 30, Q: 24, Trinella: 234/120, Exacta: 334/129. Favourite: Vegatha.

Owner: Mr. Cheriyan Abraham and Mrs. Smitha Bajoria rep. Cherie Sports Pvt Ltd. Trainer: P.S. Chouhan.

**2. SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m):** KNOTTY SCOTTY (G. Vivek) 1, Art Of Romance (Sai Kiran) 2, Gandolfini (Ramswarup) 3 and Star Of India (Neeraj) 4. Not run: Stentorian and Lex Luthor. 4-1/4, 2 and 2-3/4. Im 27.78s. Rs. 13 (w), 10, 17 and 28 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 63, FP: 40, Q: 71, Trinella: 473/243, Exacta: 1,850/536. Favourite: Knotty Scotty.

Owner: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. K. Manoj Ku-

mar, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. Darshan Uppini & Dr. N. Swaroop Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

**3. K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m):** CROSSWATER (Aleemuddin) 1, Kavya (N.S. Parmar) 2, Miss Smiley Angel (Abhay S) 3 and Chotiipari (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. Not run: Excellent Lass and Extraordinary. 1-3/4, 5-1/4 and 3/4. Im 26.84s. Rs. 76 (w), 19, 10 and 37 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 94, FP: 213, Q: 75, Trinella: 100/2,159, Exacta: 44,746/9,588. Favourite: Kavya.

Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

**4. COL. DESRAJ URS TROPHY (1,200m):** CREDESCENCE (Ramswarup) 1, Art Collector (Mustakim Alam) 2, Never Give In (Antony) 3 and Jersey King (Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 3-3/4 and 3/4. Im 12.71s. Rs. 77 (w), 18, 38 and 19 (p), SHP: 131, THP: 46, FP: 1,597, Q: 781, Trinella: 4,754/1,358, Exacta: 30,685/8,767. Favourite: Regal Reality.

Owner: J.M. Livestock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Jaydev M. Mody. Trainer: Shazaan Shah.

**5. WAR HAMMER MILLION (1,400m):** CIRCLE OF DREAMS (Akshay K) 1, Red Bishop (S. Saqlain) 2, Stormy Sea (N.S. Parmar) 3 and Ice Of Fire (Trevor) 4. Not run: Gloriousness. 2-1/4, 3/4 and Snk. Im 26.32s. Rs. 19 (w), 12, 18 and 17

(p), SHP: 51, THP: 52, FP: 66, Q: 54, Trinella: 155/60, Exacta: 455/287. Favourite: Circle Of Dreams. Owners: M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. S.R. Sanas, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, Mr. Amit Dilip Thacker & Dr. Ram H. Shroff rep. Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

**6. USHA STUD PLATE (1,200m):** KNOTTY PATTON (Sandesh) 1, Gimmler (I. Chisty) 2, Lauterbrunnen (Angad) 3 and Southern Force (Salman Khan) 4. Not run: Super Sapphire, 7, 2-3/4 and 1/2. Im 13.78s. Rs. 15 (w), 10, 16 and 63 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 153, FP: 64, Q: 44, Trinella: 739/763, Exacta: 11,889/20,382. Favourite: Knotty Patton.

Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: K. Purshotham.

**7. SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m):** SCARLETTE LADY (Akshay K) 1, The Golden Dream (R. Pradeep) 2, Valencia (Sai Kiran) 3 and Breeze Bluster (Koshi K) 4. Not run: Priceless Prince and Felisa. 3-1/4, 6-1/2 and 6-1/4. Im 27.69s. Rs. 17 (w), 10, 17 and 17 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 48, FP: 60, Q: 53, Trinella: 218/83, Exacta: 541/257. Favourite: Scarlet Lady.

Owner: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. Meka Yugandhar & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: Rs. 7,394 (40 tkts); Runner-up: 1,950 (65 tkts); Treble (i): 2,742 (four tkts); (ii): 51 (426 tkts).

**MRF**  
CONGRATULATES  
SHUBMAN GILL  
CAPTAIN OF THE INDIAN  
TEST TEAM 2025.  
WITH MRF, YOU ALWAYS LEAD.  
MRF - KYA BAT HAI!



**Bolt from the blue:** A streak of lightning illuminates the sky over a statue of Jawaharlal Nehru on the picturesque Beach Road in Visakhapatnam on May 12. K.R. DEEPAK



**Coastal vibes:** Women enjoy the rain, waves and wind on the Puthuvype beach in Kochi on May 22 as the overcast sky portends a heavy spell. THULASI KAKKAT



**Windy day:** A man walks along the promenade on the Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram, a significant entry point of the monsoon on mainland India. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

# Chasing the monsoon

The southwest monsoon brings with it bountiful rain as well as a much-needed relief from the heat of the summer; this year, it has arrived eight days earlier than usual, marking the earliest onset since 2009

**T**he southwest monsoon, which kick-starts the agrarian economy of India every year, has inspired poets, filmmakers and artists, with a literary work as ancient as Kalidasa's *Meghdoot* describing its arrival.

Gusty winds and the repeated pattern and direction of coastal waves are strong indications for a fisherman to gauge the arrival of the rains. However, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has a certain set of criteria to follow before declaring the onset of the southwest monsoon, which usually hits the Kerala coast roughly between May and June every year. Specifications such as the amount of rainfall, wind speed and direction, and the outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) recorded by satellites have to fall in a range for a specific period of time for meteorologists to declare the onset.

This year, there has been a significant shift in the weather pattern. Unlike previous years, pre-monsoon rain has caused havoc in some South Indian cities. Bengaluru has witnessed a flood-like situation with all its major roads waterlogged for days. In the past, the city has seen similar floods and extremely heavy rain during peak monsoon or the post-monsoon period. However, this is the first time the city got flooded during pre-monsoon rain.

Parts of Tamil Nadu, mainly Chennai, Puducherry and Karaikal, have received light to moderate rain, bringing relief from the summer heat, and conditions have remained favourable for an early onset of the monsoon in the State for over a week.

The upper cyclonic circulation over the coast of Andhra

Pradesh is attributed to the advancement of the monsoon in the State, resulting in moderate rain that continued in Visakhapatnam with dark clouds covering the skies throughout the week. The low-pressure system over the Arabian Sea has also favoured an early onset and advancement of the monsoon in the State.

"The onset phase is going to be vigorous, and we are expecting continuous very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in most of the districts of Kerala in the next three days. The prevailing La-Nina-like condition in the Pacific Ocean should also give good rain this monsoon," says Neetha Gopal, scientist and Director of IMD, Thiruvananthapuram.

Some meteorologists predicted a rare occurrence of monsoon onset in Kerala and parts of Karnataka simultaneously as conditions have remained favourable throughout the week in both the States. "We were still missing the OLR data which should be below 200 W/m<sup>2</sup> in the range between 5-10° N Latitude and 70-75° E Longitude, the reason why monsoon onset could not be declared in Kerala on Friday," said Rajeevan K., meteorologist with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.

On Saturday afternoon, the IMD officially declared the onset of the southwest monsoon, which is eight days in advance of the normal date, thus marking the earliest onset of the monsoon since 2009.

Last month, the IMD said India was likely to receive "above normal" monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 centimeters

(Text by Nirmal Harindran)



**Towards shelter:** Rescue personnel take stranded people to safety on a dinghy through a flooded street in Sai Layout in Bengaluru on May 19 as overnight showers inundated the city. SUDHAKARA JAIN

