

**A REMARKABLE
ACHIEVEMENT**
70% of
OUR STUDENTS
Scored **500+**



**STATE BOARD AND
CBSE**

N.R. Peta & Munagalapadu,
KURNOOL - 518 004
Andhra Pradesh

FROM PLAY SCHOOL TO X

CELEBRATING 47 GLORIOUS YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Celebrating Excellence with
Pride and Purpose!

**AN ECHOING HISTORY
OF BAGGING MANY
STATE RANKS SINCE ITS
INCEPTION.**

Sri Lakshmi Educational
Institutions

**WHERE ACHIEVEMENTS
BEGIN!**

**SRI LAKSHMI EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS**

**EMPOWERING GENERATIONS AND MAKING
CHILDREN SELF-RELIANT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE,
VALUES & VISION SINCE 1978**

Sri Lakshmi High School, N.R. Peta,
Kurnool, proudly marks 47 years of
academic excellence, shaping bright
futures with unwavering dedication.

The AP SSC Results 2025 showcase
our students' remarkable success,
with 70% scoring above 500 a
testament to rigorous academics and
visionary guidance.

**CELEBRATING MILESTONES,
inspiring generations, and setting
new benchmarks in education.**

AN ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENT FROM A SINGLE BRANCH IN KURNOOL !

DISTINCTIVE EDGE OF SRI LAKSHMI HIGH SCHOOL



Mr. P. DEEKSHITH
Chairman & Director



Mr. P. SESHANNA
Correspondent



Mrs. K.P. ARUNA SREE
ORG Secretary

**NEP 2020 & NCF-Aligned
Curriculum** – Integrated,
competency-based learning
across grades.

**Expert Faculty & Child-
Centric Pedagogy** – 25+ years
of excellence in nurturing
young learners.

Burlington English Lab
– Globally benchmarked
spoken English & language
proficiency.

Smart & STEM Learning –
Advanced digital classrooms,
STEM labs, and interactive
tools.

**IIT/NEET Olympiad
Foundation** – Early academic
grooming for competitive
exams.

Student Progress Monitoring
– Monthly assessments,
feedback systems, and growth
tracking.

360° Smart Learning –
Concept mapping, career
guidance, and immersive
activity zones.

Experiential Learning Model
– Inquiry-driven methods
fostering critical thinking.

Safe & Inclusive Campus –
Technology-enabled spaces
promoting creativity and
innovation.

**Global Handwriting
Programme** – Refining
writing aesthetics with expert
guidance.

SNAAP Framework –
Enhancing communication
and eloquence.

Furlong Sports Arena –
Nurturing young champions
through dynamic sports
programs.

Recreational Add-ons –
Games, celebrations, nature

walks, and talent fests.

Student Achievements –
Recognized excellence in
academics, arts, and athletics.

Personalized Mentoring –
Counseling, empathy-based
training, and peer bonding.

Safe Transport – Secure and
reliable school commuting.

Co-Curricular Clubs – Art,
Eco, Science, and Skill Craft
Studios for hands-on learning.

**Environmental & Social
Responsibility** – Plantation
drives, clean campus, and
community service.

**Strong Parent-School
Partnership** – Empowering
students through
collaboration.

Knowledge ignites
minds, perseverance
shapes leaders, and
vision drives change
embracing learning
today to build a
brighter tomorrow.

– Mr. P. Deekshith,
Chairman & Director



**CELEBRATING 47
GLORIOUS YEARS OF
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

With an illustrious heritage spanning over 47 years, Sri Lakshmi Educational Institutions continue to set the benchmark for quality education in Andhra Pradesh. We blend tradition with innovation, fostering young minds into well-rounded, future-ready individuals through value-based and globally attuned education.



YASHASWINI BAI
578



ZAHEER KHAN
577



PALLAVI
575



ABDUL REHAMAN
575



MAHADEVHARSHA
573



SADIYA KHATOON
573



TEJA SAI
572



SREE VASTAV
571



RIDA FATHIMA
570



MOUNIKA
570



VARSHA
569



AKSHA
569



YASWANTH NAIK
569



MADHUVANI
568



SHAIK MEHAK
566



SAILAJA
564



ASHRITH SAI
562



RASHAD PASHA
560



ADEEB AHMED KHAZI
557



SAI NIDHI
556



SAI VARUN
555



KHWAJA BABA
554



AAMNA ABDULLA
554



SAI PRASANTH
553



VENKATA SAI
553



RAMA DURGA
552



WARIS BASHA
552



MYSHA MAHVEEN
551



ROSHAN JAIN
550



YESWANTH
550



ASLA SHAMIM
550



KARTHIK
551



A SIRI
548



SAI DEEPIKA
546



JHANSI
546



ALINA ZOYA
545



ALIENA MEHWISH
542



CHARAN TEJ
541



**Hard work
beats talent
when
talent
doesn't
work hard.**

**Your dedication
and hard work
have paid off
keep aiming
higher and
conquering new
horizons!**

**Swing high,
touch the
sky, and
let your
dreams fly!**



ADMISSIONS HELPLINE

+91 90635 22294 / 95 Ph : 08518 – 220825



Sri Chaitanya
Educational Institutions & Techno Schools



**NEET
2025
RESULTS**



**A CHOICE ROOTED IN TRUST
A RESULT CROWNED IN GLORY
SRI CHAITANYA**

5 ALL INDIA RANKS IN TOP 10

AIR 8
Banothu Deeraj Kumar
APPL. NO. 250410546302
Classroom Student

AIR 10
Mangari Varun
APPL. NO. 250410102078*
Classroom Student

AIR 5
AIR Divya
APPL. NO. 250410401431*
Classroom Student

AIR 6
AIR Mohammad Sameer
APPL. NO. 250410822821*
Classroom Student

AIR 1
KAVISH
APPL. NO. 250411147966*
Classroom Student

19 Ranks below 100 in All India Open Category

12 RANK Aashi Singh APPL. NO. 250410681718*	15 RANK Manvendra Singh APPL. NO. 250410788527*	16 RANK Rachit Sinha Chaudhuri APPL. NO. 250410018626*	20 RANK Rupayan Pal APPL. NO. 250410013768*	33 RANK Mohammad Sameer APPL. NO. 250410822821	35 RANK Kavish APPL. NO. 250411147966
37 RANK A S Nishanth APPL. NO. 250410046613	38 RANK Tejas Ghotgalkar APPL. NO. 250410005029	46 RANK Mangari Varun APPL. NO. 250410102078	48 RANK Yandrapati Shanmukh APPL. NO. 250410025239	50 RANK Abhineet Nagaraj APPL. NO. 250410397164	60 RANK Snehasis Das APPL. NO. 250410826940*
63 RANK K S H Vijaya Raja APPL. NO. 250410262075	64 RANK Podilapu Avinash APPL. NO. 250410036374	78 RANK Rakesh A J APPL. NO. 250410146769*	87 RANK Raghav APPL. NO. 250411402080	92 RANK T Siva Manideep APPL. NO. 250410682794	94 RANK Shah Tejas APPL. NO. 250410552620*
					100 RANK Muskan APPL. NO. 250410005688*



T & C apply | Note: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice. Note: The information is as per students feedback.

©CATARTS/OLP

BELOW
10
ALL INDIA RANKS



BELOW
100
ALL INDIA RANKS
(Open Category)



BELOW
100
ALL INDIA RANKS
(All Categories)



BELOW
1000
ALL INDIA RANKS
(Open Category)



Scan QR Code for Admissions





Sri Chaitanya
Educational Institutions & Techno Schools



ONLY

1

Name Rules
NEET-2025
Sri Chaitanya



Ms. Sushma Boppana (Left), CEO of Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions and Ms. Seema Boppana (Right), Director of Sri Chaitanya Schools along with NEET 2025 All India Toppers

A GLIMPSE OF OUR ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS

116 RANK KANDREGULA NITHI APPL. NO. 25041110941	129 RANK B VENKAT ABHINAY CHOWDARY APPL. NO. 250410061099	133 RANK SHAIK MAHAMMAD SOHAEL APPL. NO. 250410233201	158 RANK DIVYA APPL. NO. 250410401431	192 RANK SIVA NAGA MANASVINI APPL. NO. 25041056842	208 RANK A M ANAGHA APPL. NO. 250410017501	222 RANK PONTHALA TRIVIKRAM APPL. NO. 250410169349
225 RANK PANSHUL SINGH APPL. NO. 250410078657*	238 RANK TATINENI SREENIDHI APPL. NO. 250411598023	249 RANK VADAPALLI VALLI DEVASENA APPL. NO. 250410014655	265 RANK LALITH VARENYA APPL. NO. 250410057971	294 RANK NITESH DIPALI APPL. NO. 250410268406	298 RANK SAUMYE GOYAL APPL. NO. 250410002220*	308 RANK BOYANI SRUTI APPL. NO. 250410269921
311 RANK YASHITA APPL. NO. 250410303113*	358 RANK DASARI JAHAVI APPL. NO. 250410750810	363 RANK ANUJ GUPTA APPL. NO. 250410719335*	401 RANK ANAS MUZAFFAR APPL. NO. 250410040852	432 RANK AYAN AADEEP APPL. NO. 250410016650*	433 RANK PAGADPWAR HARSHIT APPL. NO. 250410177804	443 RANK RUCHI GOYAL APPL. NO. 250410071325
444 RANK KRUTHIKA J APPL. NO. 250411497663	469 RANK K AKHIRANAND REDDY APPL. NO. 250410050112	473 RANK JASWATH C S APPL. NO. 250410134137	565 RANK L V GURU SAI APPL. NO. 250410428332	601 RANK NAVEEN JAYAVEL V APPL. NO. 250410202861	609 RANK DAVAN BABU APPL. NO. 250410128098	612 RANK HEMILA PATEL APPL. NO. 250410052230*
629 RANK SARTHAK S VALEKAR APPL. NO. 250410228418	642 RANK AVANTHIKA SUBASH APPL. NO. 250410442476	660 RANK HARISH GOWTHAM APPL. NO. 250410235806	681 RANK SYEDA FARIYA ADEEN APPL. NO. 250410017889	682 RANK HARDIK KAPOOR APPL. NO. 250410007041	706 RANK NALLAM VAMSI KRISHNA APPL. NO. 250410077741	710 RANK KOSURI EEKSHITH VARMA APPL. NO. 250410620416
718 RANK BEHARA SAATVIKA APPL. NO. 250410081021	723 RANK MADHUMITA JOSHI APPL. NO. 250410112258	738 RANK TIRUMANI DEZINY APPL. NO. 250410243206	765 RANK MUPPARAPU ASHOTHOSH APPL. NO. 250410079723	767 RANK BANDLAMUDI CHANAKYA APPL. NO. 250410579953	817 RANK ZAHEDA AREEBA APPL. NO. 250410026151	830 RANK P R GANESH APPL. NO. 250410282124
840 RANK MANGADODDI AKUL YADAV APPL. NO. 250410530843						

T & C apply. Note: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice. Note: The information is as per students feedback.

*DLP-AITS Information so far.

VAIDYAH-2026
NEET LONGTERM PROGRAM
ADMISSIONS OPEN
SPECIAL FOCUS ON PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY

Marks range	Concession
>430	90%
420 to 429	75%
410 to 419	60%
400 to 409	50%
390 to 399	35%
380 to 389	25%
370 to 379	20%

Note: above concessions are applicable upto 20th June 2025



Scan QR for
NEET Longterm

VIZAG: DWARAKANAGAR - SRI PADHA BHAVAN, DAYS SCHOLAR CO-ED - 9177524187, 8106034888, BOYS RESIDENTIAL - 9177524187, 9177204863 | SRI VAIBHAVI CAMPUS (WALT AIR UPLANDS) GIRLS RESIDENTIAL - 8790563336, 9177213574, RAMAN BHAVAN & SRI PADHA BHAVAN GIRLS (BOYAPALEM) - GIRLS RESIDENTIA - 9494012024, 7989126399, 9177201369 | RAMAN BHAVAN (KURMANNA - PALEM) - DAYS SCHOLAR CO-ED - 8985645131, 9848375896 | RAMAN BHAVAN (GAJUWAKA), DAYS SCHOLAR CO-ED - 9177643514, 9908953988, SOUDHAMINI SOUDHA CAMPUS (GAJUWAKA), DAYS SCHOLAR CO-ED - 9177643514, 9908953988 | VIJAYAWADA: GOSA- LA MPL SRIPRADHA BHAVAN (BOYS) RESIDENTIAL - 9177954222 / 9948024095 / 9494788892 / 9100085360, GOSALA MPL SRIPRADHA BHAVAN (GIRLS), RESIDENTIAL - 8008232244 / 8977740611 / 9398592470 | GAYATRI NAGAR LONGTERM CAMPUS, NEET VAIDYAH AC CAMPUS - 9440729470 / 9908320969 / 8977022740 / 8977022735, SARASWATHI - 9912343670, 9912342225, 9440591487, 8523814328, SARADA NILAYAM - 9912343670 / 9912342225 / 9177613515 | GUNTUR: NEET LONG TERM CAMPUS, DAYS/RESIDENTIAL - 9704288444 / 9177503618 / 9502875525 | TIRUPATI: VEDA VYAS BHAVAN - 1 & 3, DAYS/RESIDENTIAL - 9100091734, VEDA VYAS BHAVAN 3, RESIDEN- TIAL - 8978333491, MAIN CAMPUS, DAYS SCHOLAR - 0877-2252535, PDAMAVATHI SOUDHAM, RESIDENTIAL - 9100091667

INDIA'S LARGEST
SCHOLARSHIP EXAM
FOR GRADES 3-11
IIT-JEE & NEET



GET UPTO
100%
SCHOLARSHIP*

Exam Dates
28th Sep. &
12th Oct.



SCAN
QR CODE
TO
REGISTER

Sri Chaitanya
ACADEMY

India's Most Trusted
Result-Oriented Coaching Center!

ADMISSIONS OPEN
NEET (WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON PHYSICS) & IIT-JEE
1 & 2 Years Courses

Gukesh Dommaraju
World Chess Champion



VISAKHAPATNAM

Dwaraka Nagar - 91774 44307, 95151 11047, 95152 22373, 70931 85111



FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Arc therapy beats tricky tumours, spares tissue

Experts have used step-and-shoot spot-scanning proton arc therapy to successfully treat a patient's adenoid cystic carcinoma for the first time

SCIENCE » PAGE 11



More than 12 lakh candidates clear NEET-UG

NEWS » PAGE 9



Who takes responsibility when a ship sinks?

FAQ » PAGE 12



Gritty South Africa ends 27-year wait for ICC Trophy

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

▼

'Zero corruption' is ultimate goal, asserts Naidu

VIJAYAWADA
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu instructs officials to identify areas where corruption is occurring in implementation of schemes, and take action after duly probing the incidents with zero corruption as the ultimate goal. » Page 4

RAPPORT

SHOES . ACCESSORIES
VIJAYAWADA - GUNTUR
M.G.ROAD - LAKSHMIPURAM

Jagan blames Naidu for Podili violence

VIJAYAWADA
YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday alleged that 40 TDP workers disrupted his recent meeting with the tobacco farmers at Podili in Prakasam district, and they were the ones who provoked violence by pelting stones. » Page 4

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 2 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Centre sets up panel to frame air crash response guidelines

The committee headed by Home Secretary told to lay down Standard Operating Procedures and comprehensive guidelines for preventing crashes; the panel will not substitute enquiries by various bodies into the crash of flight AI-171, says Ministry

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday announced the setting up of a high-level committee headed by the Home Secretary to suggest "comprehensive guidelines" to respond to aviation accidents against the backdrop of Thursday's Air India flight AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad.

The order issued by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation says the committee will "focus on formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for preventing and handling such occurrences in the future" and publish its report within three months.

The order states that it will not substitute other enquiries by relevant organisations, referring to the main accident probe conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) which recovered the black box of the



Debris analysis: Forensic team checks wreckage of the aircraft in Ahmedabad on Saturday. VIJAY SONEJI

aircraft on Friday.

The committee will also assess the emergency response by various stakeholders, including rescue operations and coordination among them, and suggest roles for various agencies and organisations to deal with post-crash incident

management. The committee will have access to all records, including flight data, cockpit voice recorders, aircraft maintenance details, air traffic control logs, and witness testimonies. It will also conduct site inspections, and interview crew, air traffic con-

trollers, and other relevant personnel. It will also collaborate with relevant international agencies if necessary.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 7
MORE REPORTS ON
PAGES 8 & 9

Tehran will burn if civilians are hit, Israel warns Iran



Back and forth: Israeli rescue workers at an impact site in Rishon LeZion on Saturday after overnight attacks from Iran. REUTERS

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/JERUSALEM

Israel on Saturday warned Iran against targeting Israeli civilians, saying that "Tehran will burn" if attacks continued and added that it now had control of the airspace till Tehran.

The threat came as both countries exchanged fire a day after Israel unleashed an unprecedented aerial bombing campaign on Iran. Iran had hit back with waves of drone and missile strikes, with a barrage of dozens lighting up the

skies over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv overnight, killing three people and wounding dozens.

"We will hit every site, every target of the Ayatollah regime," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "We have dealt a real blow to their nuclear programme," he added.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 7
RELATED REPORTS ON
PAGES 7 & 14

NEET-UG: Karthik Ram Kireeti topper in State, scores AIR 19

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Darbha Karthik Ram Kireeti, who secured 19th rank (General category) at the All-India level, was the topper of Andhra Pradesh in the NEET, UG, 2025, the results of which were announced on Saturday by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Besides Mr. Karthik Ram, five other students from Andhra Pradesh secured all-India level ranks

below 100. They were Kovavati Mohith Sri Ram, who secured 56th rank (General category), Desina Surya Charan, who secured 59th rank (General category), Podilapu Avinash, who secured 64th rank (OBC-NCL (Central List)), Yerra Sameer Kumar, who secured 70th rank (OBC-NCL (Central List)), and Tummuri Siva Manideep, who secured 92nd rank (OBC-NCL (Central List)).

The name of Karuman-

chi Vikrant (AIR 262), figured in the list of top 10 rankers in SC category. Among the national toppers were Mahesh Kumar from Rajasthan (first), Utkarsh Awadhya from M.P. (second), and Krishang Joshi from Maharashtra, Mrinal Kishore Jha and Avika Aggarwal, both from Delhi, who secured third, fourth and fifth ranks in the General category.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 4

4 Maoists, 3 of them women, killed in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

At least four Maoists, including three women, were killed on Saturday in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, the police said.

The operatives belonged to the Malajkhand unit of the GRB (Gondia-Rajnandgaon-Balaghat) Division of the Maoists, Shiyaz K.M., Madhya Pradesh's anti-Naxal Hawk

Force Commandant, told *The Hindu*.

Special Director-General (Anti-Naxal Operations) Pankaj Shrivastav told *The Hindu* that the four cadre were killed in two separate encounters.

A self-loading rifle (SLR), two .315 rifles, a grenade launcher and other ammunition were recovered from them, Mr. Shrivastav added.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 7

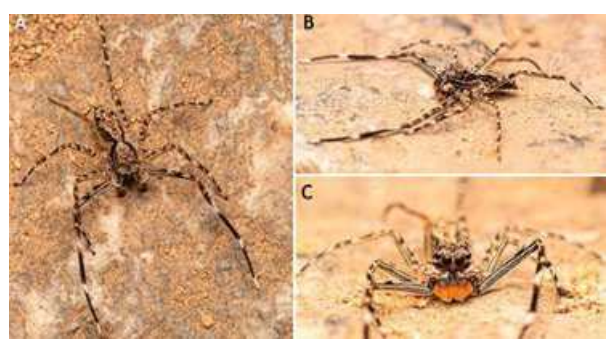
New jumping spider species found in southern India

The discovery possibly marks the first time that the genera *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita* groups of the *Spartaeinae* sub-family have been found in India; the jumping spiders are known for their intelligent hunting skills and web-invasion tactics

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

A team of researchers has identified a new species of jumping spiders of the *Spartaeinae* sub-family in southern India, known for their intelligent hunting skills and web-invasion tactics.

According to researchers, this discovery possibly marks the first time that the genera *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita* (specific groups within the sub-family), previously



The newly discovered *Spartaeus karigiri*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

known only from Southeast Asia and Africa, have been found in India.

The research, led by John Caleb T.D. from

Saveetha Medical College in Chennai, has introduced a new species named *Spartaeus karigiri*, after Karigiri, or Elephant

Hill, in Devarayanadurga, Karnataka, where the spiders were first observed.

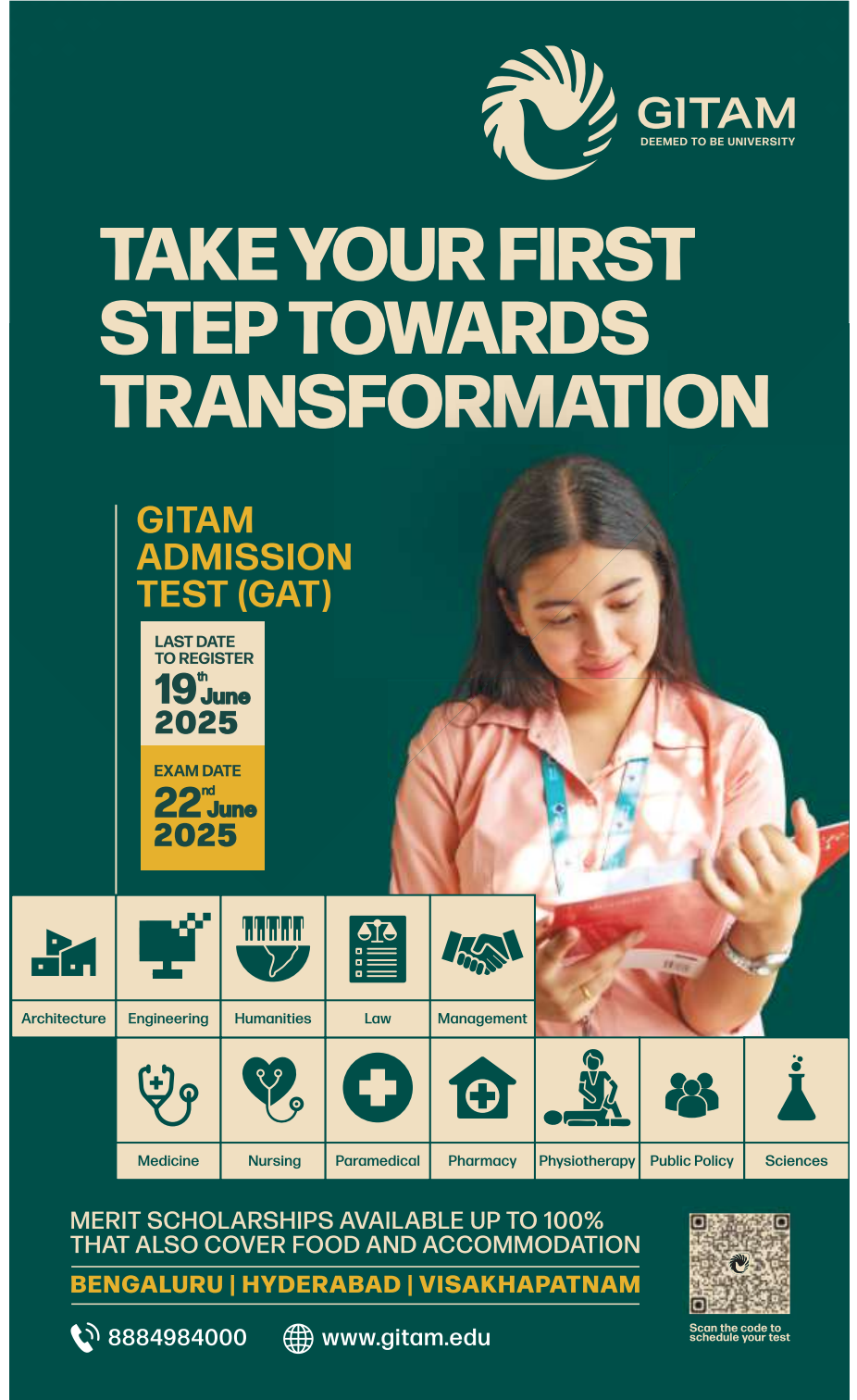
The male of this species was spotted hiding in crevices and rocky outcrops, while the female was found guarding an egg clutch in the wild.

More specimens were also discovered in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district.

The study, published in the *European Journal of Taxonomy* on June 11, involved researchers from across India. Puthoor Pattammal Sudhin and

Souvik Sen from the Zoological Survey of India documented the specimens through detailed drawings and imaging, while fieldwork was supported by B.G. Nisha from the Wildlife Aware Nature Club in Tumakuru, Gautam Kadam from Sacred Heart College in Kochi, Rajesh Sanap, a naturalist and wildlife researcher, and Chinmay Maliye, a wildlife enthusiast.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 7



GITAM
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION

GITAM ADMISSION TEST (GAT)

LAST DATE TO REGISTER
19 June 2025

EXAM DATE
22 June 2025

Architecture	Engineering	Humanities	Law	Management
Medicine	Nursing	Paramedical	Pharmacy	Physiotherapy
Public Policy	Sciences			

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE UP TO 100% THAT ALSO COVER FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

BENGALURU | HYDERABAD | VISAKHAPATNAM

8884984000 | www.gitam.edu

Scan the code to schedule your test

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



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.

Seeking sm4 a 32yrs old South Indian Health Care professional working in Canada. A dental surgeon by profession, she has done PG in Health Care Management & Administration from Canada. Looking for a well settled professional in Canada, preferably, Toronto. WhatsApp only: 9441229519(India)

AGE 49 Divorcee Issuesless Company Secretary. Seeks Suitable Groom. Cast no bar Contact: 9360167899

WELL EDUCATED Hindu boy sought for well educated Chennai based rich Mudaliyar girl, Corporate Manager in Chennai, 36 years, earning Rs.30 Lakhs per annum. Contact: Sidharath on +917507744192

ARCHITECT, 34/155, Own Design Practice in Chennai. Smart, Dynamic from an affluent family seeks a professionally qualified and well-educated groom from similar background. Groom should be self-reliant with a distinguished career or from business background preferably based in Chennai. Contact: 7845860950

COMPATIBLE HINDU boy sought for Pillai, B.E, MS (USA), 30 years, drawing AED 25,000 monthly in Dubai. Call: +971507744192

DIVORCEE

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

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN, RC, 26/471cms. MBBS, MD 2nd year, Chennai, seeking Doctor Groom. Ct. 9150015235

31, MBBS, MS (OPHTHAL), DNB & Fellowship from Salem, seeks P.G. Doctor in FC, DC, MCh, Father Inspector of Police (Retd). Ct: 9498102561

FAIR, SMART, Pretty, cultured homey Doctor Girl 35/165 MD, Cardiac, Anesthesiologist Reputed Hospital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala based in Chennai. Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for PG Doctor & Engineer grooms from good families. 98400 50361 / 98409 85383

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

ALLIANCE INVITED from Doctor with PG or any other suitable groom for our daughter born in Dec 1993 MS General Surgery working in a private hospital Contact 9840104379

DKV Govt. Dr. 29, Aswini, Mesham Father, Mother Govt. Dr. Seeks Doctor Groom Only. Ph: 9443151045.

Wanted Groom
Doctor Groom for 27yr Chennai Doctor doing Neurology residency at Edison, New Jersey, USA
Whatsapp 9677026459

Hindu, 25Y, Doctor Bride doing MS in Chennai Looking for suitable Groom. CNB. Ct: 9840301804 / 9677199925

Doctor 30/158 MBBS Christian Parkavakulam Mooppan seeks Born-again Christian Doctor/Engineer Groom. Caste No Bar in BC/FC Contact: 9500323233 / 9487712765

ENGINEER

NAMBARI PARENTS seeking alliance for 1990 born daughter BCA MBA from reputed University working as Manager in softIn Bangalore. Mob: 8921579131

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

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

NADAR 25 yrs, 168cm, Civil Judge seeks Bridgroom below 30 years from same profession / Group 1 officer, from good family background settled in Tamilnadu only. Ph: 9710209761, 9840425972

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Cosmopolitan Beautiful Very rich only daughter 27, Boy should be below 33 from KARNATAKA AP Kerala Cadre or IRS or TN Class I Revenue police officer Judicial Magistrate or Vice Business Family-First Marriage Divorcee widower without child. Send full details to email drpv5999@gmail.com Phone: 8081104364. Strictly no Brokers.

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR B.Tech Fair 26/166, Industrialist Seeks Mumbai based Professionally Qualified Groom 9424058261

FATHER - SC (DKV), Mother-FC, 1980, B.A., First Marriage. Seeks Any Caste Unmarried/Widower, Degree, Diploma, Government, Private or Business. Chennai. Whatsapp: 9003173511

MUDALIAR (CNB) 25V, Fair, B.E. MS (USA), Data Science Associate, USA, Decent pay, Affluent Family, seeks groom- Abroad/ Business-825019776

DEVANGAR CHETTIAR: 23/Fair & Beautiful, B.Sc. Nutrition & Diabetic, Diabetic Educator, Having own Hospital, Elite Family, Only Daughter - Seeks groom - Doctor / Business / Eng - 9442271999 / 8939012419

MUDALIAR 25/FAIR & Beautiful, M.Tech, SWE, MNC, Bangalore, 1700000 PA/Well settled Family seeks groom Eng/IT professional / Doctor- 9962530015

ADI DRAVIDAR, SC, Age 31, MBBS, studying MD Govt, Chennai (Doctor Preferable) seeks suitable groom Ph: 9442511629, 9962498411, 9442875303, dpisezhian@gmail.com

Saiva Pillai 35 Yrs Anushah Divorced B.Tech M.S., working in IT USA veteran prefer US/Canada Groom. CT: 72000-59752.

MUDALIAR, 28YRS, 162cms, IT Professional MNC, Ultrathrathi, Bangalore. Looking for suitable match from IT / Doctor profession. Contact: 990795229, 9008378779

NADU 33/158CM Divorced short lived B.Tech French Professional, Seeks Suitable Groom Caste NoBar. 9444255509

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, B.Arch, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9387919199/ 9841329471

Hindu - Tamil, Viswakarma, 28, MS (UK) with work visa, Seeks Bride Groom in UK. Contact: 73055 28980.

SAIVAPILLAI 35/152 MSc.Er Veg Albinism Chennai seeks Qualified Broadminded Groom CNB Geetham 984858014

BERI CHETTIAR 33/163 V Fair B.Arch Chennai seeks qualified prof/Busi Groom Chennai CNB Geetham 984858014

WE ARE a loving, well-settled family based in Singapore, seeking a suitable match for our 26-year-old Tamil daughter. Raised in a broad-minded home with a harmonious blend of Christian and Hindu values, she has grown up in a secular environment. We are looking for a compatible, kind-hearted, and emotionally mature life partner who values mutual respect and shared life goals over caste and religious boundaries. Email: darameshkumar@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED CNB 30yrs, MBA, Own Schools & Colleges, Educational in Chennai Ct: 6385293227

HINDU MARUTHUVAR girl 26 yrs (1998) 165, B.E., slim, fair, 12 LPA. Seeks well-settled professional groom 26-30 yrs. Ph: 98960 16401

HINDU SC AD, 37, BE Software Engineer TCS Chennai, 1.4LPM. Seeks qualified employed grooms. Contact: 9851247216 / 88380 34943

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 34yrs, Divorcee, B.E, Rich and well Educated background Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 25/162, Perungudi, Chennai. Well-educated girl from an affluent family, currently residing in the USA. Holds an M.Sc. in Learning Sciences & Technologies from the prestigious University of Pennsylvania (Ivy League) and a B.S. in Informatics from Indiana University, USA. Presently employed as a Senior Digital Learning Manager at a reputed university in Boston, USA. We are seeking a well-educated, well-mannered, professionally settled bridgroom with clean habits and good character. Preference for candidates who have completed both undergraduate and graduate education from US universities or Ivy League institutions, and are working in or around Boston. Caste no bar. Contact: 9677005235, 7200173185.

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, Age 30, MBA, Private, 6laks. Ct: 8138900652

CHENNAI-BASED HINDU Divorcee Bride, 35 yrs, 5'4", Graduate, Working (Rs.10 LPA), Caste No Bar, Seeks Divorced/Widowed Groom (Kids OK). Contact: 8220765305

CASTE NO BAR, Hindu or Christian, Age 41, 165cm, Working & looking completed M.A., Chennai, Watsup 8667761527

SAIVA VELLALAR 28/160 MBBS Govt Job working in Chennai seeks Doctor, Govt employed (only) equivalent profession. 9487328812, 9380955408

TAMIL

HINDU, NO caste bar, Age 25, Government, 30laks. Ct: 8137003548

SEEKING GROOM for Brahmin gurukkal girl age 31 B.Arch freelance Aayilayam, katagam. Boy age (32-36) in same community with stable income. srividu24@gmail.com/9841353065

VELLALA MUDALIAR, Thiruvonam/ MTech, MSc (Digital Mktg), MNC, 27/ 5.7/ Fair & cultured well to do family. Arcot/Vellore Seeks Educated / Professional Elite Bridgroom. Ct : vsvglal@rediffmail.com / jaydky1970@gmail.com

SC (RC), 27yrs, BE, MBA (UK), Working in UK, Well Educated background, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9962791888

Hindu Arunthathiar (Tamil) 25/158 Rohini, Rishabam M.A., PhD, Assistant Professor, Govt. Job in Tamil Nadu, upper middle class family, Looking for suitable Groom. Contact: 73300-44862.

Christian-RC Govt.teacher 38/150cm M.Phil, B.Ed, Seeks Chennai based groom.Age38-40yrs.CNB 7200323579

IYENGAR 30YRS Sadamarshananari, Surgeon doing SuperSpeciality, Looking for Well Qualified, Pref lyengars India.Singapore Ct : 9176065916

BRAHMIN IYER Girl 27 yrs/155cm BF Tech, NIFT, PG BRM, Italy, Now Chennai Rs.24L PA. Need Suitable Boy. Age below 31 yrs. Sivaram: 9840153480. Mail: venkiva2015@gmail.com

MUSLIM GIRL 23/162cm BE(CSE) Well Fair Selected in MNC Chennai. Well to do Family in Chennai.Ct: 94455 56810

HINDU DKV, 29yrs, MBBS, DO, Anushah, Vinuchandran seeks suitable Groom Doctor/ Professional. Ct: 99522 49827 / 98944 00080.

HINDU ARNADU Vellalar 40 BE (Unmarried) working in Abroad. Salary 25 Lks per Annum. Seeks bride from same or allied caste- legally divorced / no child, age below 39 is also considered. Ct: 9944569401.

RC VELLAR Groom 32/174cm / Manager in IT Now in Mangalore Invites Brides Preferably working. 9659871777

HINDU, CHETTIAR, Age 37, B.Com Completed, Business, Income 6 Lakhs. Contact: 8138901337

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, Age 25, B.Sc, Hotel Professional, Income 30 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900547

BANGALORE MUDALIAR boy 45 Divorced SWE, APPLE, Property Owner, Seeks Bride Below 40: 9845394022/ 991026580

TAMIL IYER 02-11-1980 M.Pharm Employee in Pharma R&D currently in Mumbai on rental, 14LPA, Unmarried, parents in Pune seeks any brahmin Veg. bride. Language no bar. Ct: 8422859904

BE IT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad/ Sal 91 lacs seeks Bride from same or allied Castes Tamil, Telugu, Ct: 7382620365

34 yrs / 172 cm, BE, US-bound, seeks bride willing to relocate. Caste no bar. Contact: 9344094869.

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Brownish working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9340507235

PILLAI 43 MCom Central Govt Servant Rs. 13.30 Lakhs PA seeks bride with child only 9094020665

NRI, 48, Male, US Citizen, Chennai, Never married, Looking for alliance from an Affluent family. Open to settle-down anywhere USA or India. Open to any city/caste/religion. Self-profiled brides/parents/anyone welcome to contact. Manoj 9135-932-2390 / SportyKarma@yahoo.com

PADMASALIYAR CHETTIAR 27 fair engineer work @ Bangalore bride need good background 8438358006/ 7418101960

BRIDE WANTED for 33yrs Bank Officer (divorcee) No children. Inter-caste parents. Caste no bar. Interested members please Contact: 9003232279.

GAVARA NAIDU, 40/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E., M.S (Engg), Chief Engr. MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Naidu Bride. Ct: 9487272897

TWINS SHANMUGAM BE & Pursuothaman MSC, Both Kann, Hasham & Age 34, Heights 5.11 & 5.10 Ch-116 Vanivar 9444323909/ 9092053794/ 9840696603

NADU 33 B.Tech IT PGDM HR Caterpillar, Chennai Seeks Naidu(Any) Bride Well educated & employed 9444066458

DEVENDRAKULA VELLALAR 2nd Marriage 51 3.5 LPM Senior GM Bangalore OWN House Seeks Issuesless Girl.CNB. 9442607143.

Tamil Viswakarma 28/170cm B.E Beautiful-own house well settled Rs 90,000 pm seeks good family bride. Phone: 91763 60018.

Mudaliar 32/168 Kettai, BE Mech MBA Own house Earnings Coimbatore Ct: 9597724399, 8489272439.

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 38, Private, 40laks. Ct: 8138900553

HINDU, NAICKER, Age 33, BE, Manager, 30laks. Ct: 8138901294

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU, 29yrs/154cm, Fair, PG, working in MNC Chennai, Seeks well educated groom Ct: 6380984534

USA /H1b Visa/ B.Tech SWE /39 /173 Kamnanadu Andhra /Fair /Slim / Never Married/Requires Suitable USA Groom Call WhatsApp: 8008913979

TELUGU YADAVA Age 30 MBBS M.S (Gen.Surgery) Revathi Star sks MBBS, B.E Telugu & Tamil Yadava 9952095026

HINDU NAIDU, 34/5'5", BE, MBA, Sadyam Kumbham, Fair, good looking Chennai girl for remariage short lived, Seeks Groom from India/ Abroad, CNB. Contact: 9344709905/ 9500009694

NAIDU, 25/165, BEAUTIFUL, BE, MS, SWE, J&J, USA, 50000 USD PA, Affluent family CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, MBBS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU, 91 Born, Magam / Simham, Dr. Bride, MBBS, MD, Chennai, Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom & good Family Background. Ct: 80722 14843.

SMU, SEEKING 45-50 yrs Groom with Clean Habits, Permanent Income for Govt. Employee Bride. 1st marriage, 43 Yrs Whatsapp: 79048 81441

SUNNI MUSLIMAH Age 50, never married Chennai. Seeks practicing Muslim Man age 50-55 Marriage is solely for companionship whatsapp: 9385852996

MUSLIM GIRL 23/162cm BE(CSE) Well Fair Selected in MNC Chennai. Well to do Family in Chennai.Ct: 94455 56810

HINDU DKV, 29yrs, MBBS, DO, Anushah, Vinuchandran seeks suitable Groom Doctor/ Professional. Ct: 99522 49827 / 98944 00080.

RC VELLAR Groom 32/174cm / Manager in IT Now in Mangalore Invites Brides Preferably working. 9659871777

HINDU, CHETTIAR, Age 37, B.Com Completed, Business, Income 6 Lakhs. Contact: 8138901337

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, Age 25, B.Sc, Hotel Professional, Income 30 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900547

BANGALORE MUDALIAR boy 45 Divorced SWE, APPLE, Property Owner, Seeks Bride Below 40: 9845394022/ 991026580

TAMIL IYER 02-11-1980 M.Pharm Employee in Pharma R&D currently in Mumbai on rental, 14LPA, Unmarried, parents in Pune seeks any brahmin Veg. bride. Language no bar. Ct: 8422859904

BE IT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad/ Sal 91 lacs seeks Bride from same or allied Castes Tamil, Telugu, Ct: 7382620365

34 yrs / 172 cm, BE, US-bound, seeks bride willing to relocate. Caste no bar. Contact: 9344094869.

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Brownish working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9340507235

PILLAI 43 MCom Central Govt Servant Rs. 13.30 Lakhs PA seeks bride with child only 9094020665

NRI, 48, Male, US Citizen, Chennai, Never married, Looking for alliance from an Affluent family. Open to settle-down anywhere USA or India. Open to any city/caste/religion. Self-profiled brides/parents/anyone welcome to contact. Manoj 9135-932-2390 / SportyKarma@yahoo.com

PADMASALIYAR CHETTIAR 27 fair engineer work @ Bangalore bride need good background 8438358006/ 7418101960

BRIDE WANTED for 33yrs Bank Officer (divorcee) No children. Inter-caste parents. Caste no bar. Interested members please Contact: 9003232279.

GAVARA NAIDU, 40/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E., M.S (Engg), Chief Engr. MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Naidu Bride. Ct: 9487272897

TWINS SHANMUGAM BE & Pursuothaman MSC, Both Kann, Hasham & Age 34, Heights 5.11 & 5.10 Ch-116 Vanivar 9444323909/ 9092053794/ 9840696603

NADU 33 B.Tech IT PGDM HR Caterpillar, Chennai Seeks Naidu(Any) Bride Well educated & employed 9444066458

DEVENDRAKULA VELLALAR 2nd Marriage 51 3.5 LPM Senior GM Bangalore OWN House Seeks Issuesless Girl.CNB. 9442607143.

Tamil Viswakarma 28/170cm B.E Beautiful-own house well settled Rs 90,000 pm seeks good family bride. Phone: 91763 60018.

Mudaliar 32/168 Kettai, BE Mech MBA Own house Earnings Coimbatore Ct: 9597724399, 8489272439.

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 38, Private, 40laks. Ct: 8138900553

HINDU, NAICKER, Age 33, BE, Manager, 30laks. Ct: 8138901294

BRIDES WANTED

DOCTOR

MUDALIYAR DOCTOR Couple-Sree Sathya Narayana Hospital, B. Komarapalayam seek Doctor Bride, Well Educated and Compassionate, for their Son-MRCP. 30 yrs, 176 cms, Contact:+91994955957.

FINANCE / BANKING

32, 168CM. Manager in a PSB. Seeks financially independent, intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali life partner. Caste/ Religion No bar. Ct: 6383450110

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA GROOM 52yrs 174/85 Ultram legallly divorced US citizen working Quality Assurance/B.Sc. Nurse, Advocate, Engineer) Direct Contact: 001-9362527821, 917293624061, 919496228957, trustworthynspection1@gmail.com

THIYA BOY 39/180 cms Triketa Divorcee IT Chennai seeks working Chennai girl matching stars Karthika Rohini Avittam Chathayam Cast no bar. Ph: 9385232732

Pentecostal, Smart Malayali Boy, 33/170, M.Com MBA, Prestigious Job in Pune, seeks Pentecostal Malayalee Girl. Contact 9503340014

33 / 183 Nair groom anizham currently working in Bangalore IT sector well respected and educated family seeks suitable bride from Nair / Menon / Nambiar Ct: 94435 59882.

NAIR, 35/181CM Divorcee, Short Live, M.Tech., MNC Chennai, Rs.20 Lakhs PA. CNB seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 99403 85403

HINDU ARNADU Vellalar 40 BE (Unmarried) working in Abroad. Salary 25 Lks per Annum. Seeks bride from same or allied caste- legally divorced / no child, age below 39 is also considered. Ct: 9944569401.

RC VELLAR Groom 32/174cm / Manager in IT Now in Mangalore Invites Brides Preferably working. 9659871777

HINDU, CHETTIAR, Age 37, B.Com Completed, Business, Income 6 Lakhs. Contact: 8138901337

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, Age 25, B.Sc, Hotel Professional, Income 30 Lakhs. Contact: 8138900547

BANGALORE MUDALIAR boy 45 Divorced SWE, APPLE, Property Owner, Seeks Bride Below 40: 9845394022/ 991026580

TAMIL IYER 02-11-1980 M.Pharm Employee in Pharma R&D currently in Mumbai on rental, 14LPA, Unmarried, parents in Pune seeks any brahmin Veg. bride. Language no bar. Ct: 8422859904

BE IT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad/ Sal 91 lacs seeks Bride from same or allied Castes Tamil, Telugu, Ct: 7382620365

34 yrs / 172 cm, BE, US-bound, seeks bride willing to relocate. Caste no bar. Contact: 9344094869.

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Brownish working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9340507235

PILLAI 43 MCom Central Govt Servant Rs. 13.30 Lakhs PA seeks bride with child only 9094020665

Kondapalli Fort comes alive with Operation Sindoor-inspired yoga act

Students from the Sirisha Yoga Academy and Government Nursing College impress yoga enthusiasts at the cultural programme organised by Amaravati Yoga and Aerobics; District Collector encourages people to practise yoga every day to lead a healthy life

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Hundreds of people gathered at Kondapalli Fort on the outskirts of Vijayawada at the break of dawn on Saturday to take part in the Yogandhra programme organised by the NTR district administration.

District Collector G. Lakshmisha said that the administration has been organising programmes as part of the month-long Yogandhra campaign in every village, mandal, tourist and historic sites since May 21. The administration had also organised such programmes at the Gandhi Hill, Pavitra Sangam, and Haritha Berm Park in Vijayawada.

Mr. Lakshmisha encouraged people to practise yoga every day for 45 minutes for a healthy life. "Yoga is panacea to all the lifestyle



Students perform yoga at Kondapalli Fort, Ibrahimpatnam in NTR District on Saturday

problems youngsters are falling prey to, such as BP, diabetes, hormonal imbalances and stress," the Collector said while adding that the aim of organising such programmes is to increase awareness among the people about its benefits.

Later, A.P. Non-Gazetted Officers' Association State president A. Vidyasagar thanked the administration for organising such programmes and encouraged public to make yoga a part of their lives.

Extravaganza The fort came alive with cultural programmes, conducted by the Amaravati Yoga and Aerobics, as part of the programme. Students from the Sirisha Yoga Academy and Government Nursing College impressed the enthusiasts with their Operation Sindoor-themed performance.

District officials, public, students, members of the A.P. State NGO members took part.

Visakhapatnam gears up for June 21

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

The City of Destiny is undergoing a major facelift ahead of the International Yoga Day celebrations, scheduled for June 21.

The Beach Road stretch between the Naval Coastal Battery and Park Hotel Junction, the main venue for the event, is being beautified extensively. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan and other dignitaries are scheduled to participate in the grand event.

The Beach Road, which underwent a beautification drive

ahead of the G-20 summit in 2023, is now being adorned with innovative installations and sculptures.

Among the highlights are a floral-themed structure and a giant paintbrush topped with greenery, symbolising the State government's 'Harithandhrapradesh' initiative. Painting and refurbishment works are being undertaken on sculptures, medians and grills to give them a vibrant and fresh appearance of the tourist spot.

This apart, the Horticulture Department of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has been taking up works like planting new saplings, trimming and refreshing existing greenery.

NAC-AP wins gold at ISDA Infracon National Awards

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The National Academy of Construction, Andhra Pradesh (NAC-AP) has been conferred the Gold Award for Best Skill Development Initiative in the Construction Sector at the ISDA Infracon National Awards (IINA) 2025, organised by the Infrastructure Skill Development Academy (ISDA).

Additional Director General

NAC-Andhra Pradesh K. Dinesh Kumar received the award at a function held in New Delhi on Saturday (June 14).

Mr. Kumar said that the award adds to NAC-AP's growing list of national honours. These accolades reaffirm NAC-AP's commitment to excellence, innovation, and human capital development, cementing its position as a national leader in skill development for infrastructure, he said.

IN BRIEF

Two city youth feared drowned in Pamuleru stream

Two youths are feared to have drowned in Pamuleru stream under Mareduhilli police limits in Alluri Sitharama Raju district on Saturday. A group of six, all native of Singh Nagar in Vijayawada City, was enjoying a bath in the stream. "At around 3 p.m. on Saturday (June 14), a six-member group arrived at the Pamuleru stream to enjoy an outing. However, Sadish (23) and Katakam Ravi Teja (30) are feared to have drowned while they were enjoying a bath in the stream", said Mareduhilli Circle inspector Ch. Gopala Krishna. The search operation is in progress and the family members have been informed about the incident, he said. The police registered a case and the investigation is on.

NCC Vijayawada, IRCS hold blood donation camp

The 8th (Andhra) Air Squadron NCC, Vijayawada, on Saturday organised a blood donation camp at SRR and CVR Government Degree college to mark the World Blood Donor Day. The blood donation camp was organised by wing Commander Ajit Singh Rathee, Commanding Officer of the 8 (Andhra) Air Squadron NCC, and staff members Suraj K.R., Prabhat, J.S. Reddy, Harika and Kasim, in association with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Vijayawada. In all, 120 cadets of the 8th (Andhra) Air Squadron NCC, 8th (Andhra) Naval NCC, 3 (Andhra) Remount and Veterinary NCC, 1st (Andhra) EME NCC, 17th (Andhra) Battalion NCC and 4th (Andhra) Girls Battalion NCC donated blood, the Commanding Officer said.

Rythu Coolie Sangham State-level meet on June 18

The Andhra Pradesh Rythu Coolie Sangham will organise a State-level meeting in Vijayawada on June 18, to discuss the problems faced by farmers in the State. Former Agriculture Minister and A.P. Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samithi leader Vadde Shobhanadreswara Rao, agriculture scientists, researchers and engineers, and the A.P. Rythu Coolie Sangham leaders will speak on the negligence of the agriculture sector by the State and Central governments. The meeting will be held at M.B. Bhavan, and farmers and Rythu Coolie Sangham leaders from across the State will attend, said Sangham State secretary D. Varma.

Solar lights and caution boards installed on NH

The Eluru district police and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) installed seven solar street lights, four caution boards and ten speed limit boards on the National Highway on Saturday. In a joint meeting, Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore said that road accidents were occurring due to poor visibility.

Chain snatcher held, stolen gold recovered

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

In a major breakthrough, the Guntur District CCS Police arrested a notorious chain snatcher, recovering approximately 300 grams of stolen gold jewellery worth ₹30 lakh. The accused, Sk Ameer Beg alias Johari, 40, a resident of Old Guntur, has been previously involved in 22 chain snatching cases and a murder case.

Addressing the media at the Guntur police office on Saturday, Superintendent of Police S. Satish Kumar said the arrest followed an investigation into a recent complaint by an elderly woman in Patabhipuram, who was robbed of her gold chain in broad daylight.

The CCS officials used technical analysis and CCTV footage to trace and apprehend the suspect.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

SUNDAY, JUN. 15
RISE 05:35 SET 18:41
RISE 22:12 SET 08:54

MONDAY, JUN. 16
RISE 05:35 SET 18:41
RISE 22:53 SET 09:50

TUESDAY, JUN. 17
RISE 05:35 SET 18:42
RISE 23:32 SET 10:45

Vijayawada Weather max min
Machilipatnam 33 29
Guntur Town 36 27
Vijayawada City 33 28

Vijayawada City Today
35°C The weather will be warm and uneasy. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

© Copyright SkyMet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

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. THE 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's, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

'Chilli seeds available for sale from Monday'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Regional Horticultural Research Station, Lam Farm, Associate Director C. Venkata Ramana, has stated that foundation seeds of three chilli varieties - LCA-625, LCA-657 and LCA-643 - will be available for sale starting Monday (June 16).

In a press release, he said that the LCA-643 variety is suitable for both green chilli and dry chilli production. The pods are long (13-14 cm), light green in color and attractive. When dried, they appear slightly wrinkled and have a bright red color, resembling the Byadgi variety. It has good tolerance to leaf curl disease and some resistance to Gemini virus. It

also yields well even under infestation by Helicoverpa (Spodoptera) if managed with minimal pesticide use, he said.

He said that the LCA-625 variety is ideal for dry chilli. Plants are tall, with strong branches and dense foliage due to closely spaced nodes. It is especially suitable for direct sowing in the main field.

The pods are slender, medium in length (8-10 cm), and resemble the Teja variety. The green pods are dark green, and when ripened, they are highly pungent (45,000-50,000 SHU) with attractive red colour (60-65 ASTA).

The price is ₹1,200 per kg. For more information, people should contact 99898 09554 / 94405 92982, he added.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (EXTENSION)
COFFEE BOARD, GOVT. OF INDIA
BESIDE GOVT. JUNIOR COLLEGE, MAIN ROAD, PADERU-531024,
ALLURI SEETHARAMARAJU DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.
REF: DDE/PDR/EXT-25/2025-26/2025 DATE:13.06.2025

NOTIFICATION
Sale of Dry Black Pepper through Tender - cum - Open Auction
Dry Black Pepper produced at various farms of Coffee Board in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha is proposed to be disposed through sealed tender - cum - open auction. The details of quantities of dry black pepper produced in different farms and tender forms along with terms and conditions are available at the Office of the Deputy Director (Extension), Coffee Board, Beside Govt. Junior College, Main Road, Paderu, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh, Office of the Deputy Director (Research), Regional Coffee Research Station, RCRS, R.V. Nagar, G.K.Veedhi Mandal and Office of the Senior Liaison Officer, TEC, Minumuluru, Paderu Mandal, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh, & Office of the Senior Liaison Officer, TEC, Koraput, Odisha, on all working days i.e., from Monday to Friday (From 09.30AM to 05.00PM). Also log on to our website <https://coffeeboard.gov.in>.
The last date for issue of tender forms is on **02.07.2025** up to **12:00 Noon**.
The last date for submission of sealed tenders is **02.07.2025** by **1.00 PM**. Open auction will be held on **02.07.2025** at **3.00 PM** followed by opening of sealed tenders at **Office of the Deputy Director (Extension), Coffee Board, Beside Govt. Jr. College, Main Road, Paderu, ASR Dist., A.P.**

Sd/- Deputy Director (Extension)
Coffee Board, Paderu, Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
Mobile No: 9490133178 E-mail: deputydirector24@yahoo.co.in

Andhra Pradesh
Real Estate Regulatory Authority

D.No: 60-5-1, Y Tower, Siddhartha Nagar 1st Lane, Pinnamaneni
Polyclinic Road, Vijayawada-520010. E-mail: helpdesk-rera@ap.gov.in

NOTICE

It has come to the notice of the Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (APRERA) that some Developers/Promoters/Builders are collecting advance payments from buyers under the guise of "Pre-launch" activities for proposed real estate projects prior to obtaining registration with APRERA. It has also been observed that some Real Estate Agents are involved in marketing such pre-launch projects. As per Section 3 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, no promoter shall advertise, market, book, sell, offer for sale, or invite persons to purchase any plot/apartment/building in any real estate project without registering the project with APRERA. Further, as per Section 10 of the Act, no Real Estate Agent shall facilitate the sale or purchase of any plot/apartment/building in a project that is not registered with APRERA.

All Developers/Promoters/Builders and Real Estate Agents are hereby advised to refrain from engaging in any financial transactions or promotional activities with buyers in the name of "Pre-launch" for unregistered real estate projects. Any violation will attract strict legal action by APRERA under the provisions of the Act. Allottees/Customers/Buyers are also advised not to purchase any plot/apartment/building in projects that are not registered with APRERA. For information on specific projects or to seek redressal for issues such as delay in possession, poor construction quality, or other grievances, buyers may contact the APRERA Helpdesk.

Sd/- Chairperson

ROBs worth ₹160 cr. sanctioned for Guntur, says Union Minister

Sambasiva Rao M.
GUNTUR

The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned Road Over Bridges (ROBs) projects at Syamala Nagar and Sanjeevaiah Nagar in Guntur at a total cost of ₹160 crore, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Pemasani Chandra Sekhar has said.

Dr. Chandra Sekhar said that the entire cost would be borne by the Central go-

vernment, with no financial obligation on the part of the State.

He emphasised that with these approvals for the projects, the promises made to the people in the run-up to the elections were fulfilled, adding that issues pertaining to the necessary infrastructure for Guntur are being addressed one by one.

He said that including these approvals, a total of seven ROBs have now been

sanctioned for the Guntur parliamentary constituency - Sankar Vilas, Gaddipadu, Pedapalalaluru, Nandivelugu, and Mangalagiri being the others. Together, these projects account for ₹572 crore in Central funding.

Dr. Chandra Sekhar met with SCR South Central Railway General Manager Arun Kumar Jain in Hyderabad on Friday, expressing gratitude for his support.

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
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU thehindubusinessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

Andhra Pradesh

From Page One

Karthik Ram Kireeti is A.P. topper in NEET-UG

More than 22 lakh candidates wrote the entrance test on May 4, 2025 in 5,468 centres located in 552 cities across the country and 14 cities outside India. In Andhra Pradesh, out of the total 59,219 candidates who registered for the test, 57,934 appeared and 36,776 qualified.

There was a decline in the number of students who appeared for NEET this year compared to the previous year (2024), when, out of the total 66,522 candidates who registered, 64,929 wrote the test, and 43,788 qualified.

IN BRIEF

Pawan orders probe into ISKCON's Kurmagram fire

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has ordered a probe into the fire that took place at Kurmagram Vedic Village in Srikakulam district developed by the ISKCON. An official release said that Mr. Pawan said that it was unfortunate that the facility, which was meant to promote a spiritual lifestyle, was damaged. He spoke to the district officials about the situation in the village and assured them of all assistance and support.

DSC examinations slated for June 20 and 21 rescheduled

In view of the government plans to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 on a grand scale, it has been decided to reschedule the dates of the ongoing District Selection Committee (DSC)-2025 examinations, according to convener M.V. Krishna Reddy. He said the DSC exams slated for on June 20 and 21 were rescheduled to July 1 and 2. Mr. Krishna Reddy said the updated hall-tickets with new dates and centres would be made available on the AP Mega DSC-2025 official website (<https://apdsc.apcfss.in>) from June 25.

New NTRUHS Executive Council constituted

The government formed the new Executive Council of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (NTRUHS) and nominated eight medical professionals. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu approved G. Subba Rao, former principal of Government Medical College, Guntur, M. Vishnu Mahesh Babu, former anaesthesia professor at Rangaraya Medical College, Kakina, K. Madhavi, professor of gynecology, SVIMS, Tirupati, S. Suresh Babu, professor of orthopedics, Dr. Pinnamaneni Sidhartha Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Foundation, Vijayawada, M. Jaichandra Naidu, professor of radiology, Maharaja Institute of Medical Sciences, Vizianagaram, Chapara Sudhakar, pediatrician, Amadalavalasa, T.D. Varun Kumar Reddy, Proddatur, and Y. Sai Kishore, pediatrician, Vijayawada. Five ex-officio members are Special Chief Secretary (Health), Finance Secretary, Director of Medical Education, Commissioner (AYUSH) and Director of Health.

Naidu to review Yoga Day event arrangements in Vizag

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will review the arrangements being made for the 'International Yoga Day' event slated for June 21, in Visakhapatnam on Monday. He will land in Visakhapatnam at around 10.40 a.m. and inspect the Beach Road stretch, the main venue for the event and Andhra University Engineering College Grounds, the contingent venue.

Rain may continue in North Coastal A.P. until June 18

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Even as several places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh reported high day temperatures before noon on Saturday, some others reported light to moderate rainfall later in the day.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, has said that isolated heavy rainfall, accompanied by lightning, thunderstorms and gusty winds, is likely to occur in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh until June 18.

The other two regions of the State, Rayalaseema and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh

may also receive light to moderate rainfall during this period.

According to A.P. State Development and Planning Society, Yerrampeta in Chintur mandal in ASR district recorded 39.8 degrees Celsius at 11 a.m., while G. Sigadam in Srikakulam district reported 37.9 degrees Celsius.

Gurla in Vizianagaram reported 37.68 degrees Celsius.

Later in the day, many places received light to moderate rainfall, with the highest being 64 mm.

Among those places were Pedamerangi in Parvathipuram Manyam (64 mm),

CM sent 40 TDP workers to disrupt my meeting with farmers, says Jagan

They were the ones who provoked violence in Podili by pelting stones, alleges YSRCP chief

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday alleged that 40 TDP workers disrupted his recent meeting with the tobacco farmers at Podili in Prakasam district, and they were the ones who provoked violence by pelting stones.

In his message on X, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of conniving to send his party workers to disturb the meeting with the distressed tobacco farmers, which was intended to offer them support as they grappled with lack of fair prices for their produce.

He said more than 40,000 farmers attended the meeting, and Mr. Naidu wanted to divert attention from the issue that was sought to be discussed. However, the farmers and public showed great restraint and did not retaliate against the assault by the TDP goons, he said.

The YSRCP chief said Mr. Naidu got cases booked



Naidu wanted to divert attention from the issue that was sought to be discussed

Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY
YSRCP president

against farmers instead of listening to their woes, and branded them as rowdies. Also, he observed that while farmers were in distress and ending their life, Mr. Naidu called for celebration of one year of his "ruinous rule, like Nero fiddled when Rome was burning."

"You [Mr. Naidu] created a violent situation that could have been devastating, given the huge number of people present. I condemn these despicable acts in the strictest manner and urge you to help the farmers," Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy added.

Police issue notice to Darsi MLA over violence

The Hindu Bureau
ONGOLE

The Podili police have issued notice to YSRCP Darsi MLA B. Siva Prasad Reddy in connection with the violence during party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to the town on June 11.

The police alleged that Mr. Prasad Reddy, who was also party's Prakasam district president, caused law and order problems during the visit of Mr. Jagan. After inspecting the helipad site at SVKP Degree College, the police said they had advised the YSRCP leaders about the 200-metre sterile zone and permission to one VIP convoy and one bus into the town.

"However, the YSRCP activists forcibly removed the barricades and entered the sterile zone. Several private vehicles were taken near the helipad without permission. The activists threw sandals and pelted stones at the women who were peacefully protesting in the town. They also injured the police personnel, obstructing their duties and blocking the VIP convoy," the Podili Inspector alleged in the notice.

The notice further said, "The YSRCP leaders forcibly entered the Tobacco Board office, trampled on the bales and caused damage to the property. As the MLA is responsible for these incidents, he should immediately explain why legal action should not be taken against him."

Responding to the notice, Mr. Prasad Reddy said in a recorded video message that maintaining law and order was not his responsibility, but he would cooperate with the police. He said, "We informed the police about Mr. Jagan's visit. We have not committed anything wrong. We have no need to escape."

Mr. Prasad Reddy further said he went to Hyderabad and would return to his native village Chimakurthi by Saturday evening. He said the party leadership would take legal action, if necessary.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu holding a review meeting on public feedback, at his camp office, near Vijayawada, on Saturday.

Zero corruption is the ultimate goal: Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu instructed the officials to identify areas where corruption was occurring in the implementation of government schemes and programmes, and take immediate action after duly probing the incidents with zero corruption as the ultimate goal.

Addressing a review meeting at his camp office on Saturday on public feedback received over the last year on various schemes through IVRS and CSDS surveys, Mr. Naidu said the people were by and large satisfied, but there was no room for complacency as the government could not afford to let them down as far as their expectations were concerned, and warned that corruption at any level

and in any department would not be tolerated.

He suggested that a technical audit be conducted on the survey process and steps taken to improve satisfaction in areas having low feedback, and called for prioritising 10 major public issues such as welfare, employment generation, and roads.

Mr. Naidu instructed the officials to conduct Job Melas in all the 175 constituencies, and to make all government services available through WhatsApp Governance by August 15.

He also wanted better delivery mechanisms that would ensure the supply of ration goods to the disabled and elderly citizens at their doorstep, and sought opinion-gathering on the implementation of the Public Distribution System.

NDA govt. has fulfilled 85% of its election promises: Kolusu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The NDA government in Andhra Pradesh has delivered 85% of the promises made at the time of the 2024 elections in spite of the financial crisis it inherited from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) dispensation, according to Minister for Information & Public Relations Kolusu Parthasarathy.

Due priority had been accorded to the Talliki Vandanam scheme, under which a sum of ₹15,000 each was being remitted into the bank accounts of the mothers, irrespective of the number of children, Mr. Parthasarathy told the media here on Saturday.

"But the YSRCP is spreading lies. It has accused HRD Minister N. Lokesh of pocketing ₹2,000 crore of the scheme amount. Nothing better can be expected from the YSRCP, whose rule is replete with failures and corrupt deeds," the Minister said.

Mr. Parthasarathy said the NDA government was saddled with a staggering debt burden of ₹10 lakh crore due to the YSRCP's mishandling of finances.

In contrast, the coalition government was making sincere efforts to achieve the Swarnandhra Vision-2047, for which it set a target of 15% annual growth rate now itself, he said. "The



I&PR Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy with the Talliki Vandanam beneficiaries in Vijayawada on Saturday. G.N. RAO

government has so far attracted investments totalling nearly ₹7 lakh crore, and it is working on a mission to create 20 lakh jobs and impart the required skills to the youth," he added.

Mr. Parthasarathy said the YSRCP dispensation might have extended financial support to the school and college students under the Amma Vodi and Vidya Deevana schemes, but it was not bothered about providing them jobs, which should be the ultimate goal of any government. The YSRCP government had extended financial assistance to only one child in a family under the Amma Vodi scheme, the Minister said.

₹168 crore subsidy package announced for mango farmers

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

Minister for Agriculture K. Atchannaidu on Saturday announced a subsidy package of ₹168 crore for the mango farmers across the State.

The Agriculture Minister was on a whirlwind trip to Chittoor district, a predominant mango-growing belt in India. Mr. Atchannaidu inspected a mango processing

industry and its storage facility at Gollamadugu village in Gudipala mandal on the Chittoor-Vellore road.

He also reviewed pulp manufacturing activities.

Interacting with the mango farmers and pulp industry management, Mr. Atchannaidu said that the government was committed to the holistic welfare of farmers.

"We have initiated all tangible steps to ensure that

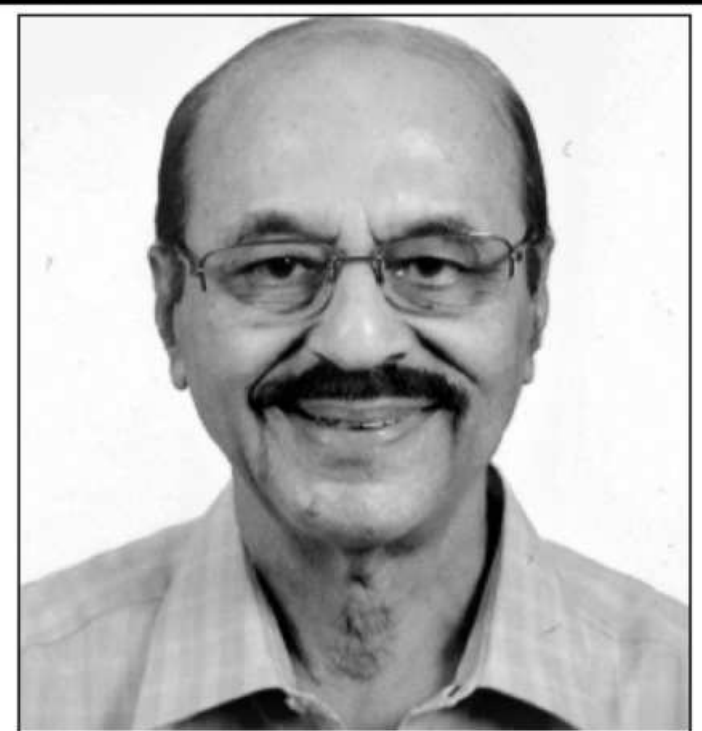
mango growers get a fair price for their produce," he said.

The Agriculture Minister further maintained that the private processing units have unanimously agreed to procure mangoes at a cost of ₹8 per kg, while the State government will additionally deposit ₹4 per kg into the mango growers' bank accounts in the form of a direct subsidy.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th ANNIVERSARY



Mr. C.N. RAMDAS IAS (R)

(03.10.1937 to 15.06.2015)

Your life is an inspiration to us & we will always cherish your loving memories. We still feel your presence around, that gives us strength to go on

Family & Friends

"GNG House" K-48 Anna Nagar East, Chennai – 102.

COOKING UP TIMELESS INNOVATIONS, TIME AND AGAIN.

SVACHH FLIP-ON PRESSURE COOKER FOR A SPILL-FREE KITCHEN



Jo apnon se kare pyaar, woh Prestige se kaise kare inkaar.

INNOVATIVE LOCK LID WITH SPILLAGE CONTROL



FLIP TO OPEN & CLOSE

WIDEST RANGE OF TRI-PLY COOKERS

TRI-PLY OUTER LID



TRI-PLY INNER LID



Prestige
Anything for Anything

EXCHANGE OFFER
25%-60% OFF*
1st MAY to 30th JUNE



UPGRADE TO THE LATEST RANGE OF COOKERS, COOKWARE AND KITCHEN APPLIANCES IN OUR EXCHANGE SALE.



Scan to find Prestige Xclusive stores



Scan to avail exchange offer



*Conditions Apply: Offers are applicable only on exchange. All discounts on MRP only. All discounts apply to the respective product category, not on the mentioned product. Available only at select dealer outlets till stocks last. The exchange price depends on the items purchased and old items returned. Old items of any brand are accepted. For actual exchange offer prices, please refer to the Anything for Anything exchange offer price list available at select dealer outlets. Old items that can be returned are: Aluminium/SS Pressure Cookers, Aluminium/SS Cookware (minimum 400 gms of vessel weight), Gas stoves (minimum 2 burners), Mixer Grinders (should have a body with motor and two stainless steel jars), Induction cooktops, Rice Cookers, Chimneys, Hobtops, Wet grinders, OTGs, Kettles, Toasters, Iron, Microwave Ovens, Juicers, Blenders, Water Purifiers and Vacuum Cleaners. Prestige® Logo is the registered trademark of TTK Prestige Ltd in India. For detailed terms and conditions, visit our nearest Prestige Xclusive/Dealer outlet or visit our website <https://shop.ttkprestige.com/anything-for-anything>

Prestige Xclusive Vijayawada City: Autonagar Gate, Ph:08663562598,7989820951;Benzircle: Ph:0866-2491766,9390654466; Kanuru: Ph: 9618054555,9052692111; Eluru road: Ph: 0866-2435055,9390654455; Gunadala: Ph: 0866-2457111,9247565335; Ramavarapadu: Ph:8790932345; Guronanak Colony: Ph:8790942345; Bhavanipuram: Ph: 0866-2414007,9581221111; Penamaluru: Ph: 8121058866,9618054555; Gudivada: Nehru Chowk Main Road, Ph :9703602555; Machilipatnam: Brundavan Talkies Opp Godugu Peta,Ph:7093196444.

Also available at: Vijayawada: Lingeswara Steel Distributors, Ph:2424245; Summit Smart Kitchen, Ph:8790455584;Sri Bhavani Steel Corner, Ph:2572255; Grand Modern Super Market Ph: 6667720; Pai International, Ph:9704066433; Sri Venkateswara Metal House, Ph: 2561546; Maaraj, Ph:2439888; Gupta Enterprises, Ph: 9959520850; Ranga Brothers, Ph:9440185844; Gudivada: G K Electronics, Ph:7075663333; Srinivasa Electronics, Ph: 246554; Balarka Steel, Ph:9849664444; Ayyappa Electronics, Ph: 8638389453; Hanuman Junction: Maruthi Electronics, Ph: 244466; Nandigam: Om Bhaskara Watch & Electronics, Ph:257707; RL Electronics, Ph:9652152121;Balaji Home Needs, Ph:9603005888; Vayyuru:Nagasiva Electronics, Ph:9573129145; Raja Rajeswari Fur & Elec, Ph:8885684685; Teja Mobiles, Ph:9059926666; Machilipatnam: S.V.K Emporium Ph: 223040; New S V R & Co, Ph: 223567; Vamsi Electronics, Ph: 9966674444; Mylavaram: Tiruvuru: Kamadhenu Electronics, Ph:9494889012; Uday Steel, Ph:9951185422; Vissanapeta : Ganesh Radio, Ph:9885070067; Swamy Enterprises, Ph:98850134660; Nuzvidu: Krishna Metal, Ph: 9889177737; Sri Vatsa Electronics, Ph:9848023514; DLN Electronics,Ph: 9100011101. Regional Service Centre - Ph: 0866 2484377.

IN BRIEF



'Operation Sindoor showed exceptional power of forces'

Indian Air Force demonstrated precision, power and preparedness during Operation Sindoor, which stood out as a testament to its combat capability and operational synergy, said Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, while addressing graduating cadets at the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy-Dundigal.

Nilambur: Congress cries foul over 'targeted' vehicle checks

With less than five days for the Nilambur Assembly byelection, the campaign is becoming murkier, with Congress MP Shafi Parambil and Palakkad legislator Rahul Mamkootathil accusing election officials of targeting them for asking them to pull over their vehicles at Connolly Plot, near Nilambur, on Friday night.

A.P., T.G. students top SASTRA admission rank list

Four girls topped the rank list for admissions to B. Tech. of SASTRA Deemed University that was released on June 14. In Stream 1, Akela Meghavan Sarma from Chaitanya Junior College, A.P., stood first rank with a combined score of 99.39.

Wan Hai 503 'stable', being towed away from the coast

The containers that fell from the ship could reach Kerala coast between Monday and Wednesday, says State disaster management body; there is a tilt to the port side; smoke is still rising from it

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Navy on Saturday said that MV Wan Hai 503, the Singapore-flagged container ship that had caught fire off the Kerala coast on June 9 following an explosion, is currently beyond the 1,000-metre sounding line (depth) at a distance of about 45 nautical miles from the coast.



Mitigation efforts: Smoke billows out from MV Wan Hai 503 during a salvage operation being carried out by Indian Coast Guard. ANI

The Coast Guard said it is closely working with the Directorate General of Shipping to ensure that the container vessel remains at least 50 nautical miles away from the coast. Meanwhile, containers that fell overboard from

the ship are likely to wash ashore on the Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Kollam coasts between Monday and Wednesday. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued the update citing the Coast Guard and the In-

ternational Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF).

The public have been advised to stay away from any suspicious object found on the coast. A distance of at least 200 metres should be maintained from them, the KSDMA said.

The authority urged the people to alert the authorities about their presence on the emergency number 112. It may be recalled that a similar advisory had been issued in the case of the MSC Elsa shipwreck in May.

Salvage operations had moved forward after the vessel's towline was successfully transferred from Coast Guard ships to the Offshore Warrior.

Tribal woman's death in Idukki confirmed as murder, not caused by elephant attack

The Hindu Bureau IDUKKI

The post-mortem examination of a tribal woman in Idukki has revealed that her death, initially believed to be a case of wild elephant attack, was a case of murder.

The initial inference was that Seetha, 42, a resident of Thottappura under the Muringapuzha forest station, was killed in a wild

elephant attack in the Meenmutty reserve forest area on Friday. Her husband, Binu, claimed that the forest along with their children to collect forest produce and was trapped in front of a wild elephant that attacked her.

Kottayam Divisional Forest Officer N. Rajesh said a preliminary examination found that the injuries on the woman's body were

not from a wild elephant attack.

"The Forest department reported our findings to the doctor and the police. In addition, the department also confirmed that no wild elephants were present in the area on Friday," he said.

"Due to our suspicion, the department did not provide the first instalment of compensation meant for human-wildlife conflict vic-

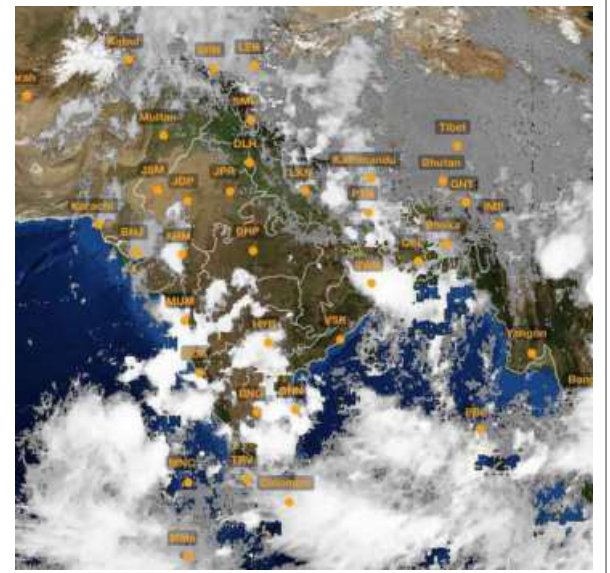
tims on Friday," said Mr. Rajesh.

Sources said the primary post-mortem examination findings were that the woman had suffered brutal physical assault.

"The police have not taken anyone into custody. Further details will be available after a detailed probe and on getting a copy of the post-mortem report," Peenumade DSP Vishal Johnson said.

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 rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkarn & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

Table with columns for CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN, and CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various Indian cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, etc.

Table titled 'Pollutants in the air you are breathing' with columns for CITIES, SO2, NO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10, AQI, and CODE. Lists air quality data for cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, etc.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO2: 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 cultural important objects such as statues and monuments.

First Gaddar film awards given in TG, event revived after 14 years

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

The maiden Telangana Gaddar Film Awards ceremony was held in Hyderabad on Saturday in the presence of prominent film personalities, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy as the chief guest. The State film awards were presented after a gap of 14 years.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister for Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, actors N. Balakrishna, Allu Arjun and others during the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards ceremony at Hitec in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Ponnam Ravichandra, were also honoured.

Actor Allu Arjun, who bagged the first Best Actor award for Pushpa 2, received the award from Mr. Revanth Reddy. Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister for Cinematography and Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Film Development Corporation chairman Dil Raju lit the ceremonial lamp to kick off the event, also attended by veteran actors Jayaprada, Jayasudha and Suhasini.

Mr. Allu Arjun said he was honoured to receive the first

award for Pushpa 2 at the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards-2024. "All credit goes to my director Sukumar, my producers and the entire Pushpa team. I dedicate this award to all my fans," he said.

Mr. Balakrishna showered praise on the government for naming the film awards after Gaddar. He remembered the contributions of his father, the late N.T. Rama Rao, to the Telugu film industry.

Gaddar Foundation chairman and Gaddar's son Suryakiran, TGFDMD S.Harish, and others were present.

TG objects to Centre asking A.P. to submit Polavaram-Banakacherla DPR

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

Telangana has opposed the Centre's move asking the Andhra Pradesh government to submit the DPR of the Polavaram-Banakacherla Link project proposed, despite it contravening the provisions of the A.P. Reorganisation Act and the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT).

adversely impact the riparian rights of Telangana within the basin as A.P. was planning to divert 200 tmc ft Godavari water to the non-basin areas of Krishna and Penna.

In a response to a letter addressed to Mr. Patil and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama on January 22 on the project, the MoJS had replied on May 28, which he (Uttam) received in the first week of June, stating that A.P. did not send any DPR to the Central Water Commission (CWC). Accordingly, a meeting was convened on June 12 on the project

and later postponed to discuss it as part of the interlinking of rivers project in New Delhi.

Recently, the CWC had stated that it had received a pre-feasibility report on the project, Mr. Uttam Reddy said. The Minister told The Hindu on Saturday that a meeting was held by MoJS on June 2 and was attended by A.P. officials. When enquired by the Telangana officials, the CWC informed that the pre-feasibility report (PFR) of A.P. was under consideration. A Ministry of Finance official had asked A.P. to submit the DPR by June-end.

PROPERTYPLUS REAL ESTATE advertisement for Param Heights, featuring a 3BHK flat with 2346 Sq. Ft, bank loan available, and proximity to a highway and airport.

Advertisement for rental and to-let properties, including a 3 BHK apartment near Annamayya Circle and a penthouse for sale near VIZAG.

Large advertisement for Classifieds, featuring sections for Industrial Needs (Circuit Ball Mill), General (Garments, Khadi Cotton Sarees), Educational (Coaching Classes, NEET & JEE Repeater), and Schools (43 schools).

From Page One

Centre sets up panel to frame response

Apart from the Home Secretary, who will be the Chairperson, the high-level committee will include the Joint Secretary of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs; representatives of the State Home Department and the State Disaster Response Authority of Gujarat; the Ahmedabad Police Commissioner; the Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security; the Director General of Civil Aviation; the Director General of Inspection and Safety, Indian Air Force; the Special Director, Intelligence Bureau; and the Director, Directorate of Forensic Science Services.

The four-point scope of the committee defined in the order states that it will "ascertain the root cause of the [flight AI-171] crash and its contributing factors, including mechanical failure, human error, weather conditions, and regulatory compliances. The committee will also recommend necessary improvements, and formulate suitable SOPs to prevent such incidents in the future, including best international practices.

The committee will also suggest policy changes, operational improvements, and training enhancements to prevent such occurrences, and to handle post-crash incident situations.

Tehran will burn if civilians are hit: Israel

"The Iranian dictator is turning the citizens of Iran into hostages and bringing about a reality in which they — especially the residents of Tehran — will pay a heavy price because of the criminal harm to Israeli civilians," Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said, adding that "if Khamenei continues to fire missiles toward the Israeli home front — Tehran will burn".

The Israeli military said its raids had cleared the path to the Iranian capital. "We have created aerial freedom of action from west Iran all the way to Tehran... Tehran is no longer immune," said spokesperson Brigadier General Effic Defrin.

Israel launched the aerial assault early Friday, only days before Iran and the U.S. were due to hold a sixth round of talks on its nuclear programme.

The Israeli military said it struck an underground facility on Saturday in Khorramabad that contained surface-to-surface and cruise missiles.

Operation Rising Lion struck Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant and assassinated Iran's highest-ranking military officer, Mohammad Bagheri, as well as the head of the powerful Revolutionary Guards, Hossein Salami, among other senior generals.

4 Maoists, 3 of them women, killed in M.P.

"We cannot divulge much information as it is an ongoing operation. The forces and officers are currently in the forest. It has also been raining heavily there today [Saturday], which is adding to the challenge but we are continuing the search operation. The encounter is likely to continue till tomorrow," Mr. Shrivastav said.

A search operation was launched in multiple parts of Balaghat's dense forest areas based on inputs of Naxal movement and the encounter was under way in Pachamdadar and Katejhiriya areas of Sonewani forest area, the Hawk Force Commandant said.

"We had received input of their movement a couple of days ago after which multiple parties were deployed for a search operation. During one such search, firing started from their side and our personnel responded," the officer said. The encounter was part of a joint operation by the Hawk Force and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), he added.

"Combing efforts are going on in multiple areas and the encounter will continue at least till tomorrow," Mr. Shiyaz said.

New spider species found in southern India

According to Mr. Caleb, the discovery holds particular significance because *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita* have never before been recorded in India. These spiders, part of the *Salticidae* family, are known for their keen eyesight and unique hunting methods, often deceiving other spiders by mimicking prey.

In addition, *Sonoita cf. lightfooti*, a species previously thought to be confined to Africa, was also identified in Karnataka. This raises questions about whether it is a natural range extension or an introduced population, said Mr. Caleb.

The study also resolved a longstanding taxonomic confusion. The species *Marpissa gangasagarensis*, described in 2005 from Gangasagar, West Bengal, was confirmed to be the same as *Phaeacius fimbriatus*, a species first described in 1900, following careful examination of historical museum specimens, the study noted.

With these findings, India's spider fauna under the *Spartaeinae* subfamily has grown to 15 species across 10 genera. Despite these advancements, the study pointed out, much of India's varied terrain remains under-studied, with many more species waiting to be uncovered.

Jaishankar urges Iran, Israel to avoid any escalatory steps

External Affairs Minister speaks to his counterparts seeking return to diplomacy after attacks; both the countries are strategic partners of India, and in close contact with Indian officials

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of intensification of Israel-Iran conflict on Friday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a round of conversations with his Iranian and Israeli counterparts — Abbas Araghchi and Gideon Sa'ar. Israel and Iran are both strategic partners of India and the Foreign Ministers of both the conflicting sides have been in close contact with Indian officials over the recent past.

The Minister-level phone conversation was held shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a phone call from his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Modi had called for "early restoration of peace", and called for stability in the Gulf region that is vital for



Dialling down: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. FILE PHOTO

India's economy and security architecture.

In the phone call with Mr. Araghchi, Mr. Jaishankar expressed "deep concern of the international community at the turn of events". "He urged avoidance of any escalatory steps and an early return to diplomacy," said the Indian Embassy in Tehran in the statement. In response, the Iranian Foreign

Minister "shared Iran's perspective on the situation", said the Embassy of India.

The conversation came hours after Israel hit targets, including nuclear energy research centres, inside Iran. Soon thereafter, Iran unleashed three waves of missiles and drones.

Mr. Araghchi had visited India on May 7 and 8 to co-chair the 20th India-Iran

Helplines for Indian nationals

NEW DELHI
The Indian Embassy in Israel has said that Indian nationals can contact its helpline at +972 54-7520711 or +972 54-3278392 or cons1.telaviv@mea.gov.in in case of emergency. The helplines for the Indian Embassy in Iran are +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109.

Joint Commission Meeting. It was his first visit to New Delhi since assuming the office as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran in August 2024.

Israel hosts around 30,000 Indian nationals in various industries and academic institutions and Iran is a regional power in the Gulf region which hosts around 10 million Indian expat workers.

India steers clear of SCO's statement on Israel's strikes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after India abstained from a UN General Assembly resolution in support of a ceasefire in Gaza, the government distanced itself from Saturday's statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that "strongly" condemned Israeli military strikes on Iran, saying "India did not participate in the discussions" at the SCO on this statement.

In its statement, the SCO came out in support of Iran, a member State, and said the Israeli attacks had led to civilian casualties, and were contrary to international law and the United Nations Charter.

After the SCO statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said Israel-Iran hostilities should be dealt through "channels of dialogue and diplomacy".

Canada ties, trade, Iran-Israel clash in focus as PM leaves for 3-nation tour

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

In his first visit abroad since the strikes on Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave on Sunday for a three-nation tour to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia. He will be attending the G-7 summit of Western-allied developed economies during the tour, which will conclude on June 19. Mr. Modi's aircraft will make refuelling stopovers in Cyprus and Croatia. He will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Cyprus since 2002, and the first to visit Croatia since the country was founded in 1991.

However, it is the visit to Canada, 10 years after he visited last, as well as his meetings on the sidelines of the G-7 summit, where India is one of five special invitees, which will be watched most closely. Mr.



Narendra Modi

Modi is expected to speak about India's fight against terrorism at every stop, including holding Pakistan accountable at the United Nations, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other multilateral institutions.

"This would be the Prime Minister's sixth consecutive participation in the G-7 summit. At the summit, PM (Modi) will exchange views with leaders of G-7 countries, other invited outreach countries and Heads of International Organisations on crucial global issues, including

energy security, technology and innovation, particularly the AI-energy nexus and Quantum-related issues," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Saturday.

Mr. Modi will meet with Canadian PM Mark Carney, which the Ministry referred to as a chance to explore a "reset" in acrimonious ties, and to restore diplomats in each other's capitals.

While the Ministry has yet to confirm Mr. Modi's other bilateral meetings, this would be the first time Mr. Modi will see U.S. President Donald Trump since Mr. Trump claimed credit for mediating the India-Pakistan truce, which India has denied.

The ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, Israel's bombardment of Gaza, the Russia-Ukraine war and the economic disruptions caused by U.S. tariffs are all expected to dominate what is

Congress slams govt. over abstention on Gaza ceasefire vote

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Attacking the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre for abstaining from voting during the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly for a ceasefire in Gaza, the Congress party on Saturday alleged that India's foreign policy was in a "shambles".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on X, "It is now increasingly evident that our Foreign Policy is in shambles. Perhaps, PM Modi must now take a call on his EAM's [External Affairs Minister] repeated blunders and set some accountability."

"Have we abandoned India's consistent stand advocating for a ceasefire, peace, and dialogue in the Middle East and West Asia? This stance is deeply rooted in our long-standing tradition of Non-Alignment and moral diplomacy,



Mallikarjun Kharge

through which India has always championed justice and peace in international conflicts," the Congress president said.

K.C. Venugopal, the party's general secretary (organisation), said India had always stood for peace, justice, and human dignity. "But today, India stands alone as the only country in South Asia, BRICS, and SCO to abstain on a UNGA resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza. 60,000 killed. Most of them women and children. Thousands starving," he said.

Congress MP writes to RS chair on judge impeachment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha has written to Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, chairman of the Upper House, to remind him about a pending motion, signed by 55 MPs, seeking removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court on the grounds "of alleged misbehaviour unbecoming of a judge".

"Queries were raised regarding the authenticity of some signatures, including that of my signature. I have clarified, and supposedly other MPs must have clarified to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat that the signatures are genuine and correct. MPs signed in the presence of each other on three sets of the representation in the House itself..." Mr. Tankha said in his letter, dated June 12.

'Countries will react based on their interests'

In a preliminary analysis of Operation Sindoor, former National Security Adviser says the military did well, but lessons need to be learnt on strategic communication; Indian diplomatic efforts did not fail but China and Turkiye used the opportunity to consolidate their ties with Pakistan, he says

INTERVIEW

Shiv Shankar Menon

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

In a preliminary analysis of India's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, former National Security Adviser (NSA) and Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon, who has also served as India's Ambassador to China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Israel, told *The Hindu* that Indian diplomacy has not failed to convey the country's position on terrorism, as some argue, but countries will respond to fears of conflict with Pakistan according to their own interests.

From 2008 to 2025, do you see India's responses to terror attacks as a gradual evolution, and what should one expect if there is another terror

attack in India?

Right now, I think nobody knows, which is why even the Government of India describes it as a 'pause'. It's not resolved. Israelis have a phrase — 'mowing the grass'. Force is useful to mow the grass, but the grass grows again. And given Pakistan's situation and the nature of the Pakistani polity, and the role of the Pakistan Army and its use of the jihadi *tanzems* (organisations) against India... this problem of having to mow the grass regularly is going to be with us for some time.

Given China's role in supporting Pakistan, do you think, India's strategic challenges have shifted from disparate challenges to a two-front war?

Militarily, I don't think we know enough, but we clearly have seen the Pakistan Army itself shift in terms of doctrine, in terms of tactics, and in terms of reliance on Chinese equip-



FILE PHOTO

ment, Chinese theories, Chinese ways of war.

And both the Pakistanis and the Chinese have made much of this in their narrative and their projection and their propaganda. There have been very strong Chinese statements of support for Pakistan in 1971 and 1965, and so on. But they never did anything.

Question is, what did they actually do to help Pakistan? There's a level of military fusion there, which is much closer than it's ever been before, and that is something worth watching.

Do you think more information should be put out?

You can't have a conflict without losses. There are lessons to be drawn about strategic signalling here and about narrative control here, because I think we could have been quicker off the block with responses during Operation Sindoor. I was outside India at that time, and I could see that Pakistan's responses were at least six to 12 hours ahead of India's. They were the ones out first with their version. Militarily, India did well, judg-

ing by whatever we know in terms of air defence, in terms of our own equipment, and in terms of tactics and strategy as well. Unfortunately, Indian media made us seem less credible by a lot of the stories that they were putting out, which didn't stand the test of reason.

Just watching what they were saying [reports of the bombardment of Karachi, Pakistan PM's residence, military coup, etc.] were patently untrue, and that didn't help at all. The [government's] silence didn't help either. There are lessons to be drawn from any conflict, and in this case, I think the communication is certainly one of them.

Did Indian diplomacy fail, as is being portrayed, given that India did not seem to receive clear messages of support for Operation Sindoor, as Pakistan did from China and Turkiye, and given Mr. Trump's comments?

Not at all. Countries will

choose to react to an attack or a situation based on their interests, on what they can get out of it. For Turkiye, for China and so on, here was an opportunity to consolidate their ties with Pakistan, which is important to them for various reasons. And they chose to do it. India got the world's support on the terrorist attack.

When it came to a conflict, however, they've seen this conflict for 80 years. You don't expect them to send you letters of support in a conflict. India didn't ask for it, and shouldn't expect it either. India maintains that it will settle its issues bilaterally. So why would we ask other countries for support or their opinion about what we do? People will use your conflicts, for their interests, to suit their own purposes, and in this case, it serves Mr. Trump's political purposes to claim the credit to say that something's working, that he's important, that he matters. (Full interview is at newsth.live/shivmenon)

Gujarat government confirms 19 victims identified through DNA

Two days on, no official data on deaths among medical college residents; officials say the handover of remains to families is under way; airline announces an immediate financial support of ₹25 lakh to each of the families of the deceased

Abhinav Deshpande
Jagriti Chandra
AHMEDABAD

The process of handing over the last remains of the victims of Air India's Boeing 787 crash to their families kicked off on Saturday, and a total of 19 victims have been identified through DNA testing, Gujarat's Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said on Saturday.

"19 DNA samples have been matched so far, confirming the identities of victims. State Forensic Science Laboratory unit team and National Forensic Sciences University team are working through the night to match more DNA samples," Mr. Sanghavi said in a post on X.

"Apart from forensic experts from across Gujarat, several experts sent by the Centre are working around the clock to match DNA samples. As soon as the results are ready, they are sent to the Civil Hospital so that families can claim the bodies," he had said earlier.

However, there was still no official confirmation of the deaths beyond the 241 deaths of passengers and crew aboard the aircraft that crashed into the mess building, where students of B.J. Medical College



Relatives of a victim of the Air India plane crash mourn outside a hospital in Ahmedabad on Friday. PTI

(BJMC) were assembled for lunch, and four columns of hostel buildings, where there have been several deaths.

'Slow process'

Dr. Rajnish Patel, Head of Surgery at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, who jointly addressed a press conference earlier in the day with the Gujarat government's Relief Commissioner and Secretary, Revenue Department, Alok Kumar Pandey, described the DNA matching exercise as a "meticu-

lously slow process" that typically required 72 hours.

When *The Hindu* asked him about the total number of crash victims' bodies at the hospital, Dr. Patel deflected the question, saying, "I don't have that data."

When asked about the number of families which had arrived at the hospital to provide DNA samples and claim the bodies of their loved ones, he again said he did not have the information available with

him. Earlier, eight visually identifiable victims were released to relatives without the need for DNA analysis.

"A total of 230 teams have been formed to establish contact and hand over the mortal remains to the families. We began handing over the bodies today," he said.

Mr. Pandey added that the victims from Gujarat hailed from 18 districts and that the administration was also in touch with diplomats of other countries.

Death certificates were also being issued to the families on the spot.

"Each body will be escorted to its native place in an ambulance with police protection. Grief counselors are also being provided to help families cope with the trauma," he added.

Speaking about the condition of the lone survivor from among the 242 aboard the Air India aircraft, Dr. Patel said: "He is a lucky man. His condition is stable, and he can walk and talk normally."

Airline extends help

A day after Air India and Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran visited Ahmedabad, the airline's CEO, Campbell Wilson, met with the families of the deceased.

The airline also announced an immediate financial support of ₹25 lakh to each of the families of the deceased as well as survivors, in addition to the sum of ₹1 crore announced earlier.

The airline's technical and customer support team was at Ahmedabad's B.J. Medical College. Over 200 trained caregivers were also deployed to support each family in different ways, including access to counselling. (With PTI inputs)

Another body recovered from crash site; four MBBS students confirmed dead

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Firefighters assisting forensic and aviation authorities at the Air India crash site in Ahmedabad discovered another body on Saturday morning.

Confirming the development, Additional Chief Fire Officer Jayesh Khadia said: "Our firemen, who are helping forensic and aviation experts in their ongoing investigation at the crash site, found some body parts from the canteen's rubble on Friday, while a body was found this morning."

One more body that had been stuck beneath the tail portion of the crashed aircraft was recovered on Saturday, Dr. Rajnish Patel, Head of Surgery at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, said.

The ill-fated Air India flight AI-171, a London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner, that crashed minutes after take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, killed all but one of the 242 people aboard, along with several residents on the ground. It ploughed into the medical hostel complex and its mess in the densely populated Meghani Nagar area.

Among those killed were four MBBS students from B.J. Medical College (BJMC), who were having lunch in the mess building



Salvage operation: The wreckage of the Air India plane being lifted by a crane in Ahmedabad on Saturday. VIJAY SONEJI

when the tragedy struck. The Junior Doctors' Association (JDA) of the BJMC confirmed the fatalities and added that 20 other students were injured in the crash. Of them, 11 have been discharged and are currently in stable condition, while the rest are recovering under observation.

"All admitted patients are stable and recovering quickly," said Dr. Dhaval Gameti, president of the JDA.

In addition to the student casualties, four family members of super-specialty doctors residing in the 'Atulyam' residential quarters also lost their lives. The wife of a resident doctor sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment.

The JDA urged the public to remain cautious about misinformation circulating online, particularly exaggerated reports about the toll among students and medical staff.

"In these challenging times, some individuals are spreading rumours suggesting a high death toll among medical college students and resident doctors. We appeal to everyone not to be misled by such misinformation and to refrain from spreading rumours further," the association said.

"JDA-BJMC expresses deep sorrow for every individual affected by this tragedy and extends heartfelt condolences and support to their families," it added. (With PTI inputs)

Air India says pre-flight checks completed for nine of 33 of its Dreamliner jets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air India said on Saturday that it had completed the one-time pre-flight checks ordered for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on nine of the 33 aircraft.

"These checks are being carried out on the Boeing 787 fleet as they return to India, before being cleared for their next operations," it said in a press statement about the fresh inspection guidelines ordered by the aviation safety regulator a day after the crash.

The airline is also "on track" to complete this process for the remaining 24 aircraft, Air India added.



An assistance centre opened at the airport for the relatives of the victims, in Mumbai, on Saturday. AFP

The inspections include one-time pre-flight checks of six different items, such as fuel parameter monitoring and associated system, inspection of cabin air compressor, and electronic engine control system

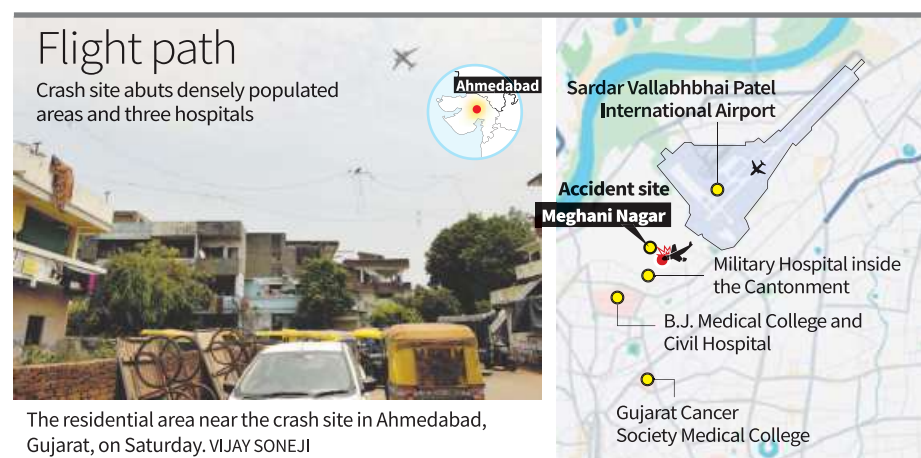
test. Additionally, the airline has to also carry out flight control inspection as part of checks while the aircraft is in transit. A power assurance check within two weeks also needs to be performed.

Crash narrowly missed residential area and three hospitals, staving off a larger death toll

Jagriti Chandra
AHMEDABAD

Air India's Boeing 787 crashed into a hostel at B.J. Medical College in a portion of a sparsely populated area, bordered by dense settlements and at least three hospitals, including the 1,200-bed Civil Hospital, significantly reducing the potential for a greater tragedy.

"If the aircraft had fallen three seconds earlier, it would have fallen atop our colony. Had it fallen three seconds later, it would have crashed into the Civil Hospital within the B.J. Medical College premises," said Parmar Vikram Singh, a shopkeeper in the densely populated Meghani Nagar that is located across the residential campus of medical college. The colony houses 151 blocks, each with 24



The residential area near the crash site in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Saturday. VIJAY SONEJI

flats, he said.

The crash killed 241 out of 242 aboard the aircraft, apart from the deaths among the medical college students on the campus.

While right behind the crash site is Meghani Nagar, to its immediate right is the Military Hospital inside the Cantonment. There are

two other hospitals in the vicinity – the Civil Hospital, and, a little further, is the Gujarat Cancer Society Medical College, Mr. Singh said.

At the crash site, adjacent to the mess building and four blocks of the college hostel where the aircraft plummeted, is a mas-

sive open plot.

Calculations using Google Maps show that a straight path to the Civil Hospital is located at a distance of 750 metres from the crash site, and the Cancer College is at a distance of 1.83 km. The Military Hospital is only about 330 metres from the site.

Investigators are working to establish the precise sequence of events, but initial observations suggest the aircraft came down in one of the few relatively open patches available within this urban stretch – a tree-lined zone, with portions of open fields – thereby narrowly avoiding densely populated areas and critical infrastructure. That the widebody jet did not impact high-rise housing blocks or the sprawling hospital facilities nearby likely prevented a far larger loss of life.

Mr. Singh grew teary-eyed recalling the narrow escape he had as a resident of Meghani Nagar. "I am feeling emotional because when the crash happened, there was no screaming heard from the site. The deaths were instantaneous," he said.

Govt. must fix accountability for AI-171 crash: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Visiting the Air India flight AI-171 crash site at Ahmedabad on Saturday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the government must fix accountability and not adopt a stance that "accidents do happen".

At the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, Mr. Kharge met injured people, including the lone survivor of the plane crash, and others injured on the ground, including medical students. He later told presspersons that the Centre must give compensation to the kin of the deceased and to the injured.

Hostels of medical college vacated to facilitate probe

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

B.J. Medical College Dean Meenakshi Pareek said on Saturday that hostels on the campus were being vacated to facilitate the investigation into the Air India crash.

"The Aircraft Investigation Bureau, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is carrying out the probe. As part of that, our Atulya 1, 2, 3, and 4 hostels are being vacated. These hostels accommodate postgraduate students, and alternative arrangements have been made for all of them," she said.

At the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, authorities began handing over the mortal remains of the Air India



A set of coffins arrives at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for the air crash victims.

crash victims to their families following DNA confirmation. Sets of coffins arrived at the hospital premises on Saturday for the victims.

Authorities confirmed that 19 DNA samples had been verified, and the families of those victims had

been contacted to collect the remains.

Identification process

Late Friday evening, all bodies were shifted from the hospital's post-mortem room to a newly designated building on campus, where forensic experts are conducting autopsies as part of the ongoing identification process.

A source at the hospital said that the autopsy process may take another three or four days.

Rajnish Patel, Head of Surgery at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, said that once families submit their DNA samples, they do not need to wait at the hospital. "We'll inform the families once the [DNA] matching happens," he said.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY			
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT			
CORRIGENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAMME JUNE' 2025			
NOTICE No. 06/2025			
e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.			
e-auction conducted by	Additional Auction date included in June'25 auction schedule and which is on	Material for auction	
SA Division	26.06.2025	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue www.ireps.gov.in website.	
Note : All other auctions scheduled for JUNE' 24 remains unaltered			
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site https://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.			
Principal Chief Materials Manager			

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA									
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR									
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR - 754296, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com									
Letter No. 1873 / Date:- 11.06.25									
1 st Corrigendum Notice									
1 st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Tender-Online RCK-11/25 invited by this office vide Letter No.-1737, Dt.-30.05.2025. The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T.:- 1. Clause no.-06 of NIT Modified below :-									
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification		Date & Time of opening of Tender			
		Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender RCK-11/25	From 10.06.2025 At 11.00 A.M. To 26.06.2025 Upto 05.00 P.M.	From 20.06.2025 At 11.00 A.M. To 09.07.2025 Upto 05.00 P.M.	26.06.2025 up to 02.00 P.M.	09.07.2025 up to 02.00 P.M.	30.06.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	10.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later
All other conditions of NIT remain unaltered.									
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur. O-283: OIPR-25129/11/0053/2526									

READ
FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984
EVERY FORT NIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

IN BRIEF



38 held in Assam's Dhubri for stoking communal fire

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said 38 people had been arrested in Dhubri town for trying to stir communal passion by placing the heads of cows in front of a Hanuman temple after Id-ul-Azha on June 7. The headquarters of Dhubri district bordering Bangladesh, the town is about 290 km west of Guwahati. The police caught the "miscreants" hours after he visited the communally charged town on Friday and directed officials to issue a shoot-at-sight order. A man identified as Ramjan Ali Sheikh was arrested earlier on suspicion of being linked to the "beef" recovered. He posted on X, "38 arrested overnight in the Dhubri beef head incident."

Five foreign varsities get LoI to set up campuses in Mumbai

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday handed over Letters of Intent (LoI) to foreign educational institutions willing to set up campuses in India. Aberdeen University of Scotland, University of York, U.K.; Illinois Institute of Technology from the U.S.; Western Australia University and IED, a design institute from Europe, were the colleges that received their letters of intent. These universities will have their campuses at the international education city that is planned in New Mumbai. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also present at the occasion.

BJP, JD(U) slam Lalu Prasad for 'insulting' Dr. Ambedkar

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal(United) leaders on Saturday slammed Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad for allegedly insulting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by placing a portrait of the Dalit icon at his feet. "It is very unfortunate that such a shameful act took place in a democracy. The act proves that he considers himself a king and does not have any respect for anyone," said BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. Bihar JD(U) State president Umesh Singh Kushwaha also issued a statement saying that the insult to Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's exposes the real mentality of the RJD and the truth of its pseudo social justice.

NIA files chargesheet in CRPF camp attack case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday stated that it has chargesheeted 17 accused, including 16 absconders, in a 2024 case of attack on Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camps by the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) operatives in Chhattisgarh. The chargesheet was filed before a special court in Jagdalpur, and two Central Committee members of the CPI (Maoist) are among the accused, the agency stated. The NIA submitted that the accused had established a replica of the target camp as part of their preparation. "The attackers had attempted to loot weapons and other belongings of the security forces from the camps.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Manipur unites in grief, across the ethnic divide

Meitei and Kuki-Zo groups mourn the deaths of both K. Nganthoi Sharma and Lamnunthem Singson, two cabin crew members hailing from different communities, in the June 12 plane crash

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Divided by ethnic strife for more than two years, Manipur has united in grief in the wake of the June 12 crash of Air India flight AI-171.

Meitei and Kuki-Zo groups, yearning for peace, have mourned the deaths of both 20-year-old Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma, who is part of the Meitei community, and 26-year-old Lamnunthem Singson, a member of the tribal Thadou community, in equal measure.

The pair were among the 10 cabin crew members of Air India's London-bound flight, which crashed seconds after take-off from Ahmedabad.

'Huge loss for all'

"Both were full of life, serving with dedication and pride. Their sudden passing is a huge loss for their families, friends, and for all of us back home. May their souls rest in peace and may their loved ones find the strength to get through this unimaginable pain," former Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh posted on X.



People during a candlelight prayer service organised by the Archdiocese of Delhi in memory of victims of the Air India plane crash at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in New Delhi. PTI

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, which has been seeking a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people since the ethnic conflict with the non-tribal Meiteis broke out in May 2023, said it was pained by the crash that killed 241 people on board, including the two crew members from Manipur.

The tribal Thadou Students Association issued a statement with the photos of both Ms. Sharma and Ms. Singson to "express

heartfelt condolences to both bereaved families" while assuring them of assistance.

'Two daughters'

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, which upholds Meitei pride, said it stands in deep solidarity with the families who lost "two precious daughters of our soil".

A spokesperson of the Meitei Heritage Society said: "In death, we are all the same. A tiny State with

a population less than many big districts of India, divided on narrow ethnic lines by a few vested interest groups."

Ms. Singson was among those who were displaced from Imphal during the peak of the ethnic conflict. "She was the sole breadwinner of the family for the past few years," her widowed mother, Nenneliling Singson, said.

Air India recruited Ms. Sharma three years ago, while she was studying for an undergraduate course.

A surprise visit that ended in tragedy for Ahmedabad couple

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

What began as a joyful family reunion turned into an unimaginable tragedy for Anil Ambalal Patel from Ahmedabad, who lost his son and daughter-in-law in the devastating Air India plane crash on June 12.

Pooja Patel, 30, and her husband Harshit, 30, both based in London, had arrived in Ahmedabad on June 2 for two reasons – to seek affordable medical treatment for Pooja after her recent miscarriage and to surprise Mr. Anil, whom they hadn't seen in two years.

"When they showed up at my door, I was speechless. I hadn't seen them since 2022. Pooja had gone through a lot recently, so it was a relief to see her in person," Mr. Anil recalled.

Mr. Anil, who lost his wife Umadevi six years ago, works for Amazon's delivery service in Ahmedabad. His son, an engineering graduate, was employed with the same multinational company in a senior role in London.

The family cherished their brief time together, unaware of the impending tragedy. On June 12, Mr. Anil accompanied the couple to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport to see them off. They were



Anil Ambalal Patel, who lost his son and daughter-in-law in the Air India plane crash.

aboard the ill-fated Air India Flight AI-171, a London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner that crashed minutes after take-off.

"I dropped them at the airport and came home. Harshit video-called me after they checked in and said he would call again after landing in London," Mr. Anil said, choking back tears. "But in less than an hour, I heard their flight had crashed."

Later that evening, Mr. Anil gave a DNA sample to aid the identification process. On Saturday, he returned to B.J. Medical College, hoping to claim the bodies of his son and daughter-in-law. "I can't rest without seeing them. I came again today, but the staff said updates will be given only on Sunday evening," he said. Officials have told families that DNA-based identification would take at least 72 hours.

No perfect score in NEET-UG; Mahesh Kumar of Rajasthan gets first rank in medical entrance

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

No candidate has achieved a perfect score in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) this year, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said, declaring the results on Saturday.

Students said the NEET-UG 2025 question paper was tougher than those of the previous years, which reflected in the candidates' scores.

While 17 candidates scored 720 out of 720 in 2024, this year, Mahesh Kumar of Rajasthan, who secured the All India Rank (AIR)-1, scored 686/720 (99.999547 percentile).

Utkarsh Awadhya of Madhya Pradesh has secured the second place, while Krishang Joshi of Maharashtra and Mrinal



Candidates appearing for the NEET-UG 2025, at an examination centre in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Kishore Jha of Delhi finished third and fourth, respectively.

One woman in top 10

Only one woman candidate made it to the top 10 ranks this year. Avika Agarwal of the National Cap-

ital Territory of Delhi is the woman topper of this year's NEET (UG). She has secured AIR-5.

The top 10 ranks were dominated by General Category students from Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab, and Maharashtra.

In the NEET-UG 2025 results, Delhi leads with the highest number of candidates in the all-India top 10 list. This year, a total of 22,76,069 candidates registered for the exam, out of which 22,09,318 candidates appeared for the exam. A total of 12,36,531 candidates have qualified the medical entrance examination.

Out of the total number of candidates who have passed the exam, 5,14,063 are male candidates, and 7,22,462 are female candidates.

Seventeen candidates among the top 100 are from Delhi, 14 are from Rajasthan, 11 from Maharashtra, nine candidates each are from Gujarat and Punjab, among others.

The States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and

Madhya Pradesh have candidates in the top 100.

In the tally of States with the highest number of successful candidates, Uttar Pradesh has more than 1.70 lakh candidates qualifying, while 1.25 lakh candidates from Maharashtra have cleared the exam.

The NTA organises NEET for admission to medical colleges every year. A total of 1,08,000 seats in private and government medical colleges are available for the MBBS course.

The NEET is a standardised, national-level entrance exam for undergraduate medical courses in India. Specifically, it's used for admission to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH, and other medical and paramedical programmes, in both government and private institutions.

NIA conducts searches in two States in HuT case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has searched multiple locations in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal and Jhalawar in Rajasthan in a terror conspiracy case related to the banned outfit, the Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT).

"Three locations were extensively searched in Bhopal and two in Jhalawar as part of the agency's continuing probe into the activities of HuT and its members in the case," said the agency. The NIA teams seized digital devices during the searches. "The youth were being motivated to spread violence in a bid to overthrow India's democratically elected government and establish an Islamic State governed by Shariah law," the NIA said.

Proposed AC temperature-control norms build on 2018 guidelines

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The guidelines proposed by Union Minister for Power Manohar Lal Khattar, at a conference last week, to limit the operational temperature range of air conditioners across the country, build on a 2018 plan put forward by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

In 2018, the BEE, which is affiliated to the Power Ministry, issued guidelines to major commercial establishments to conserve energy through optimum temperature settings for air conditioners. The establishments included airports, hotels, shopping malls, offices and government buildings (Ministries and attached offices, State government establishments and public sector



The BEE says that considering the current trend, total connected load due to air conditioning will be about 200 GW by 2030. AFP

undertakings and so on). The guidelines were voluntary and the BEE said it would undertake a survey to check the proposal's effectiveness.

In 2020, the government mandated that all air conditioners have a default setting of 24 degrees Celsius – considered an optimal

setting for human comfort. However, this still allowed individuals to control the temperature settings to their choice.

"The new proposed guidelines take it one step further by having new air conditioners hardwired to operate in a fixed temperature range of 20 to 28 de-

grees Celsius," said Alok Kumar, a former Secretary of the Ministry of Power.

The BEE estimates that considering the current market trend, total connected load in India due to air conditioning will be about 200 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and could further increase as only about 6% of households use one or more air conditioners currently. Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal said last week that India's cooling demand amounted to around 50 GW, or roughly one-fifth of India's peak power demand.

Some countries, such as Japan, already have regulations in place for the functioning of air conditioners. Japan encourages a default setting for air conditioners at 28 degrees Celsius in offices and public buildings.

In major arms haul, Manipur Police seize 328 weapons

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Personnel of the Manipur Police and other security forces recovered 328 weapons during simultaneous operations across five districts of the Imphal Valley on the intervening night of June 13 and 14.

This was one of the largest hauls of firearms since the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities broke out in May 2023.

According to a statement by the Manipur Police, the recovered weapons included 151 self-loading rifles, 65 INSAS rifles, 12 light machine guns, six rifles of the AK series, two flare guns, a mortar, and 73 rifles of other kinds. A huge quantity of

ammunition was also seized.

Manipur's Additional Director-General of Police Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo said the operations were based on intelligence about a large cache of arms and ammunition stashed in different areas of the Imphal Valley districts. These were conducted jointly by Manipur Police, Central Armed Police Forces, Indian Army, and Assam Rifles personnel.

"These intelligence-based operations mark a major achievement for the Manipur Police and the security forces in their continued efforts to restore normalcy, maintain public order and ensure the safety and security of citizens and their property," a statement said.

Ensure no claim is denied or delayed, IRDAI tells insurers on Air India crash

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has advised insurers in the wake of the Air India plane crash to ensure no claim pertaining to those who died is either denied or delayed on account of procedural formalities.

“Ensure no claim is denied or delayed... in the case of confirmed deceased individuals from the passenger list and persons at the affected buildings of the crash area,” the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said in a circular to all insurers, reinsurers, Life Insurance Council and General Insurance Council.

It asked the councils to set up a dedicated joint cell at the hospital where those injured after the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed into BJ Medical College hostel and other buildings were getting treatment.

This will help provide information to insurers immediately in respect of the claims or any other assistance required for any of their health/life insurance policies.

IRDAI wanted all insurers to act immediately as the passenger list has already been released. Since medical insurance cover for overseas travel is mandatory, it wanted them to obtain an authenticated list of the passengers as well as insurance policy details of those affected in

Insurers ease claim process of crash victims

NEW DELHI

Insurance companies SBI Life, HDFC Life and ICICI Lombard on Saturday said they have relaxed the claim settlement process for Air India plane crash victims. PTI

the vicinity of the crash area.

Verify details in the respective data base of the insurers with regard to the overseas medical insurance policies, personal accident policies and life insurance policies and initiate fast-track processes for claim settlement,” the regulator said.

It wanted insurers to waive requirements such as first information report (FIR) or post-mortem reports where official confirmation from authorities concerned are available. It also wanted them to note the claim settlement to the nominee as recorded in the policy.

IRDAI also advised the insurers to nominate a nodal officer at senior level to co-ordinate with the joint cell for speedy settlement of claims. Starting June 16, the insurers should submit a report on weekly basis for a month.

The Councils should publish insurer-wise summary level claims settlement data, it said.

Arunachal declares 2025-35 as ‘decade of hydropower’

Move aimed at harnessing the State’s potential to generate 58,000 MW of electricity, creating stable and supportive regulatory framework for overall development of industrial ecosystem: CMO

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Cabinet headed by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has declared 2025-2035 as the ‘Decade of Hydropower’ to harness the State’s potential to generate 58,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The special Cabinet meeting held on Friday termed the thrust on hydropower as a “strategic management of revenues generated through free power from the hydroelectric projects (HEPs).

Strategic measures

“During the Decade of Hydropower, the government aims to undertake strategic policy and governance measures not just to harness the hydropower potential through a judicious mix of mega, large, and small hydroelectric projects, but also to create a stable and supportive policy and regulatory framework for the overall development of the industrial ecosystem in the State,” a statement issued by the Chief Minister’s Office said.

According to the agreement with power developers, Arunachal Pradesh will receive 12% free power from each HEP, and an additional 1% for a local area development fund.

Arunachal Pradesh expects ₹4,525 crore in annual revenue from 2035 onwards from projects in



Watt formula: According to the agreement with power developers, the State will receive 12% free power from each HEP. FILE PHOTO

Arunachal Pradesh expects ₹4,525 crore in annual revenue 2035 onwards from projects in various stages of completion

various stages of completion. These projects, riding cumulative investments of more than ₹2 lakh crore in the next 10 years, have a combined capacity of generating 19 gigawatts (GW) of electricity.

Escrow account

The State Cabinet approved the creation of an escrow account for “strategic management and effective utilisation of the revenue generated from the proceeds of free power” from these HEPs.

“By effective management of these benefits, the State can make strategic and financial decisions about investing in the over-

all development of the State. This initiative will not only streamline financial processes but also ensure that the benefits of free power are maximised for the State’s long-term sustainable growth and prosperity,” the CMO said in the statement.

Plans for Siang project

The Cabinet underscored the need to allay fears and build consensus among the people likely to be affected by the controversial Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) that anti-dam activists said is targeted to generate 11,000 MW of electricity.

The Centre declared the SUMP as a national project in 2008, given its significance from the national security point of view.

The project is being pursued as a counter to China’s proposed 60,000 MW project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet

upstream.

The Cabinet sought regular and detailed interactions with the likely project-affected families (PAFs) regarding the urgent need to conduct the pre-feasibility survey for the SUMP. Villagers in three districts – Siang, East Siang and Upper Siang – have been resisting this survey. The Cabinet emphasised the need for continuous engagement with the PAFs to ensure fair, just, and equitable compensation and solatium, in case the SUMP is found to be feasible.

Alternate towns

The Cabinet directed the State’s Department of Urban Development to constitute a New Yingkong Development Authority and a New Geku Development Authority to pursue “future-ready alternate towns”.

It accordingly approved the constitution of a committee to examine land and property compensation rates and suggest the mechanisms to be adopted for designing and implementing a robust rehabilitation and resettlement plan for the PAFs. Geku and Yingkong are towns in the Upper Siang district.

The Cabinet further directed the Public Works Department to initiate a survey for a necklace road along the Siang River, above the likely submergence area.

INBRIEF



SpiceJet profit after tax jumps nearly threefold to ₹325 crore

Budget carrier Spicejet on Saturday said its standalone profit after tax (PAT) surged nearly threefold to ₹324.87 crore in the March 2025 quarter. The Gurugram-based airline had posted a PAT of ₹119 crore in the fourth quarter of FY24, according to a regulatory filing. However, the revenue from operations for the reporting quarter declined 16% year-on-year to ₹1,446.37 crore from ₹1,719.3 crore in Q4 FY24, Spicejet said in the filing. PTI

Natco Pharma’s API plant gets U.S. FDA observation

Generic drugmaker Natco Pharma’s active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) manufacturing plant in Mekaguda, Hyderabad, has been issued a Form 483 with one observation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The U.S. FDA conducted the inspection from June 9-13, and the company received one observation in Form-483. The company believes it is procedural in nature and is confident of addressing the observation comprehensively, Natco Pharma said in a filing.

U.S. FDA issues 8 observations to Sun Pharma’s Halol facility

Sun Pharma’s drug manufacturing facility in Halol, Gujarat, has been issued 8 observations by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The U.S. FDA issued a Form-483 with eight observations following conclusion of a good manufacturing practices inspection of the facility from June 2-13, Sun Pharma said in a filing with the stock exchanges. The U.S. FDA’s warning letter had summarised violations with respect to current good manufacturing practice regulations.

Cherrapunji Gin becomes first alcohol label from northeast to be exported

WORLD GIN DAY

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya’s rain-fed ‘Cherrapunji’ is literally in high spirits. The Cherrapunji Eastern Craft Gin has become the first alcohol label from the northeastern part of India to be exported. The Meghalaya-based company announced this on World Gin Day.

The company’s CEO Mayukh Hazarika said the gin carrying the British-era name of Sohra is available in parts of the European Union. Beyond this bloc, the product is expected to be marketed in Japan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom later this year.

“This is a moment of pride not just for us, but for the region. We wanted to create a product that tells a story about where it comes from, and we are seeing that story resonate far beyond our expectations,” he said.

The gin’s international journey coincides with a broader shift in how spirits are being consumed and valued. Globally, gin has emerged as a canvas for local expression, with distilleries in places as far-flung as Japan, Kenya, and Iceland producing regionally inspired versions.

“In India, this movement picked up pace with the emergence of brands focused on hyperlocal ingredients and storytelling,” Mr. Hazarika said.



Spirited sanity: Once a colonial-era staple, gin is undergoing a global revival, says Mayukh Hazarika. FILE PHOTO

vested rainwater sourced from Sohra and Mawsynram, the two wettest places on Earth.

Its botanical profile is built on local ingredients such as kaji nemu (Assamese lemon), khasi mandarin, Sohmarit pepper, smoked black cardamom, and pine-smoked tea, creating a flavour described by enthusiasts as complex, aromatic, and regionally distinctive.

Mr. Hazarika said Cherrapunji Gin is packaged in a military-grade stainless steel bottle, a sharp departure from the norm in the world of spirits.

“Designed to be reused and repurposed, the bottle is a quiet challenge to the throwaway culture of luxury packaging. Most glass bottles are used once and discarded. We wanted ours to be functional, long-lasting – something people would keep,” he said.

He said gin, once a colonial-era staple, is undergoing a global revival. “In recent years, the spirit has seen a sharp uptick in pop-

ularity, driven by the rise of artisanal distilleries, experimental botanicals, and an evolving consumer palate that favours provenance, craftsmanship and authenticity,” he added.

In India, gin has moved from a niche category to a staple in urban bars and home collections over the last five years. This has been buoyed by the success of premium domestic labels and a surge in cocktail culture.

What was once dominated by imported brands now features a growing number of Indian-made craft gins that foreground regional botanicals and local narratives.

The Cherrapunji Eastern Craft Gin has won 13 international spirits awards, including a ‘Master’ medal at the Global Spirits Masters 2023, its launch year, and a silver at the World Gin Awards.

Mr. Hazarika said that government support, especially from Meghalaya, played a major role in enabling this venture.

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 - 2742046, 27472113, 27472423, www.niepmnd.nic.in, Email: niepmnd@gov.in
(Re-Accredited by NAAC B+2nd Cycle) - ISO 9001:2015-

Manpower Engagement Notification (Temporary) No.08/2025 (Online Application only)

NIEPMND invites online Applications from the eligible candidates for the following contractual engagement at NIEPMND (D), Chennai and CRC Karaikal, Puducherry.

NIEPMND(D), Chennai
Associate Professor – Prosthetics & Orthotics (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant (Audiologist – Grade 1) (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant (Speech Pathologist – Grade 1) (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant (Speech & Hearing) (Consultant) – 1

CRC – Karaikal, Puducherry
Director (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant (Developmental Therapist) (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant (Speech Therapist) (Consultant) – 1, Special Educator (Consultant) – 1, Vocational Instructor (Consultant) – 1, Assistant (Consultant) – 1, Accountant (Consultant) – 1

The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect can submit their application through online mode. The online registration of application will be made available on NIEPMND website, Chennai official link i.e. <https://niepmnd.nic.in/notice-category/recruitments/> For all other details, terms and conditions, please log on to the website www.niepmnd.nic.in Sd/- DIRECTOR

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
(Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No : 35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Sriperumbudur-602 105, Tamil Nadu

Applications are invited for the Post of Director

RGNIYD is an Institute of National Importance by the Act of Parliament 35/2012 devoted to teaching, research, extension activities, policy development and co-ordination at National and International levels on matters of youth development and youth affairs. It is financed by the Government of India through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It is located in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

RGNIYD is looking for a Director, preferably below 65 years of age at the time applying, who is the principal academic and executive head of the institution responsible for shaping the academic performance and proper administration of the Institute befitting its status of an “Institution of National Importance”, a distinction conferred on it by the Act of Parliament. The candidate should have outstanding academic qualifications and be an eminent educationist / administrator / technologist. Proven experience in youth development or research on youth affairs will be considered a desirable qualification. The post carries UGC scale wherein the basic pay of Rs.75,000/- (fixed) + Special Allowance of Rs.5,000/- per month (pre-revised) (6th CPC) plus other allowances as applicable, other perks including accommodation, transport etc.

Application in prescribed format (available on www.rgnyid.gov.in) with supporting documents should be sent to “The Under Secretary (RGNIYD), Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Room No. 718A, 7th Floor, A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 superscripting “Application for the post of Director, RGNIYD Sriperumbudur” together with two references (to whom reference may be made) so as to reach on or before 30 days from date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News. (Note: Thirty days will be counted from the last day of the week in which the advertisement appears in the Employment News.)

Shortlisted candidates will be called for consultations with the Search Committee constituted for the purpose. The committee may invite eligible candidates from outside the applicants as well. For more details about RGNIYD please visit www.rgnyid.gov.in. Sd/- Assistant Registrar

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking), Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: +9176-2651215 to 217, E-Mail: kmml@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

Sl.No	Tender Id	Items
1	2025_KMML_768956_1	For Fabrication & Supply of FRP panels for Filtrate Thickner
2	2025_KMML_769220_1	For the supply of Quick Opening Door for Rotary Digester-4 Nos

Chavara 13.06.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	11/ F. Revamping CWSS / SLM& TPR/SDO/T6/ CE/ CBE/ 2025/ Dated: 10.06.2025.
Fund	Revamping Fund 2025 - 2026
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathi park Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Downloading period	19.06.2025 to 18.07.2025 up to 15.00 Hours
Available website	e-Tendering website https://ntenders.gov.in
EMD Payable at	Online mode through e-tendering portal
Pre-Bid meeting	09.07.2025 at 11.00 Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	18.07.2025 before 15.00 Hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website https://ntenders.gov.in
Bid opening	21.07.2025 at 15.30 Hours for Sl.No.01 and 15.45 Hours Sl.No.02 of the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through e-Tendering website https://ntenders.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work including GST @ 18%	Bid Security
1.	Under Revamping of Existing CWSS in Salem & Tiruppur Districts for the year 2025-26. (Construction Period: 12 Months, Trial Run: 2 months and followed by Free Maintenance Period: 3 Months)	Rs. 56.89 Crore	Rs 42.67 lakh
2.	Replacement of existing of 1100mm PSC pipes with MS pipe, Replacement of PSC pipes with various size of DI pipes under Retrofitting of Attur Narasingapuram CWSS in Salem district.	Rs. 29.87 Crore	Rs. 22.40 lakh

DIPR/ 3036 /TENDER/2025
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

Chief Engineer, (I/C), TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

Kerala Maritime Board
(A Statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)

Request for Proposal (RFP)
Development of

Kerala Maritime Education and Edutainment Hub at Neendakara, Kollam, Kerala in PPP mode

RFP ref no. 01/2025-26-HOKMB-TVM/1117/2024-E1, Dated:12-06-2025
Due Date of Submission: 28-07-2025

For details visit: <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/>

Kerala Maritime Board is soliciting proposals from interested and eligible Bidders for the development of state-of-the-art maritime education and edutainment hub by leveraging the existing infrastructure and picturesque land at Neendakara, Kollam, Kerala in PPP mode.

Email Id: kmb.kerala@gmail.com KMB Website: <https://kmb.kerala.gov.in/>

Psychology shows signs of recovery from replication crisis

The Hindu Bureau

As if political broadsides weren't enough to undermine public confidence in science, a deep-seated issue became apparent from within science itself in the 2010s: the replication crisis. Researchers began to realise many published papers, especially in psychology and medicine, contained results that couldn't be replicated. It was a surfeit of bad science that also undermined the work of others that was

erected on faulty results. But according to a new paper published in *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, psychology at least may have learnt its lesson. Its author, Duke University postdoc Paul Bogdan, parsed 2.4 lakh papers published between 2004 and 2024 to check whether the field had become more robust since the crisis unfolded. Bogdan focused on fragile *p*-values: statistical results that barely clear the usual

cut-off to be considered significant (0.01 to 0.05). The larger the share of such values, the shakier the evidence. According to Bogdan's analysis, the share of fragile significant results had dropped from 32% at the start of the crisis to 26%. He also found that the downward slide appeared in every major sub-discipline, suggesting a broad cultural shift toward sturdier work. Sample size was a key driver. The median size

climbed rapidly from 2015 while the reported effect sizes inched downward. This was likely because small studies inflate the effects of their findings whereas bigger ones give truer but smaller estimates. Together, these trends pointed to rising statistical power across the literature. Journals with higher impact scores and papers with more citations also tended to feature fewer fragile *p*-values, reversing a pre-crisis pattern in which splashy outlets often pu-

blished weaker but more sensational findings. Bogdan revealed one curiosity: scientists at top-ranked universities still published slightly shakier numbers. He used text-mining to explain the mismatch. Words tied to biology-heavy, clinically demanding studies were associated with fragile results as well as high-ranking institutions. This is because such projects are expensive, labour-intensive, and often ethically constrained, making large

samples difficult to gather. In sum, psychology appears to have tightened its standards even as some better-funded corners of the field remain under-powered because they're tackling tough questions. To rebuild public trust, scholars at large have recommended that research groups and journals adopt open-data policies and pre-register studies (so even negative results are reported), and that governments better fund resource-heavy studies.

SNAPSHOTS



3D-printed electronic nose sniffs out deadly methanol

Drinking spirits that secretly contain methanol often causes serious blindness or death in India. To spot this danger cheaply, Australian researchers have 3D-printed an electronic nose: a thin film that mixes a porous metal-organic framework with a conductive graphene on a ceramic chip. When methanol vapour touches the film, its electrical resistance jumps more than it does for ethanol. This way, the sensor reliably picks up methanol at just 50 ppb even when ethanol levels are 10 ppm and humidity is high.



This penicillin needs the green light to work

Scientists have made a version of penicillin that only works when green light is shined on it. They plugged a small light-sensitive 'cap' onto the antibiotic's handle, so in the dark it couldn't grab its bacterial target. Exposing the capped drug to green light popped the cap and restored the drug's potency. In lab tests, the awakened drug stopped *Escherichia coli* from growing wherever light fell while the penicillin in the dark didn't. The scientists say the technology could help slash antibiotic overuse.



Life of Mongolian dino presages *T. rex* rise as apex

Scientists have found a new meat-eating dinosaur in Mongolia called *Khankhuluu mongoliensis*. Its bones show it was a midsize cousin of *T. rex* that lived roughly 90 million years ago. By lining up its skeleton with many other tyrannosaurs, the team found that small Asian dinos like *Khankhuluu* first crossed a land bridge into North America, where they rapidly evolved. The discovery reshapes our picture of when, where, and how the tyrannosaur family rose to the top.

Arc therapy beats tricky cancer while sparing nearby tissue

The first person to receive step-and-shoot SPARC was a 46-year-old woman whose parotid-gland cancer had spread along her facial nerve towards the base of her skull

Vasudevan Mukunth

A team of experts in the U.S. has successfully used a technique called step-and-shoot spot-scanning proton arc therapy (SPARC) to treat a patient's adenoid cystic carcinoma for the first time. SPARC works by targeting tumours with protons while sparing surrounding tissue.

The findings of the team, at the Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital, were published in the June 2025 issue of the *International Journal of Particle Therapy*.

The team compared the results of three techniques: SFO-IMPT (the current standard of care), step-and-shoot SPARC, and fully dynamic SPARC (simulated with computers). The SPARC methods reduced radiation delivered to the brainstem (by 10%), optical chiasm (56%), oral cavity (72%), and spinal canal (90%) over SFO-IMPT.

"This is definitely significant," Narayana Subramanian, lead consultant, Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at Aster International Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru, said. "In tumours of the head and neck, limiting dose delivery to organs at risk is a major consideration of treatment planning. When these organs receive a higher dose of radiation than they can tolerate, they undergo irreparable damage."

While fully-dynamic SPARC performed better,



Step by step
SPARC works by targeting tumours with protons in a near-continuous manner

A woman receives radiation therapy to treat her cancer. GETTY IMAGES

- A team has used step-and-shoot proton arc therapy to treat a parotid gland cancer for the first time
- The therapy significantly minimised damage to nearby organs over SFO-IMPT, the current standard of care
- A 46 y.o. woman received step-and-shoot SPARC after her parotid-gland cancer had spread towards the base of her skull
- In June-August 2024, she completed 33 sessions with step-and-shoot SPARC and received 66 grays of radiation
- In this time, the woman reportedly had "minor skin irritation" and no issues eating or continuing working
- Synthetic CT scans were used to track dose delivery, the therapy's performance, and develop adaptive treatment plans

the difference between the two arc styles was small, the team wrote. In dynamic SPARC, the dose's energy and point of delivery is constantly adjusted, whereas in step-and-shoot the machine follows a pre-programmed pattern.

The researchers wrote that dynamic SPARC is still under development and awaits regulatory clearance and integration with existing oncology information systems.

The first person to receive step-and-shoot SPARC was a 46-year-old woman whose parotid-gland cancer had spread along her facial nerve towards the base of her skull. In June-August 2024, the team said she completed 33 sessions with step-and-shoot SPARC. During this, the woman reportedly had "minor skin irritation" and no issues eating or continuing work-

ing. According to the American Cancer Society, conventional side-effects of radiation therapy for head and neck cancers include fatigue, nausea, trouble swallowing, etc.

Dr. Subramanian said the technology is "likely to be valuable in tumours that are located in anatomically complex areas like the skull base ... where dose delivery has to be precise with reduced spillage to surrounding critical areas. It's also likely to be valuable in large or extensive tumours, where the tumour can be targeted accurately with limited collateral damage to the surrounding tissues."

The treatment protocol included a computer programme that scanned through all possible spots and energy layers where the proton beams could be delivered.

An energy layer is a slice of tissue that receives proton beams of a specific energy. The energy determines the beam's range: how far it is able to penetrate the tissue. When the machine fixes one energy level, its scanning nozzle sweeps dozens of suitable spots and deposits the radiation dose in that energy layer. Then the machine switches to the next energy level and repeats the process, this time delivering a beam with a little more range. This way the whole tumour is 'painted' with radiation.

In each session, once the woman was in position, the team performed a cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) scan. A machine-learning model converted the CBCT data into a synthetic CT with which the team could track the doses to be delivered.

Cooking oils can help recover silver from e-waste



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

In families across the world, silver is used as a precious metal, next to gold. Happy occasions in most families are celebrated with gold and silver garlands and rings. Silver is, of course, less expensive than gold.

But when it comes to use in industry and energy production, silver beats gold flat. Silver is used to capture sunlight through rooftop solar panels across India, generating about 108 GW of clean and green electricity yearly across the nation (about 10% of what is generated from coal). In addition, mobile phones used by about 1.4 billion people across India use silver for electricity

conduction and storage. Each mobile phone uses 100-200 mg of silver. Likewise, a typical laptop computer uses 350 mg of silver, and we have about 50 million laptops in India.

If these are the numbers in India, one can imagine what the numbers across the world might be. It is estimated that about 7,275 metric tonnes of silver are used across the world for these purposes, but barely 15% is recuperated. And when a phone or a computer is damaged or discarded, the silver content is lost. If only we could get back this silver from the waste electrical and electronic equipment...

Clearly, silver plays a critical role in the clean energy transition. Maria Smirnova writes in the 2025 'Sprout Silver Report' that as more and more countries generate renewable power using solar panels, the demand for silver



Vegetable oils used in our daily cuisine contain organic fatty acids. GETTY IMAGES

in the coming years will steadily increase. She points out that while some groups have considered using other metals (including lithium, cobalt, and nickel), it is still silver that plays a fundamental role in cleaner and greener energy production. And demand for silver is expected to increase by about 170% by the year. In addition, cars, buses, and trains

have started using solar power rather than petrol as fuel. Ms. Smirnova further points out that the International Energy Agency predicts that by 2035, every other car sold worldwide will be electric. That would mean the need for more silver.

It is against this background that a paper by Anze Zupanc, Prof. Timo Repo, and colleagues from

Finland has come up with an efficient chemical method to recycle silver: using organic fatty acids, such as linolenic or oleic acids, which are found in seeds, nuts, and vegetable oils (such as olive oil or groundnut oil), which in turn are used in our daily cuisine.

Recovering silver from electronic waste is not simple: it may generate toxic

substances from the use of strong acids and cyanide. Rather than use traditional methods of isolating silver from other metals and alloys, the group has come up with a method to separate and recover silver using the chemical method of using common unsaturated fatty acids, abundant in sunflower, groundnut, and other oils. The group found that these are recyclable and thus better than organic solvents and water media.

The researchers also found this method applicable to 'urban mining', where silver retrieval from waste electrical and electronic wastes (WEEE) from discarded computer motherboard pieces becomes possible. The research team concludes, "fatty acids may, therefore, become the next generation of media for treating precious multi-metal waste substrates".



Question Corner

Squishy stuff

What is soft matter?

Soft matter is the branch of science that studies materials that can be shaped, stretched, squished or flowed by applying small forces. The building blocks of soft matter are held together by weak forces that heating can easily displace, so the material changes shape without needing much energy. Soft-matter research asks questions such as: How do long polymer chains become entangled to make plastic flexible? How do soap molecules arrange themselves to form stable foams? Why do nanoparticles in milk stay evenly mixed instead of

sinking? Understanding these questions lets engineers design better bike helmets with energy-absorbing foams, tastier ice cream by controlling ice crystals and air bubbles, safer drugs using gel networks, and stronger yet lighter materials like graphene aerogel nanolattices. In short, soft matter is the science of squishy stuff, where tiny interactions create the rich, often surprising behaviours seen in materials we use every day. Research on it is currently gaining in attention.

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

Why has the Axiom-4 mission been delayed?

Why was the mission postponed four times? Has a new date for the launch been announced?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On June 10, Axiom Space announced that the launch of its Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) would be postponed indefinitely. The mission crew included India's astronaut-designate Shubhanshu Shukla, who – if the rocket had lifted off as planned – would have become the first Indian in earth orbit after 40 years and the first Indian onboard the ISS.

What is the Axiom-4 mission?

The Axiom-4 mission is the fourth mission planned by U.S.-based spaceflight company Axiom Space to the ISS. It consists of a crew of four people – Peggy Whitson, Shubhanshu Shukla, Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski, and Tibor Kapu – plus cargo. To facilitate the mission, NASA had contracted Axiom, which in turn had contracted the Falcon 9 rocket and the Dragon crew capsule for the mission from SpaceX. The mission is commercial in nature and isn't part of

Ahead of Thursday's flight, SpaceX had tested one of the rocket's engines as a matter of procedure and discovered it was leaking liquid oxygen

the regular resupply missions NASA undertakes to the ISS. Following an announcement to strengthen India-U.S. ties in 2023, the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO) spent more than ₹500 crore for Mr. Shukla to fly on the mission. Mr. Shukla is one of the four astronaut-designates for ISRO's forthcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission. His compatriot Prasanth Nair is part of the Axiom-4 backup crew.

Why was the launch called off?

Ahead of Thursday's flight, SpaceX had tested one of the rocket's engines as a matter of procedure and discovered it was leaking liquid oxygen (LOX). LOX is cryogenic, meaning it needs to be stored at an extremely low temperature. If it is exposed to warmer conditions, the oxygen will turn into gas and not be usable as fuel.

Falcon 9 engines combust a mix of rocket-grade kerosene and LOX to generate thrust, so a LOX leak is a serious issue. The Axiom-4 mission had first been scheduled for lift-off on May 29 but had to be postponed four times. The delays were a result of a combination of unfavourable conditions related to the weather and the launch vehicle.

Then on June 12, NASA also said it and Russia's Roscosmos were tracking an anomalous pressure reading on an ISS service module after recent maintenance. "The postponement of Axiom Mission 4 provides additional time for NASA and Roscosmos to evaluate the situation and determine whether any additional troubleshooting is necessary," NASA had said in a statement.

Why was a new date not given immediately?

Since a LOX leak is a serious issue, SpaceX needed to find the precise source of the leak and why the underlying component(s) failed. How much time this would have taken was unclear. There are also particular launch 'windows' when a launch can deliver the crew to the ISS with minimal fuel and energy use, including the amount of time the crew capsule will be exposed to sunlight.

But because the ISS is so close to the earth, launch windows appear more frequently than those for the moon or Mars. NASA has already indicated there are more opportunities through June and July. Other factors that affect the suitability of a launch window include time on the launch pad for lift-off and access to free docking ports on the ISS. The U.S.'s NASA, Russia's Roscosmos, and (less often) some other space agencies also send missions to the ISS and need to plan when and for how long their capsules are docked.

At noon on June 14, it was announced that Axiom would reattempt the launch on June 19.

How hard is it to fix a LOX leak?

When it leaks, LOX flashes to an invisible vapour almost instantly and can be blown away by winds or fans nearby. Detecting it often entails time-consuming and labour-intensive work. Many joints in the components associated with storing and pumping LOX are insulated with foam or are located in nooks, meaning many regular leak-detecting methods can't physically reach them. Materials contract at cryogenic temperatures (around 90 K), so a hole may appear closed at ambient temperature but open at cryogenic temperatures. So once a hole has been fixed, engineers may need to repeat tests at both warm and cold conditions or test with liquid nitrogen to mimic operating conditions. Testing with LOX itself can be hazardous.

Fortunately, experts have been working with cryogenic engines for long enough to know which tools to use and which processes to follow once the leak has been identified. These include visual inspections, bubble tests, helium signature tests, flow-metre tests, ultrasonic microphones, and thermal imaging.

Who takes responsibility when a ship sinks?

What were the two recent shipping-related accidents which have happened across the coast of Kerala? What is a bill of lading? What role does the International Maritime Organization play when it comes to global merchant shipping? What is the SOLAS Convention?

Kalyanaraman. M

The story so far:

On June 9, MV Wan Hai 503, a Singapore-flagged vessel, caught fire nearly 88 nautical miles off Kerala's Beypore coast. The vessel was carrying more than 2,000 tonnes of fuel and hundreds of containers, the burning of which has caused concerns about the potential ecological impact. Search operations for the hazardous containers are still on. Earlier on May 25, the Liberian container ship MSC ELSA 3 sank off the coast of Kochi, Kerala.

Who regulates global shipping?

Global merchant shipping is primarily regulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO is among the most powerful UN agencies as many of its prescriptions and guidelines apply across shipping, given the multinational nature of the industry. Countries that are members of the IMO, India included, sign various conventions that lay down norms regarding pollution, safety, accidents, liabilities and responsibilities, after which member states pass appropriate domestic legislation or lay down rules that sync with convention prescriptions. In India, it is the Directorate General (DG) of Shipping which issues notices for such purposes. In some cases, Parliament sanction may also be needed.

In general, India is a signatory to many conventions, barring a few such as the 2004 Ballast Water Convention and the 2010 Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Convention. The HNS Convention deals with liability and compensation for damage related to

Countries that are members of the IMO sign various conventions that lay down norms regarding pollution, safety, accidents, and liabilities

the carriage of hazardous and noxious substances on ships. Given the increasing accidents on its coast, India may be served by ratifying this convention. In the case of the ELSA 3, in which many containers carrying noxious substances such as calcium carbide sank, India will seek remedies under its own merchant shipping laws.

Ships are owned by companies across the world. Greece and China lead in being homes to many of these companies. But the ships are often registered in various other nations for convenience and ease of operations. Though members of the IMO and governed by IMO norms, such nations offer less intrusive scrutiny and are therefore called Flags of Convenience (FOC). Liberia is one such country, Marshall Islands is another.

Who is liable for the loss of cargo and any damage to the environment?

The ship owner is liable for both. The trade of goods is governed by a contract called the bill of lading, which covers the transport of goods from one port to another, and is issued by the ship owner to the exporter during the loading of cargo. The owner of the bill of lading is the owner of the cargo. The bill of lading is a contract that lays down that the owner undertakes to ship the cargo from one port to another among other things. The bill of lading is transferred to the importer or the consignee, as per various shipment forms, after payment to the exporter. Typically, the importer opens a letter of credit to the exporter, and the bank then extends the credit and acquires the bill of lading from the exporter. When the receiver receives the cargo and makes the payment, he gets the bill of lading from the bank.

In case of damage or loss of cargo, the ship owner has to pay whoever owns the bill of lading. But that payment is covered by the Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Club, which is a cluster of several insurance companies who share the risk. Damage to the body of the ship and machinery, that is a business loss for the owner, is usually covered by indemnity. But in P&I, the insurer protects the owner against any claims on the owner too, such as in the case of damage to environment or loss of cargo or loss of life onboard the ship and elsewhere as a consequence of an accident involving the ship.

International conventions have capped the liability of the ship owner on loss of cargo, but there is no limit on claims against environment damage such as in the case of oil pollution or hazardous substances. The last could apply to the sunken containers of ELSA 3 or Wan Hai 503 that caught fire. Oil pollution damages itself



Heavy fumes: Smoke billows from the Singapore-flagged container ship MV Wan Hai 503 that caught fire off the coast of Beypore in Kerala on June 10. AFP

How should sexual abuse survivors be treated?

Why was timely medical care denied to a minor rape survivor? What were the guidelines issued by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma to hospitals about treating sexual assault survivors? Can a sexual assault survivor seek the termination of a pregnancy beyond 24 weeks?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Delhi High Court recently issued a series of guidelines to streamline procedures in hospitals handling Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) cases involving sexual assault survivors, after finding that miscommunication, and administrative lapses had resulted in the denial of timely medical care to a minor rape survivor.

What was the case?

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma issued the guidelines while adjudicating upon the plea of a 17-year-old rape survivor who had been taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, for medical examination and termination of pregnancy. Although accompanied by a police officer following the registration of an FIR, hospital authorities initially refused to conduct an ultrasound, citing the absence of identity documents. The matter was then referred to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which directed the hospital to proceed with the termination and submit a status report. However, the hospital continued to insist on identity proof and age verification through an ossification test.



Timely care: Duty doctors should be briefed on their obligations under the MTP Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. ANI

In all cases where a rape or sexual assault survivor is found to be pregnant, a medical examination must be conducted without delay

The ultrasound was eventually carried out after a CWC member personally intervened. By that time, the minor was found to be approximately 25 weeks and 4 days pregnant. The hospital then declined to convene a medical board, contending that a court order was required as the pregnancy appeared to exceed the 24-week statutory limit prescribed under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971. Following the court's intervention, a seven-member medical board was finally constituted at AIIMS to assess the feasibility of terminating the pregnancy. After conducting an ultrasound, the board determined that the gestational age of the foetus was 23 weeks and 4 days, and that the survivor was physically and mentally fit to undergo the procedure. This contradicted the hospital's earlier record, which had put the gestational age at 25 weeks and 4 days. The court noted with anguish that no explanation was provided for this discrepancy.

What directions were issued to hospitals?

The court observed that when an investigating officer presents a sexual assault survivor for medical examination, along with the official case file and FIR details, separate identity verification may be dispensed with. It further stressed that in cases involving minors, procedural safeguards applicable to routine diagnostic cases should not be applied rigidly or mechanically.

Justice Sharma directed that in all cases where a rape or sexual assault survivor is found to be pregnant, a comprehensive medical examination must be conducted without delay. In instances where the gestational age appears to exceed 24 weeks, hospital administrations were instructed to immediately constitute a medical board to conduct the necessary examination and submit a status report to the appropriate authorities without awaiting specific court orders. Hospitals were also directed to ensure that updated Standard Operating Procedures and relevant legal guidelines are readily accessible in both Emergency and Gynaecology Departments, and that duty doctors are regularly briefed and sensitised on their obligations under the MTP Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences

cover a vast range – impacting fish catch, affecting tourism, loss to other businesses, transportation and so on. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships upholds the polluter pays principle. Sometimes, however, national laws do protect against extended and potentially endless claims.

Who should salvage a ship that has sank?

This responsibility also rests with the ship owner. The Nairobi Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 governs this situation, and India is a signatory. Under this, the ship owner whose ship has sunk within the sovereign waters of India – up to 200 nautical miles from a reference line on the coast – has to salvage the ship. In case the ship cannot be refloated, especially if the waters are too deep, then the ship owner is liable for any claims of damage.

Why do ships still sink?

While advanced materials, knowledge, expertise and skill go into building ships, they are exposed to the vagaries of the sea and its multi-layered impact cannot always be predicted in a pinpointed way. For instance, in ELSA 3, as the ship started tilting to one side – listing, in shipping parlance – containers that were stowed on top fell into the sea that was already rough. This led to the list increasing on the heavier side which could have led to the ship sinking.

Quite often, a series of errors, mistakes and small incidents sync to create a major accident. By themselves, each of these mistakes and incidents are not a cause of much concern. Too often, such mistakes are manmade and often, egregious. Today merchant ships tend to sail close to the coast in search of mobile phone signals so that seafarers with roaming facilities can stay in touch with their friends or family. *Wakashio*, a bulk carrier, ran aground off Mauritius in 2020, leading to an oil spill, because it went too close to the shore in search of mobile phone signals. This was during the COVID-19 pandemic when seafarers were spending extended periods out at sea amidst concerns about their health and that of their families'.

The unsinkable Titanic was sunk because of human error. But after the sinking, a convention called Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS) came into being. SOLAS is one of the key conventions that governs shipping and is often revised. A key lesson from the Titanic, that has now been implemented as a SOLAS norm, is that lifeboats on either side of the ship should have enough capacity to carry the number of people the ship is designed to carry. This means that if the ship tilts to one side and the lifeboats on only one side are accessible, even then they should be able to carry all those people on board to safety.

The shipping industry learns from each accident. The IMO revises and supplements its guidelines periodically regarding ship design and construction that are then adopted by the industry.

(POCSO) Act, and other binding directives issued by the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The court further mandated that quarterly training programmes be organised for doctors and medical staff in coordination with legal aid bodies such as the Delhi State Legal Services Authority and the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee (DHCLSC). Each government hospital was also directed to designate a nodal officer to oversee MTP cases and related medico-legal processes, serving as a single point of contact for the CWC, investigating officers, and the courts. Additionally, consent for MTP procedures was to be obtained from the survivor or her guardian, in a language they fully comprehend, such as Hindi or English.

What was the Delhi police instructed to do?

The court directed the Delhi Police to ensure that investigating officers handling POCSO and sexual assault cases undergo mandatory training every six months, with a focus on MTP procedures, court orders, and coordination with medical and welfare authorities. Certificates of completion are to be duly recorded in the officers' service files. Police officers were also instructed to ensure that sexual assault survivors are presented before the concerned doctor, hospital, or medical board at the earliest opportunity, along with all requisite case files.

What were the guidelines issued earlier?

On April 17, Justice Sharma issued guidelines for CWCs and the DHCLSC to prevent delays in such cases, while hearing a plea involving a minor sexual assault survivor seeking termination of a pregnancy beyond 27 weeks. She directed that whenever a minor survivor with a gestational age exceeding 24 weeks is referred by the CWC to a hospital for examination or termination, the CWC must immediately notify the DHCLSC. Upon receiving such information, the DHCLSC shall promptly assess the need for legal intervention, including approaching the competent court for permission to terminate the pregnancy, so as to avoid further delay.

Earlier, in January 2023, the judge mandated that during the medical examination of a sexual assault survivor, a urine pregnancy test must be conducted. If the survivor is found pregnant and is an adult seeking termination, the investigating officer must ensure that she is presented before the medical board on the same day. State governments were also ordered to ensure that medical boards are constituted in the hospitals.

PROFILES

The last 'revolutionary' of Iran

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

The head of Iran's theocratic regime faces the greatest test since the 1979 revolution with the country's regional influence waning and Israel freely carrying out attacks at its nuclear and missile facilities and assassinating its top commanders

Stanly Johny

In Tehran's Ebrat Museum, once a notorious prison for political detainees under the Shah, a narrow corridor is lined with photographs of former inmates. Among them, in a brown wooden frame, is the image of a middle-aged man with a bearded face and thick rectangular glasses. The name beneath, written in Farsi, reads: Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Preserved by the revolutionary regime as a grim reminder of the brutality of the Shah's secret police, SAVAK, Ebrat displays torture chambers and documents torture methods. One tiny, dimly lit cell, with a single barred window, has been left intact - it is where Mr. Khamenei was held. Inside stands a life-size wax figure of the Ayatollah, older than he appears in the photograph. Dressed in a black turban, which suggests lineage to the Prophet Mohammed, round spectacles, and a brown robe, the statue evokes both suffering and resolve. "Khamenei was imprisoned six times by the Shah's police. He was brought here in 1974," a museum official told this writer during a visit in February 2022. "In autumn 1974, he endured the most brutal and savage torture for eight months in there," reads a short biography posted outside the cell. "The Shah wanted to break him. But God wanted him as the country's *rahbar* (leader)," said the museum official.

Mr. Khamenei, who has been the *rahbar* of the Islamic Republic since 1989, has built a theocratic system that is loyal to him. He is the Supreme Leader, the jurist of the guardians. A conservative cleric, he has led Iran through political and economic upheavals, and has survived both reformist and hardliner Presidents. But in recent years, on Mr. Khamenei's watch, unrest has spread across the country. In recent months, Iran's influence abroad has dramatically waned, particularly after Israel started attacking the so-called 'axis of resistance', the Iran-backed militia network in West Asia. On June 13, Israel, Iran's arch foe, launched a daunting attack inside Iran, targeting its nuclear facilities and ballistic missile

sites, and assassinating its top chain of command. With the Israeli leadership threatening to "burn" Tehran, the 86-year-old Ayatollah must be feeling the weight of the revolution on his shoulders.

Child of revolution

Born in 1939 in royalist Iran, Ali Khamenei grew up in the holy city of Mashhad, which hosts the shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam of Twelver Shiism. Like many clerics of his generation, his political views were influenced by the 1953 coup, a covert operation orchestrated by the CIA and the MI6, against the elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. The coup reinstated Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran. This episode turned a generation of Iranians against the Shah. The clerical establishment, under the leadership of the exiled cleric, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, played a critical role in the anti-Shah agitation that was building up across the country. From the early 1960s, Mr. Khamenei was actively involved in the protests. When the Shah regime collapsed and Khomeini returned to Tehran from Paris in February 1979 to establish a new Islamic Republic, Mr. Khamenei rose quickly through the clerical ranks. Khomeini named him as Deputy Defence Minister. He became the Imam of Friday prayers in Tehran, a position which he still holds. If Imam Khomeini was the Supreme Leader of the new regime, Imam Khamenei emerged as its chief commissar.

In June 1981, he was seriously wounded by a tape recorder bomb that went off in Tehran's Abouzar Mosque. His right arm got paralysed and he lost hearing in one ear. "I won't need the hand; it would suffice if my brain and tongue work," Mr. Khamenei once said about the attack. The blast, however, solidified his image as a survivor - a living martyr of the revolution. Within a few months, he got elected as Iran's President. When Khomeini died in 1989, the revolution became an orphan. Khomeini had established a unique system in Iran - *vilayat-e-faqih*, 'guardianship of the jurist' or the rule of the clergy. With no clear successor in line, senior clerics turned to Mr. Khamenei. Ali Akbar

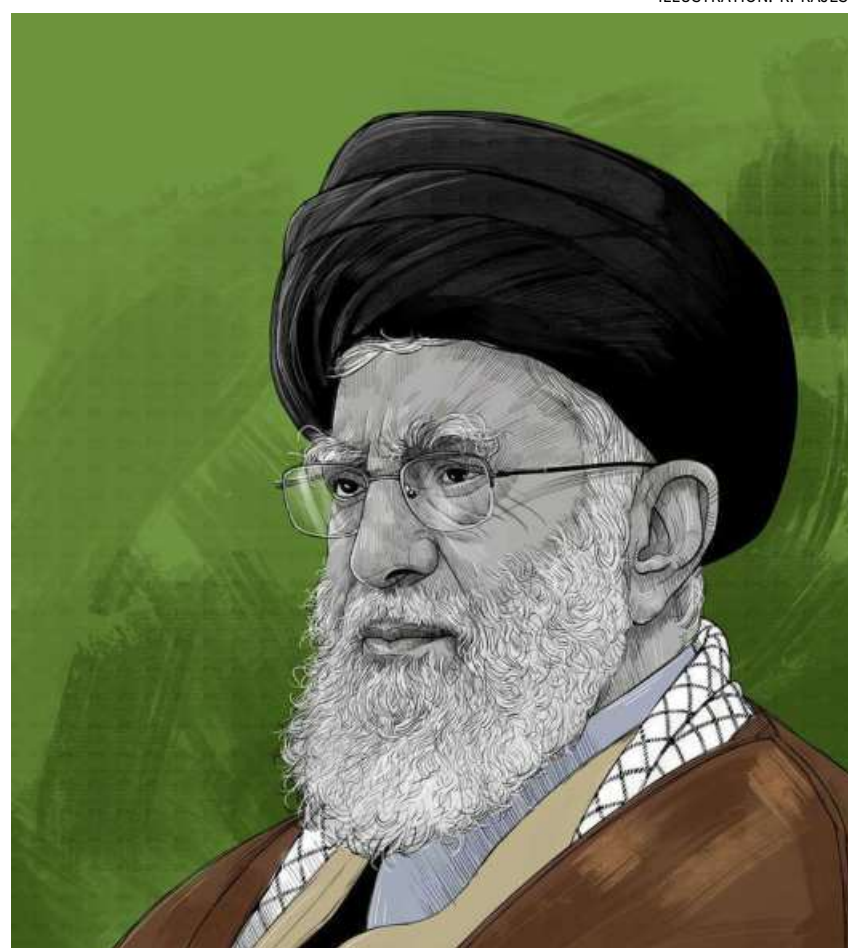


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Hashemi Rafsanjani, another revolutionary figure with considerable influence in the system, played a key role in the selection of Mr. Khamenei. "I am truly not worthy of this title," Mr. Khamenei told the assembly that picked him. "My nomination should make us all cry tears of blood." But he took the chalice. And Rafsanjani became President.

Soon after his ascent to the top office, Mr. Khamenei promised Iranians that the revolution would "lead the country on the path of material growth and progress". But he faced daunting political and economic challenges. He became the Supreme Leader at a time when the revolutionary fervour was receding.

The Iran-Iraq war was over. The new regime's internal enemies and critics, from the terrorist Mujahideen-e-Khalq to the leftist Tudeh party, had been suppressed.

But there were still strong liberal currents in Iranian polity and society. Despite Mr. Khamenei's vision for a centralised clerical rule, voters elected Mohammed Khatami, a moderate reformist, as President in 1997. Mr. Khatami had promised reforms from within. But when protests broke out seeking more individual freedoms, Mr. Khamenei stood by the hardliners. The protests were brutally suppressed, and Mr. Khatami was turned into a lame-duck President. The election of Khatami was an opportunity for Iran to open up the system and implement incremental reforms. But the way the regime handled the protests only reinforced the rigidity of the system, which led to further cracks.

Perilous cycle

While political tensions persisted, what made them worse was the economic mess Iran was in. A country

rich with natural resources, Iran was grappling with hyperinflation, stymied growth and a tanking currency, mainly due to the western sanctions. Mr. Khamenei knew that the future of the revolution was linked to the state's ability in creating economic opportunities. So even when he called America the "Great Satan", he sanctioned nuclear talks with the U.S. after Hassan Rouhani, a moderate cleric, became President in 2013.

The 2015 agreement between Iran and world powers was the best chance for Tehran to enter the global economic mainstream and rebuild itself. But then Donald Trump entered the scene. In 2018, Mr. Trump, in his first term, destroyed the agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran. Ever since, the economic crisis at home got worsened, along with tightening repression, which triggered frequent uprisings. It became a perilous cycle for Iranians.

And then Israel, after the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, turned against the Iran-backed network in West Asia, which acted as Tehran's forward defence and its deterrence. Mr. Khamenei watched helplessly when Israel destroyed Gaza, degraded Hezbollah and bombed the regime of Bashar al Assad in Syria, which eventually collapsed. It was only a matter of time before the Israelis came for Iran. And they did so on June 13.

Set against Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu, Ayatollah Khamenei finds himself with few good options. Iran's retaliatory strike against Israel on the night of June 13 was a bold display of force - a message that the Islamic Republic still has the firepower to hit the "Little Satan". But the conflict is far from over. Iran's defences remain vulnerable; its regional axis has been rolled back; its partners have their own problems. And Mr. Trump, who extended an offer of dialogue which Iran had cautiously accepted, is throwing his weight behind Mr. Netanyahu. Mr. Khamenei, once described by a reformist politician as the 'Sun of the Iranian solar system', now faces the greatest test since the revolution - to protect the regime and protect the nation.

THE GIST

When the Shah regime collapsed and Imam Khomeini returned to Tehran from Paris in February 1979 to establish a new Islamic Republic, Ali Khamenei rose quickly through the clerical ranks

In 1981, months after surviving an assassination attempt, Khamenei became the President. In 1989, after the death of Khomeini, he was chosen as the Supreme Leader

As the Supreme Leader, Khamenei promised 'material growth and progress', but his rule has been marred by economic decline, political unrest and security crises

Manipur's Black T-Shirts

Arambai Tenggol

The radical Meitei group, which is accused of violence and looting weapons, says its main goal is to 'defend and protect Manipur and India'

Rahul Karmakar

Violence returned to Manipur after a brief lull when security personnel picked up Asem Kanan Singh, the self-styled 'army chief' of Arambai Tenggol (AT), a radical Meitei group, from one of its strategic units in Imphal on the night of June 7. The following day, sleuths of the CBI arrested him at the Imphal Airport and brought him to Guwahati for questioning. The AT lifted its 10-day shutdown across the Imphal Valley on the fourth day after officials assuaged tempers by saying Mr. Singh, a suspended Manipur Police head constable, was not arrested for his AT connection but for involvement in several criminal cases.

One of these cases related to arms smuggling in 2020 is almost as old as the AT, which derives its name from a poisoned dart-like weapon (Arambai) used by the troops of the Manipuri kings against Burmese invaders and a cavalry platoon (Tenggol). It was no coincidence that the AT's primary fight turned out to be against the Kuki-Zo people, perceived as "illegal" settlers from Myanmar.

Founded by Manipur's titular king and the BJP's Rajya Sabha member, Leishemba Sanajaoba, the group uses the 'Salai Taret' flag, representing seven



AFP

Meitei clans. It adopted a religious and nationalist rhetoric, invoking the pre-Hindu Sanamahai faith of the Meiteis and envisaging a return to the old glory of the Meitei kingdom of Kanglaipak.

The group is headed by Koroungba Khuman, referred to by his subordinates as pathou, meaning revered leader. The members of the group, estimated to be 60,000 now, can be identified from their black T-shirts bearing a red insignia of three horsemen charging with weapons. The AT came into discussion in 2022, around the same time the Meitei Leepun - a similar radical group founded by Pramot Singh in 2015 - began drawing attention. Both shot to prominence after the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities broke out in May 2023, but the more organised, aggressive, and armed AT soon pushed the Meitei Leepun into near-obscure. The organisa-

tion believes its members are like the warriors who once served the Meitei kings.

During the initial days of the conflict, AT members were accused of going on a rampage, organising blockades on roads leading to the hills where Kuki-Zo people living in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley fled to, looting arms from the police armouries, and indulging in arson. It was also accused of hounding and killing Kuki-Zo people.

Parallel government

The group allegedly received the support of former Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh and virtually ran a parallel government during much of the conflict.

This was evident when it summoned two MPs, including Mr. Sanajaoba, and 37 MLAs to Imphal's historic Kangla Fort in January 2024, made them take an oath to preserve the integrity of Manipur and sign a six-point demand to be

communicated to the Centre. In a Facebook post before the summoning, the AT said it would consider absentee political leaders as "enemies of the Meiteis" and would deal with them accordingly.

The AT went on the back foot after the President's Rule was imposed in Manipur on February 13, days after Mr. Biren Singh quit as the Chief Minister. Soon after, the group surrendered some 300 firearms during a seven-day ultimatum set for wielders of weapons looted during the peak of the conflict.

The AT has often underlined its nationalist outlook, unlike several Meitei extremist outfits, which insist on Manipur's sovereignty. At a traditional annual event in Imphal on April 13, Mr. Sanajaoba stressed this difference to an audience that included muscular "men in black" belonging to the AT.

He said the group was established to "defend our land, culture, and identity" and that it was not anti-national. "Our goal is to defend and protect Manipur and India, but we were compelled to take a role we never intended to. Some may say that Arambai Tenggol have surrendered their weapons and are living as civilians. But, at any given time, we will be ready for the call to defend our land," he said.

Meta's data broker

Alexandr Wang

The Scale AI CEO, who is set to lead Meta's 'superintel' research lab, says AI will dominate warfare in near future and data will become a new kind of ammunition

John Xavier

Alexandr Wang, a 28-year-old entrepreneur, has emerged as a key player in the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence. His company, Scale AI, has strategically positioned itself at the forefront of this transformation.

Founded in 2016 as a data labelling company for autonomous vehicles, Scale AI quickly gained prominence. It secured partnerships with major tech giants such as OpenAI, Microsoft, Nvidia, and even the U.S. government.

In a significant development, Meta Platforms has invested \$14.3 billion to acquire a 49% stake in Scale AI. This acquisition marks a pivotal moment for the company, which now specialises in data curation and intelligent dataset management. As part of this deal, Mr. Alexandr is expected to assume a leadership role within Meta, leading the company's new "superintelligence" research lab.

This move is a much-needed talent refresh and reputation boost for Meta, which has been losing AI researchers and struggling with its Llama 4 launch. The company is bleeding AI talent as researchers are leaving for rival French startup Mistral.



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Meta's investment in AI is a significant move, and it aligns with the strategies employed by other tech giants. For instance, Microsoft has backed OpenAI, while Amazon supports Anthropic. These partnerships highlight the crucial role of specialised AI firms in the broader ecosystem.

However, the Meta-Scale AI deal has sparked discussions about its implications. Some believe it represents an "exit" for Scale AI, potentially impacting its ability to serve Meta's competitors like Google and OpenAI. Others question whether it's a strategic partnership to enhance Scale AI's capabilities while bolstering Meta's AI standing, or if it's a talent acquisition move by Meta.

The deal's structure, with Mr. Alexandr reportedly retaining voting control over Scale despite his move to Meta, indicates a complex arrangement aimed at balancing these interests. Regardless, this move underscores Meta's

commitment to leading the AI race. Mr. Alexandr, a vocal advocate for the strategic importance of AI for the U.S. as a matter of national security, was shaped by his upbringing in Los Alamos, New Mexico, the birthplace of the atomic bomb. In a TED Talk, he drew parallels between the transformative impact of the atomic bomb on past warfare and the current potential of AI to redefine global power.

AI arms race

Mr. Alexandr asserts that, as seen in the Second World War with the atomic bomb, the country that rapidly and effectively integrates new technology into warfare emerges victorious. He warns that the U.S. risks falling behind in the AI arms race, particularly against China, which he claims is ahead in accumulating the vast datasets necessary to develop powerful AI models. Mr. Alexandr has urged the U.S. government to estab-

lish a national data reserve, treating data as a strategic national resource akin to petroleum.

Scale AI has actively pursued defence contracts, collaborating with the U.S. Department of Defense, Air Force, and the Army to test and evaluate large language models for military purposes. Mr. Alexandr views this work as a "moral imperative", especially after witnessing China's advances in AI for surveillance and military applications.

Mr. Alexandr predicts that AI will dominate warfare within the next decade. He emphasises that "data will become a new kind of ammunition in the era of AI warfare". This underscores his call for robust investment in data infrastructure, not only for military superiority but also as a deterrent, akin to nuclear capabilities.

For Mr. Alexandr and Scale AI, the mission is clear: to provide the foundational data layer that accelerates AI development across all sectors, including national security. While Meta's significant investment marks a new chapter for Scale AI, potentially altering its client dynamics, Mr. Alexandr's core message about the paramount importance of data and the strategic implications of AI remains unchanged.

CAIRO
Egypt blocks activists' bid to march to Gaza border, forces them back



Egyptian authorities blocked activists trying to march to Gaza's border to protest Israel's blockade, stopping them near Cairo and forcing most back after hours of questioning, organisers said on Saturday. Egypt requires prior permission for border visits despite supporting "pressure on Israel" to lift the blockade. AFP

MINNEAPOLIS
Minnesota state lawmakers shot, search under way for suspect



A gunman impersonating a police officer killed Minnesota Democratic state assemblywoman Melissa Hortman and her husband, and wounded state senator John Hoffman and his wife in politically motivated shootings. The suspect fled after exchanging gunfire with police. Authorities are conducting a manhunt. REUTERS

ASTANA
Russia to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant, say officials



Russia's Rosatom will lead an international consortium to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant near Ulken, using advanced VVER-1200 reactors. The project, approved by referendum, aims for 2.4 gigawatts capacity by 2035, with China, France, and South Korea also involved. Financing talks with Russia have begun. REUTERS

BANGKOK
Thailand says 'progress made' in Cambodia border dispute talks



Thailand and Cambodia on Saturday reported "progress in talks" to resolve their long-running border dispute after May clashes that killed a Cambodian soldier. Both sides agreed to reposition troops to avoid conflict. Cambodia plans to file an ICJ complaint on disputed areas, but talks continue for peaceful dialogue. AFP

Nuclear talks with the U.S. are now unjustifiable: Iran Foreign Minister

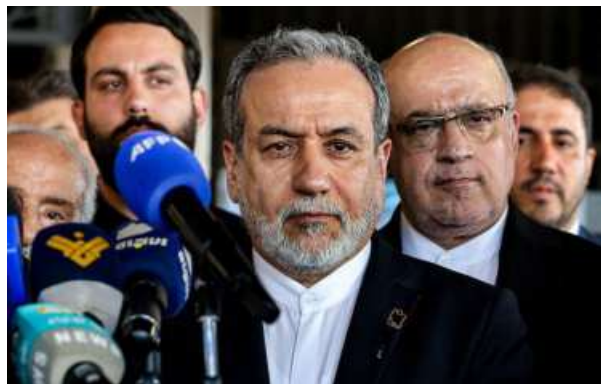
Iran's Supreme Leader vowed continued retaliatory attacks on Israel, with Tehran launching missile strikes that caused casualties and damage in Israel; U.S. has deployed ground-based air defence systems to help intercept Iranian missiles

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that nuclear talks with the United States were "unjustifiable" after the Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear sites. The U.S. and Iran were scheduled to be in Oman on Sunday for their sixth round of indirect talks over Iran's nuclear programme.

The comments by Mr. Araghchi came during a call with Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat.

The Israeli air strikes were the "result of the direct support by Washing-



Contested progress: The Israeli air strikes were the 'result of the direct support by Washington', says Abbas Araghchi. AFP

ton," Mr. Araghchi said in a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency. The U.S. has said it is not part of the strikes. Oman's Foreign Minister

Badr al-Busaidi later said the planned talks "will not now take place".

"The Iran-U.S. talks scheduled to be held in Muscat this Sunday will not

now take place. But diplomacy and dialogue remain the only pathway to lasting peace," Mr. Al-Busaidi wrote on a social media post.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei signalled in a recorded message on Friday that Iran was prepared to keep up its retaliatory attacks on Israel: "We will not allow them to escape safely from this great crime they committed."

Iran launched waves of missiles at Israel late Friday and early Saturday, and Iranians awoke to state television airing repeated clips of strikes on Israel.

The Iranian attacks killed at least three people

and wounded 76, mostly in and around Tel Aviv, according to two local hospitals. One missile severely damaged at least four homes in the nearby city of Rishon LeZion, according to first responders.

The Israeli military said seven soldiers were lightly wounded when a missile hit central Israel, without specifying where. It was the first report of Israeli military casualties since the initial Israeli strikes.

U.S. ground-based air defence systems in the region were helping to shoot down Iranian missiles, said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the measures.

Rallies rage across U.S. ahead of Trump parade

Reuters
WASHINGTON/
LOS ANGELES/ATLANTA

Tens of thousands of Americans attended rallies on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump's aggressive approach in major cities from New York to Atlanta to Los Angeles. The protests marked the largest outpouring of opposition to Mr. Trump's presidency since he returned to power in January, and came the same day that thousands of military personnel, vehicles and aircraft will march through and fly over Washington, D.C., in a parade celebrating the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary. Saturday is also Mr. Trump's 79th birthday.

The Republican President has ordered National Guard troops and U.S. Ma-



United voice: Demonstrators taking part in the 'No Kings' protest against Trump's policies, in Los Angeles on Saturday. REUTERS

lines to Los Angeles, a heavily Democratic city – a deployment that California Governor Gavin Newsom has challenged in court.

Anti-Trump groups planned nearly 2,000 demonstrations of varying sizes across the country to coincide with the parade. Many are taking place under the theme "No Kings," asserting that no individual

is above the law. People heading into Washington for the parade encountered a massive security presence, with some 30 km of 2.4 m-high black fencing, much of it reinforced with concrete traffic barriers.

Critics have called the parade an authoritarian display of power that is wasteful.

'Ukrainian forces halt advance of Russian troops in Sumy'

Reuters
KYIV

Ukrainian forces have stopped Russian troops advancing in the northeastern Sumy region and are now battling to regain control along the border with Russia, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

In remarks released for publication by his office on Saturday, Mr. Zelenskyy said that Moscow has amassed about 53,000 troops in the direction of Sumy.

"We are levelling the position. The fighting there is along the border. You should understand that the enemy has been stopped there. And the maximum depth at which the fighting takes place is 7 km from the border," Mr. Zelenskyy said.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Russia's troops have been focusing their assaults in the eastern Donetsk region. But since the start of the month, they have intensified their attacks in the northeast, announcing plans to create a so-called 'buffer zone' in the Sumy and Kharkiv regions.

The Russian war in Ukraine is in its fourth year, but it has intensified in recent weeks.

Israeli firing kills 45 people in Gaza, many at aid site, medics say

Reuters
CAIRO

Israeli firing and air strikes killed at least 45 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip, many of them near an aid distribution site operated by the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) on Saturday, local health authorities said.

Medics at Al-Awda and Al-Aqsa Hospitals in central Gaza areas, where most of the casualties were moved to, said at least 15 people were killed as they tried to approach the GHF aid distribution site near the Netzarim corridor.

The Israeli army said in a statement that an aircraft had opened fire on a person "to neutralise the threat" after he advanced towards troops and ig-

nored warning shots fired near a group.

Last week, the army warned Palestinians not to approach routes leading to sites of the GHF between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. local time, describing these roads as closed military zones. The GHF said none of its distribution centres was opened on Saturday.

The GHF began distributing food packages in Gaza at the end of May after Israel partially lifted a near three-month total blockade. Scores of Palestinians have been killed in near daily mass shootings trying to reach the food.

The United Nations rejects the Israeli-backed new distribution system as inadequate, dangerous and a violation of humanitarian impartiality principles.

Over 600 evacuated as Myanmar military sees heavy combat with anti-coup forces

Agence France-Presse
PEKON

Hundreds of Myanmar families were being uprooted from their homes on Saturday, a community organiser said, piling their belongings onto evacuation convoys to escape fighting between the military and anti-coup guerrillas.

Myanmar has been consumed by a many-sided civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup, leaving more than 3.5 million people displaced according to United Nations figures.

Heavy combat has been raging since Monday around the village of Saung Nang Khae in the eastern state of Shan, according to local residents and evacuation organisers.

Temporary shelter Ramshackle convoys of tractors were piled with livestock, wheelchairs and suitcases on Friday as they hauled local families to temporary shelter in the village of BC Kone some 60 kilometres southwest.

On Saturday, Khun Pyae Linn, the spokesperson of the youth wing of the Kayan New Land Party

which controls the enclave and which organised evacuation efforts, said "rescue operations are still ongoing".

"We evacuated more than 600 people but there were other organisations that helped villagers too. So it could be over 1,500 villagers that were moved to safe shelters," he added. The military and some

of its adversaries had pledged a truce this month as the country recovers from March's devastating magnitude-7.7 earthquake which killed more than 3,700 people.

After four years of war, Myanmar's military has turned to conscription to bolster its ranks after suffering stinging territorial losses against the myriad of anti-coup fighters and ethnic armed organisations opposing its rule.

But analysts say it is still far from defeat, with a superior array of military hardware supplied by its backers China and Russia.

THE HINDU
Youngworld
TREASURE IN YOUR HANDS

Yoga & Music Day
Special Issue dated 20th June 2025

Animal-inspired yoga poses
Origins of popular instruments
Modern yoga styles
Musical genres & artists
Yoga books for kids
Songster birds
Quizzes & activity sheets
Ancient & rare instruments

Yoga for the body.
Music for the soul.

FOLLOW US ON @thehinduyw

Pre-book your copy with your newspaper agent today
For Print Subscription, visit www.thehindu.com/youngworld
For further queries, call 1800 102 1878
For bulk bookings, email reach.youngworld@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU GROUP

SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

Double delight for Bavuma in South Africa's moment of glory



GETTY IMAGES

Temba Bavuma, who scored 710 runs for South Africa in the current World Test Championship cycle, has led the Proteas to their second senior men's ICC title after the triumph in the 1988 ICC Knockout Trophy. In the process, he maintained his unbeaten record as Test captain, with nine wins and a draw so far.

ZERO TO HERO

Weird how things worked out after the duck in first innings: Markram



GETTY IMAGES

I haven't scored more important runs. Weird how things worked out after the duck in the first innings. I needed a bit of luck... spent some time in the middle and found runs, glad things worked out. The reception [I got from the fans] will stick out. Lord's is the place every Test cricketer wants to play — Aiden Markram.

FOR THE NATION

It's special and may be a stepping stone for greater things: Maharaj



REUTERS

It's special, it's an honour to lift the cup for everyone out here and back home. It's what the country's about, the unity among everyone in the last five days. I think the emotions would've spurred me into the right direction had I got into bat... may this be a stepping stone for greater things to come — Keshav Maharaj.

TOP STUFF

Markram's knock was one of the best I've ever seen: Rickelton



REUTERS

Walking out in the fourth innings was always going to be tricky. The wicket trying to look a little better. The guys batted brilliantly. Aiden's was one of the best innings I have ever seen. The magnitude of the occasion against such an experienced attack was special. There were a few nerves - Ryan Rickelton.

Markram makes it a majestic day for Rainbow Nation

The Proteas hunt down 282 with five wickets in hand to dethrone Australia; the opener's gritty 136 proves the bedrock of the fabulous run chase, the second-highest at Lord's



27-year wait: Bavuma's South Africa will relish the World Test Championship triumph which ended decades of heartbreak. GETTY IMAGES

WTC FINAL

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Aiden Markram's magnificent century was the cornerstone of South Africa's five-wicket victory over Australia in the World Test Championship final at Lord's on Saturday as the Proteas ended decades of cricket heartbreak by finally winning a major ICC title.

South Africa, set 282 to win, finished on 282 for five before lunch on the fourth day, with opening batter Markram falling for 136 after taking South Africa

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
212 in 56.4 overs.

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS
138 in 57.1 overs.

AUSTRALIA — 2ND INNINGS
207 in 65 overs.

SOUTH AFRICA — 2ND INNINGS (Target 282)

Aiden Markram c Head b Hazlewood 136 (207b, 14x4), Ryan Rickelton c Carey b Starc 6 (8b, 1x4), Wiaan Mulder c Labuschagne b Starc 27 (50b, 5x4), Temba Bavuma c Carey b Cummins 66 (134b, 5x4), Tristan Stubbs b Starc 8 (43b), David

ca to within six runs of the title. The Proteas resumed on 213 for two, needing just 69 more runs for victory.

South Africa did suffer a setback early on Saturday

Bedingham (not out) 21 (49b, 1x4), Kyle Verreyne (not out) 4 (13b); Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-2): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 83.4 overs): 282.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Rickelton, 2.1 overs), 2-70 (Mulder, 17.4), 3-217 (Bavuma, 58.6), 4-241 (Stubbs, 70.3), 5-276 (Markram, 80.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 14.4-1-66-3, Hazlewood 19-2-58-1, Cummins 17-0-59-1, Lyon 26-4-66-0, Webster 5-0-13-0, Head 2-0-8-0.

PoM: Markram.
South Africa won by five wickets.

South Africa, the WTC champion, took home \$3.6 million while the runner-up Australia earned \$2.16 million.

bowler Cummins for a resounding four to the delight of what was effectively a 'home' crowd, given the large number of South Africa fans who had packed into Lord's. He then got the target down to 50 by pulling Cummins for another four.

It was left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc who raised Australia's hopes by bowling Tristan Stubbs for eight with a superb delivery that cut back sharply. Australia took the new ball with South Africa just

needing 14 more runs to win at 268 for four.

But Markram drove the first delivery with the new ball, from Josh Hazlewood, for four, and the next one for three. He was unable to finish the job, however, a pull off Hazlewood caught by Travis Head.

It was left to Kyle Verreyne to hit the winning run as South Africa completed the second-highest chase to win a Test at Lord's, behind West Indies' 344 for one, requiring 342, against England in 1984.

This Test was also a personal triumph for Kagiso Rabada, who finished with match figures of nine for 110.

This time for South Africa!

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

It was a March night at Mirpur on the outskirts of Dhaka. Graeme Smith faced the media with moist eyes. The first question, more a statement, was brutal: "They used to call you chokers earlier, now they are calling you jokers."

The South African skipper had just lost the 2011 World Cup quarterfinal against New Zealand by 49 runs while chasing a target of 222, and it fitted into the template of a team notorious for faltering in the climax. Still, that question was a knife being twisted in. Smith, with enormous restraint, spoke about why his men's campaign ground to a halt.

This tale of being so close and yet so far was repeated often. The last stumble before the 2024 T20 World Cup final where India prevailed over Aiden Markram's men by seven runs at Bridgetown. South Africa won an ICC silverware in 1998 - The Wills International Cup, which later became the Champions Trophy, and the title drought extended interminably.

All those ghosts of the past and snide remarks were finally laid to rest on a glorious Saturday when South Africa claimed the ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's. A five-



Bending his back: Markram ensured there were no hiccups in the fourth innings. AP

wicket victory in a match the Aussies dominated for a large part, revealed the steel within Temba Bavuma's men. On the hope-metre, what Bavuma's troops achieved is on par with the feat of Kapil's Devils in the 1983 World Cup. This triumph was a tribute to what Bavuma and his lead stars like spearhead Kagiso Rabada and centurion Markram achieved. Conceding a first-innings lead and still to find that belief deep within is remarkable.

Equally, it was a redemption song for a Rainbow Nation that dealt with the spectre of apartheid, and the resultant sporting isolation, before Nelson Mandela applied the heal-

ing touch while a country regained its spirit and made a slow comeback.

Often a sigh accompanied cricketing yarns about South Africa. The lost years of Graeme Pollock, Barry Richards, Mike Procter and to some extent Clive Rice. The subsequent losses in ICC events despite being a fine side. The match-fixing crisis that tainted Hansie Cronje. The list seemed endless till it was time to laugh aloud and welcome a new champion in the willow game.

Once Shakira sang "This time for Africa" in her 2010 'Waka, Waka' number. Bavuma and his men will perhaps whisper: "This time for South Africa." Sport offers hope. It always does.

Purpose, passion and belief

X Fantastic win! Hats off to Markram for the match-winning century, and Temba for leading with such ice and fire all through
A.B. DE VILLIERS

X One of the most phenomenally responsible, nerveless fourth innings centuries from Markram
IAN BISHOP

X Test cricket continues to weave its magic. Markram's composure and Bavuma's grit under pressure stood tall in the fourth innings. A century that will be remembered, a partnership that turned hope into history
SACHIN TENDULKAR

X Bosh and boom! What a win for Proteas! They outskilled and outwitted the Australians, showed how purpose, passion and belief shaped the path to a trophy
KUMAR SANGAKKARA

X Everything went right from the toss. Enjoy the celebrations
HERSCHELLE GIBBS

X Rabada was brilliant. Markram not only engraved his name on the Lord's Honours Board, but also in the history of South African cricket
IRFAN PATHAN

X Masterful Markram! Great win by South Africa led by Temba Bavuma. This was a great advertisement for Test cricket
CHRIS GAYLE

X Champions finally! Mighty congratulations
ROBIN UTHAPPA

Domestic season to begin on Aug. 28; Duleep Trophy back to the zonal format

CRICKET

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

The 2025-26 domestic cricket season will kick off with the Duleep Trophy, starting August 28, and end with the senior women's inter-zonal multi-day Trophy on April 3. The schedule for the upcoming season was announced via a press release after the BCCI's 28th Apex Council meeting on Saturday.

The Ranji Trophy is slated to be held from October 15 to February 28. Like last season, the league stage of India's premier First Class competition will be held in two phases. The first phase will be held from October 15 to November 19 while the second phase will involve two rounds from January 22 to February 1. The knockouts will begin on February 6.

The Ranji Trophy will be held from October 15 to February 28. Duleep Trophy will be contested among six zones this season. The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will now include a Super League stage instead of the knockouts. New Zealand will play three ODIs and five T20Is from Jan. 11 to 31.

Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy - the T20 and 50-over competitions respectively - will be played during the Ranji break.

Among the key decisions taken at the meeting was a return to the zonal format for the Duleep Trophy. In the 2024-25 season, the tournament was played between four teams - India-A, India-B, India-C and India-D - picked by the national selectors. This year, it will again be contested among the six zones - North, South, West, East, Central and North East. The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will now include a

Super League stage instead of the knockouts. The Super League stage will feature two groups of four teams each based on standings at the end of the league phase. The group toppers will directly contest the final.

Meanwhile, the itinerary for New Zealand's white-ball tour of India in January 2026 was also confirmed.

The Black Caps will play three ODIs and five T20Is from January 11 to 31. Following the stampede in Bengaluru after Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory that led to 11 deaths, the BCCI has also decided to "constitute a committee to formulate comprehensive guidelines aimed at preventing such occurrences in the future". BCCI office-bearers Devajit Saikia, Prabhtej Singh Bhatia and Rajeev Shukla are part of the committee expected to prepare the guidelines within 15 days.

U Mumba pulls off a Houdini, sneaks into the summit clash

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Never had a team made a comeback after trailing 4-7 in an Ultimate Table Tennis knockout match.

And never had U Mumba TT been able to breach the semifinal barrier in the first five editions. Both the firsts were achieved on Saturday, courtesy P.B. Abhinandh and Yashaswini Ghorpade. With his back against the wall and trailing 0-2 against Vitor Ishiy, Abhinandh finally found an answer to Ishiy's serve and stretched the match into the deciding tie. Yashaswini then blanked Krittwika Sinha Roy 3-0 on the last point of the match.

After closing out the first two games, Yashaswini raced to a 10-6 lead, Krittwika finally getting trapped into Yashaswini's long-pimpled backhand. But Krittwika then had a four-point spree. But the golden point saw Krittwika finally hit her backhand



Making a point: Yashaswini held her nerve and blanked Krittwika to seal the deal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

long to let the U Mumba camp burst into a wild bout of celebration. Earlier, captain Harmeet Desai couldn't have gotten the Challengers off to a better start than a clean slate against Lilian Bardet. Harmeet went all out with his forehand winners to not let Bardet get into his game.

But Bernadette Szocs brought U Mumba back into the game by inflicting the first defeat on Zeng Jian. When Szocs and Akash Pal reduced the def-

icit to 4-5, U Mumbai was back in the match. Ishiy - the replacement player who came in for Tiago Apolonia - then put Goa on the cusp of a win. But then started the great escape!

The result:
U Mumba TT bt Dempo Goa Challengers 8-7 (Lilian Bardet lost to Harmeet Desai 8-11, 4-11, 10-11; Bernadette Szocs bt Zeng Jian 11-5, 11-9, 7-11; Szocs & Akash Pal bt Zeng & Desai 11-8, 11-8, 9-11; P.B. Abhinandh lost to Vitor Ishiy 6-11, 4-11, 11-9; Yashaswini Ghorpade bt Krittwika Sinha Roy 11-9, 11-9, 11-10).

Mixed air rifle gold for Arya-Arjun

China tops the table with four gold, a silver and two bronze; India is third with two gold and two bronze, behind Norway

SHOOTING WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Arya Borse and Arjun Babuta clinched the mixed air rifle gold by beating the Chinese pair of Wang Zifei and Sheng Lihao 17-7 in the shooting World Cup that concluded in Munich, Germany, on Saturday.

The Chinese pair had shot a world record score of 635.9 in qualification, 0.7 point better than the Indian pair. Arya and Ar-

jun stepped it up in the gold medal match for a spectacular finish.

China topped the medals table with four gold, a silver and two bronze.

India was third on the table with two gold and two bronze medals, behind Norway (two gold, a silver and a bronze).

The two bronze medals for India were won by Elavenil Valarivan and Sift Kaur Samra in women's air rifle and rifle 3-position events, respectively.

The results: 10m air rifle:

Mixed team: 1. India (Arya Borse, Arjun Babuta) 17 (635.2); 2. China (Wang Zifei, Sheng Lihao) 7 (635.9 WR); 3. Norway (Jeanette Duestad, Jon-Hermann Hegg) 16 (632.3); 4. USA (Sagen Maddalena, Peter Fiori) 14 (632.1); 6. India-2 (Elavenil Valarivan, Kiran Jadhav) 631.8.

10m air pistol: Mixed team: 1. China (Yao Qianxun, Hu Kai) 16 (585); 2. Armenia (Elmira Karapetyan, Benik Khghatyan) 4 (580); 3. Germany (Doreen Venekamp, Christian Reitz) 17 (579); 4. Serbia (Zorana Arunovic, Damir Mikec) 13 (580); 6. India-2 (Manu Bhaker, Aditya Malra) 577; 10. India (Suruchi Phogat, Varun Tomar) 576.



Clutch performance: Arya and Arjun beat the Chinese pair of Wang and Sheng in style. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SNAPSHOTS

Indian teams lose to Australia in Pro League

The Indian men's and women's hockey teams lost by a similar 3-2 scoreline to Australia in the FIH Pro League hockey in Antwerp and London respectively on Saturday.

The results: Men: At Antwerp: Australia 3 (Nathan Ephraums 42, Joel Rintala 56, Tom Craig 60) bt India 2 (Abhishek 8, 35).

Women: At London: Australia 3 (Courtney Schonell 16, Lexie Pickering 26, Tatum Stewart 35) bt India 2 (Deepika 44, Neha 52).

Pranati wins vault bronze in Asian gymnastics c'ships

Pranati Nayak clinched her third bronze medal in women's vault at the Asian artistic gymnastics championships in Jecheon, Korea, on Saturday. The 30-year-old scored 13.666 and 12.866



Pranati.

in her two attempts to log a total of 13.466.

Earlier, she had medalled in 2019 and 2022. Protistha Samanta, finished fourth with 13.016.

Meanwhile, in the junior women's category, Avantika Negi (10.333) became the first Indian to qualify for the uneven bars final.

Burns fires 65 to grab US

Open lead Sam Burns matched the third-best US Open round ever fired at Oakmont, shooting a five-under par 65 to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round as big names struggled.

Heavy rains drenched Oakmont, halting play for the day at 8:15 p.m. local time with 13 golfers yet to finish their second rounds.

The top scores: 137 - Sam Burns 72-65; **138** - J.J. Spaun 66-72; **139** - Viktor Hovland 71-68; **140** - Ben Griffin 69-71, Adam Scott 70-70.

141 - Victor Perez 71-70; **142** - Kim Si-Woo 68-74, Thomas Detry 69-73, Russell Henley 70-72, Brooks Koepka 68-74.

Thunder rallies to beat Pacers, levels NBA Finals 2-2

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 15 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter as

the Oklahoma City Thunder rallied for a gritty 111-104 victory over the Indiana Pacers that leveled the NBA Finals at two games apiece on Friday.

The result: Indiana Pacers 104 (Pascal Siakam 20, Tyrese Haliburton 18, Obi Toppin 17) lost to Oklahoma City Thunder 111 (Gilgeous-Alexander 35, Jalen Williams 27, Alex Caruso 20, Chet Holmgren 14).

MCC outlaws 'bunny hop' boundary catches

Boundary catches involving 'bunny hops', or multiple airborne touches outside the rope, have been deemed illegal by the Marylebone Cricket Club, with the new ruling set to be integrated into ICC's playing conditions this month and the MCC's laws from October next year.

As part of its revision, the MCC clarified that any fielder making a second

contact with the ball after jumping from beyond the boundary must land inside the field of play, or else a boundary will be awarded. The rule will also apply to relay catches. If a fielder parries the ball while airborne outside the boundary and fails to return inside the field before the catch is completed - even by a teammate - it will be ruled a boundary.

LIVE TELECAST

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.

Ultimate Table Tennis: JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Ireland vs West Indies: 3rd T20, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Formula One: Canadian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 11.30 p.m.

It's Fynbos vs Sunshine

BENGALURU: Fynbos and Sunshine may fight out the finish of the Benaka Developers Fillyes Championship Stakes (1,600m), the first classic event of the season to be held here on Sunday (June 15). There will be no false rails.

1 MALENAHALLI PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 1.30 p.m.: 1. Sea Diamond (8) Ramswarup 62, 2. Verrazzano (1) A.A. Vikrant 62, 3. Wakizashi (4) B. Dharshan 61.5, 4. Star Of India (6) Neeraj 59.5, 5. Dalai (9) M. Rajesh K 59, 6. Ice Storm (3) P.P. Dhebe 58.5, 7. Embosom (2) Jagadeesh 56.5, 8. Burning Arrow (7) Angad 56 and 9. Recreator (5) Koshi K 53.

1. STAR OF INDIA, 2. VERRAZZANO, 3. SEA DIAMOND

2 AMOKBASH MILLION (Div. II), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.05: 1. Sea Glory (5) Siddharaj P 56, 2. Divine Secret (9) Neeraj 54.5, 3. Flight Of Fancy (8) S. Saqlain 54.5, 4. Indian Brocade (3) Suraj 54.5, 5. Jalwa (7) C.A. Brisson 54.5, 6. My Honey (6) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 7. Supernal (2) R. Ajinkya 54.5, 8. White Secret (4) Sai Kiran 54.5 and 9. Whitney (1) Arjun 54.5.

1. FLIGHT OF FANCY, 2. INDIAN BROCADE, 3. DIVINE SECRET

3 STEWARDS CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 2.40: 1. Forseti (11) Hindu S 60, 2. Metzinger (10) R. Vaibhav 60, 3. All Attraction (6) Suhas K 58.5, 4. Mandarin (1)

Sandesh 58, 5. Sekhmet (5) Antony 57, 6. Splendido (9) D. Patel 56, 7. Stellantis (3) Ramswarup 54.5, 8. Asagiri (2) Siddharaj P 54, 9. Invincible (7) Angad 54, 10. Positano (4) Akshay K 54 and 11. Thundering Phoenix (8) P.S. Kaviraj 51.

1. POSITANO, 2. MANDARINO, 3. THUNDERING PHOENIX

4 AMOKBASH MILLION (Div. I), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3.15: 1. Double Your Money (9) Sai Kiran 56, 2. Jade Mountain (3) R. Vaibhav 56, 3. Konkrah (4) Sandesh 56, 4. Ransomware (5) M. Rajesh K 56, 5. Akitania (7) C. Umesh 54.5, 6. Best Of Us (6) M. Prabhakaran 54.5, 7. Emerald Touch (8) Neeraj 54.5, 8. Mnmosyne (1) Suraj 54.5 and 9. Roxane (2) Hindu S 54.5.

1. KONKRAH, 2. MNMOSYNE, 3. AKITANIA

5 BENAKA DEVELOPERS FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms), 3.50: 1. Bishop (12) G. Vivek 56, 2. Dubai Touch (3) A. Prakash 56, 3. Fynbos (2) Trevor 56, 4. Gloriousness (15) Suraj 56, 5. Kavaya (9) N.S. Parmar 56, 6. Laguna Seca (11) C. Umesh 56, 7. Miracle Star (5) Likith Appu 56, 8. Miss Smiley Angel (7) Hindu S 56, 9. Moon Star (4) Neeraj 56, 10. Mountain Jewel (8) Antony 56, 11. Mrs Brando (6) R. Ajinkya 56, 12. Northern Waves (1) Sai Kiran 56, 13. Ravishing Beauty (1) S. 56, 14. Sunshine (13) S. Saqlain 56, 15. Vegatha (14) 1.

Chisty 56 and 16. Xanthe (10) Sandesh 56.

1. FYNBOS, 2. SUNSHINE, 3. GLORIOUSNESS

6 PARSIANA PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4.25: 1. Victoria Doreasani (4) Pavan 62, 2. Aquamatic (3) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Golden Time (1) R. Ajinkya 59, 4. Star Concept (6) Shezad Khan 57, 5. Lauterbrunnen (2) Angad 57, 6. Treasure Chest (7) R. Manjhi 57, 7. Super Sapphire (8) M. Prabhakaran 56.5, 8. Vyasa (5) G. Vivek 53 and 9. Amazing Attraction (9) P.P. Dhebe 50.

1. VYASA, 2. AQUAMATIC, 3. VICTORIA DOREASANI

7 RICHELIEU PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Iron King (5) Trevor 61, 2. Knotty Scotty (9) G. Vivek 61, 3. Extraordinary (2) Ganesh S 59.5, 4. Mutual Trust (6) Darshan 56.5, 5. Sassy Sarah (3) S. Shareef 53.5, 6. Most And More (7) A.S. Peter 53, 7. Feeling Good (1) Vinod Shinde 51.5, 9. Thrill Of Brazil (10) I. Chisty 51.5, 10. Martha (8) M. Rajesh K 51, 11. Lorven's Glory (4) P.P. Dhebe 50.5 and 12. Gismo (12) Siddharaj P 50.

1. IRON KING, 2. KNOTTY SCOTTY, 3. SASSY SARAH
Day's best: STAR OF INDIA Double: POSITANO - KONKRAH Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Ricardo bags the Meydan Plate

BENGALURU: Arjun Mangalorkar trained Ricardo (Trevor up) won the Meydan Plate (1,200m), the main event of the races held here on Saturday (June 14).

The winner is owned by Mr. Haider Soomar, M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP. Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria & Mukteswar Racing LLP.

1. KRANJI PLATE (2,000m): REFRESHMENT (G. Vivek) 1, Amazing Stride (Neeraj) 2, Gold Empire (Suraj) 3 and Carat Love (Pavan) 4. 3-1/2, 1-1/4 and 30-1/2. 2m 07.96s. Rs. 24 (w), 15 and 16 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 29, FP: 70, Q: 42. Trinella: 35/15. Favourite: Amazing Stride. Owners: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Dean Stephens & Mr. Balam Mohla. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2. SIR CECIL PLATE (1,200m): EBOTSE (Aleemuddin) 1, Smile Of Beauty (Aleemuddin) 2, Augusto (G. Vivek) 3 and Isabelle (Pavan) 4. 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and Lnk. Im 15.17s. Rs. 44 (w), 18, 16 and 19 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 61, FP: 158, Q: 55, Trinella: 35/229, Exacta: 1,402/627. Favourite: Smile Of Beauty. Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Pro-

duce Co Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. JUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m): DIABLO (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Don Carlos (Trevor) 2, Whirlwind (Neeraj) 3 and Vibrant Bliss (Akshay K) 4. Shd, 1-1/4 and 3. Im 17.45s. Rs. 205 (w), 47, 12 and 36 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 83, FP: 1,602, Q: 357, Trinella: 79,906, Exacta: 89,952 (carried over). Favourite: Don Carlos.

Owners: Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Mr. Teegala Sumant Reddy, Dr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Satish Kumar Reddy Poondla, Mr. Giri Prathamesh Mahadev, Mr. Bollineni Krishnaiah & Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Prasad Raju K.S.V.

4. WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY CUP (1,600m): ALAMGIR (Suraj) 1, Pristine Glory (Neeraj) 2, Darrington (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Edmonton (Kuldeep S) 4. 4, 3-1/2 and 5-1/4. Im 44.76s. Rs. 16 (w), 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 31, FP: 25, Q: 21, Trinella: 60/42, Exacta: 77/31. Favourite: Alamgir.

Owners: Mr. Saleem A. Jasdandwalla & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

5. MEYDAN PLATE (1,200m): RICARDO (Trevor) 1, Imperial Blue (Pavan) 2, Uchuchaihsravas (Neeraj) 3 and Crown Drive (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. Nk, 3 and 3-1/4. Im 16.84s. Rs. 27 (w), 14, 31 and 29 (p), SHP: 94, THP: 62, FP: 179, Q: 235, Trinella: 6,083/2,607, Exacta: 95,177/40,790. Favourite: Ricardo.

Owners: Mr. Haider Soomar, M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria & Mukteswar Racing LLP. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

6. ROYAL COMMAND PLATE (1,200m): POLE STAR (N Darshan) 1, Basilica (Ramswarup) 2, Sienna Princess (Sai Kiran) 3 and El Rey (Aleemuddin) 4. 6-3/4, 2 and 1/2. Im 17.10s. Rs. 47 (w), 17, 26 and 21 (p), SHP: 62, THP: 51, FP: 869, Q: 258, Trinella: 1,613/1,273, Exacta: 3,265/1,088. Favourite: El Rey.

Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj, Manjiri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd & Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar. Jackpot: Rs. 1,49,447 (three tkts); Runner-up: 6,862 (28 tkts); Treble (i): 6,463 (one tkt); (ii): 435 (57 tkts).



AUTOMATIC DRIVE. FANTASTIC PRICE.

Amaze VX CVT now at a special price of ₹ 9.99 Lakh*



AMAZE

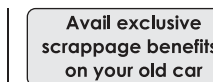
RANGE STARTS FROM

₹ 7,62,800

EXCITING CASH/ EXCHANGE BENEFITS*



Visit Nearest Honda Dealership
Call +91 73034 61122 | www.hondacarindia.com



*Ex-showroom price, New Delhi for range of Amaze including 2nd Generation and above. *T&C apply. Creative visualization applied. Images shown above are representative and of a different variant. Actual Colour, feature or any specification as shown may differ from the actual product and may not be part of standard fitment. Please check and experience the availability of grade/colour/features/offers at the authorized dealerships. Honda Cars India Limited reserve the right to change or withdraw any colour, grade, features or offers/benefits without any prior notice. Appearance of black shade on glass of vehicle is due to lighting effect. *Honda Connect comes with free subscription for first 5 years from the date of purchase of car. Honda Connect application works with select smartphone and with smartwatch devices. Smartphone or Smartwatch is not part of car accessory/giveaway and need to be purchased separately. Apple CarPlay™ & Android Auto™ are registered trademarks of Apple Inc. & Google LLC. *10 year Anytime Warranty is extendable up to the maximum age of 10 years/1,20,000 kilometers by renewing every year and is applicable from the date of purchase of car. For details about Standard, Extended or Anytime warranty refer to Owner's Manual, Warranty Booklet or Extended Warranty Document. *Scrappage benefits applicable on select models subject to receipt of valid certificate of deposit issued by Govt. Approved & operational vehicle scrappage center. *Segment to be defined as sedans less than the length of 4000 mm. For more information, please visit our authorized dealership or www.hondacarindia.com. Honda Cars India Limited urges drivers to follow traffic rules which are meant to keep them safe on roads. For corporate sales enquiry please write to corporatesales@hondacarindia.com.

ANANTAPURAMU - Premium Honda : 9100056555 • BHIMAVARAM - Elite Honda : 7799900553 • ELURU - Sundaram Honda : 7995666510 • GUNTUR - Express Honda : 8978587222 • KADAPA - Premium Honda : 7093909125
KAKINADA - Elite Honda : 7799137333 • KURNOOL - Premium Honda : 9100102999 • NELLORE - Express Honda : 7702366699 • ONGOLE - Express Honda : 7680909731 • RAJAHMUNDRY - Elite Honda : 7799900576
TIRUPATI - Express Honda : 9959900130 • VIJAYAWADA - Sundaram Honda : 7995666510 • VISAKHAPATNAM - Green Honda : 8886635028, 7093014372; Sundaram Honda : 9849725556



Sparkling start: A decorated boat during the opening ceremony of the Khelo India Beach Games on the Ghoghla Beach on the Diu Island on May 19.



Show of strength: Athletes in action during the beach kabaddi game. The spirit of the athletes at the Khelo India Beach Games was both fierce and joyous.



Radiant ending: Artists turn the closing ceremony of the Games to a celebration of the Union Territory as the competitive rivalry comes to an end.



Aiming for the net: Beach soccer teams from Kerala and Maharashtra fight it out.

Surf, sand and sports

Over 1,300 athletes from across India competed in six events in the inaugural edition of Khelo India Beach Games organised in May on Ghoghla Beach near Diu town



Shashi Shekhar Kashyap
shashi.shekhar@thehindu.co.in

The inaugural edition of Khelo India Beach Games organised in May in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was a show of mixed emotions. The elation of victories paralleled the disappointments of falling short. During the open water swimming event, which was held under adverse weather conditions, parents were worried and were waiting on the shore for their competing children to safely return from the sea. Their concerns were drowned in the cheers of local people, volunteers and supporters for the children. The games were held on the blue-flag certified Ghoghla Beach near Diu town. Over 1,300 athletes from 31 States and Union Territories competed in six events – beach soccer, sepak takraw, pencak silat, open water swimming, beach volleyball, and beach kabaddi. Ironically, landlocked Manipur came out as the champions by the sandy shores of Ghoghla. Apart from the competition events, the hosts

also put the U.T.'s own sporting talent on display on the final day of the games, demonstrating agility with Mallakhamb – a traditional form of gymnastics; strength with tug-of-war; and grit with boxing. The five-day event gave mediapersons a lot to deal with as photographers often had to deal with unwanted clutter in the background while looking for the perfect frame. Others would have to rival the decibel levels of booming speakers to get across to athletes. The natural lighting of dawns and dusks made covering the games early in the morning or late in the evening incredibly interesting, especially the events of beach kabaddi and sepak takraw, in which players were sort of flying over the sand to score points under the rising/setting sun spinning its own web. The Games had its moments despite challenges, and the beach sports community will hope that the competition augurs well for its future.



Grabbing eyeballs: A player from Maharashtra sends the ball back in a beach volleyball game.



Swift strokes: Athletes participate in the 10-km open water swimming competition.



Until one wins: Two women slug it out at the pencak silat competition.



Champion of the water: Renukacharya Hodmani, representing Karnataka, secured the top spot in the men's category in the 10-km open water swimming contest.



Fine balance: Athletes perform Mallakhamb at the opening ceremony.



With all their might: The Kerala men's tug of war team in action during the final match.