



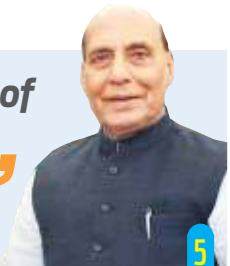
The Pioneer

Paper with passion since 1864

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'BrahMos is a message of our armed forces' strength'



SPICE MEETS
STORYTELLING WITH FORGOTTEN FLAVOURS OF ANDHRA BACK ON TABLE



Mahesh Babu's Nephew Jayakrishna to Debut Under Ajay Bhupathi's **DIRECTION**



QUOTE OF THE DAY

The Pioneer

Eatala Rajender didn't get the post he wanted in the BJP, and so he is behaving like a psycho. Eatala should ask questions in decent language. Then Congress leaders will answer him. If you use offensive language, we will answer in the same language. The CM seems to be ignoring you, thinking that you are talking due to disappointment, as you did not get the post you wanted. But we will not leave you

-T Jagga Reddy, TPCC Working President

DON'T MISS...

Emily Dickinson Award for Viswa

Viswaprasad Raju, an advertising professional and travel sketch artist based in Hyderabad, has received the prestigious Emily Dickinson Award for his book Places Via Notes, published by BookLeaf Publishing House. The award honours the legacy of American writer Emily Dickinson and challenges authors to write a book in just 21 days. Selected writers receive a limited-edition 21st Century Emily Dickinson Award trophy. Places Via Notes is a creative reflection on travel. "Places play, places pause, places rewind, places fast ..."

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'Nehru convened special session'

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Sunday reminded the Union government of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru convening a special session of Parliament during the war with China following a request by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Singh wondered whether India had accepted a third-party mediation as he questioned the 'silence' of PM Narendra Modi over the understanding reached between India and Pakistan after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes...

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India, EU to hold FTA talks from today

India and the European Union (EU) chief negotiators will begin the next round of talks on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) here from Monday, with an aim to conclude the first phase of the pact as early as possible, according to an official. The two sides have agreed to conclude the agreement in two phases on account of the uncertain global trade environment, particularly due to the US tariff actions under President Donald Trump. "The EU team will be here for the 11th round of..."

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India wins Women's Tri-Nation ODI series

India displayed absolute dominance to crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs and earn a well-deserved title triumph in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's sublime century and the bowlers' collective effort in the title clash here on Sunday. After Mandhana rose to the occasion to power India to a commanding 342 for seven, the bowlers completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245, with Sneha Rana (4/38) and Amanjot Kaur (3/54) doing the bulk of the ...

-SPORTS

'If Pak attacks, we will retaliate harder'



India inflicted heavy losses on Pak military: Armed Forces

India on Sunday said it inflicted tremendous losses to the Pakistan military, including downing its fighter jets featuring latest technologies and damaging key military installations close to even capital Islamabad, during the three-day confrontation between the two sides. Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said 35-40 Pakistani military personnel were killed in the combat and New Delhi achieved its desired objectives and that Pakistan will have to pay a very heavy price if it resorts to any misadventure. At a media briefing, senior military officials of the Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy provided details of Operation Sindoor, including how India repelled Pakistani attempts to target Indian military installations and civilian areas. To a question, Air Marshal AK Bharti said India definitely downed a few Pakistani planes but refused to hazard a guess on the numbers. **Continued on Page 2**

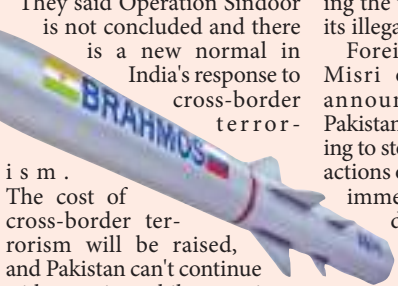
Modi instructs armed forces that response should be more forceful: Govt sources

Following Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Modi told the armed forces that bullets must be responded to by artillery (Wahan se goli chalegi, toh yahan se gola chalega), the sources said. They said Operation Sindoor is not concluded and there is a new normal in India's response to cross-border terrorism will be raised, and Pakistan can't continue with terrorism while expecting cooperation in areas of its choosing. They also said that India will never accept mediation in the Kashmir issue and the only matter to discuss is Pakistan returning the territory which is under its illegal occupation. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday evening announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect, after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. **Continued on Page 2**



Has the govt accepted US mediation on Kashmir, asks Cong

The Congress on Sunday demanded answers from the government on whether it has accepted third party mediation on Kashmir after the US made announcements on behalf of India and Pakistan, and slammed attempt to "internationalise" the issue. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot said the "ceasefire" statement was a surprise to all as this was the first time a third country had made announcements on behalf of the India and Pakistan. **Continued on Page 2**



Trump praises 'strong, powerful' leadership of India, Pakistan

US President Donald Trump on Sunday praised the "strong and unwaveringly powerful" leadership of India and Pakistan for reaching a "ceasefire" and offered to work with them for a "solution" on the Kashmir issue. India has always maintained that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral matter and there is no space **Continued on Page 2**

'Committed' to faithful implementation of ceasefire: Pakistan

Pakistan on Sunday said it was "committed" to faithful implementation of the ceasefire with India, asserting that its forces are handling the situation with "responsibility and restraint". India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. Hours later, the arrangement came under severe pressure with New Delhi blaming Islamabad for breaching it. In a media briefing close to midnight, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called upon Pakistan to take "appropriate steps" to address these violations and deal with the situation with "seriousness and responsibility". "Pakistan remains committed to faithful implementation of the ceasefire between Pakistan and India," the Foreign Office spokesperson **Continued on Page 2**

'Slot booking system to end by June'

Govt speeding up registration process, says Ponguleti

In a statement released on Sunday, he said that the practice of making buyers and sellers who come to register properties wait for hours under trees has been changed, and that the slot booking system is being implemented in a phased manner by modernising sub-registrar offices. Slot booking has already been implemented in 22 sub-registrar offices on an experimental basis from April 10, and it was found to be successful, he said. He said that this system is going to be implemented in 25 more sub-registrar offices from May 12. Steps are being taken to implement this system in **Continued on Page 2**



Beauties taste Neera, to visit Buddhavanam today



Sridhar asks officials to ensure quality in Pushkara work

IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has asked officials to maintain quality while executing Pushkara work. Sridhar inspected the VIP Ghat, Saraswati Mata idol, Gnanathirtham, the place where devotees bathe in the river, the tent city and other areas in Kaleshwaram on Sunday. Later, he held a meeting with officials of all departments in the tent city, and directions were given regarding the arrangements to be made during the Chief Minister's visit and completion of works. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar said that works are being executed very slowly and **Continued on Page 2**

Girls decreasing in TG, says Census Dept

A shocking truth has come to light in a report released by the Census Department of the Union Home Ministry. Statistics have revealed the bitter fact that the number of girls is decreasing in the state. In 2019, 953 girls were born for every 1000 boys. In 2021, the number of girls fell to an alarming level. Only 922 girls were born for every 1000 boys. The birth rate in Telangana is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. In 2021, 1,96,166 people were born in rural areas. The report revealed that 4,15,485 people were born in urban areas. At the same time, it was found that 3.18 lakh boys were born in 2021 and 2.93 lakh girls were born. It was also revealed that the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Telangana in 2021 increased by 15.4 per cent. In 2021, 1,08 L people died in rural areas, while 1.26 L people died in urban areas. Out of a total of 2.34 L people who died in 2021, 1.35 L were men and 98,000 were women. When it comes to newborns, it is noteworthy that more deaths occur in urban areas compared to rural areas. **Continued on Page 2**

126 people reach Telangana Bhavan in Delhi

A total of 126 people from Telangana, living in border states, have reached Telangana Bhavan in Delhi, the state government said on Sunday. On May 9, the Telangana government announced the establishment of a 24x7 control room at Telangana Bhavan to provide timely assistance, information, and support to its people living in border states amid the India-Pakistan military conflict. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the state government continues to extend full support to citizens returning from border areas through Telangana Bhavan, which serves as the nodal coordination centre for all relief efforts, an official release said. "As of now, a total of 126 people have reached Telangana Bhavan, including 50 students from NIT Srinagar, students and faculty from



Telangana Bhavan Resident Commissioner Dr. Gaurav Uppal with Telangana residents reached to Telangana Bhavan from Border States on Sunday

University (LPU), Punjab, and others residing or studying in affected border regions," it said. Of the 126 individuals, 57 have already departed for their hometowns after receiving necessary assistance, while the remaining are being accommodated at Telangana Bhavan with continued support, it said. All returnees are being provided free food, lodging, medical aid, and transportation for their onward journeys. Coordination is being maintained with the concerned district administrations and central authorities to ensure the safe and smooth movement of all citizens, the release added. Resident Commissioner Gaurav Uppal is overseeing operations and preparedness to receive more arrivals, the release further stated. The Telangana government will continue its efforts until every stranded individual has returned home safely, it said.

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology

Hearty Congratulations
Dr. G. Viswanathan
Founder & Chancellor - VIT

on being conferred Honorary Doctor of Pedagogy by the prestigious
Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT),
Rochester, New York State, USA

This momentous occasion of being conferred with your Honorary Doctorate marks a remarkable milestone, underscoring your unwavering dedication, profound impact on countless lives through selfless service and significant effort in nation building.

We salute your transformative work and inspiring journey.

Best Wishes from
VIT Alumni Association (VITAA)

Monday Mirchi

SHUKLA STEPS IN AS AMRAPALI HEADS TO MUSSOORIE

With Amrapali Kata heading to the hills of Mussoorie for the prestigious Phase-III Mid-Career Training Programme at LBSNAA, the Andhra Pradesh government has handed over the tourism baton — and more — to a familiar and capable face. Himanshu Shukla, currently serving as Director and Ex-officio Joint Secretary (I&PR), has been entrusted with full additional charge as Managing Director of APTDC. But that's not all. Shukla will also be steering three other key roles: CEO of APTA, CEO of BITC, and Commissioner of Archaeology & Museums. It's a hefty administrative bouquet, but those who've worked with him aren't surprised. Known for his composed leadership and ability to juggle multiple assignments without missing a beat, Shukla is often described as the go-to officer for stabilising transitions and getting things done quietly but effectively. With summer tourism picking up and multiple portfolios now under his care, all eyes will be on how Shukla handles the additional responsibilities. For now, the government seems confident — and rightly so.

BUREAUCRATS EYE KEY POSTINGS AS RESHUFFLE LOOMS

With the reshuffle of district collectors expected soon, lobbying has intensified behind the scenes. While Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal, Sangareddy, and Warangal remain the top-tier picks, their limited availability has pushed many aspirants to recalibrate their sights. One officer from the energy department is said to be actively pursuing a posting in North Telangana, with whispers pointing towards Karimnagar. Though not traditionally in the top bracket, it has gained traction as a viable alternative among those looking for visibility and scope. As the file movement picks up pace, hopefuls are working their contacts and playing it safe — aiming for a district with enough weight, if not the spotlight.

CMO RESHUFFLE BUZZ—MORE OFFICERS IN THE WAITING ROOM

The Secretariat corridors are once again thick with chatter. While only one officer has been recently inducted into the Chief Minister's Office, three have already made their exit. That arithmetic isn't sitting well with many in the administrative circuit, who are now anxiously eyeing their phones and files. Sheshadri continues to hold a bulky portfolio with more than a dozen subjects under his command. In contrast, the others in the CMO are managing a modest half a dozen each. The imbalance in distribution is fuelling speculation that more officers may soon be brought in to ease the load and sharpen the government's grip on execution. Those aspiring for a CMO spot haven't lost hope. With movement already visible and an obvious vacancy count, the belief is that the next round of appointments might be around the corner. For now, it's a waiting game — and everyone's playing it carefully.

COLLECTOR IN NAME, CITY GIRL IN PRACTICE?

A 2016 batch IAS officer, currently post-

ed as Collector in a district close to Hyderabad, has stirred quiet disapproval at the top. Whispers in the corridors suggest that she's spending more time in the city than in her own jurisdiction — and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Top bosses in government are said to have pulled her up recently for not acting like the administrative head of the district. Her frequent presence in Hyderabad has raised eyebrows. For a posting that demands round-the-clock attention and presence, the absence is becoming too visible. While some brush it off as a phase, others believe it's a pattern. Either way, the message from above is clear — a district can't run on autopilot.

FROM LOOPLINE TO LIFELINE — DISASTER MANAGEMENT GETS ITS MOMENT

Who would've thought disaster management would become one of the most watched portfolios in the state? When Arvind Kumar was handed the charge, many in the bureaucracy dismissed it as a looper post — more ceremonial than central. But this year has flipped that perception. Floods gripped the state. The SLBC tunnel collapse brought irrigation and emergency coordination to the spotlight. A full-scale mock drill was conducted — something the state hadn't seen since 1971. And now, with the heatwave turning brutal, the government has stepped in to revise compensation norms. Suddenly, the so-called sleepy department is dealing with action. The murmurs in the Secretariat are hard to miss. Disaster management quickly becoming a command post. And some say Nature itself is giving signals — making it clear that this portfolio can no longer be treated as an afterthought.

SAJANAR SALUTES SCRIBES AMIDST CEASEFIRE BUZZ

While the entire nation stood in solidarity with the Indian Army during the brief but intense cross-border tensions with Pakistan, one post on X (formerly Twitter) left journalists doing a double take — and smiling. Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) Managing Director VC Sajjanar took a detour from the routine political drumbeat and surprised everyone by saluting not just the soldiers, but the journalists on the ground. In a post that's now circulating widely among media circles, Sajjanar wrote, "A salute to the journalists on the ground—reporting with integrity, courage, and responsibility amidst chaos. Your commitment to truth and public service, often at great personal risk, keeps the nation informed. Thank you for doing what matters." While everyone found fault with media, Sajjanar's message was like a gust of fresh air in the smoke of war content. Someone from the bureaucracy had paused to recognise their high-risk hustle. Several Telugu journalists, braving the risks, had made it to the borders to capture the situation live — only to pack up and return after both India and Pakistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire, thanks to some classic Trump-style diplomacy.

--Yours truly

Ready to clear BJP's doubts on caste census: Ponnam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar made it clear that the Telangana Government is ready to clear all doubts on the caste census of the BJP's Rajya Sabha Member, Dr K. Laxman.

Ponnam released a note regarding this on Sunday. In his note, he said that the government had conducted a survey transparently by deploying one lakh government employees.

He said that the BJP 'toppled' the government in Maharashtra when it passed a



resolution in the Assembly on the caste census.

The BJP also 'toppled' the RJD, JDU government in Bihar before it could introduce the caste census report in the Assembly. The BJP sent Jharkhand Chief Minister

Hemanth Soren to jail by filing false cases against him after the Jharkhand Assembly passed a resolution increasing reservations for BCs.

The BJP-led Centre has a history of 'toppling' governments, Ponnam said.

He said the BJP gave the state BJP president post, the BJLP leader post and the Council opposition leader post to OCs and asked the BJP whether BCs were not eligible for those posts.

He said the BJP should prove its sincerity by approving the Bill providing 42 per cent reservations to BCs.

Eatala criticising CM with eye on TG BJP chief post: Adi Srinivas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government Whip Adi Srinivas said that the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, is criticising Chief Minister Revanth Reddy only to bag the post of state BJP president.

In a video message released on Sunday, Adi said the Congress had considered Eatala Rajender as a gentleman, but it seems Eatala has now 'lost' his mind.

"If you want the post of the BJP state president, then you must please the BJP high command. But it is your foolishness to think that if you use offensive language against our Chief Minister, you will get the post. We never thought that after being in politics for so long, you would come to this. Mr Eatala, first, stop your rants. You called the CM a sadist and a psycho. We can say much more than that. Remember that. If you have

been in politics for 30 years and are using offensive words, then your mental state is understandable," Adi said.

He said that HYDRAA is meant for repossessing encroached government lands and water bodies in Hyderabad.

"It has already freed hundreds of acres of government land from encroachers. Our government is for the poor and the common man. If injustice has been done to someone, it should be brought to the government's attention. Stop using offensive language. We will not tolerate if you use derogatory language against our Chief Minister. Eatala must immediately withdraw his comments against the Chief Minister. The CM is taking our debt-riddled state forward," he said.

He said that Eatala was the Finance Minister during BRS rule and had a hand in making the state indebted.

Jagga Reddy warns Eatala Rajender

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy warned the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, that if he uses offensive language against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, then Congress leaders would hit back with the same coin. He also asked Eatala to stop engaging in dirty politics.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday, Jagga Reddy said, "Eatala didn't get the posts he wanted in the BJP, and so he is behaving like a psycho. Eatala should ask questions in decent language. Then we will answer in the same language. If you use offensive language, we will answer appropriately. The CM seems to be ignoring you, thinking that you are talking offensively due to disappointment. But we will not leave you like that."

Rahul, Kharge demand special Parl session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The leaders of opposition in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding an immediate special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the latest developments in cross-border firing.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and his counterpart in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, have written to the prime minister, reiterating their demand to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament to demonstrate the collective resolve against terrorism.

"I reiterate the unanimous request of the Opposition to

convene a special session of Parliament immediately. It is crucial for people and their representatives to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the ceasefire, first announced by US President Trump. This will also be an opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead," Rahul Gandhi said in his letter.

Harish blasts CM for releasing EAPCET results from home

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BRS MLA T. Harish Rao said that no Chief Minister or Minister has ever released the results of competitive exams from their homes in the 77 years of Independent India.

Harish posted on X regarding this on Sunday, saying, "The release of the results of EAPCET conducted by the Telangana Government by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy from his Jubilee Hills palace shows his 'arrogance' and his 'contempt' for governance and students. So far, no Chief Minister or Minister has released the results of competitive examinations from their homes in the 77 years of Independent India. However, this Chief Minister, who rules from his

command, control centre or from his Jubilee Hills palace, is not allowing the police to work. He is not even looking at the secretariat. Is this the so called people's governance?"

The Chief Minister had released the results



of the Engineering, Agriculture, and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (EAPCET) on Sunday at his Jubilee Hills residence.

Cong misleading people about Sitarama Project: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress is spreading lies about the Sitarama Project, senior BRS MLA T. Harish Rao said.

He said that even though the Sitarama Project has Central Water Resources Board and Hydrology approvals, the Congress is misleading the people of Telangana with its false propaganda.

He also condemned the comments of Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy regarding the Sitarama Project. The Congress came to power using lies and is deceiving the people of Telangana

with the same lies, he added.

Posting on X on Sunday, he said, "It is shameful to pose for photos near the Sitarama Project and then criticise it. We have made the land of Telangana, which had turned into a desert during your rule, fertile. If Congress rule did injustice to Telangana in irrigation for 50 years, the nine-and-a-half-year BRS rule raised the banner of victory in the irrigation sector."

He said if truth remains silent, lies will prevail, adding that this saying is true as far as the Congress is concerned. Uttam Kumar Reddy thinks that telling a lie a hundred times makes it true, he added.

Girls decreasing ...

Hyderabad came first in neonatal mortality, followed by Peddapalli district. In Telangana, a total of 6.11 lakh people were born in 2021, of which the highest number was in Hyderabad district with 95,666, while the lowest number was in Mulugu district where only 3868 children were born. In terms of births, Hyderabad is followed by Medchal, Nizamabad, Sangareddy, Warangal Urban, Nalgonda and Khammam districts.

Sridhar asks officials ...

Continued from page 1

that the officials should answer regarding that. He said the entire town should be electrified and a festive atmosphere should be created for 12 days. The Saraswati Mata idol should be decorated with flowers, he said.

Sridhar criticised the Endowment Department's engineering wing as the main building of 'Pinda Pradhana' was incomplete and asked them to make adequate arrangements for devotees to watch the Saraswati Harati programme.

He said that a temporary road should be provided for devotees to bathe in the river and added that barricades and danger warning boards should be set up to warn devotees from entering the river.

Trump praises ...

Continued from page 1

for any third party. India asserts that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of it.

"I will work with you both to see if, after a 'thousand years,' a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

His comments came hours after India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air

and sea, with immediate effect.

"I am very proud of the strong and unwavering leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have led (led) to the death and destruction of so many, and so much," Trump said.

"Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision," Trump said.

He went on to say that even though this has not been discussed, he is going to "increase

trade substantially with both of these great Nations."

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Office Sunday said it appreciates President Trump's "willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute". Trump on Saturday announced that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night" of talks.

Soon after Trump's announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm (IST) on Saturday.

'Committed' to ...

Continued from page 1

here said in a statement while responding to the media queries regarding the statement made by Misri.

Pakistan's "forces are handling the situation with responsibility and restraint," the spokesperson claimed. "We believe that any issues in smooth implementation of the ceasefire should be addressed through communication at appropriate levels. The troops on ground should also exercise restraint," he added.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Has the govt ...

Continued from page 1

and questioned the US' bid to "hyphenate" the two countries. He said the government must accept the opposition's demand for another all-party meeting chaired by the prime minister and a special session of Parliament to discuss these issues in the current circumstances.

Noting that events have changed swiftly in the last 24 hours, he said, "We were all surprised after the announcement of ceasefire was made by the US President through social media." "An attempt was made to internationalise the issues between India and

Pakistan. This is for the first time this has happened," he said, asserting that the government must clarify while taking the nation and all parties into confidence.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday announced that India and Pakistan had reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect.

"On what conditions the ceasefire has been declared and what is the guarantee that such things would not be repeated, as there is no credibility left after yesterday's events (violations). How can we believe them and what is the guarantee that such developments will

not happen again," Pilot asked.

The Congress leader said one must also pay heed to what US President Donald Trump wrote on his social media posts, where he made statements on Kashmir, on which the government should spell out its side.

"Kashmir is a bilateral issue and the attempt to internationalise it, I feel, is not proper."

In 1994, the Congress leader said, Parliament had passed a unanimous resolution to take back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "It is time to repeat it," he said, adding that a message that the entire country is united should go across the entire world.

India inflicted ...

Continued from page 1

"Their planes were prevented from coming inside our border. So we do not have the wreckage with us but definitely we have downed a few planes," he said.

Asked about reports in the foreign media of losses of Indian fighter jets, Air Marshal Bharati said, "We are in a combat situation and losses are part of combat."

"All I can say is that we have achieved our objectives that we selected and all our pilots are back home," he said.

DGMO Lt Gen Ghai also paid tribute to five Indian fallen heroes and civilians who "tragically lost their lives" during Operation Sindoor.

"We have thus far exercised immense restraint and our actions have been focused, measured and non-

escalatory. However, any threat to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and safety of our citizens will be met with decisive force," he said.

On losses to the Pakistani military, the DGMO said there are reports of 35-40 fatalities. The DGMO said it was his Pakistani counterpart who made a call to him last afternoon, requesting a way out to stop the hostilities.

The two DGMOs on Saturday afternoon agreed to stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time.

The Indian military suggested that the Pakistani DGMO's call came after Indian Armed Forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations including Rafiqi, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chunian on Saturday morning.

The strikes were launched after the Pakistan military attempted to target major Indian military installations on the night of May 9-10.

Lt Gen Ghai said over 100 terrorists, including high-value targets such as Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf and Mudasir Ahmed, who were involved in the hijacking of IC 814 and the Pulwama blast, were eliminated during Operation Sindoor on May 7.

Nine terror targets were identified after careful deliberations and they were hit using precision weapons, he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. All subsequent retaliations, Pakistani offensives were carried out under Operation Sindoor.

'If Pak attacks, we ...

Continued from page 1

The development was first announced by US President Donald Trump, who claimed that the two countries had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after US mediation. In a statement, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he was "pleased to announce the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site."

The only matter related to Kashmir to discuss is Pakistan returning territory under its illegal occupation, Government sources asserted on Sunday.

They made it clear that the Indus Waters Treaty will be in abeyance as long as terrorism sponsored by Pakistan against India continues.

Only talks with Pakistan will be through the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs). There is no other issue to discuss, the sources said.

India's position after the May 7 strikes on terror infrastructure was that if Pakistan fires, India will respond more forcefully, they said, adding it was the Pakistani DGMO who reached out to the Indian DGMO on May 10 to de-escalate situation.

After the Pahalgam attack, India had told countries that reached out to New Delhi it would hit terror infrastructure in Pakistan territories.

'Slot booking ...

Continued from page 1

the 144 remaining sub-registrar offices by the end of June, Ponguleti added.

He clarified that reforms are meant to provide fast and efficient services to the public, and the responsibility of implementing them lies with the officials.

He said that to implement the slot booking process in Sub-Registrar offices where the workload is high and in offices where more than 48 slots are required, additional Sub-Registrars will be appointed.

He informed that two additional Sub-Registrars and a staff member have already been appointed in the Qutbullahpur office in Medchal Malkajgiri district on an experimental basis.

He said that sub registrar offices are being reorganised, keeping in mind the slot booking system, and as part of this, steps have been taken to equalise the workload by merging Sub Registrar Offices with high and low congestion.

The jurisdiction of Champapet and Saroor Nagar Sub Registrar Offices in Rangareddy district has already been successfully merged. Shad Nagar and Farooq Nagar, and Siddipet and Siddipet (Rural) have also been merged, he said.

The sub registrar offices where slot booking will be implemented from May 12 are:

Hyderabad RO Office, Hyderabad RO Office South, Narapalli, Ghatkesar, Malkajgiri, Uppal, Capra, Bibinagar, Siddipet, Siddipet (Rural), Gajwel, Mancherla, Peddapalli, Warangal RO Office, Jangaon, Ghanpur, Narsampet, Kalvakurthi, Narayanpet, Maheshwaram, Rangareddy RO Office, Shad Nagar, Farooq Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, and Serilingampalli.



Inculcate sportsmanship in kids, coaches told

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Children attending the ongoing summer coaching camp organised by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) should cultivate sportsmanship, said GHMC Sports Additional Commissioner Yadagiri Rao on Sunday.

As part of the summer coaching initiative, Rao held a review meeting with part-time and honorary coaches from Secunderabad, Serilingampally and Kukatpally zones, as well as game inspectors. He assessed the performance of each coach and directed them to work towards improving membership revenue.

He praised outstanding performers including Noor Mohammad, part-time roller skating coach at PJT Stadium and Indira Park, and Lakshman, honorary karate coach, along with student achiever Shrayan Poojitha.

Rao urged parents and children to make the most of the GHMC-organised summer coaching camps.

He said that these camps offer students a valuable opportunity during the summer holidays not only to learn new skills but also to discover and nurture their hidden talent.



CITY EVENTS

Sonata Software

Inauguration of its State-of-the-art facility by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Venue

Sonata Software Ltd, 18th Floor, Vamsiram Suvarna Durga Tech Park, Nanakramguda Road, Financial District, Hyderabad. May 12, 10:30 am

Xaverian Cricket Fiesta

Ongoing competitions

Venue

CNR Cricket Ground, House No. 4-91, Kuntloor, Rangareddy district Up to May 13, 7 am.

Summer Camp for kids

By Kreashala

Venue

Sagar farm Café, Up to May 16.

Paddlewave

Summer camp for kids

Venue

Paddlewave Sports Arena Up to May 16.

300 women benefit from medical camp

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To commemorate Mother's Day, Aster Prime Hospital organised a free medical camp and saree distribution programme in the BK Guda area, drawing participation from over 380 individuals.

Approximately 80 people availed themselves of free health screenings, which included tests for height, weight, blood pressure, diabetes, SPO2, hemoglobin, and other key parameters. Participants also received consultations from general physicians at no cost. Highlighting the spirit of appreciation for women, the hospital, in collaboration with the Srinivasa Samaj Seva Charitable Trust and Aster DM Foundation, distributed sarees to 300 women.

The event saw the presence of chief guest MLA Talasani Srinivasa Yadav, who lauded the initiative.

Also in attendance were J Prashanth Reddy, Head of Finance at Aster Prime Hospital and Parthasarathi from Srinivasa Samaj Seva Charitable Trust.



Raghu, Srinivasa appointed as TGERC members

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has appointed Raghu Kancharla as Member (Technical) and Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao as Member (Finance) of the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC).

As per official authorisation from the Governor of Telangana, Dr Justice Devaraju Nagarjun, Chairman of TGERC, will administer the oath of office to the newly appointed members on May 12.

TG EAPCET-2025

Over 2.88 lakh candidates qualify; Overall attendance at 93.91%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHHE), in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH), has successfully conducted the Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture, and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET-2025). A total of 3,07,088 candidates registered for the computer-based test held across 16 zones and 124 test centres between April 29 and May 4.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Education Secretary Dr Yogita Rana, Collegiate Education Commissioner A Sridevasena, JNTUH Professor Dr B Dean Kumar, who served as the conven-



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with education department officials releasing the results of TGEAPCET

er of TG EAPCET-2025, announced the results after the second CET committee meeting held on May 9. The overall attendance stood at 93.91 per cent with 94.04 per cent in Engineering and 93.59 per cent in Agriculture and Pharmacy streams.

The exams were conducted over multiple sessions: Agriculture and Pharmacy: April 29 and 30, Engineering: May 2 to 4, Preliminary answer keys were released promptly: Agriculture and Pharmacy: May 4 at 12 noon, Engineering: May 5 at 5 pm.

Candidates were given a window to submit objections, which were reviewed by subject experts. The final key was used to generate the results, and password-protected CDs containing detailed data - such as ranks, marks, attendance, and toppers - were distributed to the relevant authorities.

The Agriculture and Pharmacy registered were 86,762; Present were 81,198; among the present were 93.59 per cent.

In Engineering the registered

were 2,20,326, present were 2,07,190 and attendance was 94.04 per cent. The top 10 candidates from both streams were also identified and acknowledged in the result summary.

WARANGAL BOY SECURES 3RD RANK AT STATE LEVEL

Chada Akshit, from the O-City area in Warangal district achieved the third rank in the Agriculture & Pharmacy department with a score of 140,00081.

Akshit's achievement has brought joy to his parents.



Beauties taste Neera, to visit Buddhavanam today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Miss World contestants tasted Neera (Toddy) on Sunday and said that it has a wonderful taste. The video of this has gone viral.

Meanwhile, the government machinery has completed arrangements at Buddhavanam near Nagarjunasagar for the arrival of contestants who have come to take part in the Miss World pageant being held in Hyderabad.

Contestants from around

30 countries taking part in the Miss World pageant will visit Buddhavanam located at the Nagarjunasagar Project in Nalgonda district on Monday.

The contestants will leave Hyderabad and stop for a while at a guest house near Chintapalli in Nalgonda district. Then they will go to Vijay Vihar. After a photo session there, they will go to Buddhavanam, where 24 Lambada artistes will welcome them with a Lambada dance.

After the welcome at the Maha Stupa, there will be a

photo session. Arrangements are being made for this. After entering the Great Stupa, representatives of the Archaeological Department will explain details regarding the Great Stupa.

After the beauties meditate there, 25 Buddhist monks will perform Baalikuippa Maha Bodhi Puja there. Later, they will visit the Jataka Van (forest). After visiting Jataka Van, they will watch a performance by 18 artistes on the life of Buddha. Later, they will return to Hyderabad.



Viswaprasad receives Emily Dickinson Award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Viswaprasad Raju, an advertising professional and travel sketch artist based in Hyderabad, has received the prestigious Emily Dickinson Award for his book Places Via Notes, published by BookLeaf Publishing House.

The award honours the legacy of American writer Emily Dickinson and challenges authors to write a book in just 21 days.

Selected writers receive a limited-edition 21st Century Emily Dickinson Award trophy.

Places Via Notes is a creative



reflection on travel. "Places play, places pause, places rewind, places fast forward and most importantly, places don't stop to inspire," said

Viswaprasad Raju. Each chapter in the book captures a place through a fresh perspective, as a poem, note, post or dialogue.

Unlike his first book Via Pen & Ink, which included sketches from 10 countries over 10 years, this latest work brings together stories from 21 places written in 21 days.

From a poetic conversation at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka to tracking a tiger in Bandhavgarh, from connecting Hyderabad and London to sharing a moment with a banyan tree in Pillalamarri, each piece is lyrical, heartfelt effort and uniquely told.

Adilakshmi, President of the Telangana Nurses Association, called on nursing officers from across the State to participate in the event. She highlighted the State government's efforts, noting that 6,956 nursing appointment orders were previously distributed at LB Stadium shortly after the current government assumed power.

She also acknowledged the sanctioning of new nursing colleges in various districts and the recruitment of an additional 2,300 nursing officers currently in process.

Other key developments include a revised dress code for nurses at NIMS, cadre promotions and recent transfers within the nursing department.

senior nurses are retiring, and our hospitals are already facing a nurse staff crunch.

There was also internal discussion regarding nurses displaced from TIMS following its closure. While some of them appeared for the nursing recruitment exam, officials are yet to find a structured solution.

However, a new recruitment notification may be issued soon to accommodate additional needs, the source added.

TG to issue appointment orders to 2,322 nursing officers soon

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Health Department is preparing to issue appointment orders to 2,322 newly selected nursing officers by the end of this month, according to official sources.

The decision comes amid a critical shortage of nursing staff across government hospitals and anticipated retirements next month.

The Medical and Health Services Recruitment Board (MHSRB) received 42,244 applications for the nursing posts, with 40,423 candidates appearing for the recent exam and after releasing the exam



results, it is now finishing the process of selecting the nurses for requires posts.

A senior health department official told The Pioneer, "We have initiated the process through the Health Minister to issue appointment orders soon. The move is urgent as many

Hyd Metro Rail receives yet another prestigious recognition

Harvard varsity publishes a research paper about it

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) project has received another prestigious recognition. Harvard University has published a research paper on the project, calling it one of the largest and most successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Metro Rail projects in the world.

Harvard Business School's case study highlights the challenges the project faced and the leadership of NVS Reddy, Managing Director of HMR. It showcases how the project became a model for infrastructure development using the PPP model.

Earlier, top institutions like the Indian School of Business (ISB) and Stanford University also studied the project. ISB focused on the theme "Hyderabad Metro - From



Concept to Execution."

The research paper explains that NVS Reddy first proposed the Metro in 2006 to tackle traffic problems. Despite issues like Maytas's failure, land acquisition delays, public protests and political uncertainty, the Metro was successfully implemented.

Key points from the Harvard study include: Strong leadership and bold decisions. Strategic planning and coordination with stakeholders. Innovative financial and engineering solutions.

Harvard notes that Hyderabad Metro stands out for its unique planning and

world-class execution. The paper also explores lessons in handling large infrastructure projects under pressure.

Looking ahead, the study says the experience from Phase 1 has prepared the team for the upcoming Phase 2, building on a strong foundation of innovation and leadership.

Awareness rally marks World Lupus Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In observance of World Lupus Day, doctors at Osmania General Hospital (OGH) stressed the importance of early detection in combating the widespread autoimmune disease.

The Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy (DVL) organised an awareness rally and seminar aimed at educating the public about lupus and its management.

The rally, led by OGH Medical Superintendent Dr Rakesh Kumar Sahay, commenced at 10:30 am from the Superintendent's office and concluded at



the Casualty Block.

The event witnessed active participation from the DVL, General Medicine, Nephrology departments and hospital administrators.

Participants carried banners and raised slogans to spread awareness about the symptoms and precautions related to lupus.

A seminar followed at the DVL department at 12:30 pm where attendees were encouraged to amplify the message by educating at least 10 others. The initiative aimed to build public awareness around early diagnosis and treatment, contributing to better health outcomes.

"Lupus affects multiple organs and can be managed effectively if diagnosed early. We have all the facilities to treat it, and we urge the public to be informed," said Dr Rakesh Kumar Sahay.

HYDRAA has no link to Bachupally notices: Commissioner Ranganath

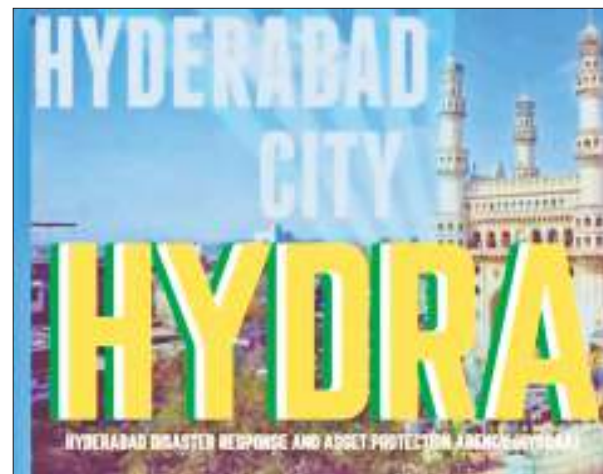
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath clarified on Sunday it has no connection to the notices issued by the Bachupally Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO).

Responding to recent statements made by BJP MP Etala Rajender, who linked the notices to HYDRAA, the Commissioner called the remarks unfortunate and misleading.

In an official statement, Ranganath stated, "Neither I nor HYDRAA officials are aware of the notices issued in Bachupally. I have spoken to the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector and requested that he inquire with the MRO on the reasons for issuing the notices."

He strongly condemned attempts to attribute every demolition or notice to HYDRAA, stating that it creates unnecessary fear and confusion among the public. "HYDRAA acts strictly against large-scale land-grabbers and stands in support of the common public," he added.



Ranganath also questioned the contradiction in Etala Rajender's comments, pointing out that while the MP claimed the Collector was unaware of the MRO's actions, he simultaneously tried to hold HYDRAA responsible. "This is an attempt to tarnish the image of a responsible public body," Ranganath said.

He emphasised that HYDRAA does not interfere with residential constructions built before July 2024 and does not target legally

approved commercial complexes. "We do not trouble the poor or ordinary citizens. In fact, the public has a clear understanding of HYDRAA's operations," he asserted.

Recalling his earlier meeting with Etala Rajender at the Secretariat, the Commissioner said he had clearly explained HYDRAA's functioning. "Baseless allegations like these are misleading and create confusion among the public," he warned, urging leaders to act responsibly.

Tech minds shift to AI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

City tech minds are leading the shift from automation to smart AI, which is changing how service companies deliver value, said Hyderabad-based tech leader Anji Maram, Founder and CEO of CriticalRiver.

When asked about the current wave of technological advancements, Anji Maram said, "Services were once seen as low-margin and hard to scale. But with AI, especially when used with enterprise data, we are now creating real, repeatable solutions that customers want."

"We are not just building systems anymore, we are building intelligence into them." He added that AI is helping their clients move from basic automation to deeper insights and long-term value across data, applications, and infrastructure.

Talking about GenAI solutions for Fortune 100 clients, Anji Maram said, "We have built an AI product for financial operations that handles reconciliation, audit prep, and flux analysis."



BJP and Bajrang Dal activists staging a protest outside Karachi Bakery in Shamshabad on Sunday

Tension as right-wing groups stage protest at Karachi Bakery

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Tension flared in Shamshabad on Sunday as members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Bajrang Dal staged a protest outside the iconic Karachi Bakery, demanding that the word "Karachi" be removed from its name. The protesters objected to the name's perceived association with Pakistan, especially amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan.

Dal's Telangana convenor Shivaram, speaking to the media, stated, "When there are war clouds over India and Pakistan, Bajrang Dal is warning those who love Pakistan to leave the country. The names linked to Pakistan must be changed."

Karachi Bakery, a well-known brand founded in 1953 in Hyderabad by Khanchand Ramnani a Sindh Hindu migrant from Karachi during the Partition has faced similar

MINISTER SEETHAKKA CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON KARACHI BAKERY

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Panchayatiraj Minister Seethakka condemned the attacks on Karachi Bakeries in Shamshabad in Rangareddy district by Bajrang Dal activists. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Seethakka said that those Karachi Bakeries belong to the sons of India. Seethakka recalled that there are many Karachi Bakeries in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union

Home Minister Amit Shah's state Gujarat. She termed the attack as an atrocious act. She suggested Bajrang Dal activists stop these sorts of cheap acts, which will bring a division between the people.

It may be recalled that the BJP and Bajrang Dal activists have been resorting to attacks on Karachi Bakeries in the context of the war between India and Pakistan demanding not to run the business related to Pakistan.

The protest turned aggressive when demonstrators, waving saffron flags and shouting slogans like "Pakistan murdabad" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai," attempted to vandalise the bakery's signage using sticks. Local police initially struggled to control the situation, but reinforcements from the RGI Airport Police Station arrived soon after to disperse the crowd and restore calm.

This demonstration is part of a broader pattern where right-wing groups have targeted businesses that carry names of Pakistani origin. Bajrang

backlash in the past. However, the management has repeatedly clarified that the name is a reflection of legacy and heritage, not a political or national allegiance.

In response to the protests, the bakery reaffirmed its Indian identity by hoisting the national flag at its outlets and releasing a public statement that read, "We are proudly Indian."

Karachi Bakery is a 100% Indian brand, founded in Hyderabad in 1953. Our name is a part of our history, not our nationality."

Labourer dies in lightning strike

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a tragic incident near Wardhannapet town in Warangal district, a person died after being struck by lightning at a paddy procurement centre in Konapur.

While a labourer Bittu Vin (31) from Bihar died, a young farmer named Ganesh sustained serious injuries and was rushed to hospital. The lightning strike occurred during heavy rainfall accompanied by thunder and lightning, leading to the death of the labourer and serious injuries to the young farmer, creating a sense of fear and anxiety among local farmers. Paddy got soaked at the procurement centres.



Khammam Lok Sabha member Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy handing over a Letter of Credit worth Rs 3 lakh to parents for their son's medical treatment, in Khammam on Sunday

MP arranges financial aid for boy's surgery

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Khammam Lok Sabha member Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy showed his humanity by helping the 7-year-old son of an auto-rickshaw driver secure financial assistance for medical treatment.

Banoth Saidulu's 7-year-old son, Upender, is suffering from a genetic bone marrow disorder. Ten days ago, his parents met MP Raghuram Reddy and explained their inability to afford the treatment. Moved by their plight and seeing the suffering of the young boy, Raghuram Reddy acted without delay. He sent an application to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund (PMRF), followed it up with

All set to launch New India Literacy Programme

It is designed to enhance literacy for all

PNS ■ ADILABAD

A comprehensive plan has been proposed to transform the undivided Adilabad district into a 100 per cent literate district through a special initiative called "Andariki Aksharalu" (Literacy for All) under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP).

This programme aims to ensure that every individual in the district has the ability to read and write. To implement the programme effectively, four Additional Collectors and District Education Officers (DEOs) have been assigned the responsibility. Basara mandal in Nirmal district, which was once the part of undivided Adilabad district, has been chosen for the pilot project kick-start the NILP.

In the initial phase, priority will be given to unlettered women. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in villages will identify illiterate individuals, and once they submit their lists, the programme will be carried out in phases. In Nirmal district alone, there are about 20,866 illiterates, including 12,606 women. The first



step will be to educate 550 illiterate women from Basara mandal.

The programme will make use of retired teachers, alongside calls for educated youth and employees to volunteer. Those who participate will earn academic credits from the AICTE and NCTE.

To ensure the programme's suc-

cess, coordination committees will be formed at both the mandal and village levels. These committees will consist of Headmasters, teachers, Anganwadi workers, MPDOs, and MEOs. They will work together to identify out-of-school individuals and enroll them in open schools, based on reports from SHGs.

Burglars strike at places in Kamareddy dist

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

In Timmapur village under Birkur mandal in Kamareddy district, thieves targeted two houses on the same day and committed thefts. The thieves broke into the house of Alwala Chandrayya as the family members went to the native place.

According to the family members, the burglars stole approximately 3.5 tolas of gold and 24 tolas of silver ornaments. When Chandrayya's family returned from their native place, they were shocked and deeply distressed to find that a burglary had taken place. The family informed the police that the thieves broke open the locks, entered the house, and stole the jewelry.

On the same day, another theft incident was reported in the same village.

It is reported to the police that the thieves had stolen 6.5 tolas of gold, 16 tolas of silver ornaments, and Rs 1 lakh in cash.

With two thefts occurring in a single day, residents of Timmapur village are gripped with fear and anxiety.

700 grams of cannabis seized, three arrested

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

In a crackdown on narcotic peddlers, the Prohibition and Excise Department conducted a special drive targeting violations under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Hanamkonda. The operation was led by Deputy Commissioner G Anjan Rao and District Prohibition and Excise Officer K Chandrasekhar.

During inspections carried out on the outskirts of Parimala Colony, officials apprehended three young men found under suspicious conditions carrying a bag.

Upon inspection, authorities discovered 700 grams of cannabis.

The arrested individuals were identified as Kundela Indra Teja (22), Tamma Bhanu Teja (21), and Bellam Aravind (19).

Preliminary investigation revealed that Kundela Indra Teja, is a habitual user of cannabis and was allegedly selling it to finance his personal expenses. He admitted to purchasing

the contraband from unidentified individuals near Dhoolpet, Hyderabad.

Further questioning revealed that the accused had each bought 50 grams of cannabis from Kundela Teja for personal consumption. Officials seized 600 grams from Kundela Teja and 50 grams each from the two accused, bringing the total confiscated quantity to 700 grams.

All three were informed of the legal consequences of buying and selling cannabis.

Their mobile phones were also confiscated as part of the investigation. A case has been registered, and the accused were produced before the magistrate at Hanamkonda Court, who ordered their judicial remand.

According to Hanamkonda SHO G Durga Bhavani, the estimated value of the seized cannabis is approximately Rs 13,000. The inspection team included P&E Sub-Inspectors Mr. Venkanna Chandu and Mr. B. Krishna Murthy, along with supporting station staff.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

MLA distributes saris to women on Mother's Day

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar on Sunday said that there is no god greater than mother in this creation.

Marking the occasion of Mother's Day, the MLA participated in a special programme organised by the Uyasi Foundation, under the aegis of the FCN Foundation, on the outskirts of Shadnagar town on Sunday.

As part of the celebrations, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar distributed saris to elderly women and inaugurated a food distribution programme aimed at serving the needy. Speaking at the event, the MLA



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar distributing saris on the occasion of Mother's Day in Shadnagar on Sunday

emphasised the importance of respecting parents and understanding the foundational role a mother plays in every individual's life. He highlighted that from the moment of birth, a mother is involved in

every step of her child's growth, serving as the first teacher, guide, and nurturer.

"The love of a mother is unparalleled, and her sacrifices cannot be measured. Mother's Day is a moment to reflect on and honor that selfless devotion," said Veerlapalli Shankar.

He also added that honoring mothers on this day is akin to performing a noble deed.

He lauded the efforts of the United Youth Courage (UYC) Foundation for launching meaningful social initiatives and expressed appreciation for their first program, which he described as deeply impactful.

All set for Saraswati Pushkaralu from May 15

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

District Collector Rahul Sharma announced that Saraswati River Pushkaralu will be celebrated with grandeur at the sacred pilgrimage site of Kaleshwaram. The Pushkaralu will begin from May 15.

On Saturday, the Collector, along with District Superintendent of Police Kiran Khare, inspected the ongoing works related to the Pushkaralu.

He explained that works such as the installation of the Saraswati Mata idol, the lighting of the Jyana Deepam (lamp of knowledge), setting up of stalls, sanitation arrange-



ments at the bathing ghats, provision of electricity, drinking water, and construction of toilets along the river are progressing at a brisk pace. He instructed the contractors to

carry out works round-the-clock without any distinction between day and night.

The Collector directed that warning boards would be placed to prevent devotees from entering unsafe areas of the river. He emphasised that all departments should coordinate effectively to ensure that visiting devotees face no inconvenience and that preparations be completed swiftly.

He affirmed that the district administration is fully prepared to successfully conduct the Saraswati Pushkaralu. Officials from various departments including Irrigation, Endowments, Panchayat Raj, RWS, and Electricity took part in this programme.

FREE BUS TRAVEL

Scuffles break out between a passenger and conductor

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

A verbal altercation ensued between a TGSRTC bus conductor and a woman after she demanded the zero fare bus ticket scheme on Saturday. The incident took place on an express bus travelling from Hanamkonda to Suryapet, with passengers boarding at the Dantthalapally in Mahabubabad district. The woman presented her Aadhaar card to avail the free travel, but the conductor claimed it was not updated and refused to issue her a zero fare ticket, asking her to pay for the fare instead.

A fellow passenger stepped in to support the woman, escalating the situation into a heated argument. The confrontation quickly turned physical when the bus driver pulled over, and the passenger and conductor engaged in a scuffle, each holding onto the other's shirt.

The Dantthalapally police intervened, escorting both the conductor and the passenger to the station where the dispute was resolved.

This incident is part of a troubling series of events related to the free bus travel initiative for women. Health exchanges between the crew and the



A fellow passenger in support of a woman passenger got into a verbal altercation with the conductor at Dantthalapally in Mahabubabad district on Sunday

women passengers and sometimes between women passengers have been breaking out. There were instances of women fighting over seats on one or the other bus.

In another case, a conductor was verbally abused and assaulted by a woman passenger who refused to show her Aadhaar card or any valid ID when boarding a bus at the Hayathnagar Depot-1 to avail of the Mahalakshmi scheme.

Leopard scare at Thanda in Medak dist

PNS ■ MEDAK

The movement of a leopard near Katriyal Thanda under Ramayampet mandal in Medak district is causing fear and anxiety among the local people.

On Sunday morning, the leopard attacked and killed a wild boar near Jathya Kunta, close to the Thanda. Witnessing the leopard attack left the local people scared. They informed the forest officials.

Locals stated that the leopard has been

roaming near the Thanda for the past three days. They mentioned that even on Saturday night, it came near the settlement but left after they shouted and made noise. At dawn, the leopard returned with two cubs, attacked, and killed the wild boar. While heading to their agricultural fields in the morning, villagers saw the two leopard cubs feeding on the deer.

Fearing a potential attack on humans, the locals are urging the authorities to take action and capture the leopard.

Midnight excavation near temple triggers panic

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Tension prevailed in Vemulanarva village under the Shadnagar constituency in Rangareddy district after unidentified individuals carried out unauthorised excavations near an ancient temple on Saturday night. The incident, which occurred at the Beerappa Swamy Temple along Alwala Road, has triggered demands from the local community for a thorough investigation and heightened security measures.

According to villagers, the excavations were carried out around midnight by unknown persons who brought ritual items including lemons, pumpkins, turmeric, and saffron suggesting the performance of superstitious



Telltale sign of midnight excavations at temple in Shadnagar on Saturday night

rites with the belief that hidden treasures lie beneath the temple grounds. Residents expressed outrage, noting that such acts of anarchy have become more frequent due to the alleged lack of nighttime patrolling by Keshampet police. The villagers said that

ancient temples are increasingly being targeted by treasure hunters who exploit the absence of law enforcement during the night hours. They voiced serious concerns about the desecration of spiritual spaces and the potential damage to structures with historical and religious significance.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department
FORM-VI
(PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION)
Section 41 (1) and Rule 19 Sub-rule (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act - 2016, (Central Act 21 of 2017)
Collector's file no. G1/908/2025 Date: 05/05/2025
Special Dy. Collector's file no. B/15/2025 Date: 11-04-2025
Gazette no. A2/2025 Date: 05-05-2025

The notification has been issued as the Government of Telangana District Collector, Siddipet let that it is necessary to acquire Ac 0.14 gts of land in Palamaskula village of Nangunur mandal for public purpose i.e. for excavation of LDE-LM 1 minor of Right Main Canal of Sri Rangarajyakasagar reservoir of the Kaleshwaram Project.

Therefore, as per the Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 the notification has been issued. However, the social impact assessment (Public Opinion) and food security have been exempted under Section 10-A by an order of the Irrigation and Command Area Development department bearing the No.35 dated 30-06-2017.

Therefore, a notification has been issued to acquire Ac 0.14 gts in Palamaskula village of Nangunur mandal of Siddipet district as shown in the following schedule.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Title of Land	Type of Land	Extent of land acquisition	Name of the Possessor/ Employer/ Interested person	Boundaries					Survey No. (Free Soil, Well, Subgrps)
					E	W	N	S	11	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	112	Patta	Dry	0.14	Chandhala Santha W/o Shekhar	VB	Ram pur	100	665	-
Total Extent					0.14					

The notification is made under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 for payment of the compensation to the land owners as per the law.

The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the offices of the District Collector, Siddipet and Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition Department-3, Siddipet, by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day.

The Government of Telangana District Collector, Siddipet or the Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition Department-3 is pleased to authorise them and their personnel to enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and do all acts required for the proper execution of the work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 (1) of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
Tehsildar Special Deputy Collector (L.A.) Addl. Dist. Collector
Nangunur Kaleswaram Project, Unit-1 Collector
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ACROSS THE STATES



Conclave to commemorate 50 yrs of Sikkim's statehood

The Press Club of Sikkim in association with the state government will organise a conclave to commemorate 50 years of Sikkim's statehood, officials said on Sunday. The stage is set for 'Sikkim@50: Golden Jubilee Conclave 1975-2025' at Adampool here, which will be organised by the Information and Public Relations Department (IPR) and the press club, they said. The conclave will feature a host of distinguished personalities, who will reflect on Sikkim's journey over the past 50 years and offer perspectives on its future, Press Club of Sikkim president Bhim Rawat told reporters. He highlighted that the discussions will showcase the state's key achievements and explore emerging investment opportunities. Senior District Information Officer (Gangtok), Sarojini Subba, said the conclave is an initiative of the state government to showcase the development of the fourth pillar of democracy, marking the 50th year of Sikkim's statehood. This event comes at a crucial time, given the growing significance of geopolitics and Sikkim's strategic location, Subba added.



J-K Police raids 20 locations in UAPA case

The Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Sunday conducted searches at 20 locations in the Valley and detained multiple suspects in connection with a UAPA case. "The SIA conducted searches at around 20 locations across all districts of South Kashmir in connection with the investigation of a case registered under UAPA," officials said. The officials said that substantial incriminating materials have been seized during the raids, and the suspects have been rounded up for further questioning. "Preliminary investigation has clearly brought out that these entities are actively engaged in terrorist conspiracy, propagating and furthering anti-India narratives aimed not only at challenging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India but also at inciting disaffection, public disorder, and communal hatred," they said. The officials said J&K police is keeping surveillance on the terror associates and underground workers (OGW) working in Kashmir.



Bengal govt directs DMs, SPs to remain alert

West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant on Sunday directed the district magistrates and SPs to remain alert and keep a check on any attempt to disrupt law and order in the state. In the meeting, the district administrations were also ordered to stockpile essential food items for the next three months till August, a senior official said. Chairing a meeting at the state secretariat, Pant directed the DMs and SPs to maintain proper coordination, especially in the districts that have international or interstate borders. Speaking to PTI, Pant said the meeting was held to direct the DMs and SPs to remain alert in the backdrop of the India-Pakistan military conflict. India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect, after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. However, hours later, New Delhi accused Islamabad of breaching it. "The DMs, SPs and senior police officers have been asked to remain alert so that an evolving situation can be addressed," Pant said. "The ICs (inspectors-in-charge of police stations), civil defence bodies, and other officers were instructed to maintain proper coordination at this juncture," he added.

'BrahMos is a message of our armed forces' strength'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BrahMos is not just a weapon but a "message of strength" of India's armed forces, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday at the inauguration of the largest integration and testing facility of the supersonic cruise missile system.

"India is now one of the most powerful nations in the world. We are constantly increasing our strength, and I believe that the facility centre that is being inaugurated today will help in further strengthening India's power," he said while virtually addressing the event from Delhi.

"BrahMos is one of the world's fastest, supersonic cruise missiles. BrahMos is not just a weapon, but it is a message in itself. A message of the strength of our armed forces. A message of our deterrence towards the enemy. A message of our commitment to safeguarding our borders," Singh said.

The country's largest BrahMos integration and testing facility centre in Lucknow will strengthen India's efforts towards self-reliance in the defence sector, the Defence

Says Rajnath, inaugurates missile facility



"BrahMos is one of the world's fastest, supersonic cruise missiles. BrahMos is not just a weapon, but it is a message in itself. A message of the strength of our armed forces. A message of our deterrence towards the enemy. A message of our commitment to safeguarding our borders"

Minister said, addressing the inaugural ceremony at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in his Lok Sabha constituency.

"A good thing is that in this defence corridor, we are seeing very important participation of

both public and private sectors," he said.

On the private sector, he noted that PTC Industries Limited is starting Titanium and super-alloy material plants. "Apart from this, the foundation of seven additional criti-

cal projects is also being laid. This will certainly accelerate the pace of India's self-reliance in the defence sector," the defence minister said.

Major investments have been made in aircraft manufacturing, UAVs, drones, ammunition, composite and critical materials, small arms, textiles and parachutes, he said.

"When our government moved forward with the vision of a defence corridor in Uttar Pradesh... one of our objectives was that we should once again develop Uttar Pradesh as the production centre of the country.

India follows its defence, diplomatic strategy: Joshi

PNS ■ BENGALURU/HUBBALLI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday said that India, its defence, and diplomacy follow their strategy, and that the government, after discussions with the armed forces, reached an understanding with Pakistan to stop all firing and

But this time, on the very first day, our soldiers attacked about nine terror bases or launch pads in Pakistan. A large number of terrorists were killed. So, I don't want to respond to those criticising the ceasefire announcement," Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public



military action.

However, before reaching this understanding, the Government decided that India would treat any future act of terror on its soil as an "act of war" and respond accordingly, he said.

"India has its strength. Earlier, even after major terror attacks, our response was mild.

Distribution, said in response to a question.

Speaking to reporters in Hubballi, Joshi said that ever since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, terrorist activities, which earlier occurred across the country, have been restricted to the border areas—and even there, the government is taking serious action.

India Space Congress to discuss emerging trends



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 1,000 policymakers and experts from more than 30 nations will gather in Delhi in June for the three-day India Space Congress to deliberate on the new opportunities in the country's space sector.

India's space sector regulator Pawan Kumar Goenka and industry leaders will deliberate on issues such as satellite communications, geospatial applications, deep-space exploration, emerging technologies, Earth observation and strategic trade corridors.

The fourth India Space Congress,

organised by the Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India), will be held in the national capital from June 25-27 under the theme "Pioneering Innovations in Space Technology: India's Journey Towards Global Partnership".

"Country sessions will also bring delegations from Europe, Asia-Pacific, North America, and the Middle East, highlighting opportunities for bilateral cooperation in capacity-building, joint missions and industrial co-development," SIA-India said in a statement.

OPERATION SINDOOR

Woman booked for objectionable social media status

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A 40-year-old beautician from Malwani in Mumbai was booked for her allegedly objectionable social media status on Operation Sindoor launched by Indian armed forces, police said on Sunday.

An FIR was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and a notice was served to the woman, who runs a beauty parlour, for joining the investigation. "When governments make reckless decisions,



it's the innocent on both sides who pay the price, not the ones in power", the woman stated on her WhatsApp status while sufficing a slang term to dismiss Operation Sindoor.

Indian armed forces launched "Operation Sindoor" on the intervening night of May 7 and 8, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, from where terrorist attacks against India had been planned and directed.

India gifts 15 electric vehicles to Nepal for mountain dialogue



PNS ■ KATHMANDU

India gifted 15 electric vehicles to Nepal on Sunday to facilitate the organisation of 'Sagarmatha Sambad' (mountain dialogue). The Nepal government is hosting Sagarmatha Sambad in Kathmandu from May 16-18 on the theme 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity'.

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava presented 15 electric vehicles to Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba at a function held at Foreign Affairs Ministry, according to a press release issued by the ministry. The vehicles will be used to facilitate the movement of guests and officials attending the event, which aims to highlight the impact of climate change on mountain regions.

WATER ROW

Mann: BJP, BBMB to blame if something untoward happens

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday warned that the BJP and the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) will be held responsible if "violence" or something untoward happens as they continue to send officials to the Nangal Dam. He also called out farmers' unions for their "silence" on the issue.

Mann headed to the Nangal dam in Rupnagar district after he came to know that the BBMB officials had reached there again to release water to Haryana. AAP workers and some local villagers led by Punjab Cabinet minister Harjot Singh Bains held a protest against the officials for their attempt to release water to the neighbouring state.

This came four days after BBMB Chairman Manoj

Tripathi was allegedly locked inside Nangal Dam's guest house by AAP workers. Punjab and Haryana are at



loggerheads over the distribution of water. The AAP-led government in Punjab has refused to share the water from Bhakra dam saying Haryana has already utilized its share.

Mann also took potshots at the farmer unions for their "silence" on protecting the

state's water rivers. Addressing the media at the Nangal dam, Mann said it is unfortunate that on one

hand, Punjab is on high vigil and bravely confronting the enemy at the international border and on the other hand the BJP government at the Centre was playing "dirty games" and resorting to tantrums to deprive the state of its waters.

'Nehru had convened special session during Indo-China war'

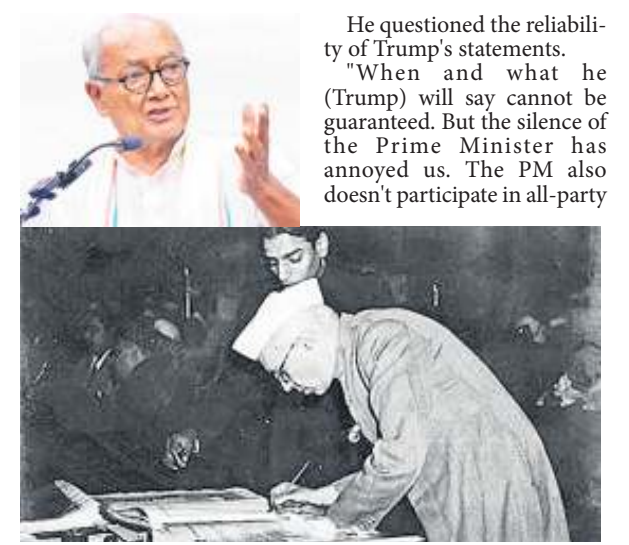
PNS ■ GUNA (MP)

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Sunday reminded the Union government of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru convening a special session of Parliament during the war with China following a request by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Singh wondered whether India had accepted a third-party mediation as he questioned the "silence" of PM Narendra Modi over the understanding reached between India and Pakistan after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Singh demanded that Modi attend all-party meetings and the government convene a special session of Parliament, given the latest developments—the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and an understanding reached between India and Pakistan amid the cross-border military confrontation.

Referring to the "ceasefire"



announced by US President Donald Trump on Saturday in the midst of growing military confrontation between India and Pakistan, Singh said it is a stated position of India that it will never accept a third-party intervention (on cross-border issues).

He questioned the reliability of Trump's statements. "When and what he (Trump) will say cannot be guaranteed. But the silence of the Prime Minister has annoyed us. The PM also doesn't participate in all-party

meetings," the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister told reporters.

During the 1962 war with China, the then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had convened a (Parliamentary) session on the demand of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said.

Half of 2020-born could face climate extremes: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over half the children born in 2020 could face an unprecedented exposure to heatwaves, compared to 16 per cent of those born in 1960, even if global warming were limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a new study has found.

Analysing demographic data and projections of climate extremes around the world, researchers calculated the fraction of each generation born between 1960 and 2020, who could face an unprecedented exposure in their lifetime.

The younger a person, the higher their chances of experiencing unprecedented climate



extremes, including heatwaves, river floods and droughts -- children in the tropics will bear

the worst burden, the team said. Its findings were published in the journal 'Nature'.

"In this new study, living an unprecedented life means that without climate change, one would have less than a 1-in-10,000 chance of experiencing that many climate extremes across one's lifetime," lead author Luke Grant, a climate scientist at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, said.

"This is a stringent threshold that identifies populations facing climate extremes far beyond what could be expected without man-made climate change," Grant said. "The authors wrote, 'Under a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway, 52 per cent of people born in 2020 will experience unprecedented lifetime exposure to heatwaves.'

Further, under a scenario of 3.5 degrees Celsius warming, "over 90 per cent will endure such exposure throughout their lives," Grant said.

"The same picture emerges for other climate extremes examined, though with slightly lower affected fractions of the population. Yet the same unfair generational differences in unprecedented exposure is observed," the author said.

In a 2021 study, the team had found that children -- especially in low-income countries -- could see a disproportionate increase in exposure to extreme weather events.

"Now, we examined where the cumulative exposure to

climate extremes across one's lifetime will far exceed that which would have been experienced in a pre-industrial climate," senior author Wim Thiery, professor of climate science at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, said.

The team's findings also highlight the social injustice of climate change and its impacts. Under current climate policies, almost all of the most socio-economically vulnerable children born in 2020 -- 95 per cent -- will endure an unprecedented exposure to heatwaves in their lifetime, compared to 78 per cent for the least vulnerable group, the authors said.

Akhilesh: Politicians should not use armed forces for 'self-display'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amid the recently concluded military confrontation with Pakistan and prevailing "uneasy" calm at the LoC, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday appealed to political leaders to refrain from using defence-related backdrops as photo opportunities, urging them instead to show solidarity with the armed forces.

"In the current highly sensitive environment, 'defence-security' has become an even more serious issue. Politicians are requested to please not make it a photo background or



selfie point. This is a time to stand with the armed forces, not alone for self-display," Yadav said in a post in Hindi on X. While Yadav did not name anyone directly, his comment is seen targeting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who posed alongside a BrahMos missile or its model, in Lucknow at an event.

Editor's TAKE

The ceasefire and aftermath

The ceasefire after four days of intense hostilities is welcome as escalation is in nobody's interest

After four days of intense military confrontation involving drones and missile strikes across the India-Pakistan border, both nations agreed on Saturday to an immediate and full ceasefire—a move that has brought a temporary sigh of relief across the subcontinent, despite worrying signs of ongoing tension. The announcement, surprisingly first made by former US President Donald Trump on social media, followed an all-night negotiation reportedly mediated by the United States. Following a prolonged night of negotiations, former US President Donald Trump announced on Social media that India and Pakistan had reached an agreement on a full and immediate ceasefire. He praised both nations for what he described as their use of common sense and intelligence in resolving the crisis. Soon after, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed the truce in a formal statement.

But the optimism was short-lived. Within hours of the ceasefire declaration, the ground realities painted a far more complex picture. Drone sightings and explosions were reported across Jammu and Kashmir, and Indian forces activated air defence systems in response. In a late-night briefing, Misri accused Pakistan of violating the truce, noting that the Indian military had provided an "adequate and appropriate response."

Blackout protocols, which had been lifted earlier on Saturday, were swiftly reimposed in several districts across Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan as precautionary measures. Amritsar remained on red alert, with authorities urging citizens to remain indoors. Similar alerts were issued in Gujarat's Kutch district and Rajasthan's border towns.

Meanwhile, Islamabad accused India of ceasefire violations and claimed its own forces were acting with "responsibility and restraint." The conflicting narratives have only underscored the fragile nature of the truce. The volatility of this episode highlights a deeper and more alarming truth: war between India and Pakistan is not just undesirable—it is unthinkable. Both nations are nuclear-armed, and any escalation carries the risk of catastrophic consequences, not just for the region but for global stability. The existence of nuclear arsenals on both sides elevates every border skirmish into a potential existential threat.

A full-blown war, in this context, would likely move beyond conventional warfare into a realm where control is quickly lost and the price is paid in millions of lives. Even limited military engagements have a staggering human, economic, and environmental cost. In densely populated regions like Punjab and Kashmir, the impact on civilian life is immediate and devastating. Blackouts, evacuations, and psychological trauma become the new normal for border residents. Infrastructure collapses, economic activity grinds to a halt, and societies are thrust into fear and uncertainty. Furthermore, global powers are watching. Any miscalculation or miscommunication could draw in international stakeholders and lead to regional destabilisation. The Indo-Pak rivalry is not isolated; its after-effects reverberate through global markets, diplomatic corridors, and multilateral forums.

This latest round of hostility underscores the ever-present danger that hovers over South Asia: the threat of war between two nuclear-armed nations. With both India and Pakistan possessing sizable nuclear arsenals, any escalation beyond conventional warfare carries catastrophic implications not just for the subcontinent, but for global stability. History offers sobering lessons. The Kargil conflict of 1999, waged under the shadow of nuclear deterrence, highlighted how quickly limited skirmishes can spiral into larger confrontations. In the current age—marked by advanced drone warfare, cyber operations, and misinformation—the risks have only multiplied. Escalating military conflict would lead to devastating human loss, economic paralysis, and the potential for irreversible damage to bilateral and regional relations. Furthermore, any such escalation would likely draw in global powers, complicating the crisis and potentially turning a regional war into a broader geopolitical conflict.

While political leaders on both sides have often used national security to galvanise domestic support, this is a moment for restraint, not rhetoric. As recent events in Kashmir valley has shown, provocations and reactive posturing only deepen mistrust. Constructive diplomacy, backchannel negotiations, and sustained dialogue must replace the current cycle of provocation and retaliation.

The ceasefire, however shaky, must be reinforced through verification mechanisms, confidence-building measures, and international oversight if necessary.

The current calm, though punctuated by drone sightings and ceasefire violations, is still a welcome pause from the brinkmanship of the past week. But without a genuine commitment to peace and dialogue, this fragile silence risks being shattered again. India and Pakistan cannot afford another escalation. Not because they lack the means to fight, but because they now hold in their arsenals the means to destroy.

Sabeer Bhatia's misguided critiques

Sabeer Bhatia's criticism India is far removed from the reality. He is entitled to his opinions, but he should be careful not to present them as gospel truths. Criticism without context or understanding does more harm than good

Sabeer Bhatia, best known as the co-founder of Hotmail and a successful Indian-American entrepreneur, has in recent times taken to offering sweeping, and often puzzling, criticisms of India. His recent public appearances and podcasts have included a string of statements about what he perceives as the systemic flaws in India's technological, economic, and educational systems. While healthy criticism is always welcome in a democracy, Bhatia's recent views seem less about constructive feedback and more like a misplaced attempt to juxtapose India unfavorably with the United States - his adopted homeland.

Bhatia, who moved to the US in 1988 for higher education and later sold Hotmail to Microsoft for an impressive \$400 million in 1997, has mostly remained under the public radar. However, since the resurgence of Trumpism in American politics, his admiration for the US model has become more vocal - and more problematic. One cannot ignore the possibility that his new public positioning may align with certain business interests; after all, he runs Showreel, an AI-based learning platform, and Netagram, a social networking app - both based in the US. Aligning with the dominant ideological forces of the time can be a strategic move for entrepreneurs with transnational ambitions.

One of Bhatia's earliest post-2020 public commentaries came during the NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Summit in 2023, where he lamented the "lack of innovation" in Indian startups. Ironically, this statement flew in the face of data that shows India as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, behind only the US and China. From just 500 recognised startups in 2016, the country now boasts over 1.6 lakh officially recognised startups as of January 2025. Of these, 118 have achieved unicorn status - with valuations exceeding \$1 billion. Such growth is impossible without significant innovation and entrepreneurship. Innovation doesn't only mean breakthroughs in AI or biotechnology; it also means creating scalable solutions tailored to unique local needs, which Indian startups have done in abundance.

Yet Bhatia's criticisms only intensified. In a February 2025 podcast, he described India's Aadhaar program as "\$1.3 billion ill spent," claiming that those who built it had never written a line of code. According to him, a superior system could have been built for \$20 million using voice and video recognition. This viewpoint is not just dismissive - it is dangerously reductive. Aadhaar is not a Silicon Valley-style app targeting tech-savvy users; it is a national-scale infrastructure project that has to serve over a billion people across rural and urban geographies, many of whom have



limited exposure to digital technology.

Aadhaar's strength lies in its scalability, reliability, and adaptability - it has enabled financial inclusion for millions, streamlined government subsidy delivery, and reduced corruption by linking benefits directly to recipients. To define such a project by lines of code alone betrays a startling lack of understanding about systems design for developing economies. Coding is a vital part of tech, no doubt, but governance, usability, security, privacy, and logistical feasibility are equally - if not more - important, especially in a country of India's scale and complexity.

Perhaps the most curious of Bhatia's recent pronouncements was his critique of how India calculates its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In an April 2025 appearance, he argued that India's GDP "is all wrong" and accused the current system of overvaluing financial transactions instead of productive labor. His example? If two people exchange Rs1,000 back and forth and are taxed 18 per cent each time, he claimed it adds Rs 2,000 to GDP - a complete misunderstanding of how GDP is measured. GDP is a globally accepted metric based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), developed and followed by international organisations like the UN, IMF, World Bank, OECD, and Eurostat. Like all compliant nations, India calculates GDP using value addition at each stage of production, not simply the movement of money. His

statement that GDP inflates economic value through repeated transactions with no real work is economically inaccurate. GST, like any tax, is added to the market value of goods and services and is incorporated into GDP calculations only insofar as it affects actual value creation. Yes, GDP has its shortcomings. It does not measure income inequality, environmental degradation, or the qualitative aspects of human development. But these limitations are not India-specific - they exist for all countries, including the US. Moreover, countries use supplementary indices like the Human Development Index (HDI), Gini coefficient, and Green GDP to address these gaps. But no viable alternative has yet replaced GDP.

Bhatia's romanticisation of the American work culture - where he claims people report hourly work and taxes are based on that, supposedly leading to more 'real' GDP - is equally problematic. The US economy, too, measures GDP through the same SNA framework. If anything, India faces challenges in accurately capturing GDP due to the sheer size of its informal economy, not due to faulty methodology. Statistical estimates are needed when large portions of the population are unregistered or self-employed - a challenge of scale and data access, not conceptual error.

His views on Indian work culture are similarly myopic. He criticises Indian engineers for moving into management roles instead of continuing in engineering roles, implying that only hands-on technical labor adds value. This dismisses the essential roles that managers, planners, and strategists play in any functional organisation. Without people to coordinate efforts, oversee execution, manage supply chains, and provide leadership, technical

operations cannot succeed - regardless of how skilled the individual engineer may be. However, it was his May 2025 comments on Indian education that finally warrant a more thorough rebuttal. In a podcast, he described the Indian school system as one that builds an "army of useless kids" trained only to obey orders, incapable of original thought. He contrasted this with American schools, where, he claims, students are allowed to write freely and creatively, even if their work is full of spelling errors - because "thought" is more important than "correctness." This is a deeply flawed generalisation. While rote learning and pressure to perform in exams are genuine problems in parts of the Indian education system, sweeping it aside as a factory for unthinking children is unfair. India has produced some of the world's best minds across disciplines - from Nobel laureates to tech entrepreneurs. A 2024 Gallup poll found that 71 per cent of American adults believe humans were either created in their present form or evolved only under divine guidance - hardly a testament to the success of rational, scientific education. Mr. Bhatia is entitled to his opinions, but he should be careful not to present them as gospel truths. India has countless challenges, and we welcome constructive criticism from anyone - including those who have left the country. But criticism without context, nuance, or understanding does more harm than good. We appreciate Mr. Bhatia's interest in Indian affairs. Perhaps it's time he focuses on the issues in his adopted homeland.

(The writer is a former Director General, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor general of India, and currently a Professor, Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management. Views are personal)

they obey. In the digital era, guiding children's online behavior has also become a core responsibility. With learning and leisure now deeply intertwined with technology, parents need to ensure their children develop responsible digital habits. Teaching them to identify reliable information, engage respectfully online, and set boundaries on screen time is vital-especially in a country like India, where digital literacy often lags behind digital access. Cultivating social skills such as teamwork, empathy, and communication at home helps children thrive in real-world situations. In an unpredictable world shaped by climate change, economic instability, and shifting job markets, resilience and adaptability are key life skills. These cannot be learned solely from textbooks. Parents must encourage independent thinking, creative problem-solving, and the ability to bounce back from setbacks. Life doesn't always go as planned-and children need to understand that failure is not a dead-end, but an invitation to grow stronger.

In many Indian households, especially among the middle class, academic success is still viewed as the primary path to a secure future. While this belief has merit, it should not come at the cost of creativity, curiosity, or emotional well-being. Around the world, parenting models are evolving-Scandinavian approaches emphasise child-led learning, while American systems increasingly integrate mental health and inclusivity. Indian parents, too, must embrace a balanced path that combines timeless values with modern insights.

(The author is an educator. Views are personal)

SECOND Opinion

By SAKSHI SETHI

In today's fiercely competitive and fast-changing world, education is often considered the foundation of a child's future. Across India-and indeed globally-academic achievement is frequently regarded as the most reliable indicator of success. Parents go to great lengths to ensure their children excel, investing in private tutoring, enrolling them in competitive exams, and tracking every grade with meticulous attention. While such efforts are driven by love and ambition, this narrow focus on academics can be limiting.

A child is not a container to be filled with facts, but a unique individual whose personality, emotional well-being, and character must be nurtured. As the saying goes, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Parenting, therefore, extends far beyond report cards. It is a long-term responsibility that encompasses emotional support, value-building, and preparing children to navigate life's inevitable ups and downs.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many cracks in our educational and parenting frameworks. With schools closed and routines disrupted, parents had to assume multiple roles: educators, emotional anchors, and constant companions. In India, this challenge was compounded by the digital divide-many children, particularly in rural or economically disadvantaged communities, lacked access to online education. This dual burden-academic continuity and mental well-being-brought into

sharp focus the need for a more holistic and inclusive approach to parenting and education.

Today, the world values more than just academic knowledge. Employers and institutions are increasingly seeking individuals who exhibit creativity, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and critical thinking. India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises this evolution, promoting a well-rounded educational model. But policies alone cannot drive change. It is parents who must embrace and embody these principles at home, encouraging children to explore their interests-be it music, sports, art, or entrepreneurship-and helping them build a strong sense of self-worth and purpose.

Mental health, once a hush-hush topic, is finally being acknowledged in mainstream parenting conversations. Studies reveal that India has among the highest rates of anxiety and depression among adolescents. Much of this stems from intense academic pressure, limited family communication, and a lack of emotional validation. In the age of social media, children are constantly exposed to unrealistic standards and comparisons, further increasing their stress levels. Here, the parent's role is critical. Being a patient listener, fostering open dialogue, and normalising failure as part of growth can transform a child's outlook. Character development and values are another crucial aspect of parenting. Schools can only do so much in instilling ethics and good behavior. It is at home that children learn about honesty, kindness, respect, and empathy-by observing their parents. In a world often defined by polarisation and division, these qualities are not just desirable, but essential. Parents must lead by example, because children imitate far more than

Leaderspeak



After a long night of talks... I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Trump posted on Truth Social. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence.

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT USA

Letters to the Editor

Digital battlefield: war of information

Madam — In today's era, war is no longer confined to borders or battlefields. The modern battlefield includes cyberspace, where the fight for control over information is just as critical as the physical conflict.

In times of war, the need for reliable, in-depth information increases manifold. However, paradoxically, credibility often becomes the first casualty. With 24/7 news channels vying for attention, unregulated social media, and the alarming rise of deepfake technology, information becomes easily distorted. This contamination misguides not only citizens but also influences enemy perception. During crises, people seek the truth, but instead, a flood of half-truths, rumors, and misinformation overwhelms them.

This chaotic environment blurs facts and fabricates narratives, compromising national interest. The responsibility to combat this misinformation doesn't rest solely with the government or the media; it falls upon every citizen.

As seen in the 1990 Gulf War, embedded journalism created an era of strategic narrative control. Even in recent India-Pakistan tensions, the information war proved harder to navigate than the conflict itself.

We are all digital soldiers now. Verifying facts, resisting the spread of fake news, and thinking critically are no longer optional. It is our national duty to uphold truth and integrity in this war of words and images.

DATTAPRASAD SHIRODKAR | MUMBAI

Ceasefire or Deception?

Madam — The recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan, brokered by the United States, may appear as a diplomatic breakthrough on the surface. However, its sustainability is questionable. The true challenge lies not in signing agreements but in ensuring their faithful execution. Pakistan's consistent violation of previous ceasefires, often within hours of agreement, makes any new promise hollow.

The country has repeatedly allowed its territory to be used for cross-border terrorism, violating not only bilateral trust but also international law. Despite statements from leaders like External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and even U.S. President Donald Trump hailing the ceasefire, the ground reality remains grim. Hours after the ceasefire was announced, Pakistan resumed firing.

How can there be lasting peace when one party continues to harbor and support terrorist camps? Until Pakistan demonstrates genuine intent to dismantle these camps and dismantle extremist ideologies, no ceasefire can be deemed permanent. India must not allow international pressures to cloud its judgment. The pursuit of short-term peace should not come at the cost of long-term security. Unfortunately, with this ceasefire, India has been denied the full measure of justice it deserves due to foreign mediation that places strategic balance over moral clarity.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

A New Chapter in the Vatican

Madam — The elevation of Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV has ushered in a wave of hope and renewed energy within the global Catholic community.

As the first American to assume the papacy, his rise marks a symbolic and strategic shift for the Church, echoing the reformist and inclusive spirit of his predecessor, Pope Francis. The selection of the name "Leo" is seen as a nod to past leaders known for reconciliation, suggesting Pope Leo XIV's focus will also be on unity and dialogue. However, his papacy begins amid daunting challenges. The Church faces a crisis of relevance, with declining numbers in baptisms and a noticeable exodus from organized religion in traditionally Christian regions.

Europe, long considered the Church's stronghold, is grappling with an aging population, a declining birth rate, and rising immigration, leading to fears of cultural and demographic transformation. Furthermore, unresolved issues of sexual misconduct, especially in Western nations, continue to erode public trust.

Pope Leo XIV must navigate these turbulent waters with wisdom and moral clarity. Strengthening the role of faith in national identity, promoting accountability within Church ranks, and reinforcing the spiritual and moral foundation of Christianity will be essential for meaningful revival.

MANOJ PARASHAR | GHAZIABAD

HONOURING THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE: THE NURSES DAY

Every day, nurses walk into hospitals, clinics, and community health centers with unmatched resilience, compassion, and expertise.

They are the backbone of the healthcare system — comforting the suffering, administering critical care, and serving as the emotional anchor for patients and families alike. To acknowledge their unparalleled contribution, International Nurses Day is observed each year on May 12.

In 2025, the theme, "Our Nurses, Our Future: Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies," rightfully underscores that nurse well-being is directly linked to the strength and efficiency of global healthcare systems. This year also marks the 205th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, a pioneer who redefined modern nursing. Despite their critical role, nurses often work under immense pressure, facing physical exhaustion, emotional burnout, and resource shortages. Key issues such as nursing education, international migration, ethical dilemmas, and

lack of leadership opportunities need urgent redressal. Since its official recognition in 1974, International Nurses Day has reminded us not only of their technical expertise but also of the humanity they bring into patient care. Hospitals must support nurses with ongoing training NS emotional resilience programs.

They are more than caregivers — they are healers, educators, and the first line of defense in public health. As we commemorate International Nurses Day, let us move beyond symbolic gestures and commit to systemic change that honors the true value of nursing. The challenges nurses face are not just professional hurdles — they are reflections of broader societal and policy failures that demand urgent attention. Strengthening nursing is a strategic imperative for building resilient healthcare systems. Let us ensure that those who care for us are, in turn, cared for — with dignity, respect, and the resources they need to thrive.

BURRA M REDDY | KARIMNAGAR

Please send your letter to the letterstopeditioner@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

From terror to climate: Act before crisis hits

India's preparedness continues to fall short of international benchmarks. With summer already showing signs of strain and systemic failure, the urgent need for a proactive, coordinated, and accountable disaster management strategy has never been clearer

FIRST Column

India because of its varied geography, location, geological and climatic conditions coupled with its 'reactive approach' in dealing with things is prone to natural and other disasters. Time and again the national disaster response has not been at all commensurate with the desired level of preparedness as well as, technology and swift action. Our administrative system takes action and rises from slumber only when disasters happen. Every year time and again seasonal disasters occur and several lives are lost as also huge loss of property and life-sustaining resources.

The governance for disaster management during the last few years has improved after the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) but it falls short of the level of international standards. Take for example the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack on 22nd April 2025 in which 26 innocent Hindu lives were brutally killed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists by first asking about their religion. It was an attack on the soul of India but the administration there miserably failed to plan to prevent such attacks on tourist spots in Kashmir, even as in major tourist spots elsewhere in the country security arrangements are made to oversee law and order and all who matter in running security apparatus in Jammu and Kashmir know full well that Kashmir is always on the radar of Pakistan sponsored terrorists. It was a well-known fact that last year more than 2.35 crore tourists visited Kashmir and the government opened all tourist places without making any arrangements for the security of people.

Whatever, the political rhetoric about peace returning in Kashmir after the aftermath of abrogating Article 370, all Indians were sure that terrorists have been striking at will in Kashmir and Jammu as several cases of civilian killings were witnessed now and then. There was no coordination between the state and central intelligence agencies though intelligence inputs were indicating terrorist strike. In an era of modern technological innovation, there should not be collateral human loss of our armed forces during search operations to tackle the terrorists. We have a very professional Army no doubt but we need to learn a lesson or two from the Israeli Army and their leadership even though they too have a divided coalition polity. The state and central agencies failed to apprehend the local support to terrorists and Islamists not only in Kashmir but all over as the ecosystem that supports anti-national forces is yet to be given a fatal blow as they gleefully carry out their operations.

There have been talks of hunting down the perpetrators and their supporters for the last 35 years but with minimal lasting success as Pakistan keeps blackmailing about the use of their clandestinely achieved nuclear power status. This is so far about



the threat to our national security. A solid standard operating procedure along with accountability and well-defined coordinated responsibility must be enforced.



VK BAHUGUNA

The government also committed hara-kiri by opting for an early election as terrorist sympathisers also won and boosted their morale. The government should have told all who matter in clear terms not to have a 'holier than thou' approach on national security matters when the direction to hold elections and delimitation was carried out. Unless total annihilation of terrorism is carried out all such political activities should be suspended as politicians tend to confuse the issue for selfish electoral gains.

Let us discuss the other disasters looming large in the coming months. The coming summer is showing its fangs. Only a well-planned strategy can help prevent life and property losses. But what

IT WAS AN ATTACK ON THE SOUL OF INDIA BUT THE ADMINISTRATION THERE MISERABLY FAILED TO PLAN TO PREVENT SUCH ATTACKS ON TOURIST SPOTS IN KASHMIR, EVEN AS IN MAJOR TOURIST SPOTS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE TO OVERSEE LAW AND ORDER

Delhi-NCR saw on 2nd May 2025 a severe thunderstorm, gusty winds, hails and rains that choked the roads with fallen trees and water logging killing 6 people in Delhi proves that no lesson has been learnt. The roadside trees fell as a pack of cards because for the last many years, the environmentalists have been arguing against the concretisation of soil around trees and pavements which dries up moisture, and trees become weak as their roots cannot spread and do not get water.

The weather pattern and westerly winds coupled with rising temperatures due to climate change are making flying challenging as has been noticed for many days in the last 15 days. A concerted pinpointed strategy is the need of the hour. India's summer and monsoon seasons in 2025 are poised to aggravate challenges due to climate change, population pressures, poor planning, and systemic inefficiencies.

The issues needing attention are heatwaves, water scarcity, flooding, agricultural disruptions, and health risks as their intensity and frequency are increasing every year. While some measures are in place, India's response remains inadequate, and at best policies are reactive, inadequate investment, and

bureaucratic inertia with a lack of accountability.

The second important issue which needs to be addressed is how to deal with Heat Island effects and Heat strokes. It is music to hear to notice that the Delhi Chief Minister had the other day proposed a 3 3-hour break from 12 PM to 3 PM for the labourers working on roads and construction works. Last year during 2024 the country experienced a severe heatwave, resulting in more than 700 reported heatstroke deaths across 17 states, according to the "Heat Watch 2024" report. It also identified around 40,000 cases of heatstroke. What this report misses is the actual data which is several times more as the reporting mechanism does not cover all such deaths in rural areas.

There are instances of heat island effects in cities mainly due to factors like reduced vegetation, impervious surfaces concrete pavement, and building materials that store and release heat. In this regard, the Metropolitan cities need to emulate the urban landscape management of Agartala city by the Tripura government where roads and pavements all over have been aesthetically redesigned with vegetation. The civic authorities must plan for at least 20 heat waves this season for each city and proper water management and availability in both urban and rural areas.

The heat-related mortality may increase in slums and rural hinterlands. A new building code be prepared by the civic bodies under the supervision of IDMA which should have provisions on how to deal with heat island effects and how greenery should be used to tackle it.

To deal with seasonal diseases like gastroenteritis and other viral diseases must have a plan of action. Yet another issue is managing the water resources in urban areas.

As more than 60 per cent of our districts in the country are water stressed. Cities like Bengaluru and Chennai may face "Day Zero" scenarios, where water supplies run dry, as seen in Cape Town in 2018. There is a complete absence of water use planning at the household level. We must prepare for rainwater harvesting and water harvesting at the landscape level in both urban and rural areas, especially in forestlands.

Tamil Nadu's success in reviving water bodies should be replicated all over India so all other successful stories. The National Disaster Management Authority must be reformed and be given the role of policy planning and monitoring of disaster preparedness for the entire country and only qualified experts should be posted in it rather than making it a post-retirement sinecure for lobbyists.

(The author is the Chairman of the Centre for Resource Management and Environment. Views are personal)

Rediscovering our eternal spiritual identity

In an age marked by division and conflict, where labels of nationality, race, and religion deepen the chasms between us, it is easy to forget the truth that lies beyond the surface. Just as cats and dogs instinctively clash, human beings have allowed superficial differences to fuel endless quarrels

In today's sharply divided world, conflicts over nationality, religion, and identity have driven humanity into bitter rivalries. Much like cats and dogs, who instinctively clash, humans too find themselves trapped in endless disputes, driven by superficial bodily identifications. In the process, we often forget a simple, yet profound truth: beneath these external coverings, we are eternal spirit souls.

Each of us is a spiritual spark - part and parcel of the Supreme Being, Lord Sri Krishna - temporarily encased in a material body. Instead of valuing the sanctity of life in every form, people remain divided by superficial labels, ignoring the universal fact that we all belong to a single, divine family.

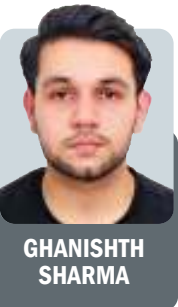
The ancient wisdom of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, taught by Lord Krishna and echoed in the Vedic tradition, beautifully expresses this truth. It reminds us that the entire world is one family - not just in sentiment, but in spiritual reality. Only by embracing this understanding can true peace, compassion, and mutual respect be restored among all living beings.

His Divine Grace AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada, the Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), dedicated his life to spreading this universal vision. Honoured recently as "Vishwa Guru" by the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj (February 2025), Srila Prabhupada consistently reminded us of life's higher purpose. In one of his lectures, he remarked, "Human beings are not meant to quarrel like cats and dogs. They must be intelligent enough to recognise the true value of human life and refuse to live like ordinary animals."

Srila Prabhupada placed special emphasis on the teachings of Bhagavad-Gita. As It Is, where Lord Krishna reveals that the first step in self-realisation is understanding that we are not these temporary bodies, but eternal spirit souls. Without this awareness, it's impossible to transcend death and achieve the eternal spiritual world beyond this fleeting material existence.

Unfortunately, in our modern world, distinctions based on birth, race, and species persist. People continue to treat others differently based solely on appearances, much like a dog instinctively views a cat as its rival. But the Bhagavad Gita clarifies that the body is merely a temporary covering, while the soul continues, changing forms like one changes clothes. As stated the soul discards worn-out bodies just as we discard old garments.

The Vedic scriptures further explain that there are 8.4 million species, and the soul journeys through various forms according to karma, under divine supervision. If humanity truly grasped this eternal nature of the soul and the interconnectedness of all life, countless wars, killings, and violence - against both humans and animals



GHANISHTH SHARMA

- could be prevented. Such awareness would cultivate compassion, peace, and God-consciousness, steering society away from a life of sense gratification that reduces human beings to animalistic behaviour - merely eating, sleeping, defending, and mating.

In a prophetic 1976 interview with Bhavan's Journal, Srila Prabhupada predicted the moral decline of this age of quarrel, known as Kali-yuga. He remarked: "Essential human qualities such as religion, truthfulness, cleanliness, compassion, longevity, bodily strength, and memory are gradually deteriorating."

These qualities, he stressed, are what elevate humans above animals. Without religion and higher knowledge, human life descends into an

THE BHAGAVAD GITA CLARIFIES THAT THE BODY IS MERELY A TEMPORARY COVERING, WHILE THE SOUL CONTINUES, CHANGING FORMS LIKE ONE CHANGES CLOTHES. AS STATED THE SOUL DISCARDS WORN-OUT BODIES JUST AS WE DISCARD OLD GARMENTS

animal-like existence. Srila Prabhupada would often say, "A dog has no concern for religion. Though it's a living being, it has no interest in the Bhagavad-Gita." This interest in higher knowledge is what truly separates humans from animals."

Modern society, however, misguides people into chasing after materialistic pleasures and superficial ideals, neglecting the pursuit of God and authentic spirituality. In the Vedic worldview, progress isn't measured by technology or wealth, but by spiritual advancement - realising one's true self and relationship with the Supreme.

Today, society glorifies endless labour for material gain, measuring success by possessions like big houses, cars, and fleeting comforts - while ignoring what genuinely satisfies the soul. Increasingly driven by lust, greed, and anger, the world has witnessed horrific outcomes: violence, rape, genocide, and conflict over trivial disputes. Even those in power often govern with selfish motives, lacking the wisdom of saintly kings,

(The writer is a student of journalism at IIMC. Views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Delhi airport sees around 100 flight cancellations

Around 100 flights to and from the Delhi airport were cancelled on Sunday, according to a source. Security measures were enhanced, and at least 32 airports in the northern and western parts of the country were temporarily shut in view of the conflict between India and Pakistan. On Saturday, India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air, and sea with immediate effect. As many as 52 domestic departures and 44 arrivals, and one international departure were cancelled. These cancellations happened between 5.00 am and 4.30 pm, the source said. "Delhi Airport is operating normally. However, due to changes in airspace dynamics and increased security measures, some flight schedules and security checkpoint processing times may be affected," DIAL said in a post on X. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is the busiest airport in the country.



Adani Power to supply 1,500 MW to UP

Adani Power on Saturday said it has won a bid to supply 1,500 MW of electricity to Uttar Pradesh from a greenfield ultra-supercritical power plant in the state entailing an investment of USD 2 billion. This is further to the Uttar Pradesh cabinet approving the project earlier this month, a company statement said. The company will now sign a long-term power supply agreement with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) under the Letter of Award (LoA) received today, it stated. According to the statement, Adani Power, India's largest private sector thermal power generator, on Saturday said it has won a tightly contested bid to supply 1,500 MW (net) of thermal power to Uttar Pradesh. As part of the contract, the company will supply power at a highly competitive tariff of Rs 5.383 per unit from a greenfield 2x800 MW (1500 MW net) ultra-supercritical power plant to be set up under the design, build, finance, own, and operate (DBFOO) model in the state.



Nepali biz body urges higher currency limit for Indian tourists

A prominent Nepali business organisation on Sunday urged the government to allow Indian tourists arriving via land route to carry up to the equivalent of USD 5,000 in Indian rupees, an increase from the current limit of Rs 25,000, to boost tourism in the country. USD 5,000 equates to approximately Rs 4.25,000. The current provision of allowing Indian tourists entering Nepal via land route to carry only up to Rs 25,000 is insufficient if the country aims to promote Indian tourism, said Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) president Chandra Prasad Dhakal. "When there is a provision to carry USD 5,000 for those who use flights to visit Nepal, why shouldn't the same provision apply to Indian tourists entering Nepal via land?" he asked during a pre-budget interaction between the FNCCI office bearers and Finance Minister Bishnu Paudel here. Dhakal also urged the government to develop better infrastructure along the Nepal-India border to support tourism.

India, EU to hold next round of FTA talks from today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the European Union (EU) chief negotiators will begin the next round of talks on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) here from Monday, with an aim to conclude the first phase of the pact as early as possible, according to an official.

The two sides have agreed to conclude the agreement in two phases on account of the uncertain global trade environment, particularly due to the US tariff actions under President Donald Trump.

"The EU team will be here for the 11th round of negotiations. It will continue till May 16," the official said.

Issues where there is convergence would be included in the first part of the agreement. They are aiming to conclude the second part by the end of this year.

Talks for the previous (tenth) round focused on areas like market access offers in goods, services, investment and government procurement.

India has followed the practice of negotiating trade pacts in two phases with Australia. It is following a similar approach to the US.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal last month stated



that "if some of the issues which may not be very core to the trade, maybe taking some more time, then it is better to focus on core trade issues. So, we say that first things first... We are also discussing with the EU what can be the early harvest of the first tranche, where we can do faster".

The secretary, on May 10, held a review meeting on the pact with senior officials who are involved in the negotiations. Besides demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles and medical devices, the EU wants tax reduction in products like wines, spirits, meat, poultry and a strong intellectual property regime.

Indian goods' exports to the EU, such as ready-made gar-

ments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, can become more competitive if the pact gets concluded successfully.

On May 1, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was in Brussels to discuss progress on the agreement.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation EU bloc resumed negotiations after a gap of over eight years. It was stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets.

On February 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the European Commission President agreed to seal a much-awaited free trade deal by the end of this year.

No duty cuts by India on UK wines

India will not provide any duty concessions on British wines and is offering only limited import duty benefits on UK beer under the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries, announced on May 6, according to an official. The other sensitive agri products where India will not offer any reduction in the import duty include dairy products, apples, cheese, oats, animals and vegetable oils under the agreement with the United Kingdom. "Wine is on the exclusion list, along with several other agricultural products in the trade pact. We are also offering only a limited duty concession on British beer," the official said.

India and the UK on May 6 announced the conclusion of the free trade agreement, which will make British Scotch whiskey and cars cheaper in India, while reducing duties on Indian imports like garments and leather products. As per the agreement, India will reduce duty on UK whiskey and gin from 150 per cent to 75 per cent and further to 40 per cent in the tenth year of the deal.

Aggressive hybrid mutual funds gain traction

Add 3.5 lakh investors in last 1 year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aggressive hybrid mutual funds have been gaining traction among investors amid continued volatility in the capital markets, with the asset base of the category surging to Rs 2.26 lakh crore in April 2025, an increase of 12 per cent compared to a year ago.

Also, the investor base expanded significantly, with the number of folios increasing by 3.5 lakh over the past year, to nearly 58 lakh by April 2025, latest data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

This trend highlights the growing appeal of a balanced investment approach that combines growth and stability.

Aggressive hybrid funds, an investment solution blending equity and debt exposures, delivered robust returns over different timeframes. On average, these funds have delivered returns of nearly 9 per cent over the past year, 20 per cent over two years, 15 per cent over three years, and an impressive 21 per

cent over five years, the industry data showed.

These funds differ from other hybrid mutual funds primarily in the equity exposure, as they invest 65-80 per cent in equities, higher than the conservative or balanced hybrids that offer better return potential but also higher risk, making them ideal



for investors with a moderate risk appetite and a 3-5 year view, Trivish D, COO Tradejini, said.

Looking ahead, the outlook for actively managed aggressive funds remains positive. Market movements are increasingly expected to be sector-specific and stock-specific rather than broad-based.

As a result, fund managers with a dynamic and responsive approach will be better positioned to capture emerging opportunities.

FPIs continue to invest; inject Rs 14,167 cr in equities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors continue to show confidence in the country's equity market, infusing Rs 14,167 crore so far this month, largely driven by favourable global cues and robust domestic fundamentals.

Notably, this inflow has come despite the ongoing military tensions between India and Pakistan.

This positive momentum follows a net investment of Rs 4,223 crore in April, marking the first inflow after three months, data with the depositories showed.

Prior to this, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) had pulled out Rs 3,973 crore in March, Rs 34,574 crore in February, and a substantial Rs 78,027 crore in January.

Going ahead, global macros (declining dollar, slowing US and Chinese economy) and domestic macros (high GDP growth and declining inflation and interest rates) will facilitate increasing FPI inflow into the Indian equity, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments, said.



However, debt inflows are likely to remain very low, he added.

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors made a net investment of Rs 14,167 crore in equities in this month (till May 9). The latest flow has helped narrow the outflow to Rs 98,184 crore in 2025 so far.

India's equity markets witnessed a sharp resurgence in FPI activity in April, signalling a marked reversal from the outflow seen earlier this year. The momentum continued in May too.

This renewed momentum was underpinned by a blend of favourable global cues and

Indian economy likely to grow at 6.5 pc: CII

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal and the country's economy is resilient enough to overcome the short-term impact of geopolitical issues, CII president Sanjiv Puri has said.

In an interview with PTI, he asserted that the country must pursue bilateral trade pacts with key trading partners to protect national interests in the backdrop of increasing trade barriers.

Highlighting that the private investment is picking up across various sectors like energy, transportation, metals, chemicals and hospitality, Puri said the current geopolitical uncertainties could lead to "some cautiousness" in investment.

On the economic growth projection for India, he said, "We are looking at 6.5 per cent. We believe this number can be achieved fundamentally, because the fact is, we are starting with a reasonably good foundation, robust economic foundation".

Elaborating on the reasons, he said, "In the recent past, interest rates have eased. Inflation is becoming benign. There is this personal income

tax concession taking in from the first of April. Investments picked up in public and private space in the latter half of last year".

On the high tariffs proposed by US President Donald Trump on several key economies and the trend of rising protection-



ism globally, Puri acknowledged that "more and more barriers to trade are coming in right now", suggesting that India should do bilateral trade agreements which are mutually beneficial and in the national interest.

"Therefore, the countries that India is pursuing, and the big ones among them, being the US and EU, are important. We should do whatever we have to do from a national interest perspective, and I think, most important is these bilateral trade agreements".

He also recommended the creation of a three-tier tariff architecture for certain areas to enhance competitiveness.

Info Edge clocks 36% return on startup investments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Naukri.com parent Info Edge's long-term bets on Indian startups ranging from Zomato to Policybazaar, are yielding blockbuster returns of nearly 10 times and an estimated gross internal rate of return of 36 per cent, according to the firm's FY25 annual letter to shareholders.

The firm, helmed by Sanjeev Bikhchandani - often referred to as India's Warren Buffett - invested a total capital of Rs 3,959.16 crore across platforms over the last one and half decade. This investment today stands at the Fair Market Value (FMV) of Rs 36,855 crore.

"Since we started our financial investing activity in 2007, we have achieved an estimated 36 per cent gross IRR across all vintages put together," founder and vice chairman Sanjeev Bikhchandani wrote in the letter. Info Edge was one of the early backers in homegrown listed companies, including Zomato and Policybazaar. It invested a total of Rs 483.78 crore and Rs 591.40 crore in the two companies, respectively.

Canara Bank mobilises Rs 16k cr deposits in 10 weeks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Faced with challenges on deposit growth, state-owned Canara Bank asked each of its 82,000-strong staff to go out to garner funds, and mobilised Rs 16,700 crore in ten weeks, a top official has said.

Amid the system-wide challenges of deposit accretion, the bank's top management gave a call to every employee to garner deposits, and the drive began on January 26 this year.

"We had given a call to each of the 82,000 staff members to canvas, contacting their relations and whatever there is in their circle.



Each one should bring Rs 10 lakh as a deposit either in CASA (current and savings account) or retail term deposit," its managing director and chief executive K Satyanarayana Raju said.

The staff members supported the drive wholeheartedly and are in "sync" with the top leadership, Raju said, underscoring that the management's actions over the last 2-3 years have helped in the drive.

"In the last 2-3 years, we have taken steps to get benefits to the staff members, bringing transparency in promotions, performance recognition, and transfers, which has gone well. When we gave a call, we explained to them properly and we could convince them about the need of the hour," he said, adding that the trade unions also responded

positively.

Raju said the drive yielded positive results, and the staff was able to collect Rs 16,700 crore in deposits, split evenly between CASA and term deposits.

This helped reduce the credit deposit ratio to 73 per cent in the March quarter from the 76 per cent levels in December, he added. He said the bank was on the verge of hitting the 80 per cent threshold on the CD ratio front, especially with the high demand for credit in the last quarter, and the urge to do something on this front led it to fall back on the employees.

Market to monitor Indo-Pak situation, inflation data: Analysts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic stock market this week would monitor the geopolitical developments after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military actions, analysts said.

Moreover, macroeconomic data announcements, Q4 earnings, trading activity of foreign investors and global market trends are also likely to influence sentiments, traders said.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

"This de-escalation removes a key overhang on investor sentiment and is likely to be seen as a major positive development by financial markets. Historically, markets have shown resilience and a tendency to recover following such geopolitical de-escalations," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

All eyes would be on FIIs who turned negative on Friday trading session after being continuous net buyers in the last 2 weeks, he added.

"This week will be pivotal, marked by several key domestic triggers. Geopolitical developments, particularly the ongoing tensions with Pakistan, will continue to remain in focus. On the macroeconomic front, investors will closely monitor the release of key data points including the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price



Index (WPI), and trade figures for exports and imports.

"Additionally, the corporate earnings season will gather pace, with several major companies such as Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, Gail, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, Lupin and BHEL scheduled to announce their quarterly results," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Foreign investors continue to show confidence in the country's equity market, infusing Rs 14,167 crore so far this month, largely driven by favourable global cues and robust domestic fundamentals.

Govt to hold pre-emption right over oil, gas in emergency

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will hold pre-emption rights over all oil and natural gas produced in the country in any event of national emergency, according to draft rules being framed under a revamped oilfields legislation.

A pre-emption right (or preemptive right) is the legal right of a party - often a government or existing shareholder - to purchase or claim a product, asset, or resource before it is offered to others.

The inclusion of such rights over crude oil - extracted from underground or beneath the

seabed and refined into fuels like petrol and diesel - as well as natural gas, which is used for power generation, fertilizer production, CNG for vehicles, and piped cooking gas, is intended to help the government prioritize national interests and ensure public welfare during emergencies.

The producer of oil and natural gas will be paid a "fair market price prevailing at the time of pre-emption", the draft rules said.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has invited comments on draft rules after Parliament earlier this year



passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill which replaced outdated provisions from the 1948 Act, to boost domestic production, attract

investment, and support the country's energy transition goals.

"In the case of a national emergency in respect of petroleum products or mineral oil,

Government of India shall, at all times, during such emergency, have the right of pre-emption of the mineral oils, refined petroleum or petroleum or mineral oil products produced from the crude oil or natural gas extracted from the leased area, or of the crude oil or natural gas where the lessee is permitted to sell, export or dispose of without it being refined within India," the rules stated.

This right will be exercised by providing a "fair market price prevailing at the time of pre-emption to the lessee by Government of India, for the

petroleum or petroleum or mineral oil products or the crude oil or natural gas taken in pre-emption."

The rules however did not define what would constitute a national emergency. Industry sources said war or war-like situations - like the one that the country faced in the military standoff with Pakistan - or natural disasters could constitute a national emergency. "Government of India shall be the sole judge as to what constitutes a national emergency in respect of mineral oils, and its decision in this respect shall be final," the rules said.

SPICE MEETS STORYTELLING WITH FORGOTTEN FLAVOURS OF ANDHRA BACK ON TABLE

TEJAL SINHA
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There's a moment—just before the first morsel touches your lips—when you realise this is not merely a meal. It's an invitation to a land of red soils, hand-pounded spices, and the rhythmic sounds of stone grinders. At Raen - The Chef's Studio in The Leela Hyderabad, Chef Meera's Echoes of Andhra (running from May 9 to 18) curates not just food, but feeling—a visceral journey through Andhra Pradesh's bold, and beautiful culinary map.

From the very first glance, the thali arrives like a well-composed raga—each bowl, a note; each texture, a memory. This is not a tasting menu; it is an edible chronicle.

Kanda Vepudu, the humble elephant yam, emerges transformed—pan-seared until its edges develop a crisp, caramelised char, its flesh remaining firm and meaty.

Coated in dry roasted spices that deliver a gentle burn rather than a fiery hit, it balances heat and restraint, embodying the Andhra art of controlled fire.

Beside it rests a serene counterpoint: Perugu Vada. The urad dal fritter, pillowy and tender, is bathed in tempered curd laced with mustard seeds, curry leaves, and slivers of green chilli. With every mouthful, it soothes the palate—a cooling sigh between the spice-kissed crescendos of the meal.

Then arrive the pachadis, the crown jewels of Andhra homes. The Dosa Avakai, a fiery mango pickle, greets you with its fermented tang and unapologetic pungency. It's bold, wild, and unrelenting, like a grandmother who doesn't soften her words but leaves a mark you never forget.

Its cousin, the Vellulli Dosakaya Pachadi, made with yellow cucumber and raw garlic, is no less commanding. Here, the sharpness of garlic and the watery crunch of cucumber

come together in a flirtatious sting—intense, bracing, and sharply acidic in a way that awakens you from within.

But the softest whisper is also the most poetic: Kobbari Mamidikaya Roti Pachadi, a thick, hand-pounded chutney of grated coconut and raw mango. It tastes like shaded courtyards and monsoon afternoons, its tartness mellowed by the creamy nuttiness of coconut. Every spoonful speaks of quiet rituals—of women gathered in kitchens, grinding memory into flavor on stone.

From soft to sharp, the thali swings like a pendulum of sensation. Enter the Podis—dry, coarse, and deeply aromatic spice powders. The Kandi Podi, made from roasted toor dal, is nutty, smoky, and almost sand-like, begging to be mixed into rice with a dollop of hot ghee. The Palli Podi, its peanut-based sibling, adds an earthy richness with the faintest hint of jagery, giving it a whisper of sweetness amidst its fiery backbone.

But it is the Oora Mirapakayalu, the sun-dried green chillies fried until blistered and leathery, that gives the thali its dangerous thrill. Just a nibble and your lips tingle, your tongue dances—this is not garnish, this is rebellion in edible form.

And then, there's Appadalu, the Andhra papad. Not just a crunchy side, but a punctuation mark—light as air yet assertive. Roasted to perfection, it shatters between your fingers with a sharp crackle and pairs beautifully with rice and ghee, or simply as a crumble atop coconut rice. It's the dish that speaks when others whisper. Vadiyalu, its sun-dried cousin, adds its own crisp counterpoint—each bite salty, spicy, and addictive.

As the meal builds, the soul of Andhra cuisine reveals itself in its dals. Chinthachiguru Pappu, made with tender tamarind leaves, is as rare as it is soulful. Slightly tangy, deeply vegetal, and lush with ghee, it clings to rice with the intimacy of comfort and memory. It's a seasonal treasure, the kind you chase every year and miss when it's gone.

Kandi Pappu, on the other hand, is home in a bowl. Tempered with ghee, garlic, green chillies, and mustard seeds, this toor dal dish is elegant in its simplicity—mellow, nurturing, and reminiscent of weekday lunches and steel tiffin boxes.

The vegetables too, are not afterthoughts—they are protagonists in their own right. Vankaya Kothimeera Karam

brings together slender green brinjals and a paste of freshly ground coriander leaves. Fragrant, vivid, and slightly tangy, it's a green herb symphony anchored by the subtle bitterness of the aubergine. The Bangala Dumpa Ullikaram—potatoes smothered in onion and chilli paste—builds slowly. Its heat doesn't punch; it simmers. Each bite warms your cheeks and makes you reach instinctively for a sip of buttermilk, before you dive back in for more.

And then comes the show-stealer: Dhapalam. A stew of pumpkin, sweet potato, and bottle gourd, it is mellow and comforting, yet layered with spice. The vegetables melt on the tongue, suspended in a thin, slightly sweet broth that binds the plate like memory binds nostalgia.

No Andhra thali is complete without its grains. The puri—an ideal companion for scooping up chutneys and kooras. The Sona Masoori rice, delicate and fluffy, acts as the blank canvas upon which all these flavours dance. But it's the Kobbari Palam Annam, rice infused with coconut milk and mild spices, that turns heads. Its gentle sweetness, paired with toasted cashews and a whiff of cardamom, brings a sense of festivity and indulgence—like a Sunday lunch stretched into the afternoon.

Just as you think it's winding down, the broths arrive: the Pulusus and Charu. Menthi Majjiga, a chilled buttermilk stew tempered with mustard and fenugreek, soothes the fire with its lactic tang and herbal undertone. Inguva Charu, a thin tamarind broth heady with asafoetida, is the kind of dish you sip with both hands—a spicy, sour elixir that wakes every nerve in your body.

And then, the final act—the sweets. Sojjapalu, fried pastries stuffed with spiced semolina halwa, arrive golden and glistening. They flake at first bite, giving way to the ghee-soaked warmth within. It's indulgence, wrapped in nostalgia. Alongside is Junnu, a rare custard made from colostrum milk. Its texture is dense yet silken, its flavour a perfect balance of sweetness, spice, and an almost maternal warmth. It's not just dessert—it's a lullaby.

This is what Echoes of Andhra does so well. It doesn't just feed you—it speaks to you, in flavours that are loud, loving, and alive. Under Chef Meera's careful orchestration, every element has a voice. And together, they compose a thali that feels less like a plate and more like a poem.

Come hungry. Leave transformed!

Chef Meera, an architect by profession, has spent years nurturing her passion for cooking, particularly focusing on reviving forgotten recipes and rediscovering seasonal ingredients. "While I've always been professionally an architect, cooking has always been my true passion," she shares. Over the years, this passion has evolved into a mission to bring attention to lesser-known aspects of Andhra cuisine, which is often wrongly reduced to "spicy and hot" food. She explains, "What most people don't realize is that Andhra cuisine is incredibly diverse. It's rich in flavors, textures, and history. It goes far beyond just being spicy."

With this pop-up, she aims to showcase this diversity by emphasizing ingredients that are often overlooked, despite their seasonal abundance. "I've developed a deep desire to bring together lost recipes and forgotten ingredients, especially seasonal produce that's readily available but rarely used in everyday cooking. Seasonal produce, like tender tamarind leaves or raw mangoes, are often ignored, and it's these ingredients that I want to highlight. This menu is special because it features some of these forgotten ingredients. For example, we have fresh, tender tamarind leaves, which are only in season for a couple of weeks, much like raw mangoes. These leaves are incredibly versatile and can be used in dals or even as a tangy base for meat dishes," she says, explaining one of the highlights of the meal. The tamarind leaves make an appearance in a dal preparation, adding a unique depth of flavor.

Another signature ingredient in her menu is gongura, which is synonymous with Andhra cuisine. She explains, "Gongura is a green that is strongly associated with Andhra cuisine, especially in dishes like gongura pickle. It's something many people know about, but it's underutilized in its full potential. In today's menu, I've prepared a traditional gongura mamsam, which is a rich meat dish that celebrates this unique green."

Her cooking philosophy also includes a commitment to freshness and authenticity. "All the masalas in these dishes are freshly ground in-house, which makes a huge difference in the flavor profile," she reveals. In addition to the thalis, diners are treated to an array of podis, or spice powders, which are a staple in Andhra meals.

She feels strongly about how the region's food is often misrepresented in restaurants. "I believe that Andhra cuisine is often oversimplified or misrepresented in most restaurants. Menus are typically templated, offering the same few dishes with limited variety. Vegetables are often just deep-fried, and dals are indistinguishable from each other," she says, expressing her frustration with the lack of depth in how Andhra food is presented outside of home kitchens.



SERENITY IN THE HIGHLANDS!

Resplendent Ceylon is proud to announce the launch of its "Private Escape Offer" at Relais & Châteaux Ceylon Tea Trails, inviting families and small groups to indulge in a fully inclusive, private retreat at one of its iconic tea planter bungalows in Sri Lanka's Central Highlands.

Nestled amidst misty mountains, lush emerald tea fields, and serene lake views, Relais & Châteaux Ceylon Tea Trails offers an exceptional escape into the heart of Sri Lanka's storied tea country. This luxurious retreat combines natural beauty, warm hospitality, and rich cultural heritage, delivering a one-of-a-kind experience. Available through December 19th, 2025, the Private Escape Offer allows guests to reserve an entire five-bedroom bungalow at a rate of USD 4,835 per night for up to six guests, including all meals and drinks, the services of a private chef and personal butler, a complimentary tour of the Dunkeld Tea Factory, and a scenic one-way seaplane transfer to the resort for a seamless and breathtaking arrival experience.

For groups larger than six, additional guests are welcome at a rate of USD 303 per adult and USD 120 per child per night, ensuring extended families and friends can enjoy the experience together.

Adding a delightful touch for families, the stay also includes the Junior Tea Planter programme—an engaging and educational hands-on activity designed to introduce younger guests to the fascinating world of tea-making, right from the leaf to the cup.

Relais & Châteaux Ceylon Tea Trails is the world's first tea bungalow resort, located on the working estates of Sri Lanka's premier tea producer and a UNESCO World Heritage site. It offers guests a rare chance to connect with the island's tea legacy while enjoying Resplendent Ceylon's renowned service and hospitality. "We restored these historic tea planter bungalows to offer guests a blend of old-world charm and modern luxury," said Malik Fernando, Chair of Resplendent Ceylon and son of Merrill J. Fernando, founder of Dilmah, Sri Lanka's most iconic tea brand. "Our aim is to provide an authentic and intimate experience that celebrates the beauty and heritage of Sri Lanka's tea country."

Whether celebrating a milestone occasion or seeking a secluded holiday with loved ones, the Resplendent Ceylon team is dedicated to crafting personalised experiences—from curated gourmet dining to bespoke excursions—ensuring each stay is truly memorable.



Revolutionizing IVF success & lowering miscarriage risks

Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) is a new addition in the armamentarium of IVF Experts. In a time when IVF is becoming more prevalent, PGT is a groundbreaking advance in protecting generational health. Presented in 1990 as a preventive measure over prenatal testing, PGT allows embryonic screening for chromosomal and genetic defects prior to implantation. To families with hereditary disease or recurrent pregnancy loss histories, PGT is far from luxury; for many, it is a vital lifeline.

GENETIC SHIELDING

The most important use of PGT is in preventing the passing on of severe monogenic disorders—single-gene conditions—to children. Referred to as PGT-M, this technique tests embryos for certain inherited diseases like Marfan syndrome, neurofibromatosis type 1, cystic fibrosis, or sickle cell anemia. In X-linked diseases such as Fragile X syndrome, in which the woman unknowingly carries a gene mutation that can have a severe impact on male offspring, PGT-M prevents couples from playing a genetic lottery. This type of screening is not only improving reproductive agency; it eliminates intergenerational trauma. For families living with chronic illness, the psychic, emotional, and economic cost is unquantifiable. PGT-M offers an ethically acceptable way to decrease disease burden without subjecting oneself to the pain of termination after conception—a decision many couples once had to live with. Transferring genetic diagnosis to preimplantation, PGT honors life without diminishing its quality.

EMBRYO VIABILITY

Dr Sheetal Jindal, Senior consultant and medical director, directorMedical Genetics program, at Jindal Ivf Chandigarh shares, "Although conventional IVF is largely based on visual grading of embryos, appearances may be misleading. Embryos can appear

healthy under the microscope but contain chromosomal defects that go unseen by the naked eye. This is where PGT-A (aneuploidy screening) comes into play. Aneuploid embryos—extra or missing chromosomes—are a major reason for failed implantation, miscarriage, or conditions such as Down syndrome. PGT-A maximizes

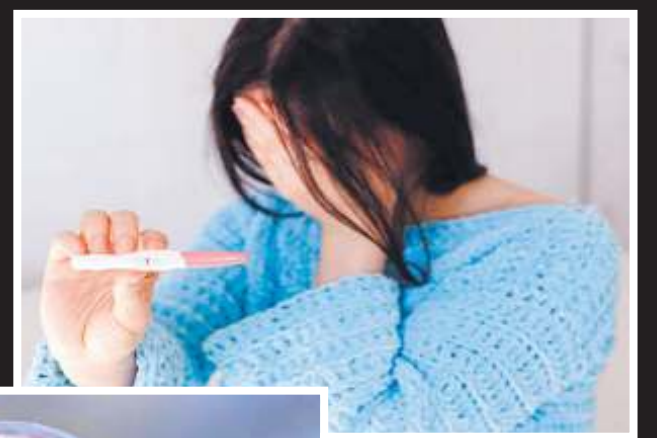


embryo choice by detecting those with best chromosomal health, raising the possibility of a successful pregnancy and healthy delivery. Especially in recurrent miscarriage, unexplained IVF failure, or advanced age, PGT-A brings certainty in uncertainty."

Though not a certainty, it considerably improves the chances. Likewise, PGT-SR aids couples with one partner having structural rearrangements in chromosomes, for instance, translocations or inversions, eliminating the risk of passing on embryos with duplications or deletions leading to miscarriage or major congenital abnormalities.

ETHICAL EMPOWERMENT

The future of family planning is knowledge, not assumption. PGT equips couples data-driven advice that enables reproductive decisions consistent with medical reality rather than social imperatives. Moving



beyond reductive narratives of gender preference, the real strength of PGT is its versatility. It provides HLA matching for families who require a genetic match for a sick sibling, minimizes recurrent emotional and physical burden of IVF failure, and provides reassurance where previously only uncertainty prevailed. To achieve its full potential, however, systemic reform is required:

- Greater accessibility of PGT for high-risk groups through insurance coverage and policy changes.
- Improved genetic counseling to guarantee patients comprehend implications, benefits, and limitations.
- Strong ethical regulation to guard against abuse without impeding patient autonomy.
- Ongoing research and development to increase more accuracy and affordability.
- Public education to dispel myths and foster informed discourse beyond sensationalism.



Sanctum Natural Birth Center celebrated Mother's Day with a special event in collaboration with The DjembeCircle, an organization known for its dynamic community drumming experiences. The celebration was held at B-Hub, Lumbini Mall, Road No. 2, Banjara Hills and will welcome families, mothers, and community members to honor motherhood through connection, rhythm, and wellness.

Prarana

Hārini

Dr.Druvi

Dr.Manasa

Dr.Vijayakrishnan

Kabila

PARTY
Photos by- SV Chary



Mrs. India Diva 2025 winner Priyanka Sanduri inaugurated the 9-day National Silk Expo 2025 at Kalinga Cultural Hall, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills. The event, organized by Jagdishwar Hastkala, brings together a rich collection of traditional and handcrafted silk products from across the country, celebrating India's vibrant textile heritage.

Priyanka Sanduri



Sudha Naidu and Anjali

Sridhar

On the auspicious occasion of Narasimha Jayanti, a grand pooja was conducted at the revered Sri Narasimha Swamy Devalayam, located on Ivala RP Road near Bata, Secunderabad. Devotees gathered in large numbers to participate in the special rituals and seek the blessings of Lord Narasimha. The temple premises were adorned with flowers and lights, creating a divine and festive atmosphere.



A convoy of 25 Deccan ScorpioN families gathered at the Mallanna Sagar Reservoir to express solidarity with India's armed forces and national leadership. Driving under their own banner alongside the National Flag, the group dedicated their outing to the soldiers who protect the nation's borders. Formed during the launch of the ScorpioN by Avinash, Sharath Rao Sutej, Cdr. Bimalraj, Sumit Dutta and others, the Deccan ScorpioNs—comprised of over 120 MNC professionals—are a close-knit off-roading community that explores hidden gems around Hyderabad through bi-monthly family adventure.



Standing in solidarity with the nation during challenging times, Phenom India, through its CSR arms, Phenom Cares and the Bayireddi Foundation, spearheaded large-scale blood and food donation drives across Hyderabad and Vizag, reinforcing its commitment to saving lives and supporting the nation's healthcare ecosystem. In collaboration with the Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust, over 150 Phenom employees voluntarily donated blood across both cities.

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Sphoorthy Engineering College is organizing a self-financed three-day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on "Introductory Universal Human Values (UHV)" from 8th to 10th May 2025, under the guidance of AICTE. The sessions are being facilitated by Ms. Ridhi Chirag Sachade (Resource Person), Ms. G. Prashanthi, Co-facilitator and Dr. Ishrat Meera Mirzana, Observer, all of whom are part of the NCCIP AICTE Regional Panel, RP team.

FUN



SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Air-holes in your nose
- Become larger
- A spider's trap
- Topic
- A chopping tool
- An insect that flutters by
- Speaks
- The body's pump
- Baby cats
- Took away illegally
- Sea
- Hot coals left from a fire
- Uncles' wives
- Second-hand
- Meat from a cow
- Unexpectedly, without warning

DOWN

- A frightening dream
- Small seat without a back
- A feeling that makes you want to scratch

SOLUTION

L	O	W	H	A
P	L	O	M	B
O	C	E	T	P
R	A	T	L	T
T	H	E	R	M
U	T	T	O	M
A	N	I	G	H
A	A	O	P	S
T	E	L	E	P
E	T	E	R	N



Sumanth clears the air about marriage rumours with Mrunal

Actor Sumanth's upcoming film *Anaganaga* is set to premiere directly on OTT soon. Ahead of its release, rumours were circulating online about his alleged marriage to actress Mrunal Thakur, sparked by a picture of them making rounds on social media.

Mrunal Thakur chose not to respond, knowing the buzz was baseless. Meanwhile, during the promotions for *Anaganaga*, Sumanth addressed the rumours head-on.

"The news is completely wrong. I am not getting married. The picture was taken during Sita Ramam and the rumours are false," said Sumanth in an interview with media channels. Sumanth played a pivotal role in *Sita Ramam*, which starred Dulquer Salmaan and Mrunal Thakur in lead roles.

Sumanth was previously married to actress Keerthy Reddy, but the couple later divorced. Since then, he has expressed his disinterest in remarrying, preferring to remain single. He added that such baseless rumours are not only false but also quite embarrassing.

On the other hand, Mrunal Thakur is currently starring opposite Adivi Sesh in the Telugu film *Dacoit*. In addition, she is busy with three to four Hindi films and seems unbothered by such gossip, choosing to ignore it entirely.



MAHESH BABU'S NEPHEW JAYAKRISHNA TO DEBUT UNDER AJAY BHUPATHI'S DIRECTION

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Another young actor from the Ghattamaneni Krishna family is all set to make his film debut soon. Yesteryear superstar Krishna's grandson and Mahesh Babu's nephew, Jayakrishna, is preparing to enter the film industry, with an official announcement expected on Krishna's birthday, May 31. A source confirmed that director Ajay Bhupathi of *RX 100* fame will helm this prestigious project. Ashwini Dutt and Gemini Kiran are jointly producing the film, ensuring a grand launch for the young actor. Jayakrishna is the son of Mahesh Babu's brother, Ramesh Babu,

who passed away in January 2022. Jayakrishna has completed an acting course in New York and is ready to make his debut. Krishna's younger brother, Adishesagiri Rao, is overseeing Jayakrishna's debut film, the source added. "For the past few years, many scripts were considered, but they finally settled on Ajay Bhupathi's story and locked him in as the director. This is a prestigious project, with two big producers introducing Jayakrishna, and every detail has been taken care of," said the source. Interestingly, Ashwini Dutt has introduced several major stars to the industry, including Mahesh Babu, Ram Charan, and Allu Arjun. Now, he is introducing another star kid from a legendary legacy—Jayakrishna.



VD's Kingdom may miss May release

Vijay Deverakonda and Bhagyashri Borse play the lead roles in *Kingdom*, which was officially scheduled for release on May 30. Directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, the film is a prestigious project for Vijay and is produced by Sithara Entertainments.

However, according to a source, the makers are now considering postponing the release to July. "Due to current circumstances and some remaining technical work, they don't want to rush the release," said the source. Although there's no official announcement yet, insiders reveal that the film may not arrive on May 30.

Vijay Deverakonda, who is seeking a major comeback, has invested significant effort in *Kingdom* and is pinning high hopes on its success. Recently, a song from the film was released and quickly climbed music charts, raising curiosity and expectations. Vijay also underwent a complete makeover for his role.

AP Home Minister launches emotional tribute song *Amma*



On the occasion of Mother's Day, Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha released the emotional track *Amma* from the upcoming movie *Friday*. The film stars Diya Raj, Inaya Sultana, Rihana, Vikas Vasishtha, and Rohith Boddapati in lead roles. It is produced by Kesanakurthi Srinivas and directed by Eswar Babu Dhulipudi.

The film has completed shooting and is currently in post-production. Its earlier posters generated significant buzz, raising expectations around the release. The newly released song *Amma*, a tribute to mothers, was launched by Home Minister Anitha on Sunday. After watching the song, she praised the film's team for beautifully capturing the essence of maternal love and extended her best wishes to the cast and crew. The song is soulfully sung by Snigdha Nayani, with lyrics penned by Madhu Kiran M and music composed by Prajwal Krish.

Talking about the film, director Eswar Babu said it explores how a mother's emotional world affects her unborn child—highlighting the essence of pregnancy and motherhood. "On this Mother's Day, let's remember two legendary women: Maharani Jija Bai, mother of Shivaji, and Jaivanta Bai, mother of Maharana Pratap. They raised their sons to uphold Dharma and protect their land," he added.

RAJ TARUN VENTURES INTO TAMIL CINEMA



Actor Raj Tarun, who has been struggling to find success in Telugu cinema, is now set to make his Tamil debut.

The film will also be released in Telugu. On the occasion of his birthday, the team announced his new project. The film will be directed by renowned cinematographer and filmmaker Vijay Milton. Known in Tamil cinema, Milton has worked as a cinematographer on over 43 major films featuring top stars like Vijay and Ajith. He has also directed critically acclaimed films such as *Goli Soda*, *Bairagi*, and *Kadugu*.

This upcoming project is part of the *Goli Soda* franchise and is expected to be a high-energy, action-packed entertainer.

According to the makers, Raj Tarun will appear in a completely fresh and surprising avatar, playing a role unlike any he has done before. Further announcements regarding the film's title, cast, and release schedule are expected soon.

Premisthunna promises limitless love

Director Bhanu is bringing a fresh new love story to the screen with *Premisthunna*, starring Satvik Varma and Preeti Neha in lead roles. The film is produced by Kanakadurga Rao Pappula.

"Every love story has love, but this one has limitless love—as vast as the sky," say the makers. With a unique concept never explored in previous love stories, *Premisthunna* is crafted to stand out. The film is packed with elements that the young generation will want to watch repeatedly.

Siddharth Saluri, a descendant of legendary music composer Saluri Rajeswara Rao, has scored five songs for the film, making it a musical love story. Bhaskar Shyamala handled cinematography, while Anil Kumar Achugatla wrote the dialogues. Two well-known actors are playing key roles, with their names to be revealed soon.



Vishwak Sen Returns to Direction with *CULT*

Actor Vishwak Sen is seeking a comeback after his recent films failed to make a mark. His last film *Laila*, where he portrayed a woman, received heavy criticism. Known for his directorial ventures *Falaknuma Das* and *Das Ka Damki*, Vishwak has now returned to directing.

On Sunday, his new film was officially launched, marking his third directorial project, titled *CULT*. The launch event saw the presence of several Tollywood celebrities. The film is produced by Karate Raju and Sandeep Kakarala.

Vishwak Sen is not only directing the film but also writing the story himself, making it a deeply personal and creatively rich endeavor.

CULT is touted to be a new-age party thriller

inspired by real events and promises a first-of-its-kind cinematic experience.

The actor-director is also introducing 40 newcomers through this movie. Acclaimed filmmaker Tharun Bhascker is penning the

dialogues, and renowned composer Ravi Basrur of *KGF* and *Kantara* fame is scoring the music. The film will be released in Telugu, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish, and English.



India wins Women's Tri-Nation ODI series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Colombo

India displayed absolute dominance to crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs and earn a well-deserved title triumph in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's sublime century and the bowlers' collective effort in the title clash here on Sunday.

After Mandhana rose to the occasion to power India to a commanding 342 for seven, the bowlers completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245, with Sneha Rana (4/38) and Amanjot Kaur (3/54) doing the bulk of the damage.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu (51 off 66 balls) and Nilakshika Silva (48 off 58) were the chief contributors for the hosts.

Earlier, battling cramps in humid conditions, elegant left-hander Mandhana, who had returned to form with a fifty in India's last match against South Africa, struck a majestic 116 off 101 balls to lay the foundation for India's imposing total after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat. Her knock was laced with 15 fours and two sixes, including four successive boundaries off Athapaththu to bring up her 11th ODI hundred in style.

After the early dismissal of Pratika Rawal for 30, Mandhana shifted gears smoothly. The stylish Mandhana made Sri Lanka pay for dropping her on 21 as



was involved in two big partnerships - 70 for the first wicket with Pratika and 120 for the second with Harleen Deol.

She brought up her 32nd ODI fifty with a stylish sweep behind square. The left-hander added 120 runs in 106

balls with Harleen (47 off 56; 4x4) for the second wicket to steady the innings before falling while attempting a lofted

cover drive. But her dismissal set the stage for a strong finish as Jemimah Rodrigues, coming off a career-best 123 against South Africa, smashed a quick-fire 44 off 29 balls (4x4), while Harmanpreet contributed a brisk 41 off 30 (4x4, 1x6) as India piled on 90 runs in the last 10 overs.

There was a brief phase where India looked to have lost steam in the final overs, but cameos from Deepti Sharma (20 not out off 14) and Amanjot Kaur (18 off 12) helped them surge past 340.

For Sri Lanka, Sugandika Kumari was the pick of their bowlers with 2/59, while Dewmi Vihanga (2/69) and Malki Madara (2/74) also picked two wickets each. Set a formidable target, the home team needed a strong start, but instead, they lost Hasini Perera to Amanjot in only the third ball of the Sri Lankan innings. Attempting to play through mid-off, Perera ended up playing down the wrong line as the ball crashed onto the off-stump. Sri Lanka were one down without a run on the board and an onerous task awaited the duo of captain Athapaththu and Vishmi Gunaratne (36 off 41 balls). They seemed to be succeeding, as Athapaththu and Vishmi put Sri Lanka's chase back on track after the early blow. The pair negated the difficult phase well before opening up to hit boundaries. However, Deepti's intro-

duction put the brakes on Lankan scoring as the senior off-spinner bowled three economical overs on the trot before Amanjot gave India their second breakthrough by bowling Vishmi around her legs after the batter had shuffled a long way across. India could have had another wicket but wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh, standing up to debutant pacer Kranti Goud, could not hold to an edge from Athapaththu when she was on 25.

Kranti then missed a catch off her own bowling after Nilakshika's leading edge off a slower delivery.

However, soon after getting to her fifty, Athapaththu was bowled by Rana, who dropped the batter off her own bowling in her previous over.

With the required run rate mounting, the match was as good as over after Nilakshika's dismissal to Rana.

For Sri Lanka, captain Chamari Athapaththu (51) and Nilakshika Silva (48) were the highest run-getters. Both were dismissed by Rana.

Brief Scores: India 342/7 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 116, Harleen Deol 47, Jemimah Rodrigues 44, Harmanpreet Kaur 41; Sugandika Kumari 2/59, Dewmi Vihanga 2/69, Malki Madara 2/74).

Sri Lanka 245 all out in 48.2 overs (Vishmi Gunaratne 36, Chamari Athapaththu 51, Nilakshika Silva 48; Amanjot Kaur 3/54, Sneha Rana 4/38).

IPL to resume on May 16 or 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Suspended due to the India-Pakistan military conflict, the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to resume either on May 16 or 17 with the possibility of the final being moved out of Kolkata. The announcement of ceasefire on Saturday paved the way for resumption of the league that was suspended on May 9 for one week.

The IPL Governing Council members and the BCCI officials discussed the resumption plan on Sunday. BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said the board is still working on creating a suitable schedule. "As of now there is no decision on IPL. BCCI officials are working out on the solutions. BCCI secretary, IPL Chairman are in talks with franchisees and everyone, so very soon we will know about the decision, efforts are being made to resume the tournament early," said Shukla. An IPL source said the league will resume with the match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow — the game which was supposed to be played on May 9. "All the teams have been asked to call back their players, the tournament will resume either on May 16 or 17 in Lucknow. The final schedule will be shared tomorrow (Monday)," a source said to media.

"Most likely the matches will be held at four venues and Delhi and Dharamsala won't get to host more matches. All the

equipment has already been removed from these venues," added the source.

The source also said that there won't be any change in the venue for Qualifier 1 and Eliminator that Hyderabad was supposed to host but Kolkata may miss out on hosting the final, most likely on June 1, due to rain forecast on that day in the city. "As of now there is no change in venues for the play-off stage but it seems rain can affect the final in Kolkata. In that case the final could be played in Ahmedabad," said the source. Speaking to media, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia added, "In the next few days, we will begin consultations with the franchisees, broadcasters, sponsors and the state associations to slated to the remaining matches before crystallising to a decision on the league's resumption.

The abandoned game between PBKS and DC

It is possible that the two teams will be awarded a point each. Punjab Kings had raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs when the game in Dharamsala had to be stopped due to heightened tension between India and Pakistan.

The players were ferried in bus to Jalandhar in Punjab from where they travelled to Delhi by train. If only four venues are chosen to host the remaining 16 games then Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians will miss out on their home games.

Deepika, Salunkhe win bronze at Archery World Cup Stage 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Shanghai

India's most decorated archer, Deepika Kumari, salvaged her pride with a hard-earned bronze medal after a semifinal heartbreak, while Parth Salunkhe also finishing on the podium for the first time as India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 with seven medals, here Sunday.

A day after compound archers put up a dominating show with five medals, Deepika and Salunkhe added two more from the recurve section to end India's campaign on a high.

Exactly a year after the 21-year-old reigning Olympic champion Lim Sihyeon had knocked Deepika out at the same stage of the Yechon World Cup, the Indian was undone again by the Korean in the semifinal, losing 1-7 in a largely one-sided women's recurve individual contest.

The 30-year-old four-time Olympian, though, bounced back strongly to defeat another Korean, Kang Chae Young, 7-3 in the bronze medal playoff and return with a consolation podium finish.

Deepika's win took India's overall medal tally to six at the event, with five coming from the compound section on Saturday that included a remarkable triple-medal haul by comeback archer Madhura Dhambangkar.

In the bronze medal playoff, Deepika showed greater composure and tactical



clarity than her defeat to Lim in the semis. The opening set ended in a 27-all tie, but Deepika edged ahead with a solid 28 in the second to take a 3-1 lead.

Kang, a former world champion who had beaten Deepika in the Berlin World Cup quarterfinals back in 2017, fought back in the third, scoring a flawless 30 to Deepika's 27 to make it three-all.

The Indian responded with her best shooting under pressure, firing three perfect arrows for 30 in the fourth set to again take a 5-3 lead. Needing just a draw in the final set to secure victory, Deepika delivered once more, shooting 29 to Kang's 28, to bag the bronze. Earlier, Deepika began nervously in the semifinal, losing the first set 26-27 despite hit-

ting two 9s. The second set saw both archers shoot 28, but Lim held steady to force a split and deny Deepika any rhythm. The world No 1 then shifted into top gear, drilling in a perfect 30 in the third set while Deepika managed 28. With momentum fully on her side, Lim wrapped up the match in the fourth with a 29, as Deepika managed a 28.

It was a repeat of their 2023 clash, though Deepika had managed to take two set points back then. In the men's section, 21-year-old Salunkhe, who qualified lowly at 60th place, impressed with his resilience after a 1-7 loss to top seed and Korean legend Kim Woojin in the semifinals. After taking just one point off multiple Olympic medalist and reigning champion Woojin in his semifinal loss, Salunkhe bounced back impressively to beat higher-seeded French archer Baptiste Addis 6-4 in a tense five-setter to earn his maiden World Cup medal.

Salunkhe began in style with a flawless 30, including an X, to take the opening set. He slipped in the second, hitting an 8 that led to a 28-all tie. The third set was a scrappy affair, both archers managing just 25. Addis then raised his level with a perfect 30 to level the match 4-4.

But the young Indian held his nerves in the decider, shooting two 10s, one of them an X, and a 9 to edge out Addis by a point.

Marseille and Monaco seal Champions League spots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

Marseille and Monaco sealed spots in next season's Champions League while Ligue 1 champion Paris Saint-Germain beat last-placed Montpellier 4-1 with a Goncalo Ramos hat trick. On the penultimate matchday of the season, Mason Greenwood's 19th league goal in the 85th minute put second-placed Marseille back in the lead at struggling Le Havre. Amine Gouiri scored twice and Marseille won away 3-1.

Lagging one point behind Marseille, Monaco sealed its 18th win — 2-0 over Lyon — with goals from Takumi Minamino and Denis Zakaria and was also guaranteed to finish among the three best teams. The top three qualify for the group stage of the Champions League, and the fourth team grabs a spot in the qualifying rounds.

Gouiri scored Marseille's opener after halftime and the match was stopped soon after because of crowd trouble. Pressing to remain in the top flight next season, Le Havre pushed hard for an equalizer and got it when Issa Soumaré beat goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli from Josue Casimir's assist. Greenwood's superb curled strike from outside the box put the visitors back on track and Gouiri gave more luster to the win in added time on the break.

"At the start of the season, we had trouble playing at the Velodrome, the ball was



hot and we were shaking a bit," Marseille coach Roberto De Zerbi said. "We talked about it. The aim was to stay together, united, without putting football first. We put other things first. We spent some time together. We worked a lot on uniting the team and that showed on the pitch. We saw a family and with that we have a bet-

ter chance of winning." After getting past Arsenal midweek to reach the Champions League final, PSG coach Luis Enrique rested seven players: Gianluigi Donnarumma, Achraf Hakimi, Marquinhos, Nuno Mendes, William Pacho, Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha. Senny Mayulu, an 18-year-old midfield-

er, was given a start and did not disappoint to put PSG ahead before halftime with a powerful strike. Ramos made it 2-0 off a deflection, and added another goal from the spot.

Having won the league with six games to spare, PSG is hoping for its first ever treble. In addition to the Champions League final against Inter Milan on May 31, Enrique's team will have another shot at more silverware against Reims the week before in the French Cup final.

Behind Marseille and Monaco, three teams were level on points; Nice, Lille and Strasbourg, which all lost on Saturday. Seventh-placed Lyon can still aim for the fourth spot but will need to win against Angers hoping that the trio of teams all lose.

"There's a lot of regret, anger and disappointment," Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette said. "We feel sorry for all the fans who believed in us. We've made mistakes all season, but also tonight."

SAINT-ETIENNE STILL ALIVE

At the bottom of the standings, last-placed Montpellier was already demoted. There was still a glimmer of hope for Saint-Etienne, which won at Reims 2-0. Saint-Etienne remained in the relegation zone but just one point behind 16th-placed Le Havre, which was in the relegation play-offs spot.

Pranavi finishes tied 40th, Diksha tied 52nd in Aramco Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Seoul

India's Pranavi Urs faced problems on the front nine for the second straight day as she carded 2-over 74 to finish tied 40th in the Aramco Korea Championship here on Sunday.

Her compatriot Diksha Dagar had an up-and-down round for a 3-over 75 and a tied 52nd place on the leaderboard. As Pranavi totalled 5-over 221, Diksha aggregated 6-over 222.

Home favourite Hyo Joo Kim produced a steady final round to defend her title and land a second victory of the year. Heading into the final day one shot clear at New Korea Country Korea, the South Korean carded a 69 (-3) to withstand Chiara Tamburlini's (68) valiant chase and win by two shots on seven-under par. Kim totalled 7-under 209 and Tamburlini was 5-under 211 to be second.

Pranavi had three bogeys on the front — the same as the second day — when she played the stretch as her second nine. On the back nine on the final day, she had two birdies against one bogey for a 74.

Diksha had three bogeys and just one birdie on the front and then landed an eagle on the Par-5 13th, but dropped shots on 11th, 15th and the 18th for her 75. The victory marks Kim's 25th career

win, third on the Ladies European Tour (LET), and second of 2025 after she won the Ford Championship on the LPGA. A year ago Kim won Aramco Team Series — Korea by three shots. Two groups ahead, LET Order of Merit winner Tamburlini started to pile on the pressure. The Swiss star rebounded from a bogey at the par-4 first to card five birdies at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 9th to take the outright lead on five-under par.

Diksha had three bogeys and just one birdie on the front and then landed an eagle on the Par-5 13th, but dropped shots on 11th, 15th and the 18th for her 75

In solo third on four-under par was South Korean amateur Seojin Park. A member of the country's national team, Park fired the round of the week 65 (-7) to shoot up the leaderboard on the final day. Four players finished fourth on three-under par, including France's Perrine Delacour, South Africa's Lee-Anne Pace, Norway's Dorteia Forbrigg and Austria's Emma Spitz.

Sorloth scores four goals, fastest La Liga hat trick as Atletico blasts Real Sociedad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Barcelona

Atletico Madrid striker Alexander Sorloth scored four goals in the first half hour and set a record for the fastest hat trick in La Liga history to fuel a 4-0 rout of Real Sociedad.

The Norway striker had a hat trick from scoring in the seventh, 10th and 11th minutes to the delight of the fans at Metropolitan Stadium in Madrid.

His treble was the fastest ever in La Liga, according to Opta Statistics, which said the previous best was in 1941 of three goals in the first 15 minutes by Edmundo Suárez de Trabanco. "I just had one of those days the ball just seemed to drop at my feet," Sorloth said. "Everything went in and they were good balls from my teammates."

Looking back on his first season with Diego Simeone's club, Sorloth said he was



satisfied that he was getting more starts after mostly being a substitute for Julián Álvarez earlier. "My teammates know I am going to be

in the box," he said. "They don't even have to look, just cross it."

Sorloth got going when he volleyed in a cross from Pablo Barrios. He made it two

with an angled shot just inside the far post, and Sociedad was left groggy when Jon Martin's clearance hit teammate Aritz Elustondo and fell for Sorloth to smash

home. Sorloth waited until the half-hour mark before he used one touch to control a pass by Samuel Lino before beating goalkeeper Alex Remiro to make it four goals. He went close to a fifth goal in the second half when he fired a volley off the woodwork. Sorloth, who played for Sociedad from 2021-23, also scored four goals while playing for Villarreal last season in a 4-4 draw with Real Madrid.

"It's a relief to have days like this," he said. "I had one last year with Villarreal. You just feel so good inside when everything goes in." Sorloth joined Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez as the only players to have more than one game of four goals in the Spanish league this century.

Atletico looks like certain to finish in third place. Sociedad was in 12th place and struggling to finish in positions for at least a Conference League bid in the final sea-

son of coach Imanol Alguacil. "This is a day to take complete responsibility, say it is not the players' fault and feel proud of what we have done for the past six and a half years together," Alguacil said.

OTHER RESULTS

Fifth-placed Villarreal got an 89th-minute goal from substitute Etta Eyang to beat Girona 1-0 and open a four-point gap over Real Betis in their battle for the final Champions League spot.

Celta Vigo scored twice after losing Marcos Alonso to a direct red card and beat Sevilla 3-2 to remain in seventh.

Valencia scored thrice in the first half to ease past Getafe 3-0 as it continues to recover its form as the season reaches its end. It had been in last place and was now 10th.