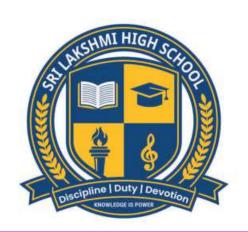
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#### NEARBY

#### 'Zero corruption' is ultimate goal, asserts Naidu

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



#### **Jagan blames** Naidu for **Podili violence**

VIJAYAWADA

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

LASSIFIEDS >> PAGE 2 & 6 **MAGAZINE** » 8 PAGES

## Centre sets up panel to frame air crash response guidelines

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

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

aircraft on Friday.

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

management. The committee will have access to all records, including flight data, cockpit voice recorders, aircraft maintenance details, air traffic control logs, and witness testimonies. It will also conduct site inspections, and intertrollers, and other relevant personnel. It will also collaborate with relevant international agencies if necessary.

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 7

## Identified 19 victims via DNA testing, says Minister

<u>Abhinay Deshpande</u> <u>Jagriti Chandra</u> AHMEDABAD

A total of 19 victims of the flight AI-171 crash have been identified through DNA testing, Gujarat Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Saturday.

One more body that had been stuck beneath the tail portion of the crashed aircraft was recovered on Saturday, according to Dr. Rajnish Patel of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. However, there was still no official confirmation of the deaths beyond that of the 241 people aboard the aircraft.

## Tehran will burn if civilians are hit, Israel warns Iran



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

**Agence France-Presse** TEHRAN/JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 7

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

The Hindu Bureau VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

The name of Karuman-

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

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 4

Mehul Malpani

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

Force Commandant, told

Special Director-Gener-

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

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 7

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

## BHOPAL

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

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

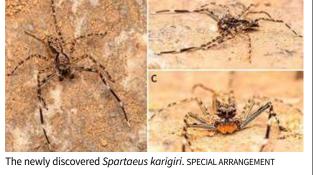
## New jumping spider species found in southern India

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

Geetha Srimathi CHENNAI

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

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



known only from Saveetha Medical College Southeast Asia and Africa, in Chennai, has have been found in India. introduced a new species The research, led by named Spartaeus karigiri, John Caleb T.D. from after Karigiri, or Elephant Hill, in Devarayanadurga, Karnataka, where the spiders were first observed.

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

also discovered in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district. The study, published in the European Journal of Taxonomy on June 11,

involved researchers from

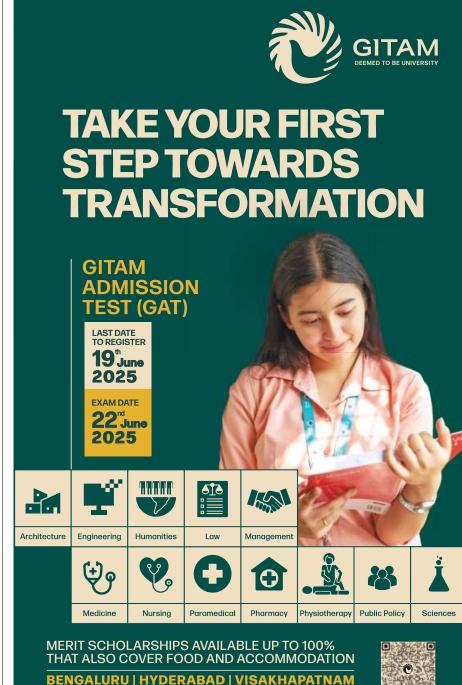
across India. Puthoor

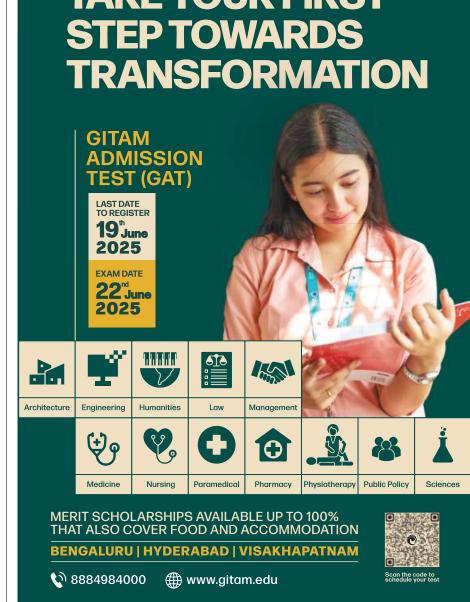
Pattammal Sudhin and

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

Souvik Sen from the

**CONTINUED ON** » PAGE 7





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9380955408 and colleges in Chennai 6385293227

HINDU NADAR B.Tech Fair 26/166, Industrialist Seeks Mumbai based Professionally Qualified Groom Qualified Qualified Qualified Qualified Groom Qualified Qual 8424058261

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

MUDALIAR (CNB) 25/V.Fair, B.E., MS (USA), Data Science Associate, USA, Decent pay, Affluent Family, seeks groom– Abroad/ Business-8925019776

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

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

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

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

MUDALIAR, 28YRS, 162cms, IT Professional MNC, Uthrattathi, Bangalore. Looking for asuitable match from IT / Doctor profession. Contact: 9900795229, 9008378779 NAIDU 33/158CM Divorced short do Family in Chennai. Ct: 94455 56810

lived B.Tech French Professor eks Suitable Groom Caste NoBar.

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, B.Arch, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

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

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar girl. Banga- SAIVAPILLAI 35/152 MSC S.Er Veg Al-

9884858014 BERI CHETTIAR 33/163 V Fair B Arch Chennai seeks Qualified prof/Busi Groom Chennai CNB Geetham

9884858014

WE ARE a loving, well-settled family based in Singapore, seeking a suitable match for our 26-year-old Tamil daughter. Raised in a broadminded home with a harmonious blend of Christian and Hindu va ues, she has grown up in a secula environment. We are looking for a nnatible kind-hearted and emo tionally mature life partner who values mutual respect and shared life goals over caste or religious boundaries. Email: darameshkkumar@

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

**HINDU MARUTHUVAR** girl 26 yrs (1998) , 165, B.E., slim, fair, 12 LPA. well-settled groom 26-30 yrs. Ph: 99860 16401

HINDU SC AD, 37, BE Software Engineer TCS Chennai, 1.4LPM. Seeks

qualified employed grooms. Contact: 9952147216 / 88380 34943 **GROOM WANTED** Hindu Nadar, 34yrs

Divorce, BE, Rich and well Educat background Ct:9380791999/

gudi, Chennai. Well-educated girl from an affluent family, currently residing in the USA. Holds an M.S.Ed. in Learning Sciences & Technologies from the prestigious BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai CT – 9500188067

The seeks christian groom, Chennai CT – 9500188067

The seeks christian groom, Chennai CT – 9500188067

The seeks christian in Chennai CT – 9500188067

The seeks christian ital Learning Manager at a reputed university in Boston, USA. We are seeking a well-educated, well-mannered, professionally settled bridegroom with clean habits and good character. Preference for candidates who have completed both undergraduate and graduate education from US universities or Ivy League institutions, and are working or around Boston. Caste no

> SEEKING FOR a 28 year Old Mudaliar Bride working as Assistant Professor in Chennai. CNB. Ct: 9790791872.

Contact: 9677005235, 7200173185.

**HINDU, MUDHALIYAR**, Age 30, MBA, Private, 6lakhs. Ct 8138900652

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

CASTE NO bar. Hindu or Christian.

SAIVA VELLALAR 28/160 MBBS Govt SEEKING NAIDU groom, post graduate born between 1987 and 1990 for a Job working in Chennai seeks Doctor, Govt employed (or) any equiva-lent profession. 9487326812, smart research scholar born August

SEEKING GROOM for Brahmin gurukka girl age 31 B.Arch freelancer Aayilyum, katagam. Boy age (32–36) in same community with stable income. srividhu24@gmail.com/9841353065

VELLALA MUDALIER, Thiruvonam/ MTech, MSc (Digital Mktg), MNC, 27/ 5.7/ Fair & cultured well to do family. Arcot/Vellore Seeks Edu-cated / Professional Elite Bride-groom. Ct : vsvgpal@rediffmail.com / jaydky1970@gmail.com

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

**Hindu Arunthathiar** (Tamil) 25/158 Rohini, Rishabam M.A., PhD, Assistant Professor, Govt. Job in Tamil Nadu, upper middle class family, Looking for suitable Groom.Contact: 75300-44962.

M.Phil, B.Ed, Seeks Chennai based groom.Age38-40yrs.CNB 7200323579 IYENGAR 30YRS Sadamarshanam Girl. Surgeon doing Superspeciality. Looking for Well Qualified, Pref

India,Singapore BRAHMIN IYER Girl 27 yrs/155cm BF Tech. NIFT, PG BRM. Italy. Now Chennai Rs.24L PA. Need Suitable Boy. Age below 31 yrs. Sivaraman: 9840153480. Mail: venksiva2015@

gmail.com MUSLIM Girl 23/162cm BE(CSE) Very

HINDU DKV. 29vrs. MBBS. DGO. Anusham, Viruchigam seeks suitable Groom - Doctor/ Professional. Ct: 99522 49827 / 98944 00080.

**ELITE BRIDES WANTED** 

Lives in Pondicherry, Business class family,

Looking for a suitable match from similar

VISHWAKARMA, 28, 168 cms, Businessman,

MBA. Lives in Thiruvarur Business class family.

Looking for a suitable match from similar

KAMMA, 27, 180 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives

in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is

affluent. Looking for a like minded match from

REDDY, 27, 186 cms, Businessman, MBA, Lives

in Chennai, Father is a Businessman, Family is

affluent. Looking for a like minded match from

Dedicated & Experience Relationship Managers

similar community. Contact: 6366448343

Largest Pool of True Elite Profiles

MUDALIAR UTHIRADAM 45/167 B.Sc

MBA business seeks educated, em-

**GROOM WANTED** 

MUDALIAR, 25 yrs, 165 cms

B.Arch, Lives in Chennai.

Father is a Businessman.

Upper middle class family.

Looking for a like

minded match from the

USA, H1B Visa, seeks

**Qualified Groom Working** 

in any country.
Contact:

442399555/ 6379809054

BALIJA NAIDU Mesam Rasi Bharani 27

165CM M.S., Working in Toronto Cana da seeks suitable grooms 9003070447

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Kamma Naidu.

26yrs, MBBS, MD, very Elite Business Family in Chennai Ct: 63852

family. Contact: 9790908109

hailing from a respectable

1990

any Telugu Community. Contact: 6366448343

DALTYAR 26 175 cms

community. Contact: 6366448344

community. Contact: 6366448344

#### HINDU NAIDU, 34/5'5", BE, MBA, Sadhyam Kumbham, Fair, good looking Chennai girl for remarriage short lived, Seeks Groom from India/

(Gen.Surgery) Revathi Star sks MBBS, B.E. Telugu & Tamil Yadava

9952095026

9043987029

Abroad, CNB. Contact: 9344709905, 9500009694 NAIDU,25/165, BEAUTIFUL, BE, MS SWE, J&J, USA,50000.USD.PA, Afflunet Family CNB, 9043991629,

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, MBBS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227 Christian-RC Govt.teacher 38/150cm

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

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

SUNNI MUSLIMAH Age 50, never mar ried Chennai. Seeks practicing Mus-lim Man age 50-55 Marriage is solely for companionship sapp:6385852996 what-

MUSLIM Girl 23/162cm BE(CSE) Very Live, M.Tech., MNC C Fair Selected in MNC Chennai. Well to do Family in Chennai. Ct: 94455 56810 Bride. Ct: 99403 85403

## **BRIDES WANTED**

MUDALIYAR DOCTOR Couple—Sree RC CHRISTIAN,30YRS,B.TECH, Well Ed-Sathya Narayana Hospital, B. ucated Family background, Seeks S.Lac P.A., Banglore. Seeks Suitfor 29yr Iyer Vadamal Haritha Tiru-Vonam Fair Good Looking B.Com CA Well Educated and Compassionate, Well Educated and Compassionate, CHRISTIAN CSI Tamil 43yrs 174cm BE

RC CHRISTIAN,30YRS,B.TECH, Well Ed-HINDU 36 Yrs, 185cm, BSc, Pvt, BECKING ALLIANCE From Iyer Girls 67 Each Seeks Suitfor 29yr Iyer Vadamal Haritha Tiru-Vonam Fair Good Looking B.Com CA Inter Working Chennai 13LacPA USA /H1b Visa/ B.Tech Swe /39 /173 Kammanaidu Andhra / Fair / Slim / Never Married/Require Suitable USA Sathya Narayana Hospital, B. Komarapalayam seek Doctor Bride, Well Educated and Compassionate, for their Son-MRCP, 30 yrs, 176 cms, Contact:.+919944955957. om Cell WhatsApp: 8008913979 TELUGU YADAVA Age 30 MBBS M.S (Gen.Surgery) Revathi Star sks

32. 168CM. Manager in a PSB. Seeks

inancially independent, ually inclined Tamil/ intellec-Malayali life partner. Caste/ Religion bar. Ctct: 6383450110

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

**EZHAVA GROOM** 52yrs 174/85 Uthram legally divorced US citizen working Quality Assurance)B.Sc. Nurse, Advocate, Engineer)
Direct Contact: 001-9362527821,
917293624061, 919496228957

rustworthyinspection1@gmail.com THIYA BOY 39/180 cms Triketta divorcee IT Chennai seeks working Chennai girl matching stars Karthika Rohini Avittam Chathayam Cast no bar. Ph: 9385323732

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

Girl. Contact 9503340014 33 / 183 Nair groom anizham currently working in Bangalore IT sector well respected and educated family seeks suitable bride from Nair / Menon /Nam-

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

#### **EliteMatrimony** Personalized & Confidential Service for the Elites

biar Ct : 94435 59882.

**ELITE GROOMS WANTED** IALAD 27 170 cmc Lives in Frode, Father is a Businessman, Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from

NADAR, 26, 168 cms, MS. Lives in Australia. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact:

is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from Christian RC Community, Contact: 6366448343

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## **BRIDES**

## WANTED

#### ployed groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 9176999073 SC (AD), 30yrs, MBBS, Well Educat SENIOR Director, Chennai MNC, SC AD, 39, BE,Veg, ed background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

Jnmarried.Tamil origin, Fluent in Hindi & English.Seeking Hindu, Un-married,Veg only Bride.Caste No married, Veg only B Bar. Mob: 7871691025

48 Years /172, Arya Vysya, seeks affluent Bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 9150080187

PROFESSIONAL PH.D, respected gentleman. DoB:Mar78. Hindu, Elite, Contact: 9080629216 Academic/Defence family. ore. WA:9845284089 HINDU AGAMUDAYAR 31yrs, Fair, B.Tech, M.S, SMART, ACCOMPLISHED, 34, 178cm, US-Working in Apple, Seattle

No Bar. 9841942915.

based Strategy Consultant, Ivy Master's. Seeks compatible partner. s compatible partner bar. Call or WA Caste no 9345634365. IYER TAMIL Divorcee 50yrs, High Salary, SWE MNC Chennai Seeks Mini-

## HINDU NADAR 27/177 Cm MBBS MS 40 bedded own hospital, fair seeks doctor bride. Phone: 98841 88849

mum Graduate without Issues. Caste

**BRIDES WANTED SOUTH INDIAN Vegetarian** MBBS Doctor serving in IAF, Oct 1997 born 169 cms Mougalya Gothram, Rohini Star, Rishaba Rasi. Seeks Vegetarian Medical Professional Girl preferably a Doctor Contact - WHATSAPP

94420 63443 / 90039 42248

any similar community. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN CSI NADAR, 21, 168 cms, BE

ROMAN CATHOLIC, 27, 168 cms, Doctor, MSc Lives in Chennai, Father is a Businessman, Family

#### 9940507235 PILLAI 43 MCom Central Govt Ser NAIR BOY, 34/168cm, Chithira, B.E, Software Engineer MNC Chennai

## employed Nair Girls. No Brokers.

seeks alliance from well educated

CHENNAI-BSD URDU Dr seeks for MS son in US, Green Card fair H'some, 34/173 cm, Sr ProfinI in top MNC, Div-no issues, A profnI girl, 26–31 yrs, fair slim b'ful. fmly-ori-ented Non-hijabi, wrkg in US. What-spr. 955-1625010.

## sapp: 9551625910.

TAMIL MUSLIM, Sunnath Jamath, 45yrs, BBA, Divorce, Business, seeks Religious Bride. Ct: 95977 68158

MUSLIM, LABBAI, Age 25, B.Sc, Supervisor at MNC, Income 15 Lakhs. Contact 7356483111

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 31, BE, Police,

Income 20 Lakhs, Caste no bar. Contact 8138900487 CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, age 40/176 M.D. Paediatric, Neonatologist, fair, handsome divorce seeks fair

39 YEARS engineer working in MNC+ business well settled at chennai wanted graduate girl from a decent christian family cont 9884825317

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee

Doctor/NonMedico bride, age 30 to 35,

Kerala / Tamil Nadu. Caste no bar. no

kids. Ct: 86100 20066 / 94433 26119

36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230 TAMIL YADAVA B.E 47 Bharani Program Manager well settled in U.S Divorcee No Issues Seeks Good Look-

MBA Australia MNC Divorcee No Issue. Seeks suitable bride 90946 77765 MUSLIM, SUNNI, Age 29, BE, Busniness, 9lakhs. ct 8138901097

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 52, Mcom, Ma-

CHRISTIAN CSI Tamil 43yrs 174cm BE

nagement Professional, 40lakhs. ct 8138900412 HINDU, CHETTIAR, Age 26, MIB Private, 30 lakhs. ct 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, BORN again, Age 25, Private, 30Lakhs. Ct 8138900537 CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 33, Private, 15lakhs. Ct 8138900523

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, works for mnc 9500188067 mnc, Chennai. CT-

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar, Age 27, Fair, MBBS, MD, (Chennai) Groom Seeks Doctor Bride. 8072411192 / 9500085244 GAVARA NAIDU Well settled in Chennai 29years/ 165 cm/ ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Business, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram seeks suitable Bride, CNB Call 9841097110

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, 39/179cm, Chithirai, Kanni, B.E., MBA., Unmarried seeks educated Partner. Caste no bar.

BE, MS (US), Industrialist in Chen-Ct: 9944097021 AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRAM/KANNI

35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE, Nursing. any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042 AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact:8220984182

HINDU ARNADU Vellalar 40 BE (Unmarried) working in Abroad. Salary 25 Lks per Annum. Seeks bride from same or allied caste- legally divorced / no child, age below 39 is also considered. Ct: 9944569401. RC VELLALAR Groom 32/174cm / Manag-

er in IT/ Now in Mangalore Invites Brides Preferably working. 9659871777 **HINDU, CHETTIAR,** Age 37, B.Com Completed, Business, Income 6

HINDU, AGAMUDAYAR, Age 25, B.Sc, Hotel Professional, Income 30 Lakhs Contact 8138900547 **BANGALORE MUDALIAR boy 45 Divorced** SWE, APPLE, Property Owner, Seeks Bride Below 40: 9845394022/

Lakhs. Contact 8138901337

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

8422859904

Castes Tamil, Telugu. Ct: 7382620365 34 yrs / 172 cm, BE, US-bound, seeks bride willing to relocate. Caste no bar. Contact: 9344094869. DKV 36YBS B Tech Brownish working

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad Sal 91 lacs seeks Bride from same or Allied

in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai See Suitable Bride.

vant Rs. 13.30 Lakhs PA seeks bride with child only 9094020665 NRI, 48, Male, US Citizen, Chennai, Never married, Looking for alliance from an Affluent family. Self-Reliant. No expectations. Open to settle-down anywhere USA or India. Open to any city/caste/ religion. Self-profiled brides/par-ents/anyone welcome to contact.

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

BRIDE WANTED for 33yrs Bank Offi-

Manoj | 915-932-2390 | SportyKarma@

cer (divorce) No children. Inter-caste parents. Caste no bar. Intermembers please Contact: GAVARA NAIDU, 40/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E., M.S(Engg), Chief Engr. MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage

seeks Naidu Bride. Ct: 9487272897

TWINS SHANMUGAM BE & Purushothamar MSC, Both Kanni, Hastham & Age 34, Heights 5.11 & 5.10 Ch-116 Vanivar 9444323909/ 9092053794/ 9840696603 NAIDU 33 B.Tech IT PGDM HR Caterpillar, Chennai Seeks Naidu(Any) Bride Well educated &employed

**DEVENDRAKULA VELLALAR** 2nd Marriage 51 3.5 LPM Senior GM Bangalore OWN House Seeks Issueless Girl.CNB. 9442607143. Tamil Viswakarma 28/170cm B.E. 90,000 pm seeks good family bride. Phone: 91763 60018.

9444066458

Mudaliar 32/168 Kettai, BE Mech MBA Own house Earnings Coimbatore CT: 9597772439, 8489272439. HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 38, Private, ing Bride below 40yr Unmarried / Divorcee from a Decent Educated 40lakhs. ct 8138900553 HINDU, NAICKER, Age 33, BE, Mana-Family Same Caste & U.S Living

ger, 30lakhs. ct 8138901294

CHENNAI MUDALIAR CasteNoBar PhD In- IYER B.CHARANAM / Koundinyam nocent divorcee 41yrs GM Chess Govt 2Lac/mth. Hindu Edu Girl Chennai 9884171419 9443132445. for 29yr lyer Vadamal Haritha Tiru-vonam Fair Good Looking B.Com CA Inter Working Chennai 13LacPA

Age 47, Divorcee Well to do seeks suitable bride mur1478@gmail.com Email: dha-

WANTED BRIDE for a Well-Educated. WANTED BRIDE for a Well-Educated, Cultured Family Invites Alliance for their Son: 39years, Height 174 Centimeter, Fair, Beautiful, B.Sc(Maths), M.Sc(IT), Working in MNC, based in Bangalore. Looking MNC, based in Bangalore. Looking for a Professionally qualified Girl, 33–39 years, Preferably from a Reputed Family, any Metro City, Caste – Any Brahmin. Serious inquiries only Contact: manikandan.tvg@gmail.com / +91–9500118505 / 8825509525

CASTE NO bar. Fair Vishwakarma Male 1979/173, Divorced (Veg) Doc-torate / Works in Chennai 9790923086

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor Pvt Eng.Collage, age 52, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC No Brokers Contact

ASHWINI / 178 CM / M.Sc, M.Phil Lecturer Private Teetotaler Never Married. Only son. Trichy. Seeks suitable Bride. Send BHP to WA 9750978880.

Ct:6385293227

AD(PR) HINDU TAMIL 04-12-1984 /

VELLORE AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar, Rishaham 38/165 BE SWE MNC Chicag USA,1L USD/A,Seeks working SWE. 9487624807

Suitable

9440440774 / 6304557912 Whatsapp No. 9440440774 MUDALIAR 29 M.Tech 20Lacs P.

HINDU / Intercaste/Tamil / FC /29/ Hindu 58years 165cm Central Govt ME / Govt.Employed / NV/Seeks Doc / Govt/PSU FC BC Brides :9443202585

TAMIL HINDU, 55, M.A., 40,000 PM, Seeks suitable Bride 35 - 40 years, Caste no bar. Contact: 81109 68581 SENGUNTHA MUDHALIAR, 37/182, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, working at Northrop, USA seeks USA working

settled Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 99441 64185 (Tamil), 94434 37248(English) TIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai 31 years 180 cms. Anusham. DOB 04.03.1994 BE, MS working in USA Seeking Bride from same / related Community B.E., B.Tech / MS in IT preferred. Contact:

9442162509 / 8870695851

well natured Girl for a Young En-trepreneur in well settled Family. Contact: 99400 17375/ 90807 20162 MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age-40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land. Sub Caste ok. 9677622641 MUDHALIYAR, B.E, IT, Sal:1L Age-36, Star:Pooradam, Never married Well settled. Sub caste ok. 7305460763

TAMIL YADAV / Others Good looking

VISWAKARMA EQV/ Elite, Indust, 26/ 175 /EEE /Pooradam, Living, 9360571051

HINDU, BRAHMIN, Age 40, MBA, Business, 30lakhs. Ct 8138900557 HINDU. NAIDU. Age 32. MNC. 10 Lakhs. Ct 8138900312

BE, BRAHMIN, Bharatwaja, Magam, 1973, differently abled, Chennai, 1973, differently abled, Chennai, seeks likeminded bride. Ct: 98844 73503 HINDU NADAR, 25yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9380791999/

9841329471 AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109 For our Son- Devendrakula Vellala

(Pallan) Tamil, Hindu Age - 27 169 cm

Fair Rasi/ Natchathiram - Magaram

Thiruvonam M.Sc Geology Working in Oil Company Looking for a well Educated Govt/Pvt Job, Good Looking Girl from a reputed family. Contact - aru.ongc@gmail.com, +91 - 89390 59006 / 94425 00671 IYER WIDOWER. No issues. Healthy

 - 60 Retd United India Insu
 Pensioner. Well Settled Partner. Contact: 9444077042 Seeking BRIDE

#### for Bridegroom Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech IT professional, Caste open for discussion.

**First Marriage Only** 

CT: 93842 76066

## BRIDE **WANTED**

seeks working bride

BRIDE WANTED

We are seeking alliance

from Brahmin girls from

any State for our son

37/184 cms B.Com, MBA

residing in Puducherry

doing own business

good income no siblings.

No expectations Contact

98947 50160

9092190003

Alliance invited for a Tamil Brahmin boy, 34, professionally qualified, fair, tall, well settled family business, Chennai, High net worth

family. Girl should

be very good

looking, Brahmin,

#### well qualified and decent family

SMARTHADESASTHA BRAHMIN groom
43yrs, 174cm fair Senior Software
Engineer in MNC Hyderabad. Well
settled. Looking for good looking
bride graduate, employed/unemployed Age difference 5 to 6 yrs,
Any brahmin subsect. Contact Nos

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 31 Years 

Bride. Ct: 94441 23939 / 91762 65079

#### JE 1.10 Lak PM never Married own House. Seeks Educated Divorce or widow. Contact: +91 8778630870

RICH NAIDU 29yrs B.Tech,4.5lakhs pm, (Bangalore), Well Educated back-ground Seeks Suitable Bride

ground S 6385293227 RICH NAIDLI 32vrs BE MS Flite business family background, See Suitable Bride. Contact: 6385293227 INTELLIGENT, MATURE 26, 185cm scion of affluent Tamil/Telugu (Kamma Naidu) business family. Chennai roots. US citizen (Los Angeles), yet able to relocate globally. Seeks compatible partner.

ucated Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888 NAIDU,29/180, HANDSOME, BE, MS, SWE, CISCO,USA,150000.USD.PA, Afflunet Family CNB, 9043991629

RICH NAIDU, 32yrs, M.Tech, well Ed-

Call/WA 9345634365.

9043987029 NAIDU 29/175 Thiruvathirai B.Sc Working in AGS office Chennai, seeks suitable Educated working

Bride Ct 8248042840 / 9841095644.

Bride ct.

7708369169.

#### SUNNI MUSLIM boy 27/170, B.Tech (Mech) Design engineer MNC Chen nai, 9 LPA Well to do Family Seek

SMU, 27/179CM, BCA, working in IT 5L p.a.Looking for bride, working graduate within Chennai. 9840190182 MARRIAGE BUREAU US,UK,AUSTRALIA ALL Caste Religion

1st Marriage, Remarriage:8248757840

**PEACOCK MATRIMONY** Personalised

## Matches for All Caste & Religion – 1st Marriage & Remarriage.Ct 8610426705

BUSINESS

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## Kondapalli Fort comes alive with Operation Sindoor-inspired yoga act

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

The Hindu Bureau VIIAYAWADA

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

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

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



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

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

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

Extravaganza The fort came alive with cultural programmes, conducted by the Ama-

ravati Yoga and Aerob-

the Sirisha Yoga Academy and Government Nursing College impressed the enthusiasts with their Operation Sindoor-themed performance.

ics, as part of the pro-

gramme. Students from

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

## Visakhapatnam gears up for June 21

The Hindu Bureau VISAKHAPATNAM

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

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

Beach Road, The which underwent a drive beautification

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

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

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



## NAC-AP wins gold at ISDA **Infracon National Awards**

The Hindu Bureau VIJAYAWADA

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

Additional Director General

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

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

## **INBRIDE**

### Two city youth feared drowned in Pamuleru stream

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

## NCC Vijayawada, IRCS hold blood donation camp

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

### Rythu Coolie Sangham State-level meet on June 18

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

## Solar lights and caution boards installed on NH

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

## Chain snatcher held, stolen gold recovered

The Hindu Bureau

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

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

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

## Timings

Machilipatnam

Vijayawada City

Guntur Town

VIJAYAWADA									
SUNDAY, JUN. 15									
RISE	05:35	SET	18:41						
RISE	22:12	SET	08:54						
MONDAY, JUN. 16									

RISE 05:35 SET 18:41 RISE 22:53 SET 09:50 TUESDAY, JUN. 17

RISE 05:35 SET 18:42 RISE 23:32 SET 10:45 Vijayawada Weather max min

29

27

28

36

33

Vijayawada City Today 35°C The weather will be warm and uneasy. Spell of light rain and thundershower

with gusty winds to occur.

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

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shower will occur.

## THE HINDU

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## 'Chilli seeds available for sale from Monday'

The Hindu Bureau VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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

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

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (EXTI COFFEE BOARD, GOVT. OF INDIA BESIDE GOVT. JUNIOR COLLEGE, MAIN ROAD ALLURI SEETHARAMARAJU DISTRICT, ANDHRA Sale of Dry Black Pepper through Tender – cum – Open Auction Dry Black Pepper produced at various farms of Coffee Board in the states o

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha is proposed to be disposed through sealed tender - cur - open auction. The details of quantities of dry black pepper produced in differen ns and tender forms along with terms and conditions are available at the Office of the Deputy Director (Extension), Coffee Board, Beside Govt. Junior College Main Road, Paderu, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh, Office of the Deputy Director (Research), Regional Coffee Research Station, RCRS, R.V. Nagar G.K. Veedhi Mandal and Office of the Senior Liaison Officer, TEC, Minumuluru, Pade Mandal, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh, & Office of the Senior Liaison Officer, TEC, Koraput, Odisha, on all working days i.e., from Monday to Friday (Fro 09.30AM to 05.00PM). Also log on to our website <a href="https://coffeeboard.gov.in">https://coffeeboard.gov.in</a> The last date for issue of tender forms is on 02.07.2025 up to 12:00 Noon.
The last date for submission of sealed tenders is 02.07.2025 by 1.00 PM. Ope

auction will be held on 02.07.2025 at 3.00 PM followed by opening of sealed tender at Office of the Deputy Director (Extension), Coffee Board, Beside Govt. Ju College, Main Road, Paderu, ASR Dist., A.P.

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



NOTICE It has come to the notice of the Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory

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

All Developers/Promoters/Builders and Real Estate Agents are hereby advised to refrain from engaging in any financial transactions or promotional activities with buyers in the name of "Pre-launch" for unregistered real estate projects. Any violation will attract strict legal action by APRERA under the Allottees/Customers/Buyers are also advised not to purchase any plot/

apartment/building in projects that are not registered with APRERA. For information on specific projects or to seek redressal for issues such as delay in possession, poor construction quality, or other grievances, buyers may contact the APRERA Helpdesk.

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

Sambasiva Rao M.

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

Dr. Chandra Sekhar said that the entire cost would be borne by the Central gocial obligation on the part of the State. He emphasised that

vernment, with no finan-

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

He said that including these approvals, a total of seven ROBs have now been sanctioned for the Guntur parliamentary constituency-Sankar Vilas, Gaddipadu, Pedapalakaluru, Nandivelugu, and Mangalagiri being the others. Together, these projects account for ₹572 crore in Central funding.

Dr. Chandra Sekhar met with SCR South Central Railway General Manager Arun Kumar Iain in Hvderabad on Friday, expressing gratitude for his sup-



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## **Andhra Pradesh**

## From Page One

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

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

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

#### INBRIEF \_

## Pawan orders probe into ISKCON's Kurmagram fire

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

## DSC examinations slated for June 20 and 21 rescheduled

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

## New NTRUHS Executive Council constituted

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

## Naidu to review Yoga Day event arrangements in Vizag

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

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

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

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

The YSRCP chief said Mr. Naidu got cases booked



Naidu wanted to divert attention from the issue that was sought to be discussed Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY YSRCP president

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

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

## Police issue notice to Darsi MLA over violence

The Hindu Bureau

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

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

"However, the YSRCP activists forcibly removed the barricades and entered the sterile zone. Several private vehicles were taken near the helipad without permission. The activists threw sandals and pelted stones at the women who were peacefully protesting in the town. They also in-

jured the police personnel, obstructing their duties and blocking the VIP convoy," the Podili Inspector alleged in the notice.

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

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

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



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

## Zero corruption is the ultimate goal: Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIIAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hindu Bureau VIIAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

# ₹168 crore subsidy package announced for mango farmers

The Hindu Bureau

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

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

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

He also reviewed pulp ma-

nufacturing activities.

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

"We have initiated all tangible steps to ensure that

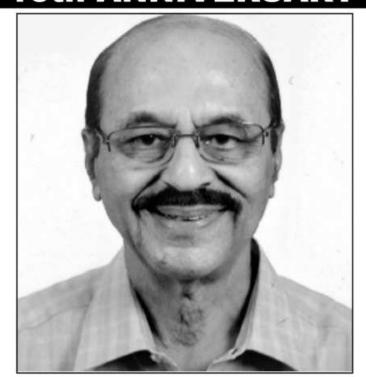
mango growers get a fair price for their produce," he said.

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

## **OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

## 10th ANNIVERSARY



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

The Hindu Bureau VIJAYAWADA

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

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

The other two regions of the State, Rayalaseema and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh may also receive light to moderate rainfall during this period.

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

Gurla in Vizianagaram reported 37.68 degrees Celsius.

Later in the day, many places received light to moderate rainfall, with the highest being 64 mm. Among those places were Pedamerangi in Parvathipuram Manyam (64 mm), Kurupam in Parvathipuram Manyam (58.25 mm), Kunavaram in Alluri Sitharama Raju (52.25 mm), Ravikavatam in Anakapalli district (46.75 mm).

A few stations in Ralayaseema, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh also received light to very light rainfall.

In view of the IMD forecast of heavy rain with thunderstorms, the A.P. State Disaster Management Authority has advised people to be careful and not stand near trees, towers, poles, hoardings and dilapidated buildings.

On Sunday, there is a possibility of moderate rain several districts.

## Kuppadam silk saree from Chirala wins national recognition

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> BAPATLA

The renowned Kuppadam silk saree from Chirala in Andhra Pradesh has been selected for a prestigious national award under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, recognising its traditional craftsmanship and cultural significance.

The Union Government has officially announced the award, which will be presented on July 14 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, during a national awards ceremony celebrating exemplary local products across India.

Bapatla District Collector J. Venkata Murali will receive the award on behalf of the district, marking a significant moment for local artisans and the handloom sector in the region. Handwoven by skilled weavers, Kuppadam silk sarees have long held a unique place in the market. With this national recognition, the saree is expected to gain more prominence, especially in national and international markets.

Sunday, June 15, 2025
VIJAYAWADA





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Also available at: Vijayawada: Lingeswara Steel Distributors, Ph: 2424245; Summit Smart Kitchen, Ph:8790455584; Sri Bhavani Steel Corner, Ph: 2572255; Grand Modern Super Market Ph: 6667720; Pai International, Ph:9704066433; Sri Venkateswara Metal House, Ph: 2439888; Gupta Enterprises, Ph: 9959520850; Ranga Brothers, Ph:9440185844; Gudivada: G K Electronics, Ph:7075663333; Srinivasa Electronics, Ph: 24654; Balarka Steel, Ph:984966444; Ayyappa Electronics, Ph: 65239389453; Hanuman Junction: Maruthi Electronics, Ph:9652152121;Balaji Home Needs, Ph:9603005888; Vuyvuru:Nagasiva Electronics, Ph:9652152121;Balaji Home Needs, P

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**VI** VJ-VJE

## South



## **Operation Sindoor showed** exceptional power of forces'

Indian Air Force demonstrated precision, power and preparedness during Operation Sindoor, which stood out as a testament to its combat capability and operational synergy, said Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, while addressing graduating cadets at the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy-Dundigal. "Operation Sindoor showcased unfathomable prowess of the IAF. We have demonstrated our ability to deliver swift, precise, decisive blows to the enemy," he said.

## Nilambur: Congress cries foul over 'targeted' vehicle checks

With less than five days for the Nilambur Assembly by election, the campaign is becoming murkier, with Congress MP Shafi Parambil and Palakkad legislator Rahul Mamkootathil accusing election officials of targeting them for asking them to pull over their vehicles at Connolly Plot, near Nilambur, on Friday night. However, Election Commission officials dismissed the allegations and said that vehicle checking is a routine procedure during polls.

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

Four girls topped the rank list for admissions to B. Tech. of SASTRA Deemed University that was released on June 14. In Stream 1, Akela Meghavan Sarma from Chaitanya Junior College, A.P., stood first rank with a combined score of 99.39, Class 12 aggregate of 991 marks out of 1,000 and JEE Main score of 99.69. Burra Nishitha from Chaitanya Junior College, Telangana, stood second with a Class XII score of 99 and JEE score of 99.60 and combined score of 99.30.

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

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

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

According to the Navy, the ship is being towed to deeper waters. The ship is stable, but with a tilt to port side and smoke still rising from it. The tug, Offshore Warrior, is towing the vessel with the Indian Coast Guard ship Saksham fuelling the tug, the Navy said.



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

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

Meanwhile, containers that fell overboard from

the ship are likely to wash ashore on the Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Kollam coasts between Monday and Wednesday. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued the update citing the Coast Guard and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF).

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

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

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

Aizaw Allah

Bhop Bhub Chan

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Jaipu Kochi Kohir

# Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim. Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

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Air Quality Code: Poor Good (Readings indicate average AQI

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, cochest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma atts heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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

The Hindu Bureau

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

The initial inference was that Seetha, 42, a resident of Thottappura under the Murinjapuzha forest station, was killed in a wild elephant attack in the Meenmutty reserve forest area on Friday. Her husband, Binu, claimed that the family had gone to the forest along with their children to collect forest produce and was trapped in front of a wild elephant that attacked her.

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

not from a wild elephant attack. "The Forest department

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

"Due to our suspicion, the department did not provide the first instalment of compensation meant for human-wildlife conflict victims on Friday," said Mr. Rajesh. Sources said the prim-

ary post-mortem examination findings were that the woman had suffered brutal physical assault.

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

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

The Hindu Bureau

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

Actor Nandamuri Balakrishna received the 'NTR National Film Award', director Mani Ratnam the 'Paidi Jairaj Film Award' and Sukumar the 'BN Reddy Film Award'. The 'Kantha Rao Film Award' was presented to Vijay Devarakonda. Film writer Yandamuri Veerendranath received the 'Raghupathi Venkaiah Film Award'.

Veteran actor and jury chairman M. Muralimohan and members of the jury were felicitated. The designer of the TGFA, Ramavath Nagula Naik, and others, including film critic



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

Ponnam Ravichandra, were also honoured.

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

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

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

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

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

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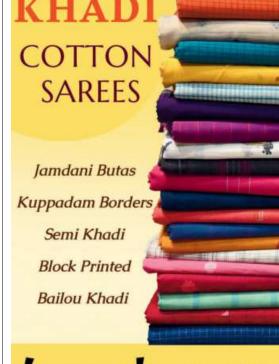


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## TG objects to Centre asking A.P. to submit Polavaram-Banakacherla DPR

**The Hindu Bureau** HYDERABAD

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

In a letter addressed to Jal Shakti Minister (MoJS) C.R. Patil on June 13, Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Centre's move would

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

dressed to Mr. Patil and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama on January 22 on the project, the MoJS had replied on May 28, which he (Uttam) received in the first week of June, stating that A.P. did not send any DPR to the Central Water Commission (CWC). Accordingly, a meeting was convened on June 12 on the project and later postponed to discuss it as part of the interlinking of rivers project in New Delhi. Recently, the CWC had stat-

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

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## From Page One

## Centre sets up panel to frame response

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

The four-point scope of the committee defined in the order states that it will "ascertain the root cause of the [flight AI-I71] crash" and its contributing factors, including mechanical failure, human error, weather conditions, and regulatory compliances. The committee will also recommend necessary improvements, and formulate suitable SOPs to prevent such incidents in the future, including best international practices.

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

## Tehran will burn if civilians are hit: Israel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## New spider species found in southern India

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

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

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

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

# Jaishankar urges Iran, Israel to avoid any escalatory steps

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

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

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

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



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

India's economy and security architecture.

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

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

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

Mr. Araghchi had visited India on May 7 and 8 to cochair the 20<sup>th</sup> India-Iran

#### Helplines for Indian nationals

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

## Congress slams govt. over abstention on Gaza ceasefire vote

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Mallikarjun Kharge

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

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

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

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

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

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



Narendra Modi

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

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

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

Mr. Modi will meet with

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

While the Ministry has

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

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

expected to be a fractious discourse at the G-7 summit on June 16, given the divide between the U.S., and other members on these issues.

On Sunday, Mr. Modi

will depart for Nicosia, Cyprus, for talks with President Nikos Christodoulides, where he is expected to address business leaders and discuss plans for the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC) that have been stalled due to the situation in Israel since 2023.

Mr. Modi's visit to Cyprus, which has a decades-old territorial tussle with neighbour Turkiye, is also seen as a sharp message from New Delhi to Ankara over Turkiye's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Modi will travel to Zagreb on the final part of the tour, for talks with Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, on June 18.

## Congress MP writes to RS chair on judge impeachment

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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

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

## 'Countries will react based on their interests'

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

INTERVIEW

#### Shiv Shankar Menon

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

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

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

## attack in India?

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

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

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



ment, Chinese theories, Chinese ways of war.

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

Question is, what did they actually do to help Pakistan? There's a level of military fusion there, which is much closer than it's ever been before, and that is something worth watching. Do you think more information should be put out?

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

first with their version. Mil-

itarily, India did well, judg-

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

Just watching what they

ing by whatever we know

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

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

Not at all. Countries will

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

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

(Full interview is at newsth.live/shivmenon)

YK

## Gujarat government confirms 19 victims identified through DNA

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

Jagriti Chandra AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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



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

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

#### 'Slow process'

Dr. Rajnish Patel, Head of Surgery at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, who jointly addressed a press conference earlier in the day with the Gujarat government's Relief Commissioner and Secretary, Revenue Department, Alok Kumar Pandey, described the DNA matching exercise as a "meticulously slow process" that typically required 72 hours.

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

When asked about the number of families which had arrived at the hospital to provide DNA samples and claim the bodies of their loved ones, he again said he did not have the information available with him. Earlier, eight visually identifiable victims were released to relatives without the need for DNA analysis.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Airline extends help

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

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

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

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

**Abhinay Deshpande** AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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

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

lated Meghani Nagar area.



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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, June 15, 2025

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

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

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

**The Hindu Bureau** 

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

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

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



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

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

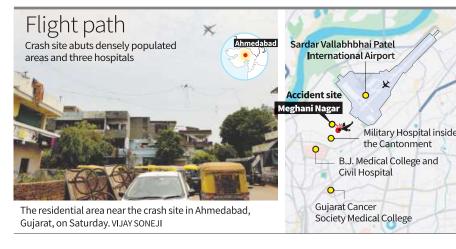
test. Additionally, the airline has to also carry out flight control inspection as part of checks while the aircraft is in transit. A power assurance check within two weeks also needs to be performed.

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

Jagriti Chandra AHMEDABAD

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

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



flats, he said.

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

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

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

At the crash site, adjacent to the mess building and four blocks of the college hostel where the aircraft plummeted, is a massive open plot.

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

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

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

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

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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

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

## Hostels of medical college vacated to facilitate probe

**Abhinay Deshpande** 

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

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

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



A set of coffins arrives at the air crash victims.

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

Authorities confirmed that 19 DNA samples had been verified, and the families of those victims had been contacted to collect the remains.

**Identification process** Late Friday evening, all bo-

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

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

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

#### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT **CORRIGENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAMME JUNE' 2025** NOTICE No. 06/2025 e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous

scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

e-auction conducted by	Additional Auction date included in June'25 auction schedule and which is on	Material for auction
SA Division	26.06.2025	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue www.ireps.gov.in website.

Note: All other auctions scheduled for JUNE' 24 remains unaltered For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please

visit our web-site https://www.ireps.gov.in->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.

**Principal Chief Materials Manager** 

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR - 754296, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com  Letter No. 1873 / Date:- 11.06.25  1st Corrigendum Notice  1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Tender Online RCK-11/25 invited by this office vide Letter No1737, Dt30.05.2025. The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T.:- 1. Clause no06 of NIT Modified below:-										
Procurement Officer	Bid Identifica-	Availability of tende		ime of seeking larification	Date	& Time of o	pening of Te	nder		
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Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur		10.06.2025 At 11.00 A.M. To 26.06.2025 Upto 05.00 P.M.		26.06.2025 up to 02.00 P.M.	09.07.2025 up to 02.00 P.M.	30.06.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	10.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later	
All other conditions of NIT remain unaltered.  O-283:  Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur.  OIPR-25129/11/0053/2526										

THE HINDU



## 38 held in Assam's Dhubri for stoking communal fire

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

## Five foreign varsities get LoI to set up campuses in Mumbai

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

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

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

## NIA files chargesheet in CRPF camp attack case

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

## SUDOKU

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## Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING:

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

## Manipur unites in grief, across the ethnic divide

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

The Hindu Bureau **GUWAHATI** 

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

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

The pair were among the 10 cabin crew members of Air India's Londonbound flight, which crashed seconds after takeoff from Ahmedabad.

#### 'Huge loss for all'

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



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

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

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

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

#### 'Two daughters'

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

A spokesperson of the Meitei Heritage Society said: "In death, we are all the same. A tiny State with a population less than many big districts of India, divided on narrow ethnic lines by a few vested interest groups."

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

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

## A surprise visit that ended in tragedy for Ahmedabad couple

**Abhinay Deshpande** AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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

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



son and daughter-in-law in the Air India plane crash.

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

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

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

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

Bindu Shajan Perappadan NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

Kishore Jha of Delhi finished third and fourth. respectively.

garwal of the National Cap-

One woman in top 10 Only one woman candidate made it to the top 10 ranks this year. Avika Agital Territory of Delhi is the woman topper of this year's NEET (UG). She has secured AIR-5.

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

In the NEET-UG 2025 results, Delhi leads with the highest number of candidates in the all-India top 10 list. This year, a total of 22,76,069 candidates registered for the exam, out of which 22,09,318 candidates appeared for the extotal of 12.36.531 candidates have qualified the medical entrance examination.

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

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

The States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh have candidates in the top 100.

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

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

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

## NIA conducts searches in two States in HuT case

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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

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

## Proposed AC temperature-control norms build on 2018 guidelines

**Jacob Koshy** NEW DELHI

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

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



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

undertakings and so on). The guidelines were voluntary and the BEE said it would undertake a survey

fectiveness.

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

to check the proposal's ef-

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

"The new proposed guidelines take it one step further by having new airconditioners hardwired to operate in a fixed temperature range of 20 to 28 degrees Celsius," said Alok Kumar, a former Secretary of the Ministry of Power.

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

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

## In major arms haul, Manipur Police seize 328 weapons

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

N. Ravi Kumar HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Insurers ease** claim process of crash victims

NEW DELHI

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

the vicinity of the crash

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

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

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

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

## **Arunachal declares 2025-35** as 'decade of hydropower'

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

**The Hindu Bureau** GUWAHATI

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

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

**Strategic measures** 

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

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

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



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

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

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

**Escrow account** 

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

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

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

**Plans for Siang project** 

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

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

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

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

Alternate towns

The Cabinet directed the State's Department of Urban Development to constitute a New Yingkiong Development Authority and a New Geku Development Authority to pursue alternate "future-ready towns".

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

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



## SpiceJet profit after tax jumps nearly threefold to ₹325 crore

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

## Natco Pharma's API plant gets U.S. FDA observation

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

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

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

## <sup>+</sup> Cherrapunji Gin becomes first alcohol label from northeast to be exported

WORLD GIN DAY

Rahul Karmakar GUWAHATI

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

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

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

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

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

The spirit, produced in small batches using traditional copper stills, is distilled from naturally har-



a global revival, says Mayukh Hazarika. FILE PHOTO

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

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

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

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

He said gin, once a colonial-era staple, is undergoing a global revival. "In recent years, the spirit has seen a sharp uptick in popularity, driven by the rise of artisanal distilleries, experimental botanicals, and an evolving consumer palate that favours provenance, craftsmanship and authenticity," he added.

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

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

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

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



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

following contractual engagement at NIEPMD (D), Chennai and CRC Karaikal, Puducherry.

NIEPMD(D), Chennai Associate Professor – Prosthetics & Orthotics (Consultant) – 1, Clinical

Assistant (Audiologist – Grade 1) (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant (Speech Pathologist – Grade 1) (Consultant) – 1, Clinical Assistant Speech & Hearing) (Consultant)-1

CRC - Karaikal. Pudhucherry Director (Consultant) - 1, Clinical Assistant (Developmental Therapist

(Consultant) = 1 Clinical Assistant (Speech Therapist) (Consultant) = Special Educator (Consultant) – 1, Vocational Instructor (Consultant) – Assistant (Consultant) - 1, Accountant (Consultant) - 1 The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect can

submit their application through online mode. The online registration of application will be made available on NIEPMD website, Chennai official link .e.https://niepmd.nic.in/notice-category/recruitments/ For all other s, terms and conditions, please log on to the website www.niepmd.nic.in

DIRECTOR

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

#### Applications are invited for the **Post of Director**

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

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

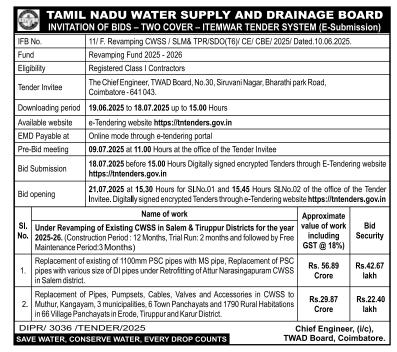
Application in prescribed format (available on www.rgniyd.gov.in) with supporting documents should be sent to "The Under Secretary (RGNIYD), Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Room No. 718A, 7th Floor, A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 superscripting "Application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

Committee constituted for the purpose. The committee may invite eligible candidates from outside the applicants as well. For more details about RGNIYD please visit www.rgniyd.gov.in.

Assistant Registrar

kmb.kerala@gmail.com







https://kmb.kerala.gov.in/

THE HINDU

## Psychology shows signs of recovery from replication crisis

**The Hindu Bureau** 

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

erected on faulty results.

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

cut-off to be considered significant (0.01 to 0.05). The larger the share of such values, the shakier the evidence.

According to Bogdan's analysis, the share of fragile significant results had dropped from 32% at the start of the crisis to 26%. He also found that the downward slide appeared in every major sub-discipline, suggesting a broad cultural shift toward sturdier work.

Sample size was a key driver. The median size climbed rapidly from 2015 while the reported effect sizes inched downward. This was likely because small studies inflate the effects of their findings whereas bigger ones give truer but smaller estimates. Together, these trends pointed to rising statistical pow-

Journals with higher impact scores and papers with more citations also tended to feature fewer fragile p-values, reversing a pre-crisis pattern in which splashy outlets often pu-

er across the literature.

blished weaker but more sensational findings.

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

samples difficult to gather. In sum, psychology appears to have tightened its standards even as some better-funded corners of the field remain under-powered because they're

tackling tough questions. To rebuild public trust. scholars at large have recommended that research groups and journals adopt open-data policies and preregister studies (so even negative results are reported), and that governments better fund resource-heavy studies.

## Arc therapy beats tricky cancer while sparing nearby tissue

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

Vasudevan Mukunth

team of experts in the U.S. has successfully used a tech-

nique called step-andshoot spot-scanning proton arc therapy (SPArc) to treat a patient's adenoid cystic carcinoma for the first time. SPArc works by targeting tumours with protons while sparing surrounding tissue.

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

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

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

fully-dynamic While SPArc performed better, Step by

SPArc works by targeting

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

- A team has used step-and-shoot proton arc therapy to treat a parotid gland cancer for
- The therapy significantly minimised damage to nearby organs over SFO-IMPT, the current standard of care
- A 46 y.o. woman received step-and-shoot SPArc after her parotid-gland cancer had spread towards the base of her skull

■ In this time, the woman reportedly had 'minor skin irritation" and no issues eating or continuing working Synthetic CT scans were used to track

■ In June-August 2024, she completed 33

sessions with step-and-shoot SPArc and

received 66 grays of radiation

the difference between the ing. According to the two arc styles was small, the team wrote. In dynam-

machine follows a pre-programmed pattern. The researchers wrote that dynamic SPArc is still under development and awaits regulatory clearance and integration with existing oncology informa-

ic SPArc, the dose's energy

and point of delivery is

constantly adjusted, whe-

reas in step-and-shoot the

tion systems. The first person to receive step-and-shoot SPArc was a 46-year-old woman whose parotid-gland cancer had spread along her facial nerve towards the base of her skull. In June-August 2024, the team said she completed 33 sessions with step-and-shoot SPArc. During this, the woman reportedly had "minor skin irritation" and no issues eating or continuing workAmerican Cancer Society, conventional side-effects of radiation therapy for head and neck cancers include fatigue, nausea, trouble swallowing, etc. Dr. Subramaniam said

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

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

dose delivery, the therapy's performance, and develop adaptive treatment plans An energy layer is a slice of tissue that receives proton beams of a specific energy. The energy determines the beam's range: how far it is able to penetrate the tissue. When the machine fixes one energy level, its scanning nozzle sweeps dozens of suitable spots and deposits the ra-

diation dose in that energy

layer. Then the machine

switches to the next energy

level and repeats the pro-

cess, this time delivering a

beam with a little more

range. This way the whole

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

the doses to be delivered.

Over the first two weeks, synthetic CT revealed the woman had lost weight and the tumour dose coverage had thus slipped 3-5%. The team adjusted

for this from the 13th day. The gantry was set up to have nine beam angles covering a 180° arc around the woman. It delivered one dose, moved 20°, delivered the second, moved 20°, delivered the third, and so on. The paper said each session took 15-18 minutes and the treatment benefited from the nearcontinuous

The SFO-IMPT and (simulated) dynamic SPArc methods used the same target plan and had the same goals: deliver a fixed total dose in 33 daily treatments and ensure the proton range isn't off by more than 3.5%.

delivery.

"With very precise radiotherapy delivery, the concern is that small tumours can be missed, referred to as geographical miss, as movements as subtle as breathing can change their position, and they can shrink in size over the course of treatment and result in inferior cancer cure rates," Dr. Subramaniam said.

significant "Another concern is cost," he added. "These technologies are very expensive and are often suitable for a small patient population. This results in a significant financial burden on the healthcare system and the risk that it may be used in situations where it is not indicated."



## 3D-printed electronic nose sniffs out deadly methanol

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



## This penicillin needs the green light to work

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



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

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

## Cooking oils can help recover silver from e-waste



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

course, less expensive than

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

use silver for electricity

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

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

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



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

in the coming years will steadily increase. She points out that while some groups have considered using other metals (including lithium, cobalt, and nickel), it is still silver that plays a fundamental role in cleaner and greener energy production. And demand for silver is expected to increase by about 170% by the year. In addition, cars, buses, and trains have started using solar power rather than petrol as fuel. Ms. Smirnova further points out that the International Energy Agency predicts that by 2035, every other car sold worldwide will be electric. That would mean the need for more silver. It is against this back-

ground that a paper by Anze Zupanc, Prof. Timo Repo, and colleagues from Finland has come up with an efficient chemical method to recycle silver: using organic fatty acids, such as linolenic or oleic acids, which are found in seeds, nuts, and vegetable oils (such as olive oil or groundnut oil), which in turn are used in our daily cuisine.

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

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

The researchers also found this method applicable to 'urban mining', where silver retrieval from waste electrical and electronic wastes (WEEE) from discarded computer motherboard pieces becomes possible. The research team concludes, "fatty acids may, therefore, become the next generation of media for treating prefoams? Why do cious multi-metal waste nanoparticles in milk stay substrates". evenly mixed instead of

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

**Question Corner** 

What is soft matter?

science that studies

Soft matter is the branch of

Squishy stuff

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

sinking? Understanding

Readers may send their questions /

## Why has the Axiom-4 mission been delayed?

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

Vasudevan Mukunth

#### The story so far:

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

#### What is the Axiom-4 mission?

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

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

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

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

#### Why was the launch called off?

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

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

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

## Why was a new date not given immediately?

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

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

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

## How hard is it to fix a LOX leak?

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

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

## Who takes responsibility when a ship sinks?

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

#### Kalyanaraman. M

#### The story so far:

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

#### Who regulates global shipping?

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

In general, India is a signatory to many conventions, barring a few such as the 2004 Ballast Water Convention and the 2010 Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Convention. The HNS Convention deals with liability and compensation for damage related to **Countries** that are members of the IMO sign various conventions that lay down norms regarding pollution, safety, accidents, and liabilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Who should salvage a ship that has sank?

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

#### Why do ships still sink?

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

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

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

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



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

## How should sexual abuse survivors be treated?

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

## **Aaratrika Bhaumik**

## The story so far:

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

## What was the case?

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

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

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

#### What directions were issued to hospitals? The court observed that when an investigating

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

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

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

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

## What was the Delhi police instructed to do?

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

#### What were the guidelines issued earlier? On April 17, Justice Sharma issued guidelines for

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

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



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

## The last 'revolutionary' of Iran

## Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

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

#### **Stanly Johny**

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

Mr. Khamenei, who has been the rahbar of the Islamic Republic since 1989, has built a theocratic system that is loyal to him. He is the Supreme Leader, the jurist of the guardians. A conservative cleric, he has led Iran through political and economic upheavals, and has survived both reformist and hardliner Presidents. But in recent years, on Mr. Khamenei's watch, unrest has spread across the country. In recent months, Iran's influence abroad has dramatically waned, particularly after Israel started attacking the so-called 'axis of resistance', the Iran-backed militia network in West Asia. On June 13, Israel, Iran's arch foe, launched a daunting attack inside Iran, targeting its nuclear facilities and ballistic missile sites, and assassinating its top chain of command. With the Israeli leadership threatening to "burn" Tehran, the 86-year-old Ayatollah must be feeling the weight of the revolution on his shoulders.

#### Child of revolution

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

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

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

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

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

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

## **Perilous cycle**

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

which led to further cracks.

rich with natural resources, Iran was grappling with hyperinflation, stymied growth and a tanking currency, mainly due to the western sanctions. Mr. Khamenei knew that the future of the revolution was linked to the state's ability in creating economic opportunities. So even when he called America the 'Great Satan', he sanctioned nuclear talks with the U.S. after Hassan Rouhani, a moderate cleric, became President in 2013. The 2015 agreement between Iran

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

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

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

#### THE GIST

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

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

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

## Manipur's Black T-Shirts

## **Arambai Tenggol**

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

## Rahul Karmakar

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

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

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



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

The group is headed by Korounganba Khuman, referred to by his subordinates as pathou, meaning revered leader. The members of the group, estimated to be 60,000 now, can be identified from their black T-shirts bearing a red insignia of three horsemen charging with weapons.

The AT came into discussion in 2022, around the same time the Meitei Leepun – a similar radical group founded by Pramot Singh in 2015 – began drawing attention. Both shot to prominence after the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities broke out in May 2023, but the more organised, aggressive, and armed AT soon pushed the Meitei Leepun into near-

obscurity. The organisa-

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

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

## **Parallel government**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Meta's data broker

## **Alexandr Wang**

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

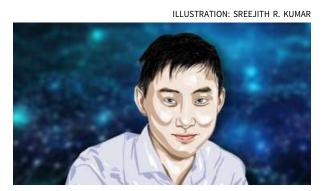
## John Xavier

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

move underscores Meta's

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

## AI arms race

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

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

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

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

## World

#### **CAIRO**

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



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

#### **MINNEAPOLIS**

Minnesota state lawmakers shot, search under way for suspect



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

#### **ASTANA**

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



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

#### **BANGKOK**

Thailand says 'progress made' in Cambodia border dispute talks



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

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

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

**Associated Press** 

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

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

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

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

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

Oman's Foreign Minister

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

"The Iran-U.S. talks scheduled to be held in Muscat this Sunday will not now take place. But diplomacy and dialogue remain the only pathway to lasting peace," Mr. Al-Busaidi wrote on a social media

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

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

The Iranian attacks killed at least three people and wounded 76, mostly in and around Tel Aviv, according to two local hospitals. One missile severely damaged at least four homes in the nearby city of Rishon Lezion, according to first responders.

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

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

## Rallies rage across U.S. ahead of Trump parade

**Reuters** WASHINGTON/ LOS ANGELES/ATLANTA

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

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



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

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

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

is above the law. People heading into

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

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

## <sup>+</sup> 'Ukrainian forces halt | Israeli firing kills 45 advance of Russian

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

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

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



Russia's troops have regions.

raine is in its fourth year, but it has intensified in recent weeks.

# people in Gaza, many

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

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

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

nored warning shots fired

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

The GHF began distritrying to reach the food.

The United Nations retarian

# troops in Sumy'



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

The Russian war in Uk-

# at aid site, medics say

near a group.

buting food packages in Gaza at the end of May after Israel partially lifted a near three-month total blockade. Scores of Palestinians have been killed in near daily mass shootings

jects the Israeli-backed new distribution system as inadequate, dangerous and a violation of humaniimpartiality principles.

## Loga & Mus/c Day Special Issue dated 20th June 2025 **Animal-inspired Origins of popular** instruments yoga poses Modern **Musical genres** yoga styles & artists Yoga for the body. Yoga books Songster Music for the soul. for kids birds **Ouizzes & Ancient & rare** activity sheets instruments FOLLOW US ON (a) (4) Othehinduyw Pre-book your copy with your newspaper agent today For Print Subscription, visit www.thehindu.com/youngworld

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## Over 600 evacuated as Myanmar military sees heavy combat with anti-coup forces

**Agence France-Presse** 

Hundreds of Myanmar families were being uprooted from their homes on Saturday, a community organiser said, piling their belongings onto evacuation convoys to escape fighting between the miliand anti-coup tarv guerrillas.

Myanmar has been consumed by a many-sided civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup, leaving more than 3.5 million people displaced according to United Nations figures.

Heavy combat has been raging since Mondav around the village of Saung Nang Khae in the eastern state of Shan, according to local residents and evacuation organisers.

Temporary shelter

Ramshackle convoys of tractors were piled with livestock, wheelchairs and suitcases on Friday as they hauled local families to temporary shelter in the village of BC Kone some 60 kilometres southwest.

On Saturday, Khun Pyae Linn, the spokesperson of the youth wing of the Kayan New Land Party

Myanmar has been consumed by civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup

which controls the enclave and which organised evacuation efforts, said "rescue operations are ongoing".

'We evacuated more than 600 people but there were other organisations that helped villagers too. So it could be over 1,500 villagers that were moved to safe shelters," he added. The military and some pledged a truce this month as the country recovers from March's devastating magnitude-7.7 earthquake which killed more than 3,700 people.

of its adversaries had

After four years of war, Myanmar's military has turned to conscription to bolster its ranks after suffering stinging territorial losses against the myriad of anti-coup fighters and ethnic armed organisations opposing its rule.

But analysts say it is still far from defeat, with a superior array of military hardware supplied by its backers China and Russia.

#### **CAPTAIN FANTASTIC**

Double delight for Bavuma in South Africa's moment of glory



**GETTY IMAGES** 

Temba Bavuma, who scored 710 runs for South Africa in the current World Test Championship cycle, has led the Proteas to their second senior men's ICC title after the triumph in the 1988 ICC Knockout Trophy. In the process, he maintained his unbeaten record as Test captain, with nine wins and a draw so far.

#### **ZERO TO HERO**

Weird how things worked out after the duck in first innings: Markram



I haven't scored more important runs. Weird how things worked out after the duck in the first innings. I needed a bit of luck... spent some time in the middle and found runs, glad things worked out. The reception [I got from the fans] will stick out. Lord's is the place every Test cricketer wants to play — Aiden Markram.

#### FOR THE NATION

It's special and may be a stepping stone for greater things: Maharaj



It's special, it's an honour to lift the cup for everyone out here and back home. It's what the country's about, the unity among everyone in the last five days. I think the emotions would've spurred me into the right direction had I got into bat... may this be a stepping stone for greater things to come — Keshay Maharai.

#### TOP STUFF

Markram's knock was one of the best I've ever seen: Rickelton



Walking out in the fourth innings was always going to be tricky. The wicket trying to look a little better. The guys batted brilliantly. Aiden's was one of the best innings I have ever seen. The magnitude of the occasion against such an experienced attack was special. There were a few nerves - Ryan Rickelton.

## Markram makes it a majestic day for Rainbow Nation

The Proteas hunt down 282 with five wickets in hand to dethrone Australia; the opener's gritty 136 proves the bedrock of the fabulous run chase, the second-highest at Lord's



## WTC FINAL

**Agence France-Presse** 

Markram's magnificent century was the cornerstone of South Africa's fivewicket victory over Australia in the World Test Championship final Lord's on Saturday as the Proteas ended decades of cricket heartbreak by finally winning a major ICC

South Africa, set 282 to win, finished on 282 for five before lunch on the fourth day, with opening batter Markram falling for 136 after taking South Afri-

## **SCOREBOARD**

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS 212 in 56.4 overs.  ${\bf SOUTH\,AFRICA-1ST\,INNINGS}$ 138 in 57.1 overs. **AUSTRALIA - 2ND INNINGS** 207 in 65 overs.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - 2ND INNINGS (Target 282) Aiden Markram c Head b Hazlewood 136 (207b, 14x4), Ryan Rickelton c Carey b Starc 6 Labuschagne b Starc 27 (50b, 5x4), Temba Bavuma c Carey b

Cummins 66 (134b, 5x4), Tristan Stubbs b Starc 8 (43b), David ca to within six runs of the title. The Proteas resumed on 213 for two, needing just

69 more runs for victory. South Africa did suffer a setback early on Saturday Bedingham (not out) 21 (49b, 1x4), Kyle Verreynne (not out) 4 (13b); Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-2): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 83.4 overs):

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-9 (Rickelton, 2.1 overs), 2-70 (Mulder, 17.4), 3-217 (Bavuma, 58.6), 4-241 (Stubbs, 70.3), 5-276 (Markram, 80.6).

**AUSTRALIA BOWLING** Starc 14.4-1-66-3, Hazlewood 19-2-58-1, Cummins 17-0-59-1 Lyon 26-4-66-0, Webster 5-0-13-0, Head 2-0-8-0.

PoM: Markram South Africa won by five wickets.

when Bayuma was caught behind off Australia captain Pat Cummins to end a partnership of 147 with Markram.

Markram then cut fast

South Africa, the WTC champion. took home \$3.6 million while the runner-up Australia earned \$2.16

bowler Cummins for a resounding four to the delight of what was effectively a 'home' crowd, given the large number of South Africa fans who had packed into Lord's. He then got the target down to 50 by pulling Cummins for another four.

It was left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc who raised Australia's hopes by bowling Tristan Stubbs for eight with a superb delivery that cut back sharply.

Australia took the new ball with South Africa just needing 14 more runs to win at 268 for four.

But Markram drove the first delivery with the new ball, from Josh Hazlewood, for four, and the next one for three. He was unable to finish the job, however, a pull off Hazlewood caught by Travis Head.

It was left to Kyle Verreynne to hit the winning run as South Africa completed the second-highest chase to win a Test at Lord's, behind West Indies' 344 for one, requiring 342, against England in 1984.

This Test was also a personal triumph for Kagiso Rabada, who finished with match figures of nine for

## This time for South Africa!

K.C. Vijaya Kumar CHENNAI

It was a March night at Mirpur on the outskirts of Dhaka. Graeme Smith faced the media with moist eyes. The first question, more a statement, was brutal: "They used to call you chokers earlier, now they are calling you jokers."

The South African skipper had just lost the 2011 World Cup quarterfinal against New Zealand by 49 runs while chasing a target of 222, and it fitted into the template of a team notorious for faltering in the climax. Still, that question was a knife being twisted in. Smith, with enormous restraint, spoke about why men's campaign ground to a halt.

This tale of being so close and yet so far was repeated often. The last stumble being the 2024 T20 World Cup final where India prevailed over Aiden Markram's men by seven runs at Bridgetown. South Africa won an ICC silverware in 1998 - The Wills International Cup, which later became the Champions Trophy, and the title drought interminably.

All those ghosts of the past and snide remarks were finally laid to rest on a glorious Saturday when South Africa claimed the ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's. A five-



Bending his back: Markram ensured there were no hiccups in the fourth innings. AP

wicket victory in a match the Aussies dominated for a large part, revealed the steel within Temba Bavuma's men. On the hopemetre, what Bavuma's troops achieved is on par with the feat of Kapil's Devils in the 1983 World Cup.

This triumph was a tribute to what Bavuma and his lead stars like spearhead Kagiso Rabada and Markram achieved. Conceding a first-innings lead and still to find that belief deep within is remarkable.

Equally, it was a redemption song for a Rainbow Nation that dealt with the spectre of apartheid, and the resultant sporting isolation, before Nelson Mandela applied the healing touch while a country regained its spirit and made a slow comeback.

Often a sigh accompanied cricketing yarns about South Africa. The lost years of Graeme Pollock, Barry Richards, Mike Procter and to some extent Clive Rice. The subsequent losses in ICC events despite being a fine side. The match-fixing crisis that tainted Hansie Cronie. The list seemed endless till it was time to laugh aloud and welcome a new champion in the willow game.

Once Shakira sang "This time for Africa" in her 2010 'Waka, Waka' number. Bavuma and his men will perhaps whisper: "This time for South Africa." Sport offers hope. It always does.

## Purpose, passion and belief

Fantastic win! Hats off to Markram for the match-winning century, and Temba for leading with such ice and fire all through A.B. DE VILLIERS

Test cricket continues to weave its magic. Markram's composure and Bavuma's grit under pressure stood tall in the fourth how purpose, innings. A century that will be remembered, a partnership that trophy turned hope into

Everything went right from the toss. Enjoy the celebrations HERSCHELLE GIBBS

SACHIN TENDULKAR

history

Masterful Markram! Great win by South Africa led by Temba Bavuma. This was a great advertisement for Test cricket **CHRIS GAYLE** 

phenomenally responsible, nerveless fourth innings centuries from Markram IAN BISHOP

Bosh and boom! What a win for Proteas! They outskilled and outwitted the Australians, showed passion and belief shaped the path to a KUMAR SANGAKKARA

Kavac. brilliant. Rabada was Markram not only engraved his name on the Lord's Honours Board, but also in the history of South African cricket IRFAN PATHAN

Champions finally! Mighty congratulations

## Domestic season to begin on Aug. 28; Duleep Trophy back to the zonal format

## **CRICKET**

**Vivek Krishnan** NEW DELHI

The 2025-26 domestic cricket season will kick off with the Duleep Trophy, starting August 28, and end with the senior women's inter-zonal multiday Trophy on April 3. The schedule for the upcoming season was announced via a press release after the BCCI's 28th Apex Council

meeting on Saturday. The Ranji Trophy is slated to be held from October 15 to February 28. Like last season, the league stage of India's premier First Class competition will be held in two phases. The first phase will be held from October 15 to November 19 while the second phase will involve two rounds from January 22 to February 1. The

knockouts will begin on Fe-**ROBIN UTHAPPA** bruary 6. The Syed Mushtaq Ali

The Ranji Trophy will be held from October 15 to February 28 Duleep Trophy will be contested among six zones this season The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will now include a Super League stage instead of the knockouts New Zealand will play three ODIs

Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy - the T20 and 50-over competitions respectively - will be played during the Ranji break.

and five T20Is from Jan. 11 to 31

Among the key decisions taken at the meeting was a return to the zonal format for the Duleep Trophy. In the 2024-25 season, tournament was played between four teams - India-A, India-B, India-C and India-D - picked by the national selectors.

This year, it will again be contested among the six zones - North, South, West, East, Central and North East. The Syed Mushtaq Ali

Trophy will now include a

Super League stage instead of the knockouts. The Super League stage will feature two groups of four teams each based on standings at the end of the league phase. The group toppers will directly contest the

Meanwhile, the itinerary for New Zealand's white-ball tour of India in January 2026 was also confirmed.

The Black Caps will play three ODIs and five T20Is from January 11 to 31.

Following the stampede in Bengaluru after Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory that led to 11 deaths, the BCCI has also decided to "constitute a committee to formulate comprehensive guidelines aimed at preventing such occurrences in the future".

BCCI office-bearers Devajit Saikia, Prabhtej Singh Bhatia and Rajeev Shukla are part of the committee expected to prepare the guidelines within 15 days.

## U Mumba pulls off a Houdini, sneaks into the summit clash

**Amol Karhadkar** AHMEDABAD

Never had a team made a comeback after trailing 4-7 in an Ultimate Table Tennis knockout match. And never had U Mum-

ba TT been able to breach the semifinal barrier in the first five editions. Both the firsts were achieved on Saturday, courtesy P.B. Abhinandh and Yashaswini Ghorpade. With his back against the wall and trailing 0-2 against Vitor Ishiy, Abhinandh finally found an answer to Ishiy's serve and stretched the match into the deciding tie. Yashaswini then blanked Krittwika Sinha Roy 3-0 on the

last point of the match. After closing out the first two games, Yashaswini raced to a 10-6 lead, Krittfinally getting trapped into Yashaswini's

long-pimpled backhand. But Krittwika then had a four-point spree. But the golden point saw Krittwika finally hit her backhand



Making a point: Yashaswini held her nerve and blanked Krittwika to seal the deal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

long to let the U Mumba camp burst into a wild

bout of celebration. Earlier, captain Harmeet Desai couldn't have gotten the Challengers off to a better start than a clean slate against Lilian Bardet. Harmeet went all out with his forehand winners to not let Bardet get into his game.

But Bernadette Szocs brought U Mumba back into the game by inflicting the first defeat on Zeng Jian. When Szocs and Akash Pal reduced the deficit to 4-5, U Mumbai was back in the match. Ishiy the replacement player who came in for Tiago Apolonia - then put Goa on the cusp of a win. But then started the great escape!

## The result:

U Mumba TT bt Dempo Goa Challengers 8-7 (Lilian Bardet lost to Harmeet Desai 8-11, 4-11 10-11; Bernadette Szocs bt Zeng Jian 11-5, 11-9, 7-11; Szocs & Akash Pal bt Zeng & Desai 11-8, 11-8, 9-11; P.B. Abhinandh lost to Vitor Ishiv 6-11, 4-11, 11-9: Yashaswini Ghorpade bt Krittwika

Sinha Roy 11-9, 11-9, 11-10).

## Sport

## Mixed air rifle gold for Arya-Arjun

China tops the table with four gold, a silver and two bronze; India is third with two gold and two bronze, behind Norway

#### SHOOTING WORLD CUP

**Sports Bureau** 

rya Borse and Ar-Babuta clinched the mixed air rifle gold by beating the Chinese pair of Wang Zifei and Sheng Lihao 17-7 in the shooting World Cup that concluded in Munich, Germany, on Saturday.

The Chinese pair had shot a world record score of 635.9 in qualification, 0.7 point better than the Indian pair. Arya and Arjun stepped it up in the gold medal match for a spectacular finish.

China topped the medals table with four gold, a silver and two bronze.

India was third on the table with two gold and two bronze medals, behind Norway (two gold, a silver and a bronze).

The two bronze medals for India were won by Elavenil Valarivan and Sift Kaur Samra in women's air rifle and rifle 3-position events, respectively.

The results: 10m air rifle:

Mixed team: 1. India (Arya Borse, Arjun Babuta) 17 (635.2); 2. China (Wang Zifei, Sheng Lihao) 7 (635.9 WR); 3. Norway (Jeanette Duestad, Jon-Hermann Hegg) 16 (632.3): 4. USA (Sagen Maddalena, Peter Fiori) 14 (632.1): 6. India-2 (Flavenil Valarivan, Kiran Jadhav) 631.8.

10m air pistol: Mixed team: 1. China (Yao Qianxun, Hu Kai) 16 (585): 2. Armenia (Elmira Karapteyan, Benik Khlghatyan) 4 (580); 3. Germany (Doreen Venekamp, Christian Reitz) 17 (579); 4. Serbia (Zorana Arunovic, Damir Mikec) 13 (580); 6. India-2 (Manu Bhaker, Aditva Malra) 577: 10. India (Suruchi Phogat, Varun Tomar) 576.



Clutch performance: Arya and Arjun beat the Chinese pair of Wang and Sheng in style. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## It's Fynbos vs Sunshine

BENGALURU: Fynbos and Sunshine may fight out the finish of the Benaka Developers Fillies Championship Stakes (1,600m), the first classic event of the season to be held here on Sunday (June 15). There will be no false rails

MALENAHALLI (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 1.30 p.m.: 1. Sea Diamond (8) Ramswarup 62, 2. Verrazzano (1) A.A. Vikrant 62, 3. Wakizashi (4) B. Dharshan 61.5, 4. Star Of India (6) Neeraj 59.5, 5. Daiki (9) M. Rajesh K 59, 6. Ice Storm (3) P.P. Dhebe 58.5, 7. Embosom (2) Jagadeesh 56.5, 8. Burning Arrow (7) Angad 56 and 9. Recreator (5) Koshi K 53. 1. STAR OF INDIA, 2. VERRAZZANO,

2 AMOKBASH MILLION (Div. II), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.05: 1. Sea Glory (5) Sid-Neeraj 54.5, 3. Flight Of Fancy (8) (3) Suraj 54.5, 5. Jalwa (7) C.A. Brisson 54.5, 6. My Honey (6) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 7. Supernal (2) R. Ajinkya 54.5, 8. White Secret (4) Sai Kiran 54.5 and 9. Whitney (1)

1. FLIGHT OF FANCY, 2. INDIAN **BROCADE, 3. DIVINE SECRET** 

3 STEWARDS CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 95 2 40 rated 60 to 85, 2.40: 1. Forseti (11) Hindu S 60, 2. Metzinger (10) R. Vaibhav 60, 3. All Attraction (6) Suhas K 58.5, 4. Mandarino (1)

Sandesh 58, 5. Sekhmet (5) Antony 57, 6. Splendido (9) D. Patel 56, 7. Stellantis (3) Ramswarup 54.5, 8. Asagiri (2) Siddaraju P 54, 9. Invincible (7) Angad 54, 10. Positano (4) Akshay K 54 and 11. Thundering Phoenix (8) P.S. Kaviraj 51 1. POSITANO, 2. MANDARINO,

3. THUNDERING PHOENIX AMOKBASH MILLION (Div. I), AMOKBASH MILLION (Div. I), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3.15: 1. Double Your Money (9) Sai Kiran 56, 2. Jade Mountain (3) R. Vaibhav 56, 3. Konkrah (4) Sandesh 56, 4. Ransomware (5) M. Rajesh K 56, 5. Akitania (7) C. Úmesh 54.5, 6. Best Of Us (6) M. Prabhakaran 54.5, 7. Emerald Touch (8) Neeraj 54.5, 8. Mnemosyne (1) Suraj 54.5 and 9. Roxxane (2) Hindu S 54.5. 1. KONKRAH, 2. MNEMOSYNE,

3. AKITANIA BENAKA DEVELOPERS FILLIES 5 CHAMPIONSHIP (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms), 3.50: 1. Bishop (12) G. Vivek 56, 2. Dubai Touch (3) A. Prakash 56, 3. Fynbos (2) Trevor 56, 4. Gloriousness (15) Suraj 56, 5. Kavya (9) N.S. Parmar 56, 6. Laguna Seca (11) C. Umesh 56, 7. Miracle Star (5) Likith Appu 56, 8. Miss Smiley Angel (7) Hindu S 56, 9. Moon Star (4) Neeraj 56, 10. Mountain Jewel (8) Antony 56, 11. Mrs Brando (6) R. Ajinkya 56, 12. Northern Waves (1) Sai Kiran 56, 13. Ravishing Beauty (-) (-) 56, 14. Sunshine (13) S.

Saqlain 56, 15. Vegatha (14) I.

Chisty 56 and 16. Xanthe (10) Sandesh 56. 1. FYNBOS, 2. SUNSHINE,

3. GLORIOUSNESS

PARSIANA PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4.25: 1. Victoria Doresaani (4) Pavan 62, 2. Aquamatic (3) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Golden Time (1) R. Aiinkva 59, 4, Star Concept (6) Shezad Khan 57.5, 5. Lauter-brunnen (2) Angad 57, 6. Treasure Chest (7) R. Manjhi 57, 7. Super Sapphire (8) M. Prabhakaran 56.5, 8. Vyasa (5) G. Vivek 53 and 9. Amazing Attraction (9) P.P. Dhebe

1. VYASA, 2. AQUAMATIC, 3. VICTORIA DORESAANI

RICHELIEU PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Iron King (5) Trevor 61, 2. Knotty Scotty (9) G. Vivek 61, 3. Ex traordinary (2) Ganesh S 59.5, 4. Mutual Trust (6) Darshan 56.5, 5. Sassy Sarah (3) S. Shareef 53.5, 6. Most And More (7) A.S. Peter 53 7. Feeling Good (1) Vinod Shinde 52, 8. Sling Shot (11) Likith Appu 51.5, 9. Thrill Of Brazil (10) I. Chisty 51.5, 10. Martha (8) M. Rajesh K 51, 11. Lorven's Glory (4) P.P. Dhebe 50.5 and 12. Gismo (12)

Siddaraju P 50.

1. IRON KING, 2. KNOTTY SCOTTY, 3. SASSY SARAH

Day's best: STAR OF INDIA Double: POSITANO - KONKRAH Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

## **SNAPSHOTS**

#### Indian teams lose to Australia in Pro League

The Indian men's and women's hockey teams lost by a similar 3-2 scoreline to Australia in the FIH Pro League hockey in Antwerp and London respectively on Saturday.

The results: Men: At Antwerp: Australia 3 (Nathan Ephraums 42, Joel Rintala 56, Tom Craig 60) bt India 2 (Abhishek 8, 35).

Women: At London: Australia 3 (Courtney Schonell 16, Lexie Pickering 26, Tatum Stewart 35) bt India 2 (Deepika 44, Neha 52).

#### Pranati wins vault bronze in Asian gymnastics c'ships

Pranati Nayak clinched her third bronze medal in women's vault at the Asian artistic gymnastics championships in Jecheon, Korea, on Saturday. The 30-year-old scored 13.666 and 12.866



in her two attempts to log a total of 13.466. Earlier, she had medalled in 2019 and 2022. Protistha Samanta, finished fourth with 13.016. Meanwhile, in the junior women's category,

Avantika Negi (10.333) became the first Indian to qualify for the uneven bars

Burns fires 65 to grab US

Open lead Sam Burns matched the third-best US Open round ever fired at Oakmont. shooting a five-under par 65 to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round as big names struggled.

Heavy rains drenched Oakmont, halting play for the day at 8:15 p.m. local time with 13 golfers yet to finish their second rounds.

The top scores: 137 - Sam Burns 72-65; 138 - J.J. Spaun 66-72; **139 -** Viktor Hovland 71-68: 140 - Ben Griffin 69-71. Adam Scott 70-70.

141 - Victor Perez 71-70; 142 -Kim Si-Woo 68-74. Thomas Detry 69-73, Russell Henley 70-72, Brooks Koepka 68-74.

#### Thunder rallies to beat Pacers, levels NBA Finals 2-2

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 15 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter as

the Oklahoma City Thunder rallied for a gritty 111-104 victory over the Indiana Pacers that leveled the NBA Finals at two games apiece on Friday.

The result: Indiana Pacers 104 (Pascal Siakam 20, Tyrese Haliburton 18, Obi Toppin 17) lost to Oklahoma City Thunder 111 (Gilgeous-Alexander 35, Jalen Williams 27, Alex Caruso 20, Chet Holmgren 14).

#### MCC outlaws 'bunny hop' boundary catches

**Boundary catches** involving 'bunny hops', or multiple airborne touches outside the rope, have been deemed illegal by the Marylebone Cricket Club, with the new ruling set to be integrated into ICC's playing conditions this month and the MCC's laws from October next year. As part of its revision, the MCC clarified that any fielder making a second

contact with the ball after jumping from beyond the boundary must land inside the field of play, or else a boundary will be awarded. The rule will also apply to relay catches. If a fielder parries the ball while airborne outside the boundary and fails to return inside the field before the catch is completed – even by a teammate – it will be ruled a boundary.

#### LIVE TELECAST

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m. **Ultimate Table Tennis: JioHot**star, 7.30 p.m.

Ireland vs West Indies: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 7.30 p.m Formula One: Canadian GP. F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 11.30 p.m.

## Ricardo bags the Meydan Plate

BENGALURU: Arjun Mangalorkar trained Ricardo (Trevor up) won the Meydan Plate (1,200m), the main event of the races held here on Saturday (June 14).

The winner is owned by Mr. Haider Soomar, M/s. Arun Alagap-Racing LLP. Kankaria Chandrakanth Mukteshwar Racing LLP.

1. KRANJI PLATE (2,000M): RE-FRESHMENT (G. Vivek) 1, Amazing Stride (Neeraj) 2, Gold Empire (Suraj) 3 and Carat Love (Pavan) 4. 3-1/2, 1-1/4 and 30-1/2. 2m 07.96s. Rs. 24 (w), 15 and 16 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 29, FP: 70, Q: 42, Trinella: 35/15. Favourite: Amazing Stride. Owners: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. Kumar, Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Dean Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2. SIR CECIL PLATE (1,200M): EBOTSE (Aleemuddin) 1, Smile Of Beauty (Ramswarup) 2, Augusto (G. Vivek) 3 and Isabelle (Pavan) 4. 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and Lnk. 1m 15.17s. Rs. 44 (w), 18, 16 and 19 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 61, FP: 158, Q: 55, Trinella: THP: 61, FP: 158, Q: 359/229, Exacta: 1,402/627. Fa-

Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Pro-

duce Co Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas'. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar

3. IUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200M): DIABLO (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Don Carlos (Trevor) 2, Whirlwind (Neeraj) 3 and Vibrant Bliss (Akshay K) 4. Shd, 1-1/4 and 3 Im 17.45s. Rs. 205 (w), 47, 12 and 36 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 83, FP: 1,602, 357, Trinella: 79,906, Exacta: 89,952 (carried over). Favourite:

Owners: Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Mr. Teegala Sumant Reddy, Dr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Satish Kumar Reddy Poondla, Mr. Giri Prath-amesh Mahadev, Mr. Bollineni Krishnaiah & Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Prasad Raju K.S.V.

4. WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY CUP (1.600M): ALAMGIR (Surai) 1. Pristine Glory (Neeraj) 2, Darrington (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Edmon ton (Kuldeep S) 4. 4, 3-1/2 and 5-1/4. 1m 44.76s. Rs. 16 (w), 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 31, FP: 25, Q: 21, Trinella: 60/42, Exacta: 77/31. Fa vourite: Alamgii

Owners: Mr. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

5. MEYDAN PLATE (1,200M): RI-CARDO (Trevor) 1, Imperial Blue (Pavan) 2, Uchuchaihshravas (Neeraj) 3 and Crown Drive (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. Nk. 3 and 3-1/4. Im 16.84s. Rs. 27 (w), 14, 31 and 29 (p), SHP: 94, THP: 62, FP: 179, Q: 235, Trinella: 6,083/2,607, Exacta 95,177/40,790. Favourite: Ricardo.

Owners: Mr. Haider Soomar, M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria & Mukteshwar Racing LLP. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar

6. ROYAL COMMAND PLATE (1,200M): POLE STAR (N Darshan) 1, Basilica (Ramswarup) 2, Sienna Princess (Sai Kiran) 3 and El Rey (Aleemuddin) 4. 6-3/4, 2 and 1/2. Im 17.10s. Rs. 47 (w), 17, 26 and 21 (p), SHP: 62, THP: 51, FP: 869, Q: 258, Trinella: 1,613/1,273, Exacta: 3,265/1,088. Favourite: El Rey.

Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj, Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd & Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: Rs. 1,49,447 (three tkts); (i): 6,463 (one tkt); (ii): 435 (57













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## **News in Frames**



**Sparkling start:** A decorated boat during the opening ceremony of the Khelo India Beach Games on the Ghoghla Beach on the Diu Island on May 19.



**Show of strength:** Athletes in action during the beach kabaddi game. The spirit of the athletes at the Khelo India Beach Games was both fierce and joyous.



**Radiant ending:** Artists turn the closing ceremony of the Games to a celebration of the Union Territory as the competitive rivalry comes to an end.



Aiming for the net: Beach soccer teams from Kerala and Maharashtra fight it out.

# Surf, sand and sports

Over 1,300 athletes from across India competed in six events in the inaugural edition of Khelo India Beach Games organised in May on Ghoghla Beach near Diu town



Shashi Shekhar Kashyap shashi.shekhar@thehindu.co.in

he inaugural edition of Khelo India
Beach Games organised in May in the
Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar
Haveli and Daman and Diu was a show
of mixed emotions. The elation of victories
paralleled the disappointments of falling short.

During the open water swimming event, which was held under adverse weather conditions, parents were worried and were waiting on the shore for their competing children to safely return from the sea. Their concerns were drowned in the cheers of local people, volunteers

and supporters for the children.

The games were held on the blue-flag certified Ghoghla Beach near Diu town. Over 1,300 athletes from 31 States and Union Territories competed in six events – beach soccer, sepak takraw, pencak silat, open water swimming, beach volleyball, and beach kabaddi. Ironically, landlocked Manipur came out as the champions

by the sandy shores of Ghoghla.

Apart from the competition events, the hosts

also put the U.T.'s own sporting talent on display on the final day of the games, demonstrating agility with Mallakhamb – a traditional form of gymnastics; strength with tug-of-war; and grit with boxing.

The five-day event gave mediapersons a lot to deal with as photographers often had to deal with unwanted clutter in the background while looking for the perfect frame. Others would have to rival the decibel levels of booming speakers to get across to athletes.

The natural lighting of dawns and dusks made covering the games early in the morning or late in the evening incredibly interesting, especially the events of beach kabaddi and sepak takraw, in which players were sort of flying over the sand to score points under the rising/setting sun spinning its own web.

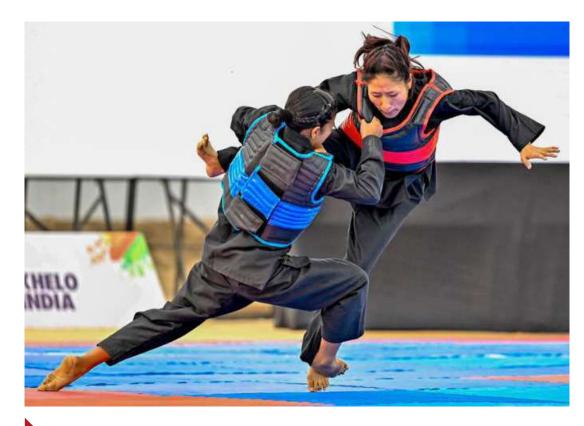
The Games had its moments despite challenges, and the beach sports community will hope that the competition augurs well for its future



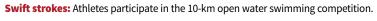
Grabbing eyeballs:
A player from
Maharashtra sends
the ball back in a
beach volleyball
game.

## News in Frames





**Until one wins:** Two women slug it out at the pencak silat competition.





**Champion of the water:** Renukacharya Hodmani, representing Karnataka, secured the top spot in the men's category in the 10-km open water swimming contest.



**Fine balance:** Athletes perform Mallakhamb at the opening ceremony.



With all their might: The Kerala men's tug of war team in action during the final match.

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