

# TRICOLOUR ESTATE

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

Saturday  
23.05.2026

Pages: 4  
Price: Rs.2

Volume: 1  
Issue: 4

Published from Jagtial  
Circulated to Telangana

PRGI Regd: TGENG/26/A3325  
www.tricolourestate.com

## Rajya Sabha Polls on June 18



New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced the schedule for biennial Rajya Sabha elections to fill 24 seats falling vacant across 10 states due to the retirement of sitting members in June and July 2026. Polling for all seats will be held on June 18, with counting scheduled later the same day. According to the Commission, the election process will begin on June 1 with the issuance of notifications. The last date for filing nominations is June 8, while scrutiny of papers will take place on June 9. Candidates can withdraw nominations till June 11. Polling, where required, will be conducted between 9 am and 4 pm on June 18, and counting will begin at 5 pm. The entire process is expected to conclude before June 20. The vacancies have arisen from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Mizoram. Prominent leaders retiring from the Rajya Sabha include former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh and JMM patriarch Shibu Soren. The Election Commission said strict monitoring and necessary arrangements would be made to ensure free and fair elections.

## SC Questions Quota for IAS Kids

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned whether children of families that have already achieved educational and economic advancement through reservation should continue to avail OBC quota benefits, observing that such progress also leads to social mobility. Hearing a petition related to creamy layer exclusion in Karnataka, a bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan remarked that reservation benefits should not continue indefinitely for families that are already well placed socially and economically. "If both parents are IAS officers, why should their children get reservation?" Justice Nagarathna observed during the hearing. The court made the remarks while examining a plea challenging a Karnataka High Court judgment that upheld the exclusion of a candidate from reservation benefits on creamy layer grounds. The petitioner, belonging to the Kuruba community classified under Category II(A) among Karnataka's backward classes, had secured selection as an assistant engineer in the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd under the reserved category. However, authorities denied him a caste validity certificate



after concluding that he fell within the creamy layer category. The family's annual income was assessed at around Rs 19.48 lakh, with both parents serving as state government employees. During the hearing, Justice Nagarathna observed that educational and economic empowerment naturally improve social status and questioned the rationale of extending reservation benefits to children whose parents are educated, employed in senior government positions and financially secure. "There has to be some balance. Once parents attain a level through reservation and are well

placed in society, social mobility is already there," she said. Senior advocate Shashank Ratnoo, appearing in the matter, argued that salary income alone cannot determine creamy layer status for government employees. He contended that creamy layer exclusion depends primarily on the service category of parents, such as whether they belong to Group A or Group B services, rather than salary levels. He also argued that salary and agricultural income are traditionally excluded while assessing creamy layer eligibility and warned that considering all salary income could blur the distinction between OBC reservation and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservation. The Supreme Court noted that the petitioner's father was drawing a basic salary of Rs 53,900 per month while the mother earned Rs 52,650 per month. The petition arises from a Karnataka High Court division bench ruling which overturned an earlier single judge order favouring the candidate. The High Court had held that Karnataka's creamy layer policy applied differently from Union government norms and concluded that the candidate's family income exceeded the prescribed limit.

## Delhi HC Grants Umar Khalid Interim Bail

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday granted three days' interim bail to Umar Khalid in the UAPA case related to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 North East Delhi riots. A division bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain allowed Khalid to be released from June 1 to June 3 under strict conditions. Khalid had sought 15 days' interim bail to attend family rituals following his uncle's death and to assist his mother, who is scheduled to undergo surgery. During the hearing, Khalid's advocate argued that he had previously complied with bail conditions granted for family occasions. Delhi Police opposed plea, stating that the surgery was minor and family could take care. Taking an "empathetic view," Court granted limited interim bail and directed Khalid to remain in constant contact with the Investigating Officer and use only one mobile phone during the bail period.

## Hormuz Crisis Sparks Oil Alarm

New Delhi: The continuing closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions involving Iran has triggered fears of a global oil supply crisis, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) warning that energy markets could soon enter a dangerous "red zone." The Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of global seaborne oil trade passes, remains heavily disrupted due to the conflict in West Asia. According to IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol, the shutdown has removed nearly 14 million barrels of oil per day from global markets. The disruption has intensified pressure on global energy supplies at a time when many countries are already battling inflation, slow economic growth and geopolitical uncertainty.

refers to a situation where global oil reserves and emergency stockpiles become insufficient to absorb further supply shocks. In such conditions, even minor disruptions could trigger severe shortages and sharp price hikes. To stabilise markets, the IEA and member nations had already released nearly 400 million barrels from strategic reserves earlier this year. However, officials warn that reserves are now depleting rapidly while supply disruptions continue. Brent crude prices have jumped from around \$72 per barrel before the conflict to nearly \$105. Analysts warn prices could cross \$120 if tensions escalate or tanker movement through Hormuz remains restricted.

### Global Impact Deepens

The prolonged disruption is affecting economies across Asia, Europe and Africa. Rising fuel



prices are increasing transportation costs, airline expenses and industrial production costs worldwide. Countries heavily dependent on imported energy are expected to face the worst impact. Poorer nations could witness food inflation and supply shortages due to rising transportation and fertiliser costs. India has also experienced fuel price pressure in recent weeks, with aviation turbine fuel and petrol prices increasing in phases before tax cuts were introduced in Delhi and Mumbai to ease the burden.

### Demand, Diplomacy and Risks

The crisis has worsened due to peak summer travel demand, which has sharply increased global fuel consumption. Jet fuel prices have surged, while shipping and logistics sectors continue to face disruptions linked to the Gulf conflict. Meanwhile, peace negotiations remain uncertain, with tensions between Iran and the United States continuing over sanctions and regional security issues. Analysts warn that any renewed attacks on Gulf oil infrastructure could trigger another major spike in prices. Experts say the Hormuz crisis has once again exposed the world's dependence on key energy routes. While the IEA remains prepared to release more reserves if required, economists warn that prolonged instability could deepen inflation and slow the global economy further.

## Akunuri Murali Resigns

Hyderabad, May 22: Telangana Education Commission chairperson Akunuri Murali on Friday resigned from his post, a little over three months before the completion of his tenure. In his resignation letter addressed to Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, Murali stated that the Commission had completed the task of submitting a comprehensive report on education reforms and recommendations to the government. Murali, who was appointed on September 6, 2024, headed the Commission during a period marked by several controversial recommendations related to entrance exams, fee reimbursement, teacher policies and regulation of private school fees. The Commission had proposed scrapping TG EAPCET and suggested admissions to professional courses be based on Intermediate marks. It also recommended merging the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education with the School Education Department. Another major recommendation was the removal of the fee reimbursement scheme for poorly performing private colleges, which drew criticism from students and educational institutions. The Commission also suggested reforms in teacher recruitment and salary structures, including ending automatic promotions for newly recruited teachers and introducing periodic performance reviews. Several of the recommendations triggered strong opposition from students, teachers and education sector stakeholders. The Commission had also prepared a draft Bill for regulating private school and junior college fees, though the government did not take it up.



## Book Your Ad Space

Reach thousands of readers daily. Place your advertisement in

TRICOLOUR ESTATE

English Daily.

Call: +91 9440455811

tricolourestate@gmail.com

Contact our marketing team for rates and offers.

## SBI Staff Strike Deferred



New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday announced that the proposed two-day strike by the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation (AISBISF), scheduled for May 25 and 26, has been deferred, ensuring normal banking operations across the country. In an advisory to customers, SBI said all branches and banking services would function normally without any disruption during the period. The strike was earlier called by the employees' federation over issues such as staff shortages, outsourcing of jobs,

pension concerns and wage parity. The union had submitted a 16-point charter of demands, including filling vacant posts, recruitment of messengers and armed guards, stopping outsourcing of permanent jobs and improving pension flexibility under the National Pension System (NPS). The federation had also expressed concern over increasing workload on employees and security issues at branches due to shortage of armed guards. Prior to the strike call, the union had planned protests, demonstrations and campaigns across the country. However, following discussions between employee representatives and SBI management, the agitation was withdrawn. With the strike deferred, customers can continue to access regular banking services without interruption.

## RBI Approves ₹2.86 Lakh Crore Dividend

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India has approved a dividend payout of ₹2,86,588 crore to the Central Government for the financial year 2025-26. The decision was taken at the RBI board's 623rd meeting in Mumbai chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The board also approved transfer of ₹1,09,379 crore to the Contingent Risk Buffer while maintaining the buffer at 6.5% of the RBI balance sheet. According to RBI, its gross income rose 26.42% during FY26, while net income before risk provisions stood at ₹3.95 lakh crore compared to ₹3.13 lakh crore in FY25.

## TG Revises Land Values From May 28

Hyderabad: The Telangana government will implement revised market values for land registration across the State from May 28 as part of efforts to strengthen revenue mobilisation. Officials informed the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Resource Mobilisation during a meeting held at Secretariat on Friday that the revised registration values are expected to significantly increase revenue for the Stamps and Registrations Department. The meeting was chaired by Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and attended by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu. During the meeting, officials also informed the panel that guidelines for the HILT Policy relating to the Industries Department had been finalised and government orders would be issued soon. The sub-committee reviewed revenue performance and targets of key departments, including Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD), Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), Industries, Mining, Revenue, Transport, and Stamps and Registrations. Officials were directed to identify additional avenues for revenue generation and ensure alignment with the State's 2026-27 budget estimates. Bhatti Vikramarka instructed departments to plug revenue leakages and strictly follow prefixed revenue calendars to improve resource mobilisation.

## EDITORIAL

Cockroach Janta  
Trend Rocks  
Social Media

Indian social media witnessed another explosive political trend this week as the phrase "Cockroach Janta Party" rapidly spread across platforms including X, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and WhatsApp groups. What began as a sarcastic online insult soon evolved into a full-scale meme movement, triggering fierce political debates, trolling campaigns, hashtag wars, satire videos, and emotional reactions from supporters and critics alike. The trend reflects how India's political discourse is increasingly being shaped not only by television debates and election rallies, but by memes, viral hashtags, influencer commentary, and digital communities capable of influencing public opinion within hours. Across social media platforms, thousands of users began using the phrase in sarcastic posts aimed at political leaders, governance failures, corruption allegations, inflation, unemployment, and growing frustration over political narratives. Meme creators flooded timelines with edited videos, movie dialogues, AI-generated posters, parody songs, and satirical graphics. Within a short time, the phrase transformed into one of the most discussed online political trends. Political observers note that such viral terminology often emerges from anger, frustration, or deep political polarization. Social media has changed the nature of public political participation. Earlier, political criticism was largely restricted to newspapers, street protests, or television discussions. Today, ordinary citizens with smartphones can influence narratives through short videos, memes, and trending hashtags. The speed with which the "Cockroach Janta Party" trend spread highlights the growing power of digital political culture in India. Many young users participated not through ideological debates but through humor, sarcasm, and viral creativity. Short-form content creators used cinematic dialogues, animated edits, and exaggerated satire to push the trend further. At the same time, supporters of the targeted political ecosystem strongly objected to the phrase, describing it as abusive, disrespectful, and politically toxic. Counter hashtags soon emerged defending party workers and accusing opposition supporters of encouraging online hate.

The incident once again exposed the intense polarization visible in India's online political environment. Political conversations on Indian social media are increasingly becoming emotional and aggressive, with supporters and opponents treating digital platforms as ideological battlefields. Experts say meme culture now plays a major role in shaping public perception. A single meme or slogan can sometimes reach more people than a traditional political speech. This is particularly true among younger internet users who consume politics through reels, shorts, memes, and influencer commentary rather than newspapers or long television discussions. India currently has one of the world's largest digital populations. With affordable smartphones and cheap internet access, social media platforms have become powerful political spaces. Political parties themselves actively use digital campaigns, influencer partnerships, targeted advertisements, and IT cells to shape narratives.

However, the rise of meme-based political communication has also raised serious concerns. Critics argue that online political discourse is becoming increasingly uncivil and personal. Instead of discussing policy, governance, unemployment, inflation, education, or healthcare, much of the debate revolves around insults, trolling, and viral mockery. Digital experts warn that aggressive online polarization can deepen social divisions. The anonymity provided by social media often encourages extreme language that people may not use in offline public discussions. Hashtag wars frequently escalate into abusive exchanges, misinformation campaigns, and coordinated trolling. The "Cockroach Janta Party" trend also demonstrates how political branding can rapidly mutate online. In the internet era, a single phrase can be transformed into memes, songs, AI-generated videos, parody posters, and political satire within minutes. Algorithms further amplify such content because controversy and emotional reactions generate engagement.

Another major factor behind the trend is rising public frustration over economic and social issues. Across digital discussions, users connected the slogan to concerns about unemployment, price rise, corruption allegations, governance failures, infrastructure problems, and political opportunism. While some posts were purely humorous, others reflected genuine anger and political dissatisfaction. At the same time, several users criticised the trend itself, arguing that political criticism should remain civil and issue-based. Many commentators warned that reducing politics to insults weakens democratic discussion and encourages hatred. Political communication experts believe India is entering a new era where memes and digital narratives may influence elections as strongly as traditional campaigning. Viral trends now shape headlines, television debates, and even offline political conversations. Politicians are increasingly forced to respond to online narratives because digital trends can quickly affect public perception.

The incident also reflects the growing role of artificial intelligence in political content creation. Many viral posts connected to the trend featured AI-generated visuals, voice cloning, animated political satire, and edited videos designed for rapid social media circulation. AI tools are making meme production faster, cheaper, and more sophisticated than ever before. Several analysts believe such trends reveal both the strength and weakness of modern democracy. On one side, social media allows citizens to express frustration instantly and participate in political conversations. On the other side, the speed of viral culture often encourages emotional reactions over factual debate.

## A Call for Austerity: Every Rupee Counts

In times of economic challenge, the strength of a nation lies in the collective discipline of its people and its leaders. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has outlined key austerity measures that every citizen should embrace. These are not mere suggestions, but a call to national duty.

## Austerity Measures for Citizens:

- 1. Postpone Gold Purchases :** Delay buying gold by at least one year. Gold imports drain foreign exchange. Preserving our forex reserves is critical for National Stability today.
- 2. Conserve Fuel :** Save petrol and diesel. Carpool whenever possible. Choose alternative transport. Prefer Electric Vehicles. Students and office-goers should use bicycles where feasible. Cycling improves health and is practical in villages and towns.
- 3. Harness Solar Power :** India is blessed with abundant sunshine. We delayed adopting Solar Energy. Now is the time

to accelerate. Install Rooftop Solar Panels and generate your own electricity.

**4. Reduce Edible Oil Use :** Cut consumption by at least 10%. It saves money and improves health.

**5. Embrace Gold-Coated Jewellery :** Women can lead by choosing gold-coated jewellery over real gold, reducing import burden without losing tradition. The Government is also setting an example. Official convoys can be reduced by 50%. Courts should immediately expand virtual hearings. Any transaction that can go online, must go online.

## Austerity Measures for Governments:

- 1. Public Representatives:** MPs and MLAs are servants of the people, not employees. Salaries and pensions for public representatives should be reconsidered. Payment of Reasonable Honorarium is advised.
- 2. Downsize Official Quarters:** Where possible, reduce the size and cost of Government Housing.



**3. Rationalize Vehicle Use:** Strict supervision of fuel consumption and vehicle repairs to prevent waste.

**4. Digital Shift:** Exams should gradually move online. All Government Services that can be virtual should shift without delay.

**Vote by Mobile :** Software engineers should develop secure ways for citizens to cast votes using mobile phones. We can streamline procedures in due course.

Citizens, government employees, Banks, and corporates must all understand austerity :



**K. Lakshman Rao**  
Former Faculty  
Indian Bank  
Bangalore

spend only what is necessary. I propose forming a dedicated committee to prepare Comprehensive Austerity Guidelines for all Departments, including Parliament. Our long-term goal must be clear. We must move from a deficit Budget to a Balanced Budget where Revenue equals Expenditure. It is tough, but achievable. The interest on our Borrowings is huge. We must curtail Borrowings. This is our moment. Let us rise to the occasion. Jai Hind.

## A Symbol of Communal Harmony

## Ramadugu's 'Young' Sarpanch Moiz..!

**Ramadugu (Karimnagar):** A true public representative is not one who merely enjoys power, but one who actively contributes to public welfare. Proving this in action is Ramadugu village Sarpanch Mohammed Moiz from Karimnagar district. Within just four months of being elected, he has surprised everyone by spending approximately ₹42 lakh from his own earnings for the development of the village, without waiting for government funds. His development initiatives are now being widely discussed not only in the constituency but across Karimnagar district.

## Rising Step by Step..

**A Leader Among the People**  
Moiz has an exceptional understanding of village administration. He served as Panchayat Karobar from 2013 to 2018, gaining grassroots experience, and later as a Ward Member from 2018 to 2024, staying ac-

cessible to the people. In the recent elections, with the Sarpanch seat under general reservation and seven candidates contesting, Moiz emerged victorious with a majority of 522 votes, reflecting the people's trust in his service-oriented approach.

## Lighting the Path for Ramadugu

Within a month of assuming office, he made his mark. To eliminate darkness on the village's main road, he installed 100 streetlights using ₹2 lakh from his personal funds, addressing the difficulties faced by residents.

## Communal Harmony.. Devotional Commitment

Though a Muslim, Mohammed Moiz respects the village's traditions and culture, setting an example of communal harmony. His financial support towards temple development is widely appreciated. Sri Venkateswara Vittaleswara Swamy Temple: He spent around ₹25 lakh from his own funds for granite flooring over

7,000 square feet, repainting the temple, constructing a permanent platform for the Kalyana Mandapam, and providing basic infrastructure-restoring the temple's grandeur.

**Spiritual Service:** During Hanuman Jayanti, he organized 11 days of free food distribution (Annadanam) for devotees. He also conducted the Sita-Rama Kalyanam ceremony in a grand manner and offered silk clothes during the festivities. Notably, sacred Talambalu (ritual rice) were specially brought from the Ayodhya Ram Temple, and the Kalyanam Mahotsavam was performed with great devotion in the village.

**Continuous Development Works:** He spent around ₹7 lakh for another Hanuman temple and about ₹10 lakh for the Sri Venugopala Swamy Temple at Shapur, and a small Hanuman temple, undertaking granite and painting works using his personal funds.

**Public Appreciation:** Within a short span, Moiz has put the village on a path of development



by utilizing his personal resources for public welfare. The people of Ramadugu are praising him, calling him a leader who takes full responsibility for the village. His journey, rising above caste and religion, is emerging as an inspiration for other public representatives.

## Adluri Hits Back at KTR

Jagtial, May 22: State Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar strongly criticized BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over his remarks against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that the former minister should exercise restraint in his language. Addressing the media in Jagtial district, the minister said KTR should be careful while making statements and warned that otherwise Congress workers across all 33 districts of the state would respond strongly. Laxman Kumar alleged that KTR's recent comments were influenced by internal family disputes and claimed that the people of the state no longer have confidence

in the BRS party. He stated that referring to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in a disrespectful manner was not appropriate for a former minister. The minister also expressed confidence that the Congress party would remain in power in the state for the next 20 years. Taking a further swipe at the BRS leadership, Laxman Kumar said that regardless of KTR's efforts, the BRS party would not return to power in the state. The minister noted that during K. Chandrashekar Rao's tenure as Chief Minister, Congress leaders had never resorted to personal criticism. He said targeting the Chief Minister personally would not elevate anyone polit-



ically. Questioning the previous BRS government's record, he asked what had been done for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and minority communities during its ten years in power. He further stated that after coming to power, the Congress government had released ₹1,000 crore worth of bills for the welfare of SCs, BCs, and minorities.

## IT Dept Issues ITR Filing Tips

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has shared simple guidelines for first-time Income Tax Return (ITR) filers to make the process easier for taxpayers. In a post on X, the department said filing ITR is "simpler than you think" and advised users to follow basic steps. Taxpayers were asked to gather all income details, verify Form 26AS and AIS statements, choose the correct ITR form, and complete e-verification after filing. Department also announced that online filing and Excel utilities for ITR-1 and ITR-4 for Assessment Year 2026-27 are now available on the e-filing portal.

## Hyderabad Man Jailed for Harassing Parents

Hyderabad, May 22: A Hyderabad court sentenced a 44-year-old man to 60 days in jail for allegedly harassing and ill-treating his elderly parents under the limits of Narayan-guda police station. Police said the accused, G. Srinivas, had been repeatedly troubling his aged parents, following which a case was registered. After investigation by Police, the accused was produced before the Special Judicial Magistrate Court in Nampally.

## Do Not Play Politics With Students

## BJP Leader Dr. Bhoga Sravani

Jagtial, May 22: BJP Jagtial Assembly constituency in-charge Dr. Bhoga Sravani on Friday urged public representatives to keep politics away from students' future and allocate at least five acres of land for the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jagtial district. Addressing a press conference at the BJP district office in Jagtial, she said the school would sig-

nificantly improve quality education opportunities for local students. She noted that the Navodaya Vidyalaya in the district has been functioning successfully due to the efforts of MP Dharmapuri Arvind and said a Kendriya Vidyalaya would further strengthen the education sector. Dr. Sravani suggested the Chalg area as a suitable location and criticized proposals to allot



only two acres, saying it could lead to rejection of the project. She also demanded proper planning for Integrated Schools, which require 20 acres of land. Alleging irregularities in development works carried out with ₹62 crore central funds in Jagtial Municipality, she sought a vigilance inquiry into works across wards 1 to 48, including road, divider, housing and tree-related projects.

## Modi to Hand Over 51,000 Job Letters

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited candidates under the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela on May 23. According to the Centre, the Prime Minister will hand over the appointment letters through video conferencing at 11 am and address the recruits during the event. The Rozgar Mela will be conducted at 47 locations across the country as part of the government's employment generation initiative aimed at speeding up recruitment in central departments and organisations. The selected candidates will join various ministries and departments, including Railways, Home Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Financial Services and Higher Education. The government said nearly 12 lakh appointment letters have been issued so far through 18 Rozgar Melas conducted nationwide since the launch of the programme.

## Pune Lecturer Held in NEET Paper Leak Case

Pune: The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a Pune-based lecturer for allegedly leaking the Physics question paper of NEET UG 2026. The accused, Manisha Sanjay Havaldar, worked as an expert in the NEET process for the National Testing Agency and allegedly shared questions with another accused, botany lecturer Manisha Mandhare, in April. Investigators said the leaked questions matched the actual Physics paper. The CBI has so far arrested 11 accused from multiple cities, including Delhi, Jaipur, Gurugram, Pune and Nashik. During searches, officials seized laptops, mobile phones, bank documents and other materials. Following allegations of a paper leak, the NTA cancelled the May 3 NEET UG exam, with the re-examination scheduled for June 21.

## ACB Raids Ex-Deputy Collector's Properties

Medchal, May 22: Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau officials conducted raids at multiple properties linked to former Medchal-Malkajgiri Deputy Collector Vamsi Mohan in a disproportionate assets case on Friday. ACB teams searched eight locations and reportedly identified assets worth several crores. A case was registered against the former official for allegedly possessing assets beyond his known sources of income. Sources said Vamsi Mohan faced allegations of irregularities and misuse of government lands during his tenure in the Revenue Department, including alleged land misappropriation in Abdullapurmet and Pignipuram. Investigators suspect some properties were registered in the name of his father-in-law and later sold to a real estate developer. During the raids, officials also reportedly found evidence that he received 10 plots as a gift deed from a developer. The investigation is continuing.



# SRH crush RCB

Hyderabad, May 22: Sunrisers Hyderabad delivered a powerful statement ahead of the playoffs by crushing defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 55 runs in a high-scoring IPL 2026 clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Despite the heavy defeat, RCB still secured a top-two finish and a place in Qualifier 1 thanks to a superior Net Run Rate, earning the crucial advantage of two chances to reach the IPL final. Batting first, SRH produced one of their most destructive performances of the season, piling up a massive 255 for 4 in 20 overs. The innings was built on explosive knocks from Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen. Abhishek Sharma gave SRH a flying start with a blistering 56 off just 22 balls, attacking RCB's bowlers from the outset. He dominated the powerplay and put immediate pressure on the visitors with fearless strokeplay. Ishan Kishan then anchored the innings with a composed yet aggressive 79 off 44 deliveries, finding boundaries regularly while maintaining the momentum. The biggest damage, however, came from Heinrich Klaasen, who smashed 51 off just 24 balls. The South African batter



tore apart Josh Hazlewood during a brutal over that yielded 27 runs and ensured SRH crossed the 250-run mark comfortably. Nitish Reddy added late fireworks with an unbeaten 29 off 12 balls. SRH's innings featured 20 fours and 16 sixes as RCB's experienced bowling attack struggled badly on a batting-friendly surface. Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Rasikh Dar Salam all conceded heavily. Chasing 256, RCB began aggressively with Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer opening the innings. Venkatesh provided quick momentum with a rapid 44 off 19 balls as RCB raced to 75 in the powerplay. However, the chase lost momentum after his dismissal. Kohli failed to convert his start and departed for 15, while Devdutt Padikkal managed 21 before falling. Rajat Patidar scored a half-century and

added 84 runs with Krunal Pandya, but the partnership never truly threatened SRH's dominance. Patidar's 50 came off 37 balls and lacked the aggressive intent needed in such a massive chase. RCB eventually finished at 200 for 4, appearing more focused on preserving Net Run Rate and ensuring qualification rather than risking a complete collapse while chasing the target. SRH bowlers also impressed on the same batting surface. Eshan Malinga bowled effectively while captain Pat Cummins picked up three wickets despite the high-scoring conditions.

### RCB seal Qualifier 1 spot

While RCB walked away with the strategic advantage of Qualifier 1, SRH's commanding victory sent a strong warning to the remaining playoff teams. Their all-round dominance and fearless batting display reinforced their reputation as one of the most dangerous sides heading into the knockout stage.



## Tesla plans Hyderabad Sales



Hyderabad, May 22: Tesla has expressed interest in establishing a sales and service centre in Hyderabad, according to the Telangana government. During a meeting with Telangana IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu, Tesla India representatives discussed plans to launch operations in the city as part of the company's expansion in India. The state government said Hyderabad was chosen after Tesla opened showrooms in four other locations across the country. Officials added that the company is exploring opportunities in the city's growing electric vehicle and intelligent mobility ecosystem. Sridhar Babu highlighted Telangana's strengths in semiconductor design, automobile software, electronics engineering and deep technology sectors. He also invited Tesla to consider expanding ancillary industries related to its operations in the state and assured full government support for future investments. Tesla India General Manager Sharad Agarwal and Lead Public Policy and Business Development Director Rajat attended the meeting.

## NIMS Completes 2,000 Kidney Transplants

Hyderabad, May 22: Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has achieved a major milestone by successfully completing 2,000 kidney transplant surgeries, emerging as one of the country's leading government hospitals in organ transplantation. NIMS Director Dr. Beerappa announced that the institute, which performed its first kidney transplant in 1989, has now crossed the 2,000-transplant mark under a single institutional programme. He credited the achievement to the dedicated efforts of the Urology and Nephrology departments along with the supporting medical staff. Dr. Beerappa also thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha for supporting advanced healthcare

services at the institute. According to officials, nearly 95 per cent of transplant patients received treatment free of cost through the Aarogyasri scheme and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). The government is also providing lifelong post-transplant medicines free under Aarogyasri. NIMS has handled several complex transplant procedures, including paediatric and repeat kidney transplants, and also performed South India's first robotic kidney transplant in a government hospital. Health



Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha congratulated the NIMS medical team and said the achievement reflects Telangana's growing strength in providing world-class healthcare through public hospitals.

## Thailand Ends 60 Day Visa Free Stay

Bangkok: Thailand has cancelled its 60-day visa-free entry scheme for Indian travellers, bringing an end to the facility introduced in 2024 to boost tourism. The revised visa framework, approved by Thailand's Cabinet on May 19, will now require Indian tourists to visit the country through the Visa on Arrival (VoA) system or other applicable visa categories. The decision is part of Thailand's broader effort to simplify and reorganise its visa policies for foreign visitors from 93 countries and territories. Thailand remains one of the most popular international destinations for Indian tourists due to its beaches, nightlife, shopping and affordable travel options. The withdrawal of the ex-



tended visa-free stay is expected to impact travel planning for long-term visitors and budget travellers. However, Indian citizens can still travel to Thailand using the Visa on Arrival facility, which allows short-term tourist visits subject

to immigration rules and documentation requirements. The new rules are expected to come into effect soon following Cabinet approval, according to Thailand's Department of Consular Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## SC Revokes Ban on NCERT Academics

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday revoked its earlier order barring three academics linked to a controversial NCERT Class 8 chapter on judiciary corruption from participating in academic projects of public educational institutions. A bench led by Chief Justice



Surya Kant also removed its earlier adverse remarks against the academics, which had accused them of projecting a negative image of the judiciary before students. The order came after the Court heard applications filed by Professor Michel Danino, Suparna Diwakar and Alok Prasanna Kumar seeking recall of the earlier directions. The Court clarified that the Union and State governments are free to independently decide whether to associate the academics with future educational projects. The matter relates to an NCERT chapter discussing corruption in the judiciary and judicial delays. Earlier, the Supreme Court had ordered the removal of the chapter and banned textbooks carrying the content.

## Two Indians Die After Scaling Everest

Two Indian mountaineers, Arun Kumar Tiwari and Sandeep Are, died while descending from Mount Everest after successfully reaching the summit, officials in Nepal said. According to expedition authorities, Sandeep Are summited Everest on Wednesday, while Arun Kumar Tiwari reached the peak on Thursday evening. Both reportedly suffered severe exhaustion during the descent despite rescue efforts by Sherpa guides. Officials said Are died after being rescued from the Balcony area to the South Col, while Tiwari became exhausted near the Hillary Step during his return journey. With these deaths, the toll on Everest during the 2026 climbing season has risen to five. This season also witnessed a record 274 climbers scaling Everest from the Nepal side in a single day.

## Tulsi Gabbard resigns

Tulsi Gabbard on Friday announced her resignation as the United States Director of National Intelligence (DNI), citing the serious health condition of her husband Abraham Gabbard. In a resignation letter addressed to US President Donald Trump, Gabbard said her husband had recently been diagnosed with an extremely rare form of bone cancer and would require her support during the difficult treatment and recovery process in the coming months. "I am deeply grateful for the trust President Trump placed in me and for the opportunity to lead the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for the last year-and-a-half," Gabbard said in the letter. She added that her resignation would take effect from June 30. Explaining her decision, Gabbard said the demands of the position made it impossible for her to

continue balancing public service and family responsibilities at such a critical time. "My husband Abraham has stood beside me through military deployments, political campaigns and public service. I cannot in good conscience ask him to face this fight alone while I continue in this demanding position," she said. Gabbard noted that while significant progress had been made in improving transparency and restoring integrity within the US intelligence community, there was still important work ahead for the agency. She said she would work closely with officials over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition without disrupting the functioning of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Trump responded to the development, praising Gabbard for her work during her tenure.

## UPI to Launch in Cyprus Next Year

New Delhi: India's Unified Payments Interface will become operational in Cyprus from next year, expanding the country's digital payment network in Europe. The development follows agreements signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Cyprus in June 2025. The rollout will be implemented through an agreement between NPCI International Payments Limited and Eurobank Cyprus to enable cross-border digital payments. Officials said the move would strengthen cooperation between India and Cyprus in fintech, trade and financial connectivity. Cyprus joins countries such as France, Singapore, UAE, Sri Lanka and Mauritius in adopting or partnering with UPI-based payment systems. India has also signed agreements with Peru, Namibia and Trinidad and Tobago for similar digital payment collaborations.



Rittikaa Chakraborty

## Satyadev's next film titled **Samavarthi**

Hyderabad, May 22: Actor Satyadev Kancharana's upcoming action thriller has been officially titled "Samavarthi", the makers announced on Friday. The film is directed by Ajay Nag V and is being billed as an ecological action thriller, a genre that blends high-intensity action with themes rooted in nature and environmental conflict. The title and first-look poster were shared by Satyadev on his social media platform X, creating strong buzz among fans. In his post, Satyadev expressed excitement about the project, stating that the film promises to deliver a powerful cinematic experience. He also praised director Ajay Nag V, calling his filmmaking "poetry in motion," and thanked the producers for their support. "Samavarthi" marks the 16th film of Satyadev's career as a lead actor. The film is produced by Shivacharan Reddy Jakkidi and Shashidhar Reddy Padamati under Rudra Pictures and Panchabhuta Productions. According to the makers, the film is set against a backdrop of nature-driven conflict and explores human survival and resistance within an ecological framework. The first-look poster shows Satyadev in an intense avatar, listening to music through headphones while armed attackers move towards him, with symbolic references to nature, including a tiger in the



background. The film features a strong supporting cast including Dileesh Pothan, Rajeev Kanakala, Ganavi Laxman, Ravindra Vijay, and Mohan Bhagath. On the technical front, the film's music is composed by Sinjith Yerramilli, while cinematography is handled by Harsha Mallikarjun and Dev Deep Gandikundu. Editing is by Aditya Tiwari, and art direction is by Mondru Ravikumar. "Samavarthi" will release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, with expectations building for a grand theatrical release.

## Animesh Kujur Breaks 100m Record, Qualifies for CWG

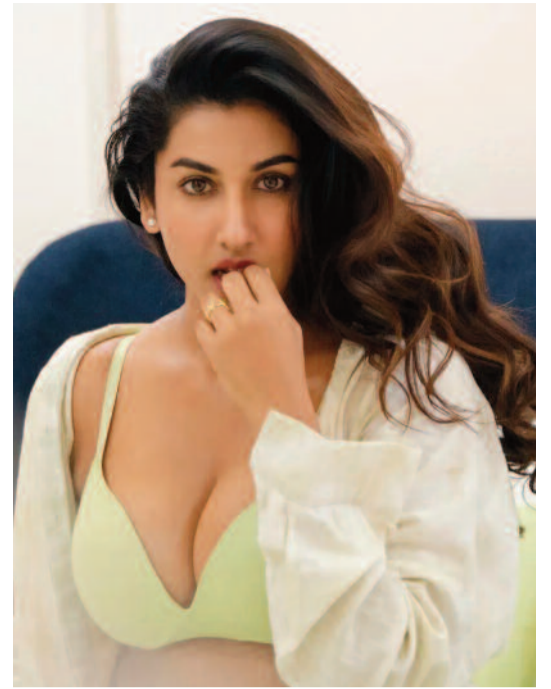
Odisha sprinter Animesh Kujur set a new national record in the men's 100m by clocking 10.15 seconds at the National Senior Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi. The performance also secured him qualification for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. The 22-year-old achieved the feat in the semifinal round at Birsamunda Stadium, improving on the previous national record of 10.18 seconds. Fellow sprinter Gurindervir Singh briefly held the record earlier in the event with 10.17 seconds before Kujur reclaimed it. In other events, Seema qualified for the Commonwealth Games in women's discus throw with a gold-winning effort of 57.29m, surpassing the qualifying mark. The competition also saw strong performances in long jump and 10,000m races on the opening day.



## Vishnu Priya files harassment complaint

Vishnu Priya Bhimineni on Friday approached the Miyapur police in Hyderabad alleging online harassment, abusive trolling and circulation of defamatory content against her on social media platforms. In her complaint, Vishnu Priya stated that several unidentified individuals had allegedly been targeting her through objectionable posts and offensive comments on Instagram and other social media platforms over the last few days. The actress and television anchor alleged that organised trolling campaigns were being carried out with the intention of damaging her reputation and character. She said certain users were spreading false and defamatory content, causing mental distress and personal embarrassment. Vishnu Priya submitted

a written complaint seeking strict legal action against those involved in the alleged harassment. She requested police to identify the social media accounts responsible for circulating abusive and objectionable content and take action under relevant cybercrime and harassment laws. Police officials confirmed that the complaint had been received and that preliminary verification of the social media accounts mentioned in the complaint was underway. According to officials, investigators are examining the nature of the posts, comments and online activity linked to the alleged trolling campaign.



## Wall Street Eyes Potential IMAX Sale

Shares of IMAX Corporation surged after reports that the company may be exploring a potential sale, sparking investor interest and speculation about possible buyers. According to reports, IMAX has held preliminary discussions through intermediaries, though no formal takeover offer has been made. CEO Richard Gelfond has previously said the company could operate independently or as part of a larger entertainment group. Analysts believe IMAX could attract a wide range of buyers, including streaming platforms, technology firms, private equity, and media companies such as Netflix, Apple, Sony, and Amazon. IMAX is viewed as an attractive asset due to its global brand, premium cinema technology, and strong box office performance, including a record \$1.28 billion global box office last year. However, analysts say major Hollywood studios may avoid bidding due to competition concerns. The company's stock rose about 14% following the reports, with its market value estimated at around \$2.1 billion.



## Aishwarya dazzles



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan made a striking appearance at the Cannes 2026 Film Festival, dazzling in a shimmering sapphire-blue gown that quickly went viral on social media. The actress, who arrived at the festival with her daughter Aaradhya Bachchan, was seen on red carpet. Her outfit featured sequined detailing, a plunging neckline, feather-inspired shoulders, and a flowing mermaid silhouette with cape-like drapes. She completed the look with diamond jewellery, soft glam makeup, and wavy hair, earning widespread praise online. The appearance also comes amid earlier speculation about her absence from Cannes 2026 promotions, which was later dismissed by her brand, calling her a "living legend."

## Vijay Shankar retires from cricket

All-rounder Vijay Shankar has announced his retirement from domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League (IPL), bringing down the curtain on a career spanning over a decade across formats. The 33-year-old shared his decision through a heartfelt message on social media, stating that he is stepping away from active cricket to pursue new opportunities. He expressed gratitude to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), his teammates, coaches, and franchises for their support throughout his journey. Shankar, who made his domestic debut for Tamil Nadu in 2012, went on to play 77 first-class matches, scoring 4,253 runs and taking 43 wickets. In List A cricket, he featured in 112 games, while also appearing in 159 T20 matches across domestic and franchise competitions. In the IPL, Shankar represented multiple teams including Chennai Super Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Delhi Capitals, and Gujarat Titans. He was part of the Gujarat Titans squad during their title-winning 2022 season and later re-



turned to Chennai Super Kings in 2025. He also represented India in 12 ODIs and 9 T20Is between 2018 and 2019. Shankar was part of India's squad for the 2019 ODI World Cup and delivered several memorable performances, including a wicket on his first World Cup delivery against Pakistan. Reflecting on his career, Shankar said playing for India remained his "highest badge of honour" and recalled key moments such as his contribution in India's 500th ODI and his early international breakthroughs.

## Agni-1 test Successful

New Delhi, May 22: India on Friday successfully test-launched the Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) Agni-1 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha, the Ministry of Defence said. According to an official statement, the launch validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile system and was carried out under the supervision of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC). The test is part of India's ongoing efforts to strengthen its strategic defence capabilities and ensure the reliability of its missile systems. Defence officials said the missile's performance during the trial was "a textbook launch," meeting all mission objectives.

## Kohli tops T20 50+ partnerships

Hyderabad, May 22: India's Virat Kohli has emerged as the leading batter in men's T20 cricket for involvement in 50-plus partnerships, underlining his long-standing consistency in the shortest format. According to latest statistics, Kohli has been part of 211 fifty-plus stands, placing him ahead of England's Alex Hales (210). Australia's David Warner (200) is third on the list, followed by Pakistan captain Babar Azam (196) and West Indies legend Chris Gayle (191). The data highlights Kohli's sustained impact in building crucial partnerships across international cricket and IPL, reinforcing his reputation as one of the most dependable T20 batters.



## AICM Season 4 Begins in Mumbai

All India Chess Masters Season 4 will begin today in Mumbai, featuring an 8-round FIDE-rated classical format at the Mumbai Chess Centre. The tournament, running from May 23 to May 28, will be held at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Pedder Road. It will feature top-seeded players including Shreyansh Somaiya, Aditya Kadam, and other rising talents from across India. Organisers said the event aims to provide a strong competitive platform for young players.