

Hindus Granted Unrestricted Entrance In Bhojshala, ASI Issues Order



Bhopal/Dhar, May 16 (GNS): Following a significant judgment by the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the Archaeological Survey of India has issued a comprehensive official order regarding the Bhojshala complex situated in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. It has granted unrestricted access to the Hindu community to the Bhojshala complex to observe the ancient practices of learning and the worship of Goddess Saraswati. The order, bearing dated May 16, 2026, implements immediate changes to the administrative and operational framework of the protected site.

Under the newly issued guidelines, the Hindu community is granted unrestricted access to the Bhojshala complex to observe the ancient practices of learning and the worship of Goddess Saraswati, recognising its history as a centre for Sanskrit grammar, language, and literature. However, because the complex will continue to remain a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, the exact timings for visitors and devotees will be determined by the Superintending Archaeologist in direct consultation with the local district administration. Furthermore, the Superintending Archaeologist and district authorities will collaborate to define the specific permissible activities for learning and worship, ensuring the overall conservation and protection of the monument. This latest order completely supersedes all previous orders issued regarding the monument. The Archaeological Survey of India issued these fresh directions in direct response to the High Court order passed on May 15, 2026.

India dreaming big, youth aspires to lead in AI, semiconductors: PM Modi

New Delhi, May 16 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is dreaming big and the country's youth now aspire to propel the nation forward in emerging sectors such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and semiconductors.

Addressing the Indian diaspora at an event in The Hague, PM Modi said today's India is going through a phase of unprecedented transformation and has emerged as a global leader in technology, innovation and digitalisation. "Today, India is dreaming big. India's youth aspires to propel the country forward in the fields of AI and semiconductors," the Prime Minister stated. "India is home to the



world's third-largest startup ecosystem. Our startups are doing remarkable work in AI, defence and space sector," PM Modi explained.

He said India recently hosted the world's largest and most successful AI Summit, following the suc-

- The Prime Minister highlighted that India has carried out the world's largest unique identification programme and also implemented the world's biggest financial inclusion initiative.
- "The scale and speed of digitalisation in the country are unprecedented, while India is also operating the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme," the Prime Minister stated.

cessful hosting of the G20 Summit, adding that such achievements are no longer isolated events but have become the defining character of modern India. The Prime Minister highlighted that India has carried out the world's largest

unique identification programme and also implemented the world's biggest financial inclusion initiative. "The scale and speed of digitalisation in the country are unprecedented, while India is also operating the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme," the Prime Minister stated. Referring to India's achievements in science and technology, PM Modi said the country has reached parts of the Moon where no nation

had gone before, underlining India's growing capabilities in space exploration and innovation. He noted that India is now home to nearly 125 active unicorns and said Indian startups are doing remarkable work in sectors such as AI, defence and space technology. According to the Prime Minister, the country's startup ecosystem has become the third-largest in the world, driven largely by the aspirations and innovation of young Indians.

"Aspirations in India are unlimited, so efforts are also becoming limitless," PM Modi said, stressing that the country's youth are playing a central role in shaping India's future growth story. "India's progress is being powered by a combination of innovation, entrepreneurship, digital infrastructure and inclusive development initiatives, which are transforming the country at an unprecedented pace," the Prime Minister added.

Jitendra calls for revamp of training institutes

NEW DELHI, May 15 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that Administrative Training Institutes and governance institutions across the country must reinvent themselves and shun stereotype models to remain relevant.

Addressing the concluding session of the National Departmental Summit on



"Institutionalising Capacity Building: From Training to Performance-Linked Governance" through virtual mode, the Minister said, Mission Karmayogi is steadily moving towards an integrated AI-integrated governance framework link-

ing capacity building, competency development, technology and public service delivery. Dr. Jitendra Singh said governance reforms today require transparency, timeline discipline, ease of procedures and optimum use of technology sup-

ported by innovation and human sensitivity. Referring to governance reforms undertaken in recent years, he said annual grievances received on CPGRAMS have increased from nearly 2 lakh in 2014 to more than 25-30 lakh presently, reflecting growing public trust due to improved responsiveness and accountability. He also referred to the success of Digital Life Certificates, noting that nearly 10-11 crore certificates have already been generated, enabling pensioners to complete formalities digitally without physical visits.

Centre Modernising 736 Dams Under Rs 10,211-Crore Rehabilitation Programme



NEW DELHI, May 16 (GNS): India is implementing one of the world's largest dam-rehabilitation programmes under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP), with rehabilitation proposals worth Rs 5,053 crore for 191 dams already approved and major physical-rehabilitation work completed at 43 dams till March 31, 2025, according to the Jal Shakti Ministry.

The ministry said the second and third phases of the DRIP, operationalised in October 2021, together cover 736 dams across 19 states and three central agencies — the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

Major dams planned for

safety improvement under the second and third phases of the project include the Bhakra Dam (Himachal Pradesh), the Ranjit Sagar Dam (Punjab), NTR Sagar (Telangana), the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam (Telangana), the Gandhi Sagar Dam (Madhya Pradesh), the Kadana Dam (Gujarat), the Jirgo Dam (Uttar Pradesh), the Imphal Barrage (Manipur), the Myntdu Leshka Dam (Meghalaya) and the Silabati Barrage (West Bengal), among others.

The total project outlay for DRIP-II and III is Rs 10,211 crore — Rs 5,107 crore for Phase-II and Rs 5,104 crore for Phase-III. Of this, Rs 7,000 crore are being provided as external loan assistance, while Rs 3,211 crore are being borne by the participating states and central agencies.

Poor, working-class to bear direct brunt of fuel price hike: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, May 16 (GNS): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday said the fuel price hike would severely impact the lives of millions and called on the government to take measures to curb inflation.

In a post on X, the former chief minister also expressed concern over the massive loss of lives and property in recent storms in Uttar Pradesh and urged the state government to assist the affected families

with utmost generosity. "Amidst the relentless rise in the prices of essential commodities, particularly petroleum products, the central government's decision to hike the prices of petrol and diesel by Rs 3 per litre will severely impact the lives of millions of poor and working-class families, and the middle class alike," Mayawati said. These families would bear the direct brunt of the fuel price rise

and hence, the government must take necessary and meaningful steps to curb such steps, she said.

Petrol and diesel prices were raised by Rs 3 per litre on Friday for the first time in more than four years, as surging global crude prices following the Iran war forced state-run fuel retailers to pass on part of their mounting losses after months of holding rates steady through key state elections.

Agriculture Backbone Of Economy, Livelihood: Chouhan

New Delhi, May 15 (GNS): A high-level meeting related to the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) was held today under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, at his office located at 12, Safdarjung Road in New Delhi.

During the meeting, the Union Minister conducted a detailed review of the functioning and activities of the Indian Council of Agricul-

al Research. On the occasion, ICAR Director General and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Dr M. L. Jat, briefed the Union Minister in detail about the various programmes and activities being carried out under ICAR across the country.

He also informed the Union Minister about the future roadmap and explained how the Council is working to ensure maximum benefit for Indian agriculture and farming communities across the country. During



the meeting, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructed officials that agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for a large sec-

tion of the country's population and provides a strong foundation to the Indian economy. He said that all efforts and energies should be directed towards making Indian agriculture more productive, low-cost and a profitable profession.

The Union Minister laid special emphasis on the wide-scale promotion and expansion of integrated farming and said that farmer brothers and sisters should be encouraged to adopt it in a practical manner. He stated that this would help

increase farmers' incomes and strengthen sustainable farming practices.

Shri Chouhan said that scientific agriculture is the need of the hour. He noted that the impact of climate change has now become clearly visible not only in India but across the world. Keeping these circumstances in mind, he directed officials to work rapidly, with the consent of states, towards preparing state-wise agricultural roadmaps in accordance with the agro-climatic conditions of each state.

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Sikkim is not just organic in agriculture but organic by character: Vice President

Gangtok, May 16 (GNS) Greeting the people of Sikkim on the occasion of the Statehood Day celebrations, the vice president said that the journey of the Himalayan State over the last 50 years has been extraordinary. He noted that as a student he had closely followed the developments relating to Sikkim's merger with India and expressed happiness at being present today at the 51st Statehood Day celebrations. Describing Sikkim as "green, organic, neat and clean", the Vice President remarked that Sikkim is not only organic in agriculture but also "organic by character". Referring to his road journey in the State, he said he witnessed the disciplined and compassionate nature

of the people of Sikkim. He added that good thoughts and harmonious living strengthen both individuals and society. The Vice President stated that Sikkim stands as a shining example of what harmony between nature, culture and governance can achieve. Congratulating the people of the State on the occasion, he said the 51st year of Statehood would usher in a new phase of growth, transformation and inclusive development. Paying tribute to the first Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Kazi Lhendup Dorjee, the Vice President said that he would always be remembered as a visionary leader who guided Sikkim through a historic democratic transition with wisdom,



courage and commitment. Referring to the recent visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Sikkim during the closing ceremony of the State's 50th year of Statehood celebrations, the Vice President noted that several development projects worth

over Rs. 4,000 crore had been launched and dedicated to the people. He highlighted the Prime Minister's vision of "Act East, Act Fast" and described Sikkim as an integral part of the "Ashtalakhmi" of the North-East. The Vice President said

that the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047" is rooted in inclusive development where no region is left behind. Commending the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in the

North-East, he highlighted the expansion of railway and heliport facilities across the region. Referring to his recent visit to Mizoram, he said improved rail connectivity has boosted trade, tourism and economic growth in the North-East.

Expressing confidence that Sikkim too would soon get direct rail connectivity, he noted that it would help the State's organic products reach markets across India and strengthen its contribution to Viksit Bharat @2047. Appreciating the Government of Sikkim under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang, the Vice President said that the State has emerged as a global model of sustainable development. He recalled that Sikkim became the world's first 100 per cent organic State in 2016 and termed the transformation of over 76,000 hectares of agricultural land into a chemical-free ecosystem as not merely an agricultural reform but a "cultural revolution".

The Vice President praised initiatives such as "Mero Rukh Mero Santati", under which 108 trees are planted for every child born, and the "Sishu Samriddhi Yojana", which provides financial security to children. He said such initiatives reflect the State's commitment to linking spirituality with sustainability and environmental leadership with social security. Highlighting the strategic importance of Sikkim, the Vice President described the State as a sentinel of the nation. He said the unity among communities, spirit of cooperation and deep sense of patriotism among the people make Sikkim a strong pillar of India's integrity.

Mamata Banerjee tells tmc leaders to rebuild party, leave if they want

KOLKATA, May 16 (GNS): After the TMC faced an electoral setback, party supremo Mamata Banerjee urged its candidates who contested the recent assembly polls to rebuild the organisation, asserting that those wishing to quit the party were free to do so. At a meeting with the Trinamool Congress' contesting candidates at her Kalighat residence on Friday, attended by its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, she said the organisation would rise again despite suffering a crushing defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections. "Those who are leaving for other parties, let them go. I will rebuild the party



afresh. To those who are staying, I say rebuild the damaged party offices, paint them and reopen them. If needed, I too will paint them. Trinamool Congress will never bow down. People's mandate has been looted," Banerjee was quoted as saying by party sources. The remarks came days after

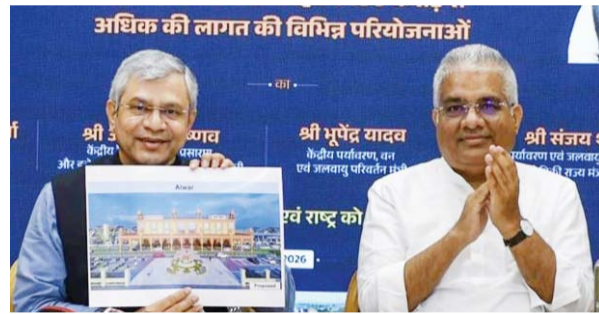
the TMC was reduced from the ruling party to the opposition benches following a dramatic reversal in electoral fortunes. Of the 294 assembly seats in the state, the party managed to win only 80. Mamata Banerjee herself suffered defeat in Bhabanipur, long considered her political bastion. The TMC

had fielded candidates in 291 seats, leaving three seats in the Darjeeling hills to its ally Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) led by Anit Thapa. Of these, only 80 candidates emerged victorious, while 211 lost, including several heavyweight leaders and ministers. The meeting at Kalighat

Redeveloped Alwar station to reflect cultural, architectural heritage of Rajasthan: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, May 16 (GNS): Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday that the redevelopment work of Alwar railway station worth Rs 112 crore is progressing rapidly in accordance with the cultural and architectural heritage of Rajasthan.

Viashnaw, while virtually laying the foundation stone and dedicating to the nation various projects worth over Rs 400 crore in Rajasthan, provided an update on the ongoing work and said that the entry facilities are being developed on both sides of the station to improve urban connectivity. Strategically located on the important Delhi-Jaipur route, Alwar station serves as a major



hub catering to thousands of passengers every day. Keeping in view the continuously rising passenger footfall, the station is being upgraded with improved traffic management systems, ample parking facilities, organised arrival and departure areas, and modern passenger amenities. "The station buildings are being constructed in accor-

ary entrances of the station. "The new station complex, being developed over an area of nearly 16,000 square metres, will showcase modern infrastructure and passenger-centric facilities," a press note from the Railway Ministry said.

"An additional high-level platform, two foot overbridges of six-metre width, and nine modern lifts are also being developed for enhanced passenger convenience," it added. The railway minister said that under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, three other stations in the Alwar area — Govind Garh, Rajgarh and Khairthal — have already been completed.

'...Want To Be Part Of Geography, History Or Not': Army Chief Warns Pakistan



New Delhi, May 16 (GNS): Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday issued a stern warning to Pakistan, saying that if the neighbouring country keeps harbouring terrorists, then it will have to decide whether it wants to be a part of geography, history or not. COAS Dwivedi's response came during an interaction at Sena Samvad 2026, a premier military-citizen dialogue seminar. The Army Chief was asked if Pakistan gives a chance again for continuation of Operation Sindoor, will we hit them hard or harder and whether he wanted to divulge anything about Operation Sindoor which is not known to anyone so far. Responding to the question, General Dwivedi said: "That's in the domain of classified information, but I think if you have heard me earlier, what I have said is that if Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India, then they have to decide whether they want to be a part of geography, history or not." Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, who served as Di-

rector General of Military Operations (DGMO) during Operation Sindoor, had said on the first anniversary of the military operation that Pakistan had been "compelled to negotiate" with India and "requested to stop" strikes against the country during the operation last year. He had described the military operation as possibly a "defining moment" in India's strategic journey. Moreover, Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti, who served as the Director General of Air Operations during last year's military operation against Pakistan, had mentioned at the same event that Indian forces had shot down 13 aircraft and 11 airfields of the rogue nation under the Operation Sindoor. "When our desire for peace is mistaken for weakness, we have no choice but to act. And when we act, there is no room for leniency. It is decisive, lethal and translates into Operation Sindoor," he had said. Meanwhile, at Sena Samvad 2026, Army Chief Dwivedi underlined the "work-life fusion" of the military.

CM Suwendu Adhikari Announces Dismantling Of West Bengal Police Welfare Board

Kolkata, May 16 (GNS): West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday announced the dismantling of the West Bengal Police Welfare Board, which was reportedly run during the previous Trinamool Congress regime by former Kolkata Police Deputy Commissioner Santanu Sinha Biswas, who is currently in Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody over his alleged involvement in money laundering-cum-illegal land grabbing syndicate cases. The Chief Minister also said that an official notification in this regard would be issued by the state administration on May 18. "Today I announce the decision to dismantle the



West Bengal Police Welfare Board. An official notification in the matter will be issued on Monday. Initially, the board was formed with some good intention. But later that board turned into just a branch organisation of a particular political party. I do not know how far the board was successful in en-

suring the welfare of police personnel and their families. But surely at a later stage the board became a tool of convenience for police officers like Santanu Sinha Biswas," the Chief Minister told media persons on the sidelines of an administrative review meeting at Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. Incidentally, the Chief Minister's announcement came after the decision of the new state government to terminate the two-year service extension granted to Sinha Biswas following his arrest by ED officials. Sinha Biswas, considered an extremely close confidant of former West Bengal.

TN Cabinet Expansion On Cards As Vijay Govt Prepares For Lengthy Assembly Session

Chennai, May 16 (GNS): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, who assumed office on May 10 as the head of the State's 17th Legislative Assembly, is expected to move ahead with a major cabinet expansion as the newly formed government prepares for its first full-fledged Assembly session and key administrative decisions. Vijay was sworn in along with nine ministers, including N. Anand, Aadhav Arjuna and K.A. Sengottaiyan, marking the beginning of a new political phase in the state. With the government now settling into office, discussions regarding broader representation within the ruling



alliance and support groups have begun gaining momentum. During Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam's (TVK) first convention at Vikravandi, Vijay had announced that parties and groups extending support to his government would receive appropriate representation in govern-

nance. In line with that assurance, political sources indicate that the Congress party, which joined the alliance after the election, could receive two ministerial berths in the proposed cabinet expansion. Likewise, leaders associated with the S.P. Velumani faction, which split from AIADMK and later extended support to the Vijay-led administration, are also expected to receive representation in the govt. Reports suggest that the faction may be considered for up to five cabinet positions. Meanwhile, other parties and support groups that backed the government are also understood to be seeking representation in the ministry.

Srivastava Praises Institute's Engineer-Doctor Collaboration in Medical Device Innovation; Urges Graduates to Uphold Ethics, Compassion and Scientific Excellence for a "Viksit Bharat"

New Delhi, May 16 (GNS) Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri Jitendra Singh, virtually addressed the annual convocation of the 42nd batch of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, today, in the presence of Union Health Secretary, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, who attended the ceremony as the Chief Guest. The institute is an Institution of National Importance and a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. In his address, Shri Jiten-



dra Singh congratulated the graduating students and the Institute on its Golden Jubilee celebrations. Shri Singh lauded the achievements of the institute and highlighted that approval for the appointment of

nearly 800 permanent faculty members would nearly double its working capacity. He also appreciated the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for establishing the nine-floor Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

(PMSSY) block and the four-floor services block, stating that "the new facilities would strengthen the institute into one of the country's largest centres for neurosurgery and cardiac sciences." Singh congratulated the institute's

doctors for treating more than 17,000 patients under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana since 2020. Referring to the foundation stone laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the Malini Vasundhara Centre, he described it as a major advancement in precision-based, non-invasive treatment for neurological and oncological conditions. Highlighting the institute's contribution to indigenous medical device development, Shri Singh stated that "the unique focus of the institute is in the making of medical devices which are world-class, highly effective, and at the same time indigenous and

cost-effective." He also noted that several world-class and cost-effective technologies developed at the institute are transferred to industry every year, including the 7 technologies that will be transferred this year. Highlighting the institute's eight-institution MoU initiative, Shri Singh described it as "a unique effort that brought together eight leading national institutions to create a collaborative cluster and foster a synergistic research ecosystem." He noted that "such partnerships will strengthen interdisciplinary innovation and advance the country's scientific and healthcare capabilities."

Allen, Raghuvanshi and Green thump GT to keep KKR alive

Eden Gardens, May 16 (UNI): After five successive wins in conditions that weaponised their bowlers and masked their limitations with the bat, Gujarat Titans (GT) found their kryptonite at Eden Gardens. In near-perfect batting conditions, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) ran away to 247 for 2, the highest total anyone has ever scored against GT.

Finn Allen set the tone, hitting 10 sixes in 35 balls on his way to an awe-inspiring 93, and Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Cameron Green carried the baton with impressive unbeaten half-centuries. GT had their chances to minimise the

punishment they took, but they put down four mostly straightforward catches, including two off Allen. Everything needed to go right for GT to be able to get to 248; the highest target they had previously chased down was 204. But after a frenetic start in which they rushed to 42 for no loss in three overs, they simply couldn't keep up with the required rate.

B Sai Sudharsan, who provided much of that early impetus, retired hurt after taking a blow to the elbow, and returned to bat in the 17th over. In between, Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler scored half-centuries and put on a 128-run stand

for the third wicket. But by the time Sai Sudharsan returned, the match was done and dusted, with GT needing an absurd 71 off 22 balls. The one man at the ground who could have pulled off that task was relaxing on KKR's bench: Allen, subbed out at the change of innings. The only sore point of the match for KKR, in the end, concerned the man who came on for Allen. Matheesha Pathirana made his first appearance of the season, but went off the field with a hamstring issue having bowled just 1.2 overs. At the toss, GT captain Gill suggested that the pitch might start out "sticky" before easing out,



and he proved spot-on with his assessment. In the early overs, KKR's batters couldn't quite find their timing with Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada ex-

tracting a little bit of seam and a little bit of spongy bounce. The first two overs produced just eight runs.

Allen got going with back-to-back fours off Siraj in the third over - one was off the inside edge - but could have fallen next ball had Jason Holder been able to cling onto a one-hander at extra-cover. Allen was on 14 at that point.

The ball continued to do a little bit through the powerplay, and KKR ended it at 56 for 1, with Allen on 31 off 15 and Raghuvanshi, new to the crease, having shown his intent with a scooped six over his own head off Rabada. Neither team would have believed they were on

top at this stage. The match shifted decisively in KKR's favour towards the end of the seventh over. Holder got a hard-length ball to climb awkwardly at Allen, and he swatted it straight to long-on, where Siraj put down a sitter. Next ball, Raghuvanshi whipped Holder for a big six over backward square leg.

That was the first of ten sixes that KKR hit over the next 23 legal balls they faced. Allen hit eight of them, and it didn't matter if he was facing pace or spin. If the ball was remotely in his arc, he used his reach and launched it straight and clean with the purest of bat-swings. If it was

remotely short, he rocked back and pulled anywhere in the arc from fine leg to wide long-on.

That frenetic period of play completely cancelled out KKR's somewhat slow start, and the disadvantage they may have had of batting in the trickiest conditions of the match.

R Sai Kishore, bowling his left-arm spin from over the wicket, got Allen to hole out to deep midwicket in the 12th over, seven short of his second hundred of the season. If GT thought they could breathe a little easier, though, they were wrong, because Green and Raghuvanshi continued to find the boundary regularly.

Satwik-chirag storm into first final of 2026 at thailand open

Patumwan (Thailand), May 16 (UNI): India's top men's doubles team, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, reached their first final of the 2026 season after defeating Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in a thrilling semifinal at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok on Saturday.



Chirag carried India's hopes in Bangkok and handled the pressure well in front of a lively crowd that made the semifinal a high-stakes battle. The Indian duo aimed for their first title since winning the Thailand Open in 2024 and their first final appearance since the China Masters in 2025.

The Malaysian pair started strong, leading 3-1 in the opening game before Satwik and Chirag tied it at 7-7. However, a few moments of hesitation and miscommunication allowed Goh and Izzuddin to gain an advantage.

The Malaysians went into the interval with a

three-point lead and later increased it to 18-12, appearing to be in control. But Satwik and Chirag made a strong comeback, scoring four consecutive points to get back into the match.

Each time the Indians closed the gap, the Malaysians held their ground and eventually took the first game 21-19.

The second game was even more dramatic. Both teams exchanged leads in a tense battle, but Satwik and Chirag displayed more confidence and composure than in the first game. They resolved their communication issues and went on a four-point run to lead 11-9 at the break.

Lovlina Borgohain, Sakshi Chaudhary Book Spots For Asian Games And CWG 2026

Patiala, May 16 (UNI): Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and rising star Sakshi Chaudhary secured their spots on India's boxing teams for the upcoming Asian Games 2026 and Commonwealth Games 2026 after impressive wins at the national trials in Patiala on Friday.



Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist and former world champion Lovlina delivered a strong performance in the women's 75kg final, defeating Sanamacha Chanu 5-0 to confirm her place in both major multi-sport events. The 28-year-old narrowly missed direct qualification through the Asian Boxing Champion-

ships in Ulaanbaatar last month after failing to reach the final. According to the Boxing Federation of India's selection policy, only finalists at the continental championships earned automatic qualification for categories included in both the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

Lovlina, who took silver

at the 2023 Asian Games after narrowly missing a podium finish at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, ensured there would be no repeat disappointment as she easily claimed qualification through the trials.

The women's 51kg category sparked significant discussion during the trials as Sakshi Chaudhary

continued her impressive streak by defeating reigning 48kg world champion Minakshi Hooda 5-0 in the final. Earlier, Sakshi had stunned two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen 4-1 in the semifinals, highlighting her rise as one of India's top boxing prospects. Minakshi reached the final after defeating former world champion and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Nitu Ghanghas in the semifinals. Although she won gold in the 48kg category at the Asian Boxing Championships, that division is not part of the Asian Games or Commonwealth Games program, forcing her to move up to 51kg.

India trade talks gain momentum, next round

New Delhi, May 16 (GNS) Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India, and Mr. Maroš Šefo, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, engaged in a forward-looking and substantive dialogue to address global trade challenges and reaffirm their shared resolve to conclude the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025. This commitment builds on the strategic direction given by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen during the landmark visit of the EU College of Commissioners to New Delhi in February 2025.

The high-level engagement underscores the strategic importance both partners



attach to building a commercially meaningful, mutually beneficial, balanced, and a fair trade partnership that supports economic resilience and inclusive growth. The meeting highlighted the progress made across multiple negotiating tracks and emphasized the importance of maintaining the ongoing

momentum through monthly negotiating rounds and continued virtual engagement. Both sides reiterated their aim to address pending issues in a spirit of mutual respect and pragmatism, including at the next round scheduled to be held from 12-16 May 2025 in New Delhi.

India emphasized that

meaningful progress in trade negotiations requires equal focus on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) alongside tariff discussions and regulatory frameworks must be inclusive, proportionate, and avoid restricting trade. The India-EU FTA aspires to reflect the evolving realities of global commerce by support-

ing digital transition, promoting diversified and resilient supply chains. Both sides expressed optimism that the agreement, once concluded, will serve as a transformative pillar of the broader India-EU strategic partnership, enhancing market access, supporting regulatory cooperation, and fostering innovation and competitiveness on both sides. Both sides acknowledged the crucial role of investment flows and people-to-people mobility in sustaining economic vitality.

In the spirit of India's emergence as a "Vishwa Mitra"—a partner to the world—and aligning with its 2047 development goals, the India-EU FTA is seen as an instrument to promote diversified production networks and uphold fair trade principles.

Roundtable Highlights Innovative Green Financing to Boost Investment

New Delhi, May 16 (GNS) On the second day of the High-Level Segment of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS COPs), Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav participated in the Ministerial Interactive Panel discussion on the theme "Means of Implementation."

During the Ministerial Interactive Panel discussion, Shri Yadav presented a summary of key points emerging from the round table discussions with other countries held on 30th April, 2025. The summary of the round table discussions included emphasis on the importance of predictable international



financing mechanisms and the mobilization of domestic resources through tools such as progressive taxation, carbon levies, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The roundtable also discussed the need for innovative financing solutions, including green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, chemical certificates, and green loans, as critical tools to attract private investment—particularly in countries with con-

strained fiscal capacity or those emerging from crises. The necessity of coherent and transparent regulatory frameworks that incentivize private sector engagement through supportive policies such as bans on single-use plastics and tax incentives for green technologies was suggested. The importance of cross-sectoral alignment of environmental goals to drive transformative outcomes was also highlighted.

Minister praises dst's role in advancing research & inclusive development

New Delhi, May 16 (GNS) Marking the 55th Foundation Day of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined India's evolving scientific landscape, emphasizing the need for increased industry involvement to the extent of industry led innovation, changes in approach and long-term innovation to position the country among leading global players.

Addressing a packed audi-



ence that included leading innovators, academicians, researchers and former Secretaries, Dr. Jitendra Singh traced the DST's journey since its inception on May 3, 1971, crediting it with catalyzing India's evolution into a science and technology powerhouse. "The founding of DST mirrors the march of post-inde-

pendence India in the field of science," he said, highlighting how the department has bridged research and governance, turning vision into verifiable outcomes.

The Minister hailed DST's efforts in nurturing a nationwide research ecosystem, particularly through mission-mode programmes

such as the National Supercomputing Mission, Cyber-Physical Systems, and the recent National Quantum Mission. Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that DST's interventions have not only advanced science but also driven grassroots development, with focused efforts on women, children, and marginalized communities.

The Minister spotlighted India's rising global rankings as a measure of DST's impact — from a dramatic leap in the Global Innovation Index (from 81st in 2015 to 39th in 2024), to securing the 3rd spot globally in start-up numbers, PhDs in science and engineering, and research publications.

MSME Credit Access Improves, But 80 Lakh Cr Gap Persists

New Delhi, May 16 (GNS) NITI Aayog today released the report on 'Enhancing MSMEs Competitiveness in India', prepared by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC). The report presents a detailed blueprint for unlocking the immense potential of India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through systemic reforms in financing, skilling, innovation and market access.

The report delves into the key challenges affecting the competitiveness of MSMEs in India. Using firm-level data and the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), it provides recommendations to foster sustainable integration



and enhance their incorporation into global value chains. It focuses on four important sectors - textiles manufacturing and apparel, chemical products, automotive and food processing while highlighting the sector-specific challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed to unlock the potential of

MSMEs in India. The report examines current national and state policies, highlighting gaps in implementation and limited awareness among MSMEs.

One of the important findings of the report is the notable improvement in MSMEs' access to formal credit. Between 2020 and 2024, the share of micro and

small enterprises accessing credit through scheduled banks rose from 14% to 20%, while medium enterprises saw an increase from 4% to 9%. Despite these improvements, the report reveals that a substantial credit gap remains. Only 19% of MSME credit demand was met formally by FY21, leaving an estimated 80 lakh crore unmet. The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has expanded significantly, but still faces significant limitations. To bridge the credit gap and unlock inclusive, scalable finance for MSMEs, the report calls for a revamped CGTMSE, supported by institutional collaboration and more targeted services.

CM Revanth terms fuel price hike betrayal of public trust

Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday strongly criticised the Narendra Modi-led Central Government over the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, terming the decision "unjustifiable" and a "betrayal of public trust." In a post on X, Revanth said the hike in fuel prices would adversely affect multiple sectors and lead to an increase in the prices of essential commodities, placing a severe burden on common people.



He alleged that the country's economy had weakened significantly due to what he described as the Modi government's ineffective governance and flawed economic policies. "Atmanirbhar Bharat' has remained merely an election slogan rather than a policy that delivered real results," he said, adding that small and medium-scale industries had suffered badly and youth were facing

uncertainty over employment opportunities. He further claimed that the promise of doubling farmers' incomes had remained unfulfilled and alleged that the value of the rupee had continued to decline over the past decade. Referring to the Iran-Israel conflict, Revanth accused the Centre of using the war as a pretext for increasing fuel prices, saying the move amounted to "breaking the backs of common people." Questioning the government's economic claims, he asked how the Centre could justify the price hike while simultaneously asserting that India had become the world's third-largest economy. The Chief Minister also accused the BJP-led government of reneging on its assurances made ahead of elections in four states and one union Territory that petroleum prices would not be increased. "Not even ten days after the election results, prices were increased by more than 3. This is a betrayal of public trust," he said. Demanding immediate intervention, Revanth urged the Central Government to withdraw the hike in petrol and diesel prices without delay.

Telangana begins SIR exercise; Final electoral roll to be published on Oct 1



Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharshan Reddy on Saturday announced that house-to-house enumeration under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will be conducted from June 25 to July 24, 2026, while the draft electoral rolls will be published on July 31.

He said the period for filing claims and objections will continue till August 30, and the final electoral roll will be published on October 1. Addressing the media regarding the SIR exercise being undertaken across the State, the CEO explained the schedule and procedures involved in the revision process. Reddy stated that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will distribute partially pre-filled Enumeration Forms (EFs) to existing electors, assist them in filling the forms and collect them during the enumeration process.

He said BLOs are required to visit each household at least three times. Electors will also have the option to submit their Enumeration Forms online through the Election Commission website and may utilise the

"Book a Call with BLO" facility or contact the toll-free voter helpline number 1950 for assistance.

Officials clarified that during the enumeration phase, no documents other than the Enumeration Form would be collected. However, after publication of the draft electoral rolls, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) will issue notices to persons whose details could not be linked or where discrepancies are identified.

Outlining the documentation requirements based on the elector's date of birth, the CEO said electors born before July 1, 1987 must provide any one document establishing their date or place of birth. Those born between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004 must additionally furnish proof relating to either parent, while electors born after December 2, 2004 must provide documents relating to both parents as well.

Accepted documents include birth certificates, passports, educational certificates, caste certificates, family registers, land or house allotment certificates and identity cards issued by government agencies or

public sector undertakings.

Aadhaar-related verification will be carried out in accordance with Election Commission guidelines issued in September 2025, he added. According to the Telangana State electoral profile presented during the press conference, the State has 119 Assembly constituencies, including 12 reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 19 for Scheduled Castes.

Telangana currently has 35,985 polling stations, of which 14,750 are located in urban areas and 21,157 in rural areas. The State's total electorate presently stands at 3,39,24,664, including over 5.22 lakh Persons with Disabilities (PWD) electors, 3,573 overseas electors and 8.18 lakh young voters aged between 18 and 19 years.

Officials further stated that 64.38 per cent of electors have already been mapped under the pre-SIR exercise. Additional CEO Dr Vasam Venkateswar Reddy, Additional Secretary to Government Shankar, Assistant Secretary A.S. Chary, SGDC B. Chennaiah, SGDC N. Prasunamba and PM (IT) Chiranjeevi were also present at the press conference.

4 Nepali nationals arrested in Jawaharnagar dacoity case



Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) Malkajgiri police have arrested four accused in the house dacoity in Jawaharnagar, where a gang of 8 Nepali nationals tied a couple with ropes and made away with gold, silver, other ornaments and cash on May 11.

Four more accused including the two main accused in the case were still absconding. According to the police, Rajesh and Meena, both Nepali nationals, had come to Jawaharnagar few months back and in search of work. To make easy money, they hatched a plan to commit theft in houses.

They targeted the house of Murali Mohan Narasipuram, aged about 68 years, an international

arbitrator by profession and a resident of Plot No 15, Mohans Golf Enclave, Kowkoor, as he was living with his wife in that house.

As per the plan, they teamed up with other workers from Nepal working in the area named Sabeena alias Sunitha, Chang, Samrat, Biswal, Kamal, and Jankar alias Shankar. As per the plan, Meena facilitated Sabeena to join as a domestic worker in the house of Murali Mohan on April 25, and introduced Rajesh as her husband.

Since then, they were waiting to implement their plan, and arranged a fake birthday celebration at the house on May 11, at Meena's servant quarters. Rajesh, Sabeena, Meena, Chang and Samrat entered

into the house on the night on the pretext of attending the birthday party. The remaining accused were waiting outside the gated community with an escape plan. The five attendees of the birthday party restrained the Murali Mohan and his wife, administered an unknown intoxicating/poisonous substance causing them to become unconscious, then tied their hands and legs using plastic tape and clothes, and then threatened them with crowbars.

They broke open the Almirahs inside the house and stole gold ornaments weighing about 60 tola (600 gm), silver articles weighing about 15 kg, two mobile phones, \$ 3000 USD and other valuables.

GITAM's KSPG Signs MoU with RBVRR TG Police Academy

Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) GITAM's Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RBVRR Telangana Police Academy on Friday, marking a significant step towards strengthening collaboration between academia and law enforcement institutions.

The MoU documents were formally exchanged between Abhilasha Bisht, Director General of Police and Director of RBVRR Telangana Police Academy, and D. Gunasekaran, Registrar of GITAM.

Speaking on the occasion, both dignitaries highlighted the importance of partnerships between academic institutions and police training academies in advancing policy research, governance studies, leadership development, and capacity building.

Earlier in her welcome address, Ms G. Kavitha, Deputy Director (In-service), RBVRR Telangana Police Academy, emphasised the role of institutional collaborations in strengthening professional education and public policy engagement.

The partnership aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building in areas such as public policy, governance, leadership, and law enforcement practices. Under the collaboration, both institutions will jointly organise training programmes, workshops, seminars, and conferences for police officers and personnel. KSPG faculty members will contribute academic expertise to training initiatives at the Police Academy, while the agreement also enables the exchange of faculty.

Telangana forms panel to identify statehood movement activists

Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) Acting on the directions of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Telangana Government has constituted a special committee to identify individuals who participated in the Telangana statehood movement and recognise their services and sacrifices.

The General Administration Department issued G.O. Rt. No. 679 on Friday, formalising the constitution of the committee. The government stated that the decision was taken in response to long-standing demands seeking official recognition for Telangana movement activists, many of whom had faced imprisonment, injuries, and hardships during the agitation. Government Advisor K Keshava Rao has been appointed Chairman of the committee. The members include BC Welfare Minister

Ponnamp Prabhakar, MLC M Kodandaram, Government Whip Addanki Dayakar, former MLC S. Ramulu Naik, and Mothe Shobhan Reddy. The Political Secretary of the General Administration Department will serve as the Convener. According to the government order, the committee will formulate guidelines and criteria for identifying Telangana movement activists and prepare a comprehensive list based on those parameters.

The committee will also submit recommendations to the government regarding the recognition, honours, and facilities to be extended to the identified activists. The govt has authorised the committee to summon officials, collect information, conduct meetings, and consult concerned individuals as required for the exercise.

POCSO accused Sai Bageerath remanded to 14-day judicial custody

Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) Bandi Sai Bageerath, who surrendered before Petbasheerabad police station, on Saturday was remanded to 14-day judicial custody and shifted to Central Prison, Cherlapally. As per Cyberabad police, Sai Bageerath was arrested at the Telangana State Police Academy junction. He was shifted in a convoy of vehicles to the Petbasheerabad police station. Education Resources



Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj, the supervisory officer in the case, also reached the police station. After recording Sai Bageerath's statement and completing necessary legal formalities, the police shifted him to a primary health centre at Medchal for medical checkup. After the medical examination, Bageerath was produced before a magistrate, who sent him on judicial remand till May 29.

Advocate Karuna Sagar, legal counsel for Sai Bageerath, said that on instructions of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, he along with Sai Bageerath went to APPA junction and handed him over to Special Operations Teams of Cyberabad police.

He was later shifted by the police to Petbasheerabad police station. "He was produced before the court and remanded to judicial

custody till May 29. We will file a bail application on the next working day before the court. We have faith in the judicial system. Our man will come out clean from the case. We will plan our future course of action," said Karuna Sagar.

Police officials stated that security was tightened at the Petbasheerabad police station and surrounding areas during the proceedings to avoid any untoward incidents. Supporters of Sai Bageerath and BJP workers were seen near the police station and court premises as the legal formalities were being completed under police supervision. Sources said the investigation teams are continuing to examine the allegations connected to the case and may question additional individuals as part of the ongoing probe.

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People vexed with Congress governance, waiting for KCR's comeback: KTR

Hyderabad, May 16 (GNS) Stating that people were vexed with the Congress government for its failures, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said many were waiting for an opportunity to elect BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao back as Chief Minister.

The Congress government had failed to effectively manage even basic civic amenities such as drinking water supply and mosquito control in the city, he stated here on Saturday.

"KCR government con-

structed houses for the poor but the Congress government is demolishing the poor people's houses," Rama Rao slammed.

The BRS working president participated in a meeting with party's Sanathnagar constituency leaders at Telangana Bhavan.

He alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had stirred up numerous controversies nationwide over voter lists.

In Bihar, West Bengal and other States dominated by regional parties, the BJP



drew flak for arbitrarily utilising Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in specifically targeting and removing voters and supporters of parties opposed to them from the electoral rolls, he said.

"BRS party workers should remain vigilant to ensure that the BJP's unruly tactics are not successful in Telangana," Rama Rao stressed. Telangana Travel Guide He instructed the Booth Level Assistants (BLAs) selected by the party to safeguard the voting rights of every single individual. The BLAs should possess a comprehensive understanding of the SIR, he said, adding that the party would organise training session for them, if required.

The BRS working presi-

dent asserted that the BJP had no real presence in Telangana. BJP as a party exists predominantly on social media, and had very little presence within society, he charged.

Rama Rao recalled that in the past, when serious allegations were levelled against SIR electoral rolls, the BRS party had written a letter to the Election Commission over the issue. Subsequently, the Election Commission had invited a delegation of party representatives for a discussion.