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Osmania General Hospital launches free artificial limb facility for poor patients

Hyderabad: To help poor patients who have lost their limbs, the Osmania General Hospital (OGH) on Monday launched an artificial limbs facility at its already existing food cancer centre. The new facility, inaugurated by hospital superintendent, Dr Rakesh Sahay, will be run by Endocrinology, General surgery and Orthopedic departments and supply artificial limbs to patients who undergo amputations either because of trauma or gangrenous diabetic ulcers. The artificial limbs are made using sophisticated technology with lightweight material and 3D printing so that it fits to the exact dimensions of individual patients and allow them to walk easily without any pressure effects.

Two killed after speeding truck rams parked car on Hyderabad ORR

Hyderabad: In a tragic incident, two persons were killed after a speeding container truck rammed into a parked car on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) near Shamirpet on Monday afternoon.

The incident occurred near Exit-7 on the ORR under the Shamirpet police limits, when an Audi car travelling from Medchal towards Shamirpet had reportedly stopped by the roadside. A few occupants had stepped out of the vehicle and were standing behind it while having food. At that moment, a container truck coming at high speed went out of control and crashed into the stationary car.

Govt to relaunch Stand-Up India scheme with wider benefits: Sitharaman

GNS News Agency, March 16

New Delhi: The government will soon come out with a modified Stand-Up India scheme to provide better benefits to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs looking to set up new projects, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. Launched in 2016, the Stand-Up India scheme aimed to empower Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women entrepreneurs by facilitating bank loans for setting up new enterprises. The scheme expired on March 31, 2025.

Replying to a supplementary question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister said the modified scheme will incorporate lessons learnt in implementation of the original Stand-Up India scheme. "With studies done by Niti Aayog and others, this scheme is being redrafted and sooner the Cabinet will be given a proposal with which we will launch a new scheme to continue with this Stand-Up which benefitted SC/ST and women all over the country," Sitharaman said. The scheme provided loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore at the lowest applicable rate of the bank for that category, with a repayment period of 7 years with a maximum moratorium of up to 18 months.



On whether the government is planning to increase the loan amount, Sitharaman said, "We are looking at various options for the new scheme." To another question why only greenfield projects were being given loans under the Stand-Up India scheme, she said there are several other loan options available to businesses through PM Mudra scheme or SIDBI financing. Besides, there is Startup India scheme, which is for innovative ideas and largely restricted to urban areas.

KTR, Harish Rao hail Sahitya Akademi award for Nandini Sidda Reddy

GNS News Agency, March 16

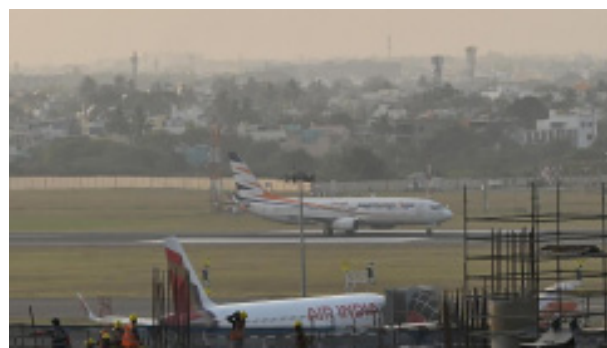
Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao and BRSLP deputy leader T Harish Rao congratulated noted poet and writer Nandini Sidda Reddy on being selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award, calling it a moment of pride for Telangana. In a statement, Rama Rao said Sidda Reddy, who was a prominent literary figure and the first chairman of the Telangana Sahitya Akademi, made significant contributions to modern Telugu poetry and Telangana literature. He said the award was a fitting recognition of the poet's long literary journey and his role in promoting Telangana's identity and culture through his works.

He also recalled Sidda Reddy's association with the Telangana movement, stating that his songs and writings gave voice to the aspirations of the people and strengthened the demand for a separate State. He stated that Sidda Reddy's role in literary organisations, includ-



ing the Manjeera Writers' Association, had brought recognition to Telugu literature. Harish Rao also called Sidda Reddy a literary warrior who reflected the spirit of Telangana in his writings. He said the Sahitya Akademi award was true recognition of his contribution to the cultural and literary movement of the State.

Indian airlines cancelled 4,335 flights and foreign carriers 1,187 flights due to West Asia conflict: Govt in RS



GNS News Agency, March 16

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Monday (March 16, 2026) informed the Rajya Sabha that Indian airlines have cancelled 4,335 flights and foreign carriers 1,187 flights so far in the wake of the West Asia conflict. The escalating conflict involving the U.S., Israel and Iran has significantly disrupted flight operations due to airspace closures in the West Asia region. Replying to a supplementary query during Ques-

tion Hour, the Minister asserted that the safety of airline operations is the topmost priority. "Regarding the cancellations that have happened because of airspace closure in West Asia, almost till now, in a cumulative, Indian carriers have cancelled up to 4,335 flights, and foreign carriers have cancelled up to 1,187 flights," Mr. Naidu said.

Stating that the safety of the operations is the topmost priority during this crisis, the Minister said there is no reason for us to operate in this area when the airspace itself is closed. Mr. Naidu said the Aviation Ministry and the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) are in constant communication with the regulators in those specific countries. "Whenever there was a slot available for us to operate, we have operated. And I can tell you that almost 2,19,780 people have travelled during this crisis time also," the Minister said. Mr. Naidu said his department and the DGCA have ensured safe operations in collaboration with the authorities there. "And right now, there are still some airspace which is still closed, and we are trying to do our best to facilitate for them. But first and foremost, the airspace has to be open. It has to be safe to travel. Only then we can have the regular travel take place," the Minister said.

Sajjanar warns citizens against deepfake videos, urges verification before sharing



GNS News Agency, March 16

Hyderabad: With the rapid rise of artificial intelligence technology, cybercriminals are increasingly using deepfake videos and images to mislead people and spread misinformation.

In this background, City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar had cautioned the citizens that many AI-generated videos and photos circulating online may appear highly realistic, making it difficult for people to immediately identify them as fake. However, he said careful observation can reveal clues such as unnatural lighting, unusual facial expressions and awkward movements. Taking to social media on Monday, the commissioner advised the citizens to verify suspicious content before sharing it on social media. "Performing a reverse image search can often help trace the original source of a photo or video and determine whether it has been manipulated," he said.

Sajjanar stressed that forwarding unverified content based on emotions can unintentionally contribute to the spread of fake news, which may create confusion or unrest in society. He urged citizens to adopt a simple rule while using social media: think before clicking, verify the authenticity of the content and only then share it. Critical thinking, he said, remains the strongest defense against the growing threat of deepfake misinformation.

SC quashes criminal proceedings against Ashoka University professor after Haryana refuses prosecution sanction

GNS News Agency, March 16

The Supreme Court on Monday (March 16, 2026) quashed criminal proceedings against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad for his social media posts on 'Operation Sindoor' after the Haryana Government informed that it has refused sanction for his prosecution. Supreme Court grants interim bail to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad; panel to probe online posts. In a previous hearing, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant had asked the Haryana government to refuse sanction as a "one-time gesture of magnanimity". The State, on Monday (March 16, 2026), appearing through Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, said it had accepted the court's suggestion. Mr. Raju urged the court to caution Mr. Mahmudabad to not "indulge in such acts in future".

Chief Justice Kant, in turn, also advised prudence, observing that at times writing could be deciphered by reading between the lines. "Sometimes the situation is sensitive, and we have to be careful," the CJ addressed senior advocate Siddharth Luthra and advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for Mr. Mahmudabad. The apex court had in January made the suggestion to stall prosecution of the academican on learning that Haryana had been sitting on the grant of sanction since August 2025, following the filing of the chargesheet against Mr. Mahmudabad in the trial court. The



court had suspected the academican of indulging in "dog whistling" through his social media posts. It had formed a Special Investigation Team of three senior IPS officers to "holistically understand the complexity of the phraseology employed and for the proper appreciation of some of the expressions used in the two online posts". The Haryana Police had arrested Mr. Mahmudabad on May 18. It was alleged that his social media posts on Operation Sindoor had endangered the sovereignty and integrity of the country. The two FIRs — one based on a complaint by the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia, and the other on a complaint by a village sarpanch — were lodged by Rai police in Sonapat district.

BRS terms Governor's speech hollow, says Congress is ignoring promises

GNS News Agency, March 16

Hyderabad: The Opposition BRS launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over the Governor's address on Monday, calling it hollow. BRS legislators also said the ruling party was making false claims and taking credit for achievements of the previous BRS regime, but ignoring electoral promises made to the people. The party would continue to raise these issues during the budget session and press the government to fulfil its promises, they said.

Speaking at the Assembly media point here on Monday, former Minister and MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy said the address delivered by Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla contained nothing but lies and failed to mention major assurances given by the Congress, including the six guarantees. The government had forced the Governor to make incorrect statements on welfare schemes, farm loan waiver and job creation, without implementing them fully. The government promised Rs 2,500 monthly assistance for women, Rs 15,000 under Rythu Bharosa for farmers and large-scale employment for youth, but none of them were mentioned in the address, he said, adding that the speech wrongly credited the present government for projects initiated during the previous BRS regime, including TIMS hospitals, welfare schemes and recruitment notifications.



Korutla MLA K Sanjay said party members wore black badges during the Governor's speech to protest the failure to provide statutory backing to the Six Guarantees. He stated that the Congress made the promise on the floor of the Assembly but did not fulfill it even after two years in power. Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy said this was the third budget of the Congress government and most of its tenure had already passed without implementing key assurances. He pointed to lack of clarity on Rythu Bharosa payments, social security pension hikes, financial aid for women and job calendar for unemployed youth.

ECI announces election schedule for four States, Puducherry; two-phase polling in West Bengal

GNS News Agency, March 16

Assembly election would be held in a single phase in Assam, Puducherry and Kerala on April 9 and in Tamil Nadu on April 23, while West Bengal will vote on April 23 and April 29, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on Sunday. Counting for all four States and the Union Territory of Puducherry would be held on May 4. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into effect immediately with the announcement of the poll schedule. Addressing a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar said a total of 17.4 crore electors will vote in 824 Assembly constituencies across these four States and one UT. Around 25 lakh polling personnel would be deployed at 2.19 lakh polling stations.

The term of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which has 234 seats, gets over on May 10, while that of Kerala, which has 140 seats, gets over on May 23. Assam has 126 constituencies, and the term of its Assembly ends on May 20, while the 294-seat West Bengal Assembly completes its term on May 7. The term of the 30-seat Puducherry Assembly ends on June 15. In West Bengal, 152 constituencies will vote in the first phase and 142 in the second.

The ECI also announced by-polls to eight Assembly constituencies. By-elections to five seats—Ponda in Goa, Bagalkot and Davanagere South in Karnataka, Koridang in Nagaland and Dharmanagar in Tripura—will be held on April 9. Elections in three other constituencies—Umreth in Gujarat, and Rahuri and Baramati in Maharashtra—will be conducted on April 23. Counting of votes for the bye-elections will also be held on May 4. Asserting that "pure electoral rolls" are the "bedrock of democracy", Mr. Kumar told the media that the process of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was one of the 30 new measures undertaken by the poll panel over the last 12 months to ensure free and fair polls. The exercise, which began in Bihar last year, has since been held across 13 States and Union Territories. It has been particularly contentious in West Bengal, where the Supreme Court has directed that the over 60 lakh cases listed under "adjudication" be decided by court-appointed judicial officers. Responding to a question whether



these cases would be disposed of before the scheduled election dates, Mr. Kumar said: "As far as the supplementary list under adjudication is concerned, learned judges are looking into case by case, and those approved by them shall be included in the final electoral rolls by way of a supplementary list, in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court."

On a question regarding certain schemes announced by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee barely hours before the election dates were declared, the CEC said the "Model Code of Conduct" is applicable from now onwards. Actions taken prior to the MCC is a prerogative of the concerned governments". Explaining why West Bengal will vote in two phases instead of eight phases as in the previous Assembly polls, he said that the ECI held detailed deliberations and in "its considered opinion, it was found necessary to reduce the number of phases and bring it down to an extent where it is convenient for everybody". The CEC declined to comment on an Opposition-sponsored motion seeking his removal submitted in Parliament, saying he did not wish to engage with political statements made by certain political leaders and parties against the ECI.

He asserted that elections in all four States and Puducherry shall be conducted in a violence-free and inducement-free manner, and the poll panel would take strict action in case of violations. About police officers accused of involvement in poll-related violence in the past elections in West Bengal, he said a list has been sought, and necessary action would be taken in accordance with the law.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Scrolling vs Sketching redefining a mindful break

In an age when our phones rarely leave our hands, the idea of taking a "break" has become almost synonymous with scrolling. Breaks are meant to offer relief, yet in today's hyperconnected world, they often fail to do so. For most people, the default break involves reaching for a phone, even if only for a few seconds. What begins as a momentary pause often spirals into several minutes of scrolling through spam texts and jumping between several apps for videos, posts, or messages. Instead of returning to work feeling refreshed, we return more drained, overstimulated, and distracted.

This reality forces us to confront a key question: If our breaks are spent immersed in the same digital ecosystem that exhausts us, can they truly be called breaks? Mindful activities such as doodling and colouring offer a contrasting form of rest — slower, quieter, and rooted in the present moment. Backed by neuroscience and psychological research, these practices have emerged as powerful alternatives that actually support attention, mental clarity, and emotional regulation.

Digital breaks offer immediate satisfaction and instant gratification, pulling us towards our digital gadgets. Gloria Mark explains that living constantly connected to computers and smartphones exposes individuals to continuous digital interruptions, which research over the past two decades has shown significantly shorten attention spans and make sustained concentration increasingly difficult. (Mark & Mills, 2023). Another reason digital breaks dominate is sheer convenience. The phone is always nearby — on the desk, beside the bed, in the pocket. Over time, this accessibility turns device-checking into a reflexive habit.

CCTV Cameras Help Maintain Law and Order: Former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy

CCTV Cameras Inaugurated by Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 16 (Indian Chronicle):Former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy attended as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the CCTV cameras installed by the residents of Venkateshwara Colony (Pochamma Temple) in Uppal Division. "Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha



Parameshwar Reddy said that CCTV cameras play an important role in maintaining peace and security in society. She stated that in the present modern era, CCTV cameras have become very useful in reducing crimes and increasing the sense of security among people. "She further mentioned that the CCTV cameras installed by the Colony Welfare Association will help in identifying any inappropriate activities taking place in the surrounding areas. She added that this system is an important step toward ensuring that people can live safely and securely. "Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy congratulated the colony residents for successfully organizing the initiative and appreciated everyone who supported the installation of the CCTV cameras. She expressed happiness in attending the inauguration and hoped that the area would always progress with peace and security. "The program was attended by Association President Kethireddy Sridhar Reddy, General Secretary Nangi Srinivas, Treasurer Mittapalli Srinivas, Satish Kumar Reddy (Vice President), Srinivas Goud (Vice President), Jakkula Sampath (Organizing Secretary), Vijayendra Raju, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, and other colony residents.

Municipal Chairman supervises Eidgah in Zaheerabad

Key orders on Ramadan arrangements

"Zaheerabad March 16: As the holy festival of Ramadan (Eid-ul-Fitr) approaches, the municipal machinery has intensified the arrangements at the main Eidgah in Zaheerabad. On Monday, Zaheerabad Municipal Chairman Mohammad Yunus, along with local councilors and senior leaders, visited the Eidgah. As thousands of Muslim brothers are likely to gather for prayers on the festival day, he instructed the officials to ensure that no one faces any trouble. The Chairman personally inspected the facilities available in the Eidgah premises and ordered the immediate completion of pending works. "He directed the relevant departments to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water, sanitation and electricity facilities during the namaz time. The visit was accompanied by municipal officials and members of the Eidgah committee. The chairman said that the suggestions of the committee should be taken into account in the festival arrangements. "Speaking on the occasion, the chairman said that his goal is that all the Muslim brothers in the town should celebrate the festival peacefully and with devotion, and assured that all kinds of help and support will be provided on behalf of the municipality. Municipal councilors of the respective wards and others were present at the event.

Students Should Excel in Sports Along with Academics – Bandari Lakshma Reddy



Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, March 16: Students should strive to achieve excellence not only in academics but also in sports, cultural activities, and other fields to become responsible citizens and role models for society, said Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. "He was speaking as the chief guest at the Annual Sports Meet organized by Academic Heights School in Nacharam. As part of the event, the inauguration of the school's sports ground was also held. The event was conducted in a grand manner with enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and parents. "On this occasion, the MLA received the salute from the students during the ceremonial march past. He appreciated the discipline and coordination displayed by the students. Later, along with School Director Chiluka Shiva Kumar, he interacted with the students and encouraged them by playing basketball with them, which created great excitement and motivation among the students. "Congratulating the winners of various sports competitions, the MLA said that sports play a vital role in the overall personality development of students. He explained that participation in sports helps improve physical fitness, mental strength, and con-

fidence. Sports also teach valuable life skills such as discipline, teamwork, leadership, patience, and determination. "He further stated that when students actively participate in sports and cultural activities along with academics, they develop a balanced personality and gain the ability to face challenges in life. He emphasized that schools should focus not only on academic excellence but also on providing opportunities for students to develop their talents in sports and extracurricular activities. "The MLA said that events like annual sports meets help nurture sporting spirit and healthy competition among students. He encouraged students to take inspiration from great athletes who brought pride to the country through their dedication and hard work. "He also advised parents to motivate their children to participate in sports rather than focusing only on studies. Parents and teachers together play a crucial role in shaping the future of children, he added. "Appreciating the school management, the MLA said that organizing such events helps in identifying hidden talents among students and gives them a platform to showcase their abilities. He lauded the efforts of the school for providing good facilities and encouraging students to participate actively in sports. "He ex-

pressed hope that the students of the institution would achieve success in various fields and bring recognition not only to the school but also to the state and the nation. "The program was attended by School Director Chiluka Shiva Kumar, BRS Party state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Srinivas, Bunty, school teachers, students, parents, and several others.

Ramanthapur Division President Mohammed Rafeeq Attends Iftar Dinner Hosted by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

Grand Iftar gathering with thousands of Muslim brothers at LB Stadium



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 16 (Indian Chronicle):On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, Telangana State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy organized a grand Iftar dinner for Muslim minorities at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium in Hyderabad. The event was held in a very magnificent manner with thousands of Muslim brothers from across the state attending the gathering. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy joined the Muslim community in breaking the fast and conveyed his Ramadan greetings to them. On this occasion, Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafeeq attended the program and met the Chief Minister, congratulating him for organizing the event. He stated that the Iftar dinner reflects the government's respect and affection towards minority communities. Others who attended the event included Mohammed Zakaria, Shaik Shabbir, Mohammed Nayeem, Mohammed Raheem, Mohammed Sadiq, and Mohammed Mohsin, among others.

Saidulu Assumes Charge as Inspector of Jawahar Nagar Police Station

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 16, (Indian Chronicle):Jawahar Nagar: S. Saidulu has assumed charge as the new Inspector of Jawahar Nagar Police Station on Sunday. The appointment was made on administrative grounds under the Malkajgiri Commissionerate. Jawahar Nagar Police Station comes under the Keesara Circle within the jurisdiction of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. After taking charge, Inspector Saidulu stated that maintaining law and order would be his top priority. He said the police department would take firm measures to prevent crimes and ensure the safety of the public, particularly women. Strict action will be taken to prevent incidents of harassment and other offences against women. Inspector Saidulu further stated that modern policing methods and advanced technology would be utilized to effectively control crime. He added that the police would also focus on guiding youth away from unlawful activities through preventive measures. He assured that the police would act strictly according to the law to maintain peace and security in the area. Sub-Inspectors Idris Ali and other police personnel were present on the occasion.



Municipal Chairman supervises Eidgah in Zaheerabad

Key orders on Ramadan arrangements



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI (NOTIFICATION) (SEE SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE - 19 AND SECTION-11(1) OF THE ACT-30/2013) Preliminary Notification											
Collector File No. G/682/2026		Date: 11-03-2026		RDO. File No. C/1831/2024,		Date: 10-03-2026		Gazette No. 13/2026		Date: 11-03-2026	
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ District Collector, Suryapet, that a total of Ac. 12.28 1/2 guntas land is required in Thatipamula Village of Tirumalagiri Mandal as per requisition given by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No - 5 Janagaon for public purpose namely for Excavation of 1R of 3R Distributary of Chennai Main Canal of Chennai Tank of JCRDLIS-Phase-II-Package-VI in Thatipamula Village of Tirumalagiri Mandal, Suryapet District, Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013, Telangana Amendment Act-2016 (Act No.21 of 2017).											
Therefore it is notified that, for the above said process, for the lands situated in Thatipamula Village of Tirumalagiri Mandal in the of Suryapet District land measuring to an extent of Ac. 12.28 1/2 Gts., of standard measurement Whose details description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition. 1R of 3R of 7R, Distributary of Chennai Main Canal of Chennai Tank of JCRDLIS-Phase-II-Package-VI Village: Thatipamula Mandal: Tirumalagiri District: Suryapet											
SCHEDULE											
Sl. No.	Sr. No.	Type of Land	Area Under Acq. (Hectares)	Name of the Patta/dar & Enjoyer	Boundaries N S E W	Trees/Structures	1	2	3	4	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	192	Pa tta	Dry	Dharavath Ravi S/o Bulia (E)	192/218/219/193	1-Bore point					
				Dharavath Chandru S/o Ramu (E)							
				Dharavath Kishan S/o Nimma (E)							
1	192	Pa tta	Dry	Karupothula Kanthamma W/o China Bayanna (P)	192/218/219/193						
				Banoth Veera S/o Hamu (P)							
				Banoth Bhadr S/o Hamu (P)							
				Dharavath Ravi S/o Bulia (E)							
2	193	Pa tta	Dry	Dharavath Gopal S/o Ravi (E)	193/194/192/194						
				Dharavath Ravi S/o Bulia (E)							
				Dharavath Sajjan S/o Bulu (E)							
				Dharavath Alu S/o Balu (E)							
				Banoth Ramesh S/o Biksham (P)							
				Banoth Hamji S/o Hamu (P)							
				Banoth Bhadr S/o Hamu (P)							
				Banoth Ramulu S/o Bheekya (P)							
				Banoth Srinivas S/o Nima (P)							
				Banoth Lakshman S/o Bikya (P)							
				Banoth Balaji S/o Bikya (P)							
				Banoth Chandar S/o Bikya (P)							
				Banoth Bimla S/o Tulsa (P)							
				Banoth Jeevan S/o Veera (P)							
				Banoth Padma S/o Ravi (P)							
				Banoth Vinoda W/o Jamba (P)							
				Banoth Shobha W/o Rathna (P)							
				Dharavath Ravi S/o Bulia (E)							
				Dharavath Mangya S/o Lingaiah (P)							
				Panugulla Suresh S/o Sheshaiah (P)							
				Panugulla Ravi S/o Sheshaiah (P)							
3	194	Pa tta	Dry	Panugalla Yadaiah S/o Malliah (P&E)	193/194/193/195	1-Bore point					
				Panugalla Sheshaiah S/o Malliah (P&E)		2-Toddy trees					
				Dharavath Taramma W/o Mangya (P&E)		1-Bore pipe line					
				Dharavath Srinu S/o Manji (P&E)							
				Dharavath Ramesh S/o Manya (P&E)							
				Paka Bayyalu S/o Muthyalu (E)							
				Ayila Somaiah S/o Sheshaiah (E)							
4	195	Pa tta	Dry	Dharavath Taramma W/o Mangya (E)	195/195/194/198						
				Paka Lingaiah S/o Muthyalu (P)							
				Paka Lachiah S/o Muthyalu (P)							
				Dharavath Rajitha W/o Srinu (P)							
				Bathini Ramanaramma W/o Rama Lingaiah (P)							
				Ayila Somaiah S/o Sheshaiah (E)							
				Nakka Yadagiri S/o Malliah (P&E)							
				Nakka Ramchandru S/o Ramaiah (E)							
				Nakka Ramchandru S/o Ramaiah (P&E)							
6	201	Pa tta	Dry	Nakka Lingaiah S/o Lingaiah (P&E)	201/201/198/202	1-Neem tree					
				Nakka Bayyalu S/o Aviliah (P&E)							
				Paka Suresh S/o Malliah (E)							
				Nakka Aviliah S/o Lingaiah (E)							
				Nakka Yadagiri S/o Aviliah (P)							
				Nakka Yadagiri S/o Lingaiah (P)							
				Nakka Lachamma W/o China Lingaiah (P&E)							
				Paka Suresh S/o Malliah (E)							
				Paka Komariah S/o Lingaiah (E)							
				Bala							
				Paka Malliah S/o Muthyalu (E)							
				Nakka Lingaiah S/o Aviliah (P)							
				Nakka Aviliah S/o Lingaiah (P)							
				Nakka Aviliah S/o Lingaiah (P)							
				Nakka Lingaiah S/o Bixamaiah (P)							
				Nakka Yellaiah S/o Ramaiah (P)							
				Nakka Yadagiri S/o Lingaiah (P)							
				Nakka Gattiah S/o Biksham (P)							
				Akula Venkateswarlu S/o Somaiah (P&E)							
				Akula Nagappa S/o Malliah (P&E)							
				Akula Somaiah S/o Malliah (P&E)							
				Paka Yakanna S/o Bayyalu (P&E)							
				Nakka Lachiah S/o S/o							
				Kadava Uppalaih S/o Komariah (E)							
				Paka Malliah S/o Muthyalu (E)							
8	207	Pa tta	Dry	Paka Lachiah S/o Muthyalu (E)	202/207/198/284						
				Paka Lingaiah S/o Muthyalu (E)							
				Paka Renamma W/o Lingaiah (P)							
				Paka Suresh S/o Malliah (P)							
				Kadava Venkata mma W/o							

This notification is made under the provisions of Sec-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No.30/2013), to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Suryapet & Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Suryapet is pleased to authorize Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their works as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act. Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of this notification without prior approval of the Collector. Objections to the acquisition if any may be filed by the person interested within (60) sixty days from the date of Publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector. Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet. Sd/- Additional Collector, Suryapet. Sd/- District Collector, Suryapet. DIPR RO.No.1289/LA/PP/Adv/Pub/2025-26

Sand sculpture by Umaranii enters Telugu Book of Records



Certificate presented to Umaranii, the creator of the sand sculpture. Jagtial Correspondent, March 16 (Indian Chronicle): A 21-feet tall 3D sand sculpture of Lord Sri Venkateswara, created by Umaranii, has been recognized by the Telugu Book of Records. The sculpture, made from sacred sand collected from the Kaleshwara region, was installed on February 5 and took just 30 days to complete. "At a special ceremony held at Jagtial Exhibition Grounds, Dr. Chintaplatla Venkatachar presented the Telugu Book of Records certificate to Umaranii. Dr. T.V. Ashok Kumar, a member of the Telugu Book of Records jury, praised her artistic talent. "Dasari Rani, District Chief Coordinator of Telugu Book of Records, said that women's talent is boundless and Umaranii's achievement is an inspiration to all women. "The event was attended by Jagtial Town Circle Inspector Karunakar, Kondalarao, founder of Brindavanam Resorts, and other dignitaries, who congratulated the artist. The organizers said Umaranii's achievement will inspire young artists.

Implement crop insurance scheme in the state Start maize procurement centers immediatly



Former minister Jeevan Reddy submits memorandum to Collector with farmers. "Jeevan leads bike rally with farmers from Indira Bhavan to collectret. Jagtial Correspondent, March 16 (Indian Chronicle): Former Minister Tatiparthi Jeevan Reddy said that farmers are suffering huge losses due to natural calamities as the crop insurance scheme is not being implemented in the state, and the government should implement it to support the farmers. "Jeevan Reddy led a bike rally with farmers from Indira Bhavan to the Collectorate in Jagtial district center on Monday, submitting a memorandum to the authorities demanding the establishment of maize procurement centers. He spoke to the media, saying that around 50,000 acres of maize are being cultivated in Jagtial district as an alternative to paddy, but the government is not taking any action despite the farmers facing wild animal threats and natural calamities. "He expressed his disappointment, stating that the delay in setting up procurement centers is depriving farmers of the minimum support price of Rs. 2400 per quintal. He urged the government to implement the crop insurance scheme, which is currently not in place, to compensate farmers for their losses. He also demanded that the government should provide Rs. 30,000 per acre to the farmers who have invested in maize cultivation. "Jeevan Reddy recalled that during the tenure of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, the government had set up procurement centers under the Market Federation, and he demanded that the current government do the same. He also urged the government to take measures to prevent monkey attacks on crops and provide compensation to farmers for their losses. "He demanded that the government establish maize procurement centers from Ugadi festival onwards, at the same locations where they were previously set up.

District Senior Civil Judge B Soujanya made awareness about consumer rights to students.



"Sangareddy Indian Chronicle Correspondent March 16. On the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, students were made aware of consumer rights laws at Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School in Kulabgur, Sangareddy Mandal. District Senior Civil Judge Soujanya participated as the chief guest in this program. Speaking on the occasion, Judge Soujanya advised consumers to be aware of their rights and to know the consumer law. Kuna Venu, school principal M Narasimha Goud. Teachers, students and others participated in this program.

District Launches Major Livestock Vaccination Drive



District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department. District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Officer Suresh and District Tribal Welfare Officer Ramadevi were also present at the event. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that livestock are a valuable asset and a source of wealth for farmers, and that every farmer must pay close attention to the health of their animals. She stated that animals play a vital role in agriculture and protecting them is a shared responsibility of all. "The village was selected for the vaccination drive as it has over 4,000 livestock. She explained that the targeted disease is highly contagious and the government's aim is to eradicate it completely. The Collector emphasised that the district aims to achieve 100 per cent coverage in the livestock vaccination programme. "Later, at the Primary Health Centre in Vankidi Mandal headquarters, the Collector participated in the National Immunisation Day programme under Sampurnata Abhiyan 2.0, along with Medical and Health Officer Seetharam. During the programme, HPV vaccines were administered to girls aged between 9 and 14 years. "The Collector stated that the HPV vaccine plays an important role in protecting girls from cervical cancer in the future. Doctors, health staff, officials, members of the public, and young girls participated in the programme.

No LPG Shortage in District, Misuse Will Invite Strict Action

"Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), March 16, "District Collector K. Haritha has warned that strict legal action will be taken against those using domestic LPG cylinders for commercial or business purposes. "She made these remarks while participating in the District Level Vigilance Monitoring Committee meeting held on Sunday at the Integrated District Collectorate conference hall in the district headquarters. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector clarified that there is no shortage of LPG or petrol in the district. She instructed officials to ensure that stock details are clearly displayed at LPG godowns and petrol pumps. "The Collector further warned that strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to create an artificial shortage of fuel or LPG. "Additional Collector David, District Civil Supplies Officer Vasantha Lakshmi, Kagaznagar DSP Waheeduddin, municipal commissioners, LPG dealers, and petrol bunk owners attended the meeting.



CPI Protest in Bellampalli Against Gas Price Hike and Iran War



"Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), March 16, "The Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a Rasta Roko protest demanding a reduction in increased LPG gas prices and calling for an immediate halt to the war against Iran by the United States and Israel. "Following a call given by the CPI Telangana State Committee, party leaders and activists organised the protest at Kanta Chowrasta in Bellampalli town. "Speaking on the occasion, Bellampalli Constituency

Secretary Dagam Mallesh and senior leader and District Executive Committee member Chippa Narasayya alleged that the United States, in collaboration with Israel, had launched a war against Iran under the pretext that Iran possessed advanced weapons, as part of a broader strategy to dominate the region. "They criticised the ongoing missile attacks and bombings, stating that several institutions, buildings and schools have been destroyed, resulting in the loss of lives of civilians and schoolchildren. They said that such actions were causing severe destruction and disturbing global peace. "The leaders demanded that the war be stopped immediately and global peace be protected. "They also criticised the BJP-led Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that gas prices were being increased despite there being no shortage of LPG in India. They said the hike was placing an additional financial burden on common people. "They further claimed that many hotels were being forced to shut down due to the rising cost of LPG, causing severe hardship to hotel workers and employees. They added that the increase in prices of essential commodities was further burdening the public. "The CPI leaders accused Prime Minister Modi of acting in favour of the United States and compromising the self-respect of 1.4 billion Indian citizens.

Everyone Must Perform Their Duties Responsibly to Ensure the Speedy Resolution of Pending Cases—

District SP Rohit Raju addresses a meeting held with police officers and court duty officers. "Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Bhadradi Kothagudem Staff Reporter, March 16, Indian Chronicle: On Monday, District SP Rohit Raju convened a meeting at the conference hall located within the District Police Headquarters with the Station House Officers (SHOs) and court duty officers serving across all police stations in the district. Speaking on this occasion, the SP urged everyone to perform their duties with a strong sense of responsibility to ensure the speedy resolution of pending cases. He emphasized the need to work towards resolving old cases by maintaining effective coordination with judicial authorities. He further instructed officers to provide regular updates on the progress of their cases to their superiors. He advised that should any doubts or queries arise, they should be brought to the attention of the DCRB officials for immediate clarification and resolution. He directed the technical team operators to ensure that every detail—from the moment a case is registered until its final resolution—is accurately uploaded online. He added that if any technical difficulties are encountered during the online data entry process, assistance from the IT cell should be sought immediately. As part of the "5S" implementation initiative, he instructed that police station premises be kept clean and hygienic at all times and that case-related files be organized



in a systematic and orderly manner. He underscored that everyone plays a pivotal role in ensuring that justice is delivered to victims by working diligently to secure the conviction of offenders. The event was attended by Kothagudem DSP Adinarayana; Palvancha DSP Satish Kumar; Manuguru DSP Ravinder Reddy; Yellandu DSP Venkanna Babu; DCRB CI Srinivas; SB Inspector Srinivas; along with other officers and staff members.

Take Swift Action to Resolve Applications Received via Prajavani: District Collector Ankit.



"Kukkadapu Naresh Kumar, Bhadradi Kothagudem Staff Reporter, March 16, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Ankit has directed district officials to thoroughly examine every application received during the Prajavani program and to take swift measures to resolve them within a specific timeframe. On Monday, during the Prajavani session held at the IDOC office conference hall, the Collector—accompanied by Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Vidya Chandana, RDO Madhu, and Housing Department Official Ravindranath—personally received petitions from the public. Citizens arriving from various mandals and villages across the district submitted their grievances in writing; the Collector listened to them attentively, immediately endorsed the applications to the concerned departmental officials, and ordered them to submit an immediate report. He emphasized that officials must act responsibly to ensure that no negligence occurs in resolving public issues and that measures must be taken to ensure justice is delivered to all eligible individuals. On this occasion, the collector reviewed several applications received during the Prajavani session and issued specific guidelines to the relevant officials. He directed all heads of departments to personally supervise every complaint received through Prajavani, accelerate the resolution process, and complete all necessary actions within the stipulated deadline without allowing any matters to remain pending. He further stated that officials must remain committed to delivering efficient administration in a manner that upholds the trust of the public. Selected Applications Received via 'Prajavani': Samba Purnachandra Rao (father: Venkateswarlu), a resident of the Peddabazar area within the limits of the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation, stated that he owns 0.22 guntas of Patta (assigned) land situated at House No. 169/A in Gajularaja Basti, Viswanatha Colony, within the Kothagudem town limits. He submitted an application alleging that certain private individuals have encroached upon this land and are undertaking house construction there; he requested that appropriate measures be taken to restore the land to his possession. Upon reviewing this application, it was endorsed to the Municipal Corporation Commissioner for necessary action. Residents of Sainagar Colony, located within the Srinagar Gram Panchayat limits of Laxmidivipalli Mandal, stated that although their colony was established approximately 35 years ago and despite having submitted numerous applications over the years for the construction of a CC (concrete) road, no road construction work has been undertaken to date. Noting that drainage and road construction works have not yet commenced—despite claims that Rs. 20 lakhs were sanctioned in 2019—they submitted an application requesting the immediate commencement of road construction. This application was endorsed to the MPDO of Laxmidivipalli for appropriate action. Ashok, a resident of Rajapuram village in Tekulapalli Mandal, stated that although a 'Mission Bhagiratha' water tank was installed in his village approximately 10 years ago, a proper water supply has not been provided to the village to this day. Noting

that both borewells in the village are currently non-functional, an application requesting the restoration of the Mission Bhagiratha water supply—in addition to the repair of the borewells—to resolve the drinking water crisis during the summer season was reviewed and forwarded to Mission Bhagiratha officials for appropriate action. Ravula Ramulu (son of the late Narayana) of Vittalrao Nagar, Manuguru Mandal, stated that his family owns five acres of land located in Survey No. 16/23/A in Thirlapuram village. Noting that family members are attempting to have the land surveyed and registered in their own names following his father's demise, an application requesting the temporary suspension of both the survey process and land compensation payments regarding the disputed land was reviewed and forwarded to land acquisition officials for appropriate action. Ukanti Ravikumar (son of Venkatrao), a resident within the limits of Madaram Gram Panchayat in Mulakalapalli Mandal, submitted an application requesting that details regarding the expenses incurred and debts accumulated by the Gram Panchayat during the past two years—a period when there was no elected governing body—be displayed on the Gram Panchayat notice board for public information; this application was reviewed and forwarded to the District Panchayat Officer for appropriate action. District officials from various departments, among others, participated in this program.

Telugu poet Nandini Sidda Reddy among 24 selected for Sahitya Akademi Award

GNS News Agency, March 16

New Delhi: Telugu poet Nandini Sidda Reddy is among the 24 authors across languages selected for the 2025 Sahitya Akademi Awards, the National Academy of Letters announced on Monday. English author and former ambassador Navtej Sarna and Hindi writer Mamta Kalita are also among the awardees.

The announcement has come months after the academy cancelled a scheduled press conference in December 2025 to declare the awards. "Sahitya Akademi is happy to announce its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 24 Indian languages recognised by it. 8 books of poetry, 4 novels, 6 books of short stories, 2 essays, 1 literary criticism, 1 autobiography and 2 memoirs have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025," it said in a statement. Sarna has been named the recipient for his novel 'Crimson Spring' while Kalita will receive the award for her memoir 'Jeete Jee Allahabad'. Reddy has been selected for the award for his poetry collection 'Animesha' in Telugu.

Priority for Youth in the Congress Party..! Development accelerating in the state under the people's governance led by Revanth Reddy



— Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Congress Party In-charge of Uppal Constituency...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 16 (Indian Chronicle):...Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy stated that the Congress Party is giving the highest priority to youth in various positions within the party.

leadership of Parameshwar Reddy. On this occasion, Parameshwar Reddy welcomed them into the party by draping party scarves and addressed the gathering. "He said that after Revanth Reddy became the Chief Minister, development in the Uppal constituency has been progressing rapidly. He recalled that during his tenure as a Member of Parliament, Revanth Reddy had a good understanding of the region and had sanctioned hundreds of crores of rupees for development works."

Tributes Paid at Gun Park Martyrs' Memorial by KTR and MLAs,

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Participates...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 16 (Indian Chronicle):...On the occasion of the commencement of the Budget Session, BRS leaders paid tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park.



these slogans, BRS leaders voiced their opposition and criticized the government's policies.

Prompt disposal of petitions received during Prajavani: Special Deputy Collector Malathi



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 16, (Indian Chronicle):...Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition) of Medchal-Malkajgiri district, Malathi, instructed officials to immediately examine and resolve the petitions received during the Prajavani grievance redressal programme without delay.



ten after spending considerable time and effort. Officials, therefore, have the responsibility to uphold that trust by ensuring that the petitions are processed and resolved promptly.

Officials were further instructed to update the details of the action taken on each petition in the online system without delay.

Nandanampati Ramu Honoured for Annadanam Service



- Nandanampati Ramu honoured with "Annadana Seva Chakravarti" award- Free food distributed to nearly two lakh devotees during Shani Peyarchi festival...NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 16, (Indian Chronicle):...Nandanampati Ramu, CMD of Solis Eye Care in ECIL and Chairman of Tulasamma Charitable Foundation, was felicitated for his continued efforts in organizing annadanam (free food distribution) programs for poor people and devotees.



Shani Peyarchi festival held on March 6, 7 and 8 at the famous Dharbaranyeswara Swamy Temple in Thirunallar, Puducherry, an annadanam program was organized under the leadership of Nandanampati Ramu through Tulasamma Charitable Foundation and Solis Hospital.

Adilabad tribals ban gifts during weddings



S. Harpal Singh, Adilabad, March 16**The Adivasis in Adilabad have initiated something which can be termed as a major social change to protect poor families from economic ruin due to performing marriages. The have banned families from offering any kind of gift to the bride or the groom.



men called for a meeting during the first week of this month. The meeting at the famous Keslapur in Indervelli mandal was the first to accept the proposals made under the leadership of Keslapur Patel Mesram Venkat Rao.

"All weddings performed after this meeting have become a talking point in the Adivasi world. In Gourapur village, for example, villages donated Rs.50,000 to a family. Other villages which adopted the novel move are Samaka, Polluguda, Lakhampur, Pardhanguda, Vadgam etc. In Jainoor, such a marriage was performed in Lendijala where the grama Patel Mesram Bhadi Rao and Devari Mesram Palak Rao supervised the event.

ASHA Workers Stage 48-Hour Protest at Medchal Collectorate



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 16, (Indian Chronicle):...Medchal-Malkajgiri: ASHA workers under the banner of the Telangana ASHA Workers Union (CITU) launched a 48-hour protest at the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collectorate demanding a fixed monthly salary of ₹18,000 and allocation of adequate funds to the National Health Mission (NHM) to address their long-pending issues.



workers across the state went on a 15-day indefinite strike from September 25 to October 9, 2023, during which the then government made several assurances. Later, during the Assembly elections, the Congress party promised in its manifesto to increase the wages of ASHA workers and ensure job security.

It's not right for Arvind to insult party workers Workers are the foundation of power

"BJP state leader Muduganti Ravinder Reddy...Jagityal correspondent, March 16 (Indian Chronicle): The BJP party was built by its workers, and it's not right for Nizamabad MP Arvind to ignore and suppress them, said BJP state senior leader Muduganti Ravinder Reddy.



ing others. Ravinder Reddy warned Arvind not to try to suppress party workers and urged them not to lose courage. "The meeting was attended by BJP senior leaders ACS Raju, Lingampet Srinivas, Councilor Arava Lakshmi, Cheethi Srinivasa Rao, Anker Sudhakar, Linga Reddy, Thakur Kishor Singh, Gogikar Mahender, Godishela Nagaraju, Burra Pramod, Kurmachalam Satish, Bittu, and others.

Parameshwar Reddy, Aakaarapu Arun Patel distribute Ramzan Tohfes at Navaranguda Colony Masjid



Dhanalakshmi, Sandhya, Pavani, Shrivani, Vijaya, Sunitha, Shobha, Dhanasri, Kiranmai, Praveena, along with members of the Masjid committee, participated in the program.

Immediate action should be taken on complaints received in Prajavani:

Additional Collector Pandu, in-charge of local bodies...Prajavani petitions 57...Sangareddy, Indian chronicle correspondent March 16 : Additional Collector Pandu said that the main objective of the Prajavani program is to provide immediate solutions to the problems of the people.

...KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 16 (Indian Chronicle):...Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy distributed Ramzan Tohfes at the Navaranguda Colony Masjid.

No Zomato, Swiggy for defaulters: Gurgaon society puts up board naming residents who haven't paid dues



GNS News Agency, March 16

Residents who have not paid their maintenance dues in a premium township in Gurgaon may soon find everyday conveniences cut off. Food deliveries from apps like Zomato and Swiggy, car washing, and even maid services could be suspended until payments are cleared. The warning is part of an unusually public crackdown at Uppal Southend, where a large yellow board with bold black lettering has been placed outside the main gate listing residents who have defaulted on maintenance payments. The township, where flats and builder floors cost at least Rs 2 crore, lies barely ten kilometres from the ultra-luxury enclave of DLF Camellias.

The board does more than just name the defaulters — it spells out the consequences. "Please note that effective today, all non-essential services-including maid services, car washing, and delivery services such as Zomato and Swiggy-will be suspended until the dues are fully cleared," the notice reads. "All residents whose payments are due

and whose names are displayed on the notice board are requested to clear their outstanding dues at the earliest".

For some residents, the unpaid dues stretch back years. In a few cases, payments have been pending since 2012 — and even 2009 — with outstanding amounts crossing Rs 1 lakh. The move has quickly become a talking point within the township. Some residents stop at the gate to read the list of names, while others simply glance at the board while driving past. "So many people have not given," one resident said while looking at the board. "It's good. Maybe now they will start." According to the Residents' Welfare Association, the tactic has worked before. "We had put up a similar board in 2023 as well, and managed to collect lakhs in dues," said RWA president Col Surender Kumar Yadav. "This time too the dues piled up. No one is opposing. We are explaining to residents to pay up. We have kept the services — delivery and maids — going since some workers tend to multiple residents." Long-time resident Anil Rastogi said the dues are necessary for the township's functioning.

"Ours is a township dependent on civic bodies for many amenities, hence the dues are needed," he said. "Some people had not paid for a long time. It was causing difficulty, but now they will slowly begin to understand." However, a former member of the RWA believes the current approach is too harsh. "During our time, we would send weekly reminders of pending invoices, hold monthly meetings over the dues, and grievance redressal sessions too," said former RWA president Advocate Rajesh Khatana. "Now without properly reminding and intimidating residents, they are being named publicly." At the township's main gate, however, security guards suggest the restrictions may not be strictly enforced.

Street dogs attack, kill woman in Pune's Chakan

GNS News Agency, March 16

In a shocking incident, a pack of street dogs attacked and killed a woman near Ambethan Chowk in Chakan under Pune district in the early hours of Monday. The woman, identified as Shobha Vijay Waghmare, 32, a native of Deglur in Nanded district, was residing in Chakan for the last few months. According to the police, some residents first spotted the body of the woman near the overbridge at Ambethan Chowk along the Pune-Nashik highway. The residents informed the police, and the local Chakan police station, thereafter, launched a probe. While checking footage captured by CCTV cameras in the vicinity of the spot, it emerged that the woman was attacked by a group of stray dogs around 2 am.

In the video, the police said, it can be seen that the woman was walking alone, when, all of a sudden, six to seven street dogs attacked her. She picked up a stone to resist the dogs. But the dogs overpowered the woman and then bit her repeatedly for about 15 minutes, causing her death. As per the legal procedure, an accidental death report was lodged in this case at the Chakan police station. Senior police inspector Jitendra Kadam of Chakan



police station said, "The woman hails from Nanded and shifted to Pune in search of a job a few months ago. She worked as a labourer at a private place. She is married, but is residing separately." CCTV footage confirmed that the woman died in an attack by street dogs. We have informed the authorities of the Chakan Municipal Council about the incident, asking them to take appropriate action against the street dogs in the area."

Police protection for gas tankers: How Maharashtra is safeguarding your LPG supply amid West Asia crisis



GNS News Agency, March 16

As the conflict in West Asia continues to disrupt global energy supply, Maharashtra Food and Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal informed the Legislative Council Monday that the state has authorised police protection for LPG transportation and distribution. The move aims to prevent supply chain interference and curb the burgeoning black market for cooking gas. Between January and March 15, the state's enforcement wings conducted 2,129 inspections, resulting in 23 cases and the arrest of 18 people for hoarding and price gouging, Bhujbal said.

"Directions have been issued to resolve technical issues in the gas refill booking app and missed call services. Instructions have also been given to provide police protection for LPG transportation and distribution. Oil companies have sufficient LPG stocks, and distribution is proceeding smoothly," he said, adding that the government appeals to citizens not to worry about the LPG supply. He also said there has been only a marginal increase in edible oil prices compared to before the West Asia conflict.

Bhujbal also said that while the state government manages distribution, the Centre remains the authority on supply and pricing of petroleum products for all states in the country. "Due to the war-like situation in the Middle East, the Central Government, on March 5, 2026, directed oil companies to supply LPG exclusively for domestic use to ensure a smooth fuel supply. Effective March 7, 2026, the Central Government increased the price of domestic LPG cylinders from Rs 852.50 to Rs 912.50. Similarly, the price of commercial cylinders was increased from Rs 1,720.50 to Rs 1,835.00," Bhujbal said in his statement. District collectors ordered to act against black marketing

Bhujbal said that to ensure a smooth fuel supply and prevent black marketing, the Maharashtra government issued a letter on March 8, instructing district collectors and regional offices to form district-level vigilance squads and take action against black marketing. He also said the government informed the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on March 11 that it is considering distributing kerosene as an alternative to LPG. A meeting was held on March 12 under the chairmanship of the chief secretary regarding LPG supply in the state, and a circular was issued on March 13 to maintain a smooth supply, he added. He said that as per the Centre's instructions, priority sectors have been identified for the supply of commercial LPG: They are hospitals, educational institutions, crematoriums, old-age homes, orphanages (100 per cent), defence, government sector, railways, aviation, police/prison canteens (70 per cent) and MSRTC canteens, pharmaceutical industry, seed processing, fisheries (50 per cent). He said that LPG production at refineries has been increased from 9,000 metric tonnes to 11,000 metric tonnes. Special committees and control rooms have been established at the district level. Regular meetings are being held with oil companies and gas distributors, he added.

Delhi Crime Branch busts illegal LPG storage in Mundka, seizes 610 gas cylinders

GNS News Agency, March 16

The Anti-Extortion Cell of the Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted an illegal LPG storage operation in outer Delhi's Mundka area and recovered 610 commercial and domestic gas cylinders, officials said on Monday.

Acting on specific intelligence, a Crime Branch team raided Guruji Indane Gas Service, located at Khasra Number 111/22 and 111, Plot No. 9, Mundka, where they allegedly stored a large number of LPG cylinders illegally. The police found that commercial LPG cylinders belonging to companies such as Indane, Bharat Gas, and HP Gas were stored together on the premises, violating LPG control regulations and licensing norms. According to the police, 197 of the 610 cylinders were full, 392 were empty commercial cylinders, and 21 were small-size domestic cylinders. Additionally, 26 industrial cylinders (47 kg capacity) belonging to Indane were also found inside the godown. Preliminary investigation revealed that the agency was authorised to distribute only commercial Indane cylinders, but cylinders

belonging to other companies were also hoarded at the site. Officials further stated that, as per verbal communication with the Indian Oil Corporation, the distributor's stock of Indane cylinders was supposed to be nil as of March 15, but 133 filled commercial Indane cylinders were still found stored on its premises during the raid.

The raid was conducted in the presence of Vikas Kumar, Food Supply Officer from the Food Supply and Consumer Affairs Department, Delhi, who confirmed that storing cylinders of different companies on one company's distributor premises is illegal. An FIR was then registered at the Crime Branch police station under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, related to criminal conspiracy. "Delhi Police is maintaining strict vigil against illegal hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities across the city. Any information regarding such activities is acted upon with priority, and stringent legal action is taken against offenders."

Beed newborn with critical heart condition saved at Mumbai hospital



GNS News Agency, March 16

A five-day-old baby from Maharashtra's Beed district, born with a life-threatening heart defect, was saved after a specialised heart procedure at a Mumbai hospital following a 12-hour ambulance journey. The baby boy was born on November 20, 2025, at a government hospital in Beed through an emergency caesarean section. Soon after birth, doctors noticed a bluish discoloration of his skin — a sign that his blood oxygen levels were dangerously low.

Tests showed that his oxygen saturation had dropped to around 65 per cent, far below the normal level of above 95 per cent for healthy newborns. Doctors suspected a serious heart defect that was preventing enough blood from reaching the lungs to pick up oxygen. A local paediatrician contacted specialists at Narayana Health SRCC Children's Hospital in Mumbai, who advised that the baby be urgently shifted for advanced treatment. The newborn was first given medication to keep open a temporary blood vessel that helps carry blood to the lungs in such cases. He was then trans-

ported to Mumbai in an ambulance equipped with breathing support, reaching the hospital after a 12-hour journey in critical condition. Doctors found that the baby had a rare heart defect in which the normal pathway that carries blood from the heart to the lungs had not developed properly. As a result, the child depended on a small temporary blood vessel present at birth to supply blood to the lungs. However, this vessel usually closes within a few days after birth, which can quickly cause oxygen levels to drop.

By the time the baby reached Mumbai, doctors also detected a serious infection, which meant the team first had to stabilise him with medicines and antibiotics before carrying out the heart procedure. Once his condition improved, doctors performed a procedure on December 1 to place a tiny metal tube, called a stent, in the temporary blood vessel to keep it open and allow blood to flow to the lungs. The baby was placed on a ventilator during the procedure, which lasted about an hour. "The baby's oxygen levels improved immediately from around 65 per cent to nearly 90 per cent after the procedure," said Dr Supratim Sen, Clinical Lead and Senior Consultant in Paediatric Cardiology at the hospital. The infant was taken off ventilator support three days later and discharged a week after the procedure. At discharge, his oxygen levels remained stable. Doctors said the procedure helped stabilise the baby but he will require further heart surgery as he grows. A corrective open-heart surgery is planned when the child is six to eight months old. The hospital's paediatric cardiology team has performed about 53 such procedures in infants with complex heart defects. Doctors said the treatment, which usually costs around ₹3 lakh, was supported in this case through government healthcare schemes and charitable assistance.

Maharashtra will form task force to suggest legal amendments to rein in illegal clinics: Uday Samant

GNS News Agency, March 16

Maharashtra minister Uday Samant said on Monday that the Government would form a task force led by the additional chief secretaries of the urban development and public health departments to act against illegal nursing homes and would present a report on the matter in the legislature. The task force will have 90 days to suggest stringent amendments to laws to crack down on illegal nursing homes more effectively.

"For an issue within the jurisdiction of a municipal corporation, the civic body can take action, but it is limited to slapping a fine on them. Therefore, the public health department should also take action," he said, while replying to a question raised by MLCs in the Legislative Council. The minister said there were 1,371 registered nursing homes within the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits and that 35 had faced action till now. He also directed BMC officials to survey Mumbai regarding such illegal practices. Samant said that under existing rules, the fine is merely Rs 50 and imprisonment is only for six months.

"It is important to bring in amendments. The issue concerns the transition from urban to rural areas. The Government will bring in the amendments in the next session," he said. BJP MLC Chitra Wagh alleged that slums and poor localities have been infested with quacks and bogus nursing homes. "The Government must run a special campaign against such nursing homes and doctors. A detailed list of these bogus individuals should be announced. Each clinic must display its registration certificates for all to see, and later, a special helpline should be declared for the public to complain about such malpractices," she said. Wagh also



sought details of action taken against bogus doctors and closed bogus clinics. She demanded to know whether the Government will form a state-level task force to curb these practices. Congress MLC Bhai Jagtap pointed out that the issue is not limited to Mumbai, people across the state face these problems, so the task force should cover all of Maharashtra. Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Sachin Ahir said implementing existing laws was more important. Samant said that apart from the two senior bureaucrats, the health commissioner, divisional commissioners, and an inspector-general would be part of the task force. "The additional chief secretaries of the urban development will have the authority to include necessary officials in the committee. The committee, apart from detailing actions taken against bogus nursing homes, will have the authority to recommend amendments to the act. This committee will be the controlling authority to suggest necessary amendments, which will lead to stringent action against the guilty," he said.

Man kills daughter over relationship with neighbour in UP's Gorakhpur, arrested



GNS News Agency, March 16

The Gorakhpur police in Uttar Pradesh arrested a man on Sunday for allegedly killing his daughter after she refused to end her relationship with a neighbour. The police said the family had initially tried to portray the murder as an accident, claiming that the victim, Neha Bharti, 20, had accidentally fallen on a sickle and sustained fatal injuries. However, during the investigation, it emerged that her father, Kamlesh Bharti, 50, had attacked her in a fit of rage, leading to her death.

"The father has confessed to the crime," said Ratneshwar Singh, Circle Officer, Gorakhpur, adding that

the accused, Kamlesh Bharti, works as a labourer abroad and had returned to his village about two months ago.

According to the police, on Friday, they received information about the death of a young woman under suspicious circumstances in Sinhoriya village. Following the incident, the victim's mother submitted a written complaint at the local police station, claiming that her daughter had accidentally slipped and fallen on a sickle at home. She was then rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, where she later succumbed to her injuries. Acting on the complaint, the police carried out the inquest proceedings and post-mortem examination. However, investigators grew suspicious after examining the nature of the injuries on the victim's body, which did not appear consistent with the family's account of an accidental fall. This prompted the police to probe the case further and question the family members and neighbours in detail.

During the probe, it emerged that the woman had been in contact with a local youth and used to speak to him on the phone frequently, which often led to arguments between her and her father. The police said that on the day of the incident, too, a dispute broke out at the victim's house over the same issue. During the altercation, the accused allegedly assaulted his daughter in a fit of rage, leading to her death.

In big EV push, Maharashtra sets 2037 deadline for becoming first state with 100% electric bus fleet

Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik informed the Legislative Council Monday that the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) will convert its entire fleet of 22,000 buses to electric vehicles (EVs) by 2037. He also said the move positions Maharashtra as the first state in the country to commit to a total transition of its state-run bus network to EVs.

"Currently, out of our 22,000 buses, approximately 800 are electric. It is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis that India transition entirely to electric mobility by 2047. As part of that campaign, we have moved our target forward to ensure the MSRTC fleet is 100 per cent electric by 2037," said Sarnaik.

He also said that while there was an initial plan to purchase 5,000 diesel buses annually for the next five years, that strategy has been significantly overhauled. "It has now been decided that, beyond the 8,000 diesel buses currently in progress, all future additions to the fleet will be electric. We have also planned a scheme to convert diesel buses to

EVs," he said. "We have also created a proposal under which solar power will be used for recharging the charging stations to save electricity and which will ultimately help the environment," the minister said. Sarnaik also said the government has proposed using solar power to run charging stations, reducing reliance on the traditional power grid.

Sarnaik said the state's EV Policy 2026 provides various monetary benefits for EV purchases, including tax exemptions and toll discounts. EVs currently enjoy total toll waivers on major arterial routes, including the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Mahamarg, and the Atal Setu (MTHL). "In addition, the state government is developing charging stations every 25 km on highways, extending financial benefits, promoting courses on developing charging technology," he said. Delhi currently boasts the largest electric bus fleet in India, with over 4,200 EVs. As part of its EV policy, the Delhi government aims to expand its fleet of electric buses to 7,500 by the end of 2026 and to 14,000 by 2028.

'List won't end here': EC widens scrutiny to lower-level officers to ensure violence-free Bengal polls

Incidents of pre-poll and polling-day violence occurred during the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election, as well as pre-poll, polling-day, and post-poll violence during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Hours after announcing the Bengal polls, the Commission also replaced two of the state's top bureaucrats, removing Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty and appointing Dushyant Nariala in her place late on Sunday. Similarly, Home Secretary Jagdish Prasad Meena was replaced by Sanghamitra Ghosh. In a letter to the Bengal chief secretary, the Commission stated that Chakraborty and Meena must not be assigned any election-related role until the polling process concludes. "The directions of the Election Commission should be implemented with immediate effect and a compliance report in respect of joining of Dushyant Nariala and Sanghamitra Ghosh be sent by 3 pm on March 16 (Monday)," it said. On Monday morning, ECI also ordered the transfer of several senior police officers, including the director general of police, the ADG (Law and Order), the commissioner of Kolkata police, and the director general of Correctional Services. A senior ECI official said the "list will not end here". "We are determined to ensure violence-free elections in Bengal. To ensure that, we will go to any length and replace any officers we deem necessary. Lower-level police personnel and administration officers sometimes take an important role in conducting free and fair elections. We will bring strong and transparent officers in those posts as well." "Bengal will see a massive reshuffle in the coming week across all levels of the administration," the official added. West Bengal will vote in two phases on April 23 and April 29, down from eight phases in the previous election. The counting of votes will take place on May 4.

GNS News Agency, March 16

Gyanesh Kumar The Election Commission expands its crackdown in West Bengal, scrutinizing lower-level officers and recent transfers to eliminate potential bias and prevent a repeat of past electoral violence. The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday expanded its focus beyond top bureaucrats in its effort to ensure violence-free and fair elections in West Bengal and is now scrutinising lower-level officers, in addition to senior administrative and police officers in the state. A day after the election schedule was announced, ECI sought additional details and asked the state to provide a list of re-employed officers and employees who were transferred after February 28, 2026.

Following this directive, the state's Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department asked all departments to submit lists of employees transferred after February 28, 2026, along with details of all re-employed officers and staff. On Sunday, EC asked the state administration to submit a list of police station-level officers under whose juris-

Police begin crackdown on black marketing of LPG in Delhi, man arrested in snoop on illegal filling hub in Shakarpur

GNS News Agency, March 16

A 46-year-old man was apprehended by police for allegedly running an illegal LPG refilling operation and indulging in the black marketing of domestic gas cylinders in the Shakarpur area of East Delhi, a senior police officer said on Monday (March 16). Delhi and the NCR cities are facing a severe shortage of LPG because of supply constraints resulting from the US-Israeli war against Iran, which has resulted in the virtual closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the vital sea lane through which India and many other countries get their imports of LPG and LNG.

The government has been saying that panic booking, hoarding, and black marketing of cooking gas is exacerbating the crisis, which has hit the poor and those without permanent addresses or piped gas connections the hardest. According to the police officer, information was received on Sunday from a member of the public regarding illegal refilling of LPG cylinders at a shop in Shakarpur. The information was recorded through a Daily Diary (DD) entry at the Shakarpur police station, and a team was constituted under the leadership of the Station House Officer (SHO) to investigate.

Refilling of cylinders is illegal because of the dangers of handling the highly combustible gas, and because of the price differential between domestic and commercial cylinders, which creates scope for profiteering and black marketing of LPG. The police team, which included Head Constable Anurag and other police personnel, conducted a raid at the suspected shop in Shakarpur. During the operation, a person present at the premises identified himself as Yogesh Gupta, a resident of Shakarpur, aged about 46 years, police said.

"During questioning, Gupta admitted that he had been refilling LPG gas from large domestic cylinders into smaller cylinders at his shop for the past few days. He also disclosed that he had refilled gas in smaller cylinders two to three days prior to the raid," the police officer said. According to the police, the accused man had admitted that he did not have the licence or authorisation to carry out such activities, and had been operating without taking adequate safety measures. During the search of the premises, police allegedly recovered two domestic LPG cylinders of 14.2 kg each,



three smaller domestic gas cylinders of 5 kg each, a pipe that is used to transfer gas and is commonly known as "totapilas", an LPG refilling machine, and a weighing machine.

Police officers said that the recovered articles indicated that the accused was illegally transferring LPG gas from larger cylinders into smaller ones for unauthorised sale. Such activities not only amount to black marketing of essential commodities but also pose a serious threat to public safety due to the risk of gas leaks and explosions, the officers said. Over the past week, complaints have mounted over the cost of gas "per kg" rising sharply in the black market. Slum dwellers, street vendors such as momos and chat stall owners, owners of small eateries such as roadside dhabas, tea-stall owners, etc. typically buy LPG by the kilo from unauthorised sellers and dealers of gas. Police said the accused in Shakarpur was using his shop to carry out the illegal refilling operation without any safety precautions. Based on the findings of the raid, a case has been registered under Section 3/7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, along with Sections 287 (Negligent conduct with respect to machinery), 125 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 318(4) (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Shakarpur police station. Section 3 of the Essentials Act deals with the "Powers to control production, supply, distribution, etc., of essential commodities". Section 7 prescribes the punishment for violations of the provisions of Section 3.

After chief secretary and home secretary, ECI removes DGP, Kolkata CP

Commission is determined to ensure free, fair, and violence-free elections in West Bengal. According to sources in the poll panel, the changes in the top level of the state administration and police are aimed at achieving that goal.

Now book feeder autos from Pune Metro's SNT-Nal Stop station; Rs 20-30 rides to Warje and Karvenagar

Commuters alighting at the SNT-Nal Stop station on the Pune Metro's Aqua Line can now book feeder autorickshaw rides to nearby destinations, following the launch of the service by Maha Metro and the union Baghtoy Rickshawala Sangathana on March 14. In the first phase, four routes have been identified, covering Warje, DP Road, Rajaram Bridge, and parts of Karvenagar, including Cummins College. Fares are fixed at Rs 20-30 per seat, depending on the distance, with the higher fare applicable for longer stretches such as Warje Jakat Naka, Ambedkar Chowk, and Warje Bridge.

Commuters can book a ride by scanning a QR code at the metro station, which directs them to a route selection page on a website. After choosing their stop, a ride code is generated, which the passenger shares with the auto driver at the dedicated halt set up on the station premises. Keshav Kshirsagar, president of the Baghtoy Rickshawala Sangathana, said the union was also planning to set up dedicated pickup points at key locations so that passengers could use the feeder service to reach the metro station. "After assessing the response, we will identify stops closer to residential areas," he said.

GNS News Agency, March 16

A day after the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force in West Bengal, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday removed Bengal Director General of Police (DGP) Peeyush Pandey and replaced him with 1992-batch IPS officer Siddh Nath Gupta.

The poll panel also made other major reshuffles in the top police brass, like making Ajay Kumar Nand (1996-batch IPS officer) the new police commissioner of Kolkata in place of Supratim Sarkar. Similarly, Ajay Mukund Ranade (1995 batch) will take charge as ADG (law and order). He is replacing Vineet Goyal. Meanwhile, Natarajan Ramesh Babu (1991 batch) will take charge as the DG.

Within hours of the declaration of the poll schedule on Sunday evening, the ECI had removed Nandini Chakraborty from the post of chief secretary, appointing Dushyant Nariala in her place. Home Secretary Jagdish Prasad Meena was also replaced by Sanghamitra Ghosh. Ajay Nand, the new Commissioner of the Kolkata Police, is known for his role in anti-Maoist operations. He previously served as the Commissioner of Asansol-Durgapur and also has experience in the Kolkata Police. He was the first IG appointed to the West Bengal STF. This time, West Bengal will vote in two phases — on April 23 and April 29. While announcing the poll schedule, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar stated that although the number of phases has been reduced, the

NCP (SP) Baramati MP Supriya Sule accuses Centre, Maharashtra govt of hiding LPG crisis, demands all-party meet



GNS News Agency, March 16

NCP (SP) Baramati MP Supriya Sule Monday accused the Centre and the Maharashtra Government of trying to hide the fact that there was a shortage of LPG, and urged the Union Government to convene an all-party meeting to find a way out. "This is not the time to play politics. All parties should come together and find a way out. The Centre should convene a meeting and should tell the people about the factual situation," Sule said while interacting with reporters in Delhi. Decrying the Maharashtra Government for not accepting the 'reality', Sule said, "I was in Baramati on Saturday and Sunday. I took a review of the availability of LPG cylinders in Baramati. People are struggling to get LPG cylinders."

Sule said a private group in the Dhayari area of Pune city sends chapatis to some companies in Hinjewadi. "Fifty per cent of their work has stopped because of a shortage of LPG. The same situation exists in Baramati. I met several businesspeople in Baramati. They all complained that commercial cylinders are not available in Baramati. Small-scale

industries have been hit, and restaurants have shut down," she added.

Sule said in neighbouring areas of Baramati, like Daund and Indapur, several industrial units have reduced their manpower up to 75 per cent because of LPG shortage. "Why is the government refusing to accept that there is a shortage of LPG cylinders in the country?" she asked. Sule urged the Centre to convene an all-party meeting as early as possible. "People are queuing up from early morning outside gas agencies to get their stock of the cylinder. SSIs, canteens, and mess service have also been hit. I urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with folded hands, to take urgent steps to mitigate the miseries of the people. Our economy is in danger of collapsing. Therefore, the government should convene an all-party meeting. The government should tell the people about the situation as it exists. If the government plans to initiate certain measures, we should be ready for it," the Maharashtra MP said.

Sule further said, "Why are the Central Government and the Maharashtra Government hiding the fact about the shortage of LPG cylinders? If there is a shortage, then why is the government not coming up with an action plan? The LPG system in the country has collapsed. The district collectors are articulating the views of the government... We are demanding a discussion on this issue in Parliament. The situation as it exists today is not about staging opposition. Everywhere in the country, people are fighting to get their stock of LPG. Why are the governments not telling the truth? What are they waiting for?" Sule said in Maharashtra, several cities like Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Jalgaon, and Baramati have been hit by an LPG shortage. "If the chief minister takes time out to watch news on television channels, he will come to know exactly in which city there is a shortage of LPG cylinders," she said.

How Google Maps powered 2 thieves' temple run and how police finally caught up

GNS News Agency, March 16

The Pune Rural police recently arrested two men for a series of temple burglaries across Junnar, Ambegaon, and Shirur talukas. The investigation revealed a modern twist to the crimes: the suspects allegedly used Google Maps to scout remote temple locations, study their surroundings, and plan their midnight thefts. The string of seven burglaries over the last two months, which coincided with the start of traditional 'yatra' and 'utsav' festivals, had left residents and local priests on edge. In response to public outcry, Sandeep Singh Gill, Superintendent of Police, directed a local crime branch team, led by Inspector Avinash Shilimkar, to solve the cases. The series of thefts

A theft attempt was reported at a Khandoba temple in Nalavane village in Junnar on December 30. The burglars allegedly tried to steal the paduka, the deity's sacred footwear, from the temple. But an anti-theft siren at the spot triggered, and the burglars fled from the temple. In this case, the FIR was lodged at the Alephata police station. In another case, around 2 am on January 23, the burglars allegedly made away with a donation box carrying Rs 20,000 from Shri Someshwar Temple in Pimpri Dumala village in Shirur taluka of Pune district. The donation box was later found lying in the bushes nearby, but the cash was stolen, the police said. An FIR was lodged at the Ranjangaon MIDC police station.

In another instance, Rs 11,000 in cash was stolen from the donation box of the Shivshambo temple at Dhalwadi in Junnar in the morning hours of February 7. Similarly, Rs 45,000 was stolen from the donation box of Bhairavnath Temple in Shirolvi village, Junnar, on the intervening night between February 5 and February 6. The FIRs in both thefts were lodged at the Junnar police station. In the midnight hours of February 22, unidentified people allegedly stole Rs 12,000 from the donation box at a Sai Temple in Warulwadi village in Junnar, after closing the door latch of the priest's room from outside. The FIR in this case was filed at the Narayangaon police station. Hours later, on the morning of February 23, a theft of Rs 20,000 was reported from the donation box of the Khandoba temple in Chinchkaimala village, Junnar. The police filed an FIR at the Alephata police station. In the early hours of March 3, Rs 2,000 in cash was stolen from the donation box at Kalambadevi Mata Temple in Shevalwadi, Manchar. The police said the deity's paduka and the digital video recorder (DVR) for the CCTV installed at the spot were also stolen. An FIR was lodged in this case at the Manchar police station.

Soon after this theft, working on clues from the inves-



tigation into previous burglaries at other temples, the police nabbed two burglars from Kandali Phata on the Pune-Nashik highway on March 3. The police identified the accused as Sunil Suresh Agiwal, 20, and Bhima Bhausaheb Girhe, 26, both residents of the Ahilyanagar district. The police confirmed their involvement in seven temple burglaries in Pune district and one in Ahilyanagar, during which they allegedly stole Rs 50,000 from a donation box at the Khandoba temple in Dhandarfal village, Sangamner, on February 9. The police said they obtained clues about the suspects from CCTV footage captured at a couple of temples that had been burgled.

Assistant Inspector Mahadev Shelar said, "CCTV footage showed suspects having their faces covered with a cloth. But during the probe, we obtained details about the motorcycle they used in the crime. The probe revealed that suspects matching the same description were involved in thefts at different temples. After committing the crime, they were seen riding towards the Sangamner area via Nashik road." Shelar said that following the leads, they nabbed the two suspects and recovered a motorcycle, a screwdriver, other equipment they used for thefts, a spray, some cash, and a silver footwear of a deity, all worth Rs 1.19 lakh, from their possession. "It was learnt during the investigation that the accused were choosing the temples for burglary using Google Maps. They randomly selected rural temples and studied their surroundings on Google Maps. Then they took screenshots of the temples they wanted to burgle. They committed thefts at these temples in the midnight hours and mainly looked for the money in donation boxes," said Shelar. The officer further said they found screenshots of several other temples on the accused's cell phones. "So far, we have found their involvement in eight temple burglaries. But they may have committed thefts at many other temples in the Pune and Ahilyanagar districts. Further investigation is on," he said. Shelar said the accused Sunil Agiwal was earlier booked in four sandalwood theft cases registered at the Chaturshringi police station in Pune.

Gujarat govt drops plan to move Bill on private coaching centres, framing policy

GNS News Agency, March 16

The Gujarat government has dropped its plan to move a Bill — the Gujarat Coaching Institute (Management) Bill — in the Legislative Assembly's budget session to regulate and control the private coaching centres, officials privy to the matter told The Indian Express. In place of the Bill, a policy for the same is being framed which will be implemented soon, they added. While similar Bills have been passed by other states — for instance, the Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025, which was being analysed by officials — the government has decided to go with the policy now. Following a number of student suicide cases, fire incidents, lack of facilities and alleged malpractices in the field, the Gujarat government had planned to control and regulate coaching centres across the state under law, with focus on student safety, mental well-being and transparency.

"The earlier plan of moving a Bill in the Assembly to regulate private coaching centres has been dropped. A committee is working on forming rules and regulations for the new policy," Mukesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, told The Indian Express. The Supreme Court, through the Ministry of Education's 2024 guidelines, had mandated uniform standards for coaching centres across the country, focussing on student safety, mental health and transparency, requiring states to enforce rules. The team of experts is studying the 'Guidelines for Registration and Regulation of Coaching Center 2024' issued by the Department of Higher Education and Ministry of Education, Government of India, and that will form the basis of the new policy, officials explained. According to officials,

areas such as misleading ads by coaching centres, qualification of tutors, minimum space per student, fire safety compliance, fair fees with an option of refund, no classes during school hours, and mandatory counselling and grievance redressal, with penalties for violations, will be covered under the new policy.

One of the committee members revealed that the policy framework will look into issues related to registration and regulation in the interests of students and bring in a provision to provide career guidance and psychological counselling to students enrolled in private coaching centres aimed at reducing their stress. Advertisements with false claims or offers by coaching centres will be banned and there will be mandatory provision to refund fees in case a student leaves during the coaching period. Teachers serving in any government institute will not be allowed to teach in private coaching centres. Likewise, the coaching centres will not be allowed to conduct classes for students during their school hours so that their regular attendance remains unaffected, sources said. Infrastructure facilities such as minimum area per student, compliance with fire safety norms, well-ventilated buildings, safe and potable drinking water and CCTV cameras will also be covered in the policy guidelines, officials said. Also, plans for creating awareness among students and parents about excessive ambitions that may cause mental pressure are being worked out. Segregation of batches based on the performance of students will not be allowed under the new policy, sources said. There will also be a provision to include counsellors and experienced psychologists to counsel and provide psychotherapeutic service to students for reducing their mental stress and depression, they added.

Drone strike forces temporary suspension of flights at Dubai airport



GNS News Agency, March 16

New Delhi: Dubai Airport on Monday announced to temporarily suspend all flights as a precautionary safety measure, after a drone struck a fuel tank in the area. "Flights at DXB (Dubai International Airport) are temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of all passengers and staff. Please contact your airlines for the latest flight updates. Further updates will be shared as they become available," Dubai Airport said in a post on X.

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority said travellers are

advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest updates regarding their flights. "Further updates will be announced through official channels as soon as they become available," the Dubai Media Office wrote on X.

A fire broke out near Dubai International Airport on Monday after a drone struck a fuel tank, prompting a rapid response from emergency teams and the temporary suspension of flights. Authorities said Dubai Civil Defence crews were immediately deployed to tackle the blaze and that no injuries were reported as safety measures were activated across the vicinity. Dubai Civil Defence crews were immediately deployed to tackle the blaze and that no injuries were reported as safety measures were activated across the vicinity. Meanwhile, an Emirates flight bound for Dubai from Kochi returned to the airport here on Monday following a security incident reported from the destination airport. "Flight EK533 departed Cochin International Airport (CIAL) at 04.30 am with 325 people on board. En route, the aircraft was directed to turn back due to the sudden closure of Dubai International Airport," a CIAL spokesperson said. Meanwhile, the UAE's defence ministry has reported six deaths since the conflict began — four civilians and two military personnel. The soldiers died in a helicopter crash that was linked to a technical issue.

Israel launches strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon, evacuation orders issued

GNS News Agency, March 16

Jerusalem: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Sunday that it conducted a wave of strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon. As part of the strikes carried out on Saturday, the Israeli Army struck launch sites in the Al-Qatrani area in southern Lebanon, from which Hezbollah militants planned to launch rockets imminently, the IDF said in a statement. It noted that the IDF also dismantled Hezbollah elite Radwan Force command centres in Beirut, from which militants allegedly launched attacks on Israel, Xinhua news agency reported. The Israeli army also issued immediate forced evacuation orders for residents in several neighbourhoods in the Lebanese capital.

In a statement, Israeli Army Spokesman Avichay Adraee urged residents of Haret Hreik, Ghobeiry, Laylaki, Hadath, Burj al-Barajneh, Tahwit al-Ghadir, and Shiyah "to leave immediately and not to return until further notice," the Anadolu news agency reported. He said the Israeli army would "forcefully operate" in these areas, citing what he called Hezbollah activities in the neighbourhoods. Adraee threatened "to target anyone present near Hezbollah facilities, personnel, or military equipment in those locations". Hezbollah said on Sunday it was also targeting several Israeli troop positions in villages close to the border.

According to Lebanon's Health Ministry, Israeli air raids have killed 826 people in Lebanon since the start of the latest war, which began on March 2. Meanwhile, Leba-



nese President Joseph Aoun has proposed negotiations with Israel. But Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on Sunday that "there were no plans to hold direct talks with Lebanon in the coming days. Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported on Saturday that Israel and Lebanon were expected to hold direct talks. French President Emmanuel Macron said last week the Lebanese government was ready to engage in "direct talks" with Israel as he offered to host negotiations in Paris, warning that "everything must be done to prevent Lebanon from descending into chaos". United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently said Lebanese people have been "dragged into" a war, as he called for an end to the fighting amid Israel's continued assault on several areas of the country.

Daniil Medvedev beats Carlos Alcaraz to reach Indian Wells final

GNS News Agency, March 16

Indian Wells (US): Daniil Medvedev handed top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz his first loss of the year and advanced to the final at Indian Wells with a 6-3, 7-6 (3) victory. The 11th-seeded Medvedev, from Russia, will face second-seeded Jannik Sinner of Italy. Sinner beat Alexander Zverev 6-2, 6-4.

Alcaraz had won 16 straight matches this year, including titles at the Australian Open and Qatar Open. But Medvedev ended the possibility of an Alcaraz-Sinner final. Medvedev had dropped his last four meetings with Alcaraz, including a loss in the Indian Wells final in 2024. This was Medvedev's first victory over him since the US Open semifinals in 2023.

Sinner made quick work of Zverev, beating him in 1 hour and 23 minutes. Sinner notched six aces against the fourth-seeded Zverev. Zverev won his first eight points on serve, but Sinner broke him in both the fifth and seventh games to secure the first set. Sinner now leads the head-to-head series against Zverev 7-4.

Neither Medvedev nor Sinner has dropped a set yet in this tournament. Sinner has won his last three matches against Medvedev, including in the US Open quarterfinals in 2024.



In the women's doubles final, Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova beat Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic 7-6 (4), 6-4. The victory marked Townsend's first title at Indian Wells and Siniakova's second. Siniakova also won in 2023 alongside longtime partner Barbora Krejickova. In the men's doubles final, Guido Andreozzi and Manuel Guinard beat Arthur Rinderknech and Valentin Vacherot 7-6 (3), 6-3. In mixed doubles, Belinda Bencic and Flavio Cobolli beat top-seeded Gabriela Dabrowski and Lloyd Glasspool 6-3, 2-6, 10-7.

Close fight on the cards in Kerala's bellwether constituency — Ollur

GNS News Agency, March 16

One of the most intriguing contests in the upcoming Kerala Assembly election is expected in Ollur constituency in Thrissur district — a seat widely regarded as a bellwether of the State's political mood.

Though there is no scientific basis to the claim, Ollur has built a reputation since 1982 for electing candidates from the front that eventually forms the government in the State. In 1982, when the United Democratic Front (UDF) led by K. Karunakaran came to power, Ollur elected Congress candidate Raghavan Puzhakadavil. In 1987, when the Left Democratic Front (LDF) led by E.K. Nayanar formed the government, voters backed Communist Party of India (CPI) candidate A.M. Paraman.

The trend continued in subsequent elections as well. P.P. George (Congress) won in 1991, C.N. Jayadevan (CPI) in 1996, P.P. George again in 2001, Rajaji Mathew Thomas (CPI) in 2006 and M.P. Vincent (Congress) in 2011 — each victory aligning with the coalition that eventually formed the government in Kerala. In 2016, CPI's K. Rajan wrested the constituency from the Congress in 2016 and retained it in 2021. Mr. Rajan, who is at present Kerala's Revenue Minister, is seeking re-election from Ollur.

The constituency's unique social and geographical profile makes it politically complex. Located on the outskirts of Thrissur city, Ollur blends urban and rural characteristics. The constituency stretches from the industrial belt of Ollur town to the paddy fields and hilly terrain from Pattikkad to Peechi. The political battle here is largely between the CPI-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF, though the BJP-led NDA has gradually expanded its vote share. Ollur initially favoured Congress-backed candidates, but the Left slowly

strengthened its organisational network, particularly through labour movements. The LDF today retains a strong cadre base in working-class areas and among trade unions, while the Congress has a presence among urban voters and middle-class families. In the 2021 Assembly election, Mr. Rajan secured a decisive victory with 76,657 votes (49.09%). Congress candidate Jose Valloor followed with 55,151 votes (35.31%), while BJP candidate B. Gopalakrishnan polled 22,295 votes (14.28%), indicating the NDA's growing presence among urban and suburban voters. Local issues are likely to shape the electoral contest. "Wildlife attacks and the delay in getting land titles are major issues here," says Subhash, who runs a small eatery near Puthur.

The LDF is expected to highlight Mr. Rajan's performance as Revenue Minister as a key campaign plank. Among the flagship projects is the Puthur Zoological Park, a wildlife habitat designed by Australian zoo architect Jon Coe. Spread across 336 acres, the park is projected as a landmark development initiative in Thrissur. The distribution of a large number of land titles to high-range farmers is another achievement highlighted by the Left front. Infrastructure development, including the Hill Highway project passing through parts of Thrissur district, is also likely to feature in the campaign narrative. Religious demographics play a significant role here. Ollur has a substantial Christian population, with the area often referred to locally as "Chinna Roma" or "Little Rome" because of the high concentration of Syro-Malabar Catholic families. The constituency comprises four panchayats — Madakkathara, Nadathara, Pananchery and Puthur — along with nine divisions of the Thrissur Corporation and portions of a few other divisions. In the last local body elections, the LDF won two panchayats while the UDF secured the other two.

Trump demands others help secure Strait of Hormuz, Japan and Australia say no plans to send ships



GNS News Agency, March 16

Japan and Australia said on Monday (March 16, 2026) they were not planning to send navy vessels to West Asia to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, after U.S. President Donald Trump called on allies to create a coalition to reopen the vital waterway.

With the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran creating turmoil across West Asia and shaking up global energy markets in its third week, Mr. Trump on Sunday (March 16, 2026) insisted that nations relying heavily on oil from the Gulf have a responsibility to protect the strait through which 20% of the world's energy transits. Markets in Asia opened cautiously, with Brent crude rising more than 1% above \$104.50 and regional share markets mostly weaker after Mr. Trump's comments about enlisting other countries to help safeguard the strait. "I'm demanding that these countries come in and protect their own territory because it is their territory," Mr. Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on the way from Florida to Washington. "It's the place from which they get their energy."

Mr. Trump said his administration has already contacted seven countries, but did not identify the countries. In a weekend social media post he hoped China, France, Japan, South Korea, Britain and others would participate. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Monday (March 16, 2026) her country, constrained by its war-renouncing constitution, has no plan to dispatch naval vessels to escort ships in West Asia. "We have not made any decisions whatsoever about dispatching escort ships. We are continuing to examine what Japan can do independently and what can be done within the legal framework," Mr. Takaichi told parliament. Australia, another key Indo-Pacific ally to the U.S., said it had not been asked and will not send naval ships to assist in reopening the strait either.

"We know how incredibly important that is, but that's not something that we've been asked or that we're contributing to," Catherine King, a member of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's cabinet, said in an interview with state

broadcaster ABC. Trump may delay Beijing visit without China support

Mr. Trump told the Financial Times on Sunday (March 16, 2026) he was expecting China to help unblock the strait before his scheduled meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing at the end of this month and might postpone his trip if it did not provide assistance. "I think China should help too because China gets 90% of its oil from the Straits," Mr. Trump said. "We may delay," he said in reference to his visit if China did not offer support in the Gulf. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Mr. Trump also ratcheted up pressure on European allies to help protect the strait, warning that NATO faces a "very bad" future if its members fail to come to Washington's aid. European Union Foreign Ministers will discuss on Monday (March 16, 2026) bolstering a small naval mission in West Asia but are not expected to decide on extending its role to the choked-off Strait of Hormuz, diplomats and officials say. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer discussed the need to reopen the strait with Mr. Trump, and with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, a Downing Street spokeswoman said on Sunday (March 15, 2026), while South Korea has said it would carefully review Mr. Trump's request. Although some Iranian vessels have continued to pass and a few ships from other countries have successfully made the crossing, the passage has been effectively closed for most of the world's tanker traffic since the United States and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 at the start of an intensive bombing campaign that has hit thousands of targets across the country.

Drone cause fire, disrupt traffic at Dubai airport Despite repeated claims from U.S. authorities to have destroyed Iran's military capabilities, drone attacks continued to threaten Gulf states on Monday (March 16, 2026). Dubai authorities said they had contained a fire but temporarily suspended flights at the airport, a major international hub, after a drone attack hit a fuel tank. Saudi Arabia intercepted 34 drones in its eastern region in one hour, state media said. No injuries were reported in either incident. U.S. officials responding to economic uncertainty over high oil prices predicted on Sunday that the war with Iran would end within weeks and that a drop in energy costs would follow, despite Iran's assertion that it remains "stable and strong" and ready to defend itself. Trump, who threatened more strikes on Iran's main oil export hub, Kharg Island, over the weekend, has said previously that Iran wants to negotiate, but Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi earlier on Sunday disputed that claim. "We have never asked for a ceasefire, and we have never asked even for negotiations," Mr. Araghchi told CBS' "Face the Nation" program. "We are ready to defend ourselves for as long as it takes."

The environment, another casualty of war in West Asia



GNS News Agency, March 16

From the jet fuel used in bombing raids to acrid smoke from burning oil depots, the conflict in West Asia is inflicting a significant toll on nature and the climate. US and Israeli aircraft use a considerable amount of fuel reaching the Gulf and flying sorties over Iran, said Benjamin Neimark at the Queen Mary University of London.

Deploying stealth bombers and fighter jets around the clock adds a significant amount of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. "The US Navy also has a significant fleet which will be operating remotely for some time," Neimark said. "That is a significant number of US troops that need to be fed, housed, and working around the clock. These floating cities all need energy."

This is provided in part by diesel generators, even if most larger aircraft carriers are nuclear powered, an energy source that produces far less emissions than fossil fuels. But many experts take into account everything from the manufacture of weapons and explosives to post-war reconstruction efforts when estimating the total environmental impact of conflict. According to one study published in the peer-reviewed journal One Earth, the Gaza conflict gen-

erated some 33 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, an amount comparable to 7.6 million petrol-powered cars or the annual emissions of a small country like Jordan. By one estimate, the war in Ukraine has caused more than 300 million tonnes of additional emissions, equivalent to France's annual output.

This estimate, by the Initiative on GHG Accounting of War, takes into account military operations and reconstruction efforts, forest fires, and longer flight routes. This conflict is playing out on the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial artery for the passage of oil and gas supplies to global markets that depend on energy from the Gulf. Ships transporting these highly flammable fuels through the narrow waterway, along with the region's oil and gas refineries and storage facilities, were "all a target" in this war, said Neimark. "We have already seen a significant amount of refineries targeted. These toxic flames are deadly and have a severe climate cost." Since erupting on February 28, the conflict has sent oil prices soaring and focused fresh attention on the global transition to cleaner, more climate-friendly forms of energy.

Andreas Rudinger, from the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, said the economic knock-on effects of the war had put policy makers "under pressure to reduce the burden on prices over climate action". But there's also a "glass half-full perspective". Rudinger said: "From a purely economic standpoint... rising fossil fuel prices make decarbonization and electrification solutions more attractive," he said. He pointed to the rise in popularity of heat pumps in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which caused energy prices in Europe to rise sharply. Apart from climate concerns, strikes on energy infrastructure, oil tankers and military targets pollute the surrounding air and water and spread highly toxic chemicals far and wide, experts say. In Tehran, attacks on fuel depots last weekend plunged the capital into darkness as poisonous black clouds rose from burning oil facilities.

One in 7 Indians affected by mental health disorders, treatment gap persists

New Delhi: One in seven Indians is affected by mental health disorders, while several states continue to face a treatment gap ranging from 70 to 90 per cent, experts said on Monday. At a post-budget webinar breakout session, experts deliberated on the Union Budget announcements, which focus on strengthening mental health infrastructure by establishing NIMHANS-2 and upgrading key institutions.

The Union Budget 2026-27 announced the establishment of a second National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in North India to improve regional access to mental healthcare. The expert highlighted the growing burden of mental and neurological disorders in India and the urgent need to strengthen institutional capacity to meet emerging healthcare demands.

Participants also emphasised that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for over 60 per cent of deaths in the country, with neurological and mental health conditions being among the leading contributors to disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). In this context, strengthening tertiary mental health institutions and expanding specialised services were identified as critical priorities for the healthcare system, a health ministry statement said. The session also noted that North India currently lacks adequate tertiary neuro-psychiatric care facilities, particularly in areas such as advanced neuroimaging, neurocritical care, and specialised neurological services. They observed that the establishment of NIMHANS-2, along with the modernisation of existing mental health institutions, would enhance advanced clinical care, training capacity, research capability,

and innovation in neurosciences, it said.

Participants also proposed the creation of a National Brain-Mind Cloud Network under the National Health Mission, which would connect premier institutions such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences, state medical colleges, and primary healthcare centres. The proposed network could facilitate unified mental health records, AI-based screening tools, data-driven decision support systems, and tele-neuro-psychiatric hubs at regional centres, enabling coordinated care delivery.

Emphasising the need for a multipronged and integrated approach to strengthen mental healthcare delivery, the experts drew special attention to improving services in underserved and geographically remote regions, including the northeastern states, the statement said. They also highlighted the importance of adopting a hub-and-spoke model supported by digital health platforms, which would allow tertiary institutions and centres of excellence to provide technical guidance, specialist consultations, and clinical support to district hospitals and community-level health facilities, it said. Such a model would ensure that specialised mental health services are accessible to people in remote and rural areas. Panelists also emphasised the need to integrate services under Tele-MANAS with both existing and upcoming campuses of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences. The discussions underscored the importance of the integration of healthcare facilities, aligned with the vision of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and the ABHA ID ecosystem, the statement said.

Oil prices reflect geopolitical risks, not only supply



In the aftermath of the war in West Asia, crude oil prices surged to as high as \$118 a barrel last week. Alongside rising tensions, this situation has been building for over two months. Since mid-December 2025, when Brent crude stood at \$57.56, prices have surged by more than 100%. They have, however, come down since then but remain in three digits, with no immediate sign of easing. Historically, geopolitical shocks follow a predictable pattern. There is an immediate market overreaction that is followed by gradual stabilisation as trade routes adjust. However, the global oil market is once again operating under a profound geopolitical shadow.

What has changed in the development now? The developments in West Asia, intensifying strategic rivalries among major powers, and persistent conflict-driven uncertainty have brought geopolitics back to the centre of the energy discourse. Yet, the nature of this influence has shifted. Unlike previously, where regional conflicts rarely removed Gulf barrels from the global pool, the current disruptions have created tangible barriers to supply, fundamentally altering the costs, confidence, and conditions of the oil trade.

For major importing economies such as India, this shift has significant implications. Oil security is no longer just about physical access. It is also defined by exposure to the financial, logistical, and political uncertainties surrounding every shipment. The vulnerability of global maritime arteries is stark. Around a fifth of global oil consumption is transported through the Strait of Hormuz, and roughly a tenth of seaborne crude passes through the Bab el-Mandeb and Suez corridor. The ongoing conflict involving Israel and Iran has effectively sidelined 20% of global supplies, even in the absence of planned production cuts. The market has reacted sharply to these signals. Over the past year, Brent crude has frequently fluctuated by 5%-10% within days of military or diplomatic developments, regardless of actual production volumes. Currently, however, the impact on physical supply is so drastic that prices continue to climb without a visible peak.

Tensions do more than just inflate the price of a barrel. They make maritime insecure. Chokepoints remain vital arteries of trade, but their significance today lies in making global machinery vulnerable. Even limited disruptions or attacks on commercial shipping can alter vessel routing and raise freight costs. These drive up freight rates; the world has seen daily rates for supertankers more than double), affect shipping insurance premiums, and tighten vessel availability. Major container carriers have implemented emergency conflict surcharges or war risk surcharges. These escalations ripple through the supply chain, directly influencing landed import prices. It is about politics.

Furthermore, oil has been transformed from a mere commodity into a political instrument. The redirection of Russian crude following the Ukraine conflict illustrates this dynamic. Although Russia maintained export volumes by pivoting to Asian markets, the shift introduced longer shipping routes, complex payment arrangements, and evolving compliance frameworks. What appeared stable in volume was highly volatile in operational and financial terms. For importing countries, this creates a dual exposure. Price volatility is no longer driven solely by the supply-demand balance

but by changes in geopolitical sentiment. Markets respond to diplomatic signals, military developments and regulatory announcements with a speed that often exceeds the pace of actual trade flows. This weakens the historical relationship between production levels and consumer prices.

The growing role of financial markets amplifies geopolitical sentiment, as oil is traded not only as a physical commodity but also as a financial asset through futures, options, and derivatives. During periods of stress, investors use oil as both an inflation hedge and a risk-sensitive instrument. This explains why speculative positions often expand even when physical inventories are comfortable — prices reflect expectations and portfolio behaviour rather than immediate scarcity. Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) have also evolved. Originally intended to address physical supply interruptions, they are now deployed to counter psychological volatility in the market. For instance, G-7 leaders have announced the release of 400 million barrels of oil in response to the war in West Asia (which is said to be about 20 days of the usual oil traffic through the Strait of Hormuz). The goal is to stabilise market sentiment as much as it is to provide physical barrels. The news of these discussions recently prompted a sell-off, easing Brent and West Texas Intermediate gains to some extent.

Major powers shape this environment in different ways. The United States, now one of the world's largest producers of various petroleum products, influences markets through its strategic stock policies and diplomatic engagement with producers. Meanwhile, Asia has become the primary centre of demand growth, accounting for the majority of incremental oil consumption over the past decade. Producer coordination through organisations such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries continues to influence supply management, but its impact now interacts with geopolitical risk premia embedded in prices.

The continuing relevance of oil adds another layer of complexity. While renewable energy and electric mobility are expanding, oil remains central to the transport, aviation and petrochemicals sectors/industries. Global oil demand still exceeds 105 million barrels per day, and petrochemicals account for a rising share of incremental consumption. This produces a segmented market: one part linked to declining fuel use, another tied to industrial growth. Thus, geopolitics continues to exert influence over a commodity whose strategic relevance is changing but not disappearing. For India, where oil demand is not expected to peak soon and is projected to drive much of global growth, this environment highlights the need for adaptability rather than alarm. The ability to process diverse crude grades, source from multiple geographies and maintain strategic reserves provides buffers against instability. Equally crucial is building commercial and financial expertise to navigate complex trading arrangements. Energy policy, in this sense, must integrate diplomacy, maritime awareness and market analytics.

This evolving structure complicates the notion of energy security. It now requires resilience not only against supply disruptions but also against financial and logistical shocks. Payment systems, shipping insurance, and contract enforcement have become integral to the energy security architecture. The broader lesson is that oil has entered a phase where risk is as significant as the resource itself. Geopolitics will continue to influence oil prices by shaping perceptions of safety, reliability, and continuity, as well as affecting the physical flow of oil. Understanding this transformation is essential for managing a vulnerable world. Stability now depends on preserving predictable trade mechanisms and avoiding diplomatic ruptures that amplify uncertainty. In the years ahead, the resilience of importing nations will depend both on the origin of their crude and on how effectively they manage the political and financial currents surrounding every barrel of oil. Pankaj Sharma is a former Additional Director, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, and a former Chief General Manager, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), India.

Credit wars escalate in Kerala as polls approach

A 'boycott row' by Kerala's Left Democratic Front (LDF) government overshadowed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the poll-bound southern State this month. For the political pundit and the general observer alike, it marked the latest episode among the long-running confrontations between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union government over Centre-State relations and fiscal federalism.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) and the LDF sought to depict the exclusion of Kerala Public Works Minister Mohammed Riyas from the inauguration ceremony of two National Highways (NH) reaches as yet another attempt by the BJP to monopolise the spotlight and claim credit for development projects in the run-up to the Assembly elections. The Prime Minister was in Kochi on March 11 to inaugurate a clutch of high-profile projects, which included the two stretches of NH-66, the main north-south artery.

Miffed over the fact that Mr. Riyas was not invited, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Ministers for Local Self Government and Electricity, M.B. Rajesh and K. Krishnankutty respectively, also gave the event a miss. In battle-mode, the CPI(M) organised a parallel inauguration of the two highway stretches — Thalappady-Chengala and Vengalam-Ramanattukara — with Mr. Riyas taking centre-stage. A furious Mr. Riyas pointed out that while he, the State's Public Works Minister, was kept out, the Union government had thought it fit to extend an invitation to Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the State president of the BJP. Mr. Riyas and the CPI(M) stated that had it not been for the LDF government, NH development in Kerala would have been a distant dream.

At the core of the State government's grievance lies the fact that Kerala, in an unprecedented step, had decided to bear 25% of the land acquisition cost for the widening of the NH. According to the LDF government, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had withdrawn from the project in 2014, citing a delay in the acquisition of the necessary land. The project was revived after the first LDF government led by Mr. Vijayan, which came to power in 2016, agreed to bear 25% of the land acquisition cost. Kerala had paid ₹5,580.74 crore, making it the first State to do so. Kerala had sourced the amount through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), a special purpose vehicle that mobilises resources for large infrastructure projects. Mr. Riyas also recalled instances where the

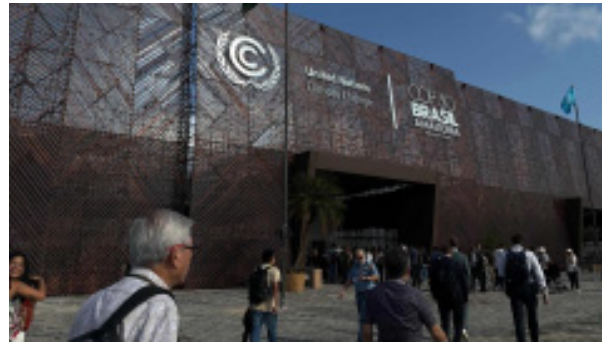


Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had praised Mr. Vijayan's government for having sped up the acquisition of land. Interestingly, Mr. Gadkari was also absent from the event.

Road development has been a perennially contentious issue in Kerala given its large population, geographical peculiarities and high demand for land. To be fair, the higher compensation payouts enabled by the Centre's Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, has also had a hand in the revival of NH development in Kerala. Beyond the political sabre-rattling, the latest row spun the spotlight back on a related issue: Kerala's objections against the restrictions imposed by the Union government on its borrowing ability, citing off-budget borrowings by the KIIFB and the Kerala Social Security Pension Ltd.

The State has repeatedly urged the Centre to expand its borrowing space by a sum equivalent to its NH spending. It was not that long ago when NH development was caught in the midst of a Centre-State blame-game in Kerala after parts of the newly-constructed highway collapsed, raising questions about quality. Also, this is not the first time where 'credit' for large undertakings or schemes has become a bone of contention. For instance, the Centre's insistence that houses constructed under Kerala's LIFE Mission housing project must display the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana logo had drawn sharp responses from Mr. Vijayan's government. It is to be expected that 'credit wars' would again take centre-stage with Kerala moving into election mode. But while governments come and go, all that matters, ultimately, is whether taxpayers' money is being spent wisely.

Building India's climate resilience with water at the core



Branded the "COP of Implementation," COP 30, the 30th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, marked a decisive shift in how adaptation is understood — not as an abstract promise of resilience, but as a measurable, accountable discipline grounded in systems that function under stress. At the centre of this shift is 'water', moving from the margins of infrastructure planning to the core of climate survival. For the first time, global adaptation indicators integrated water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) into climate accountability, reshaping the water-food-climate nexus with implications for all countries, including India.

Climate change felt through water

Climate change is experienced most viscerally through water. Floods submerge cities, droughts hollow out rural economies, glacial melt destabilises Himalayan river systems, saline intrusion contaminates coastal aquifers, and erratic monsoons disrupt food security. Agriculture alone accounts for roughly 40% of anthropogenic methane emissions, with rice cultivation, livestock systems, and organic waste at the centre of the challenge. So, water use efficiency, wastewater reuse, aquifer recharge, and resilient sanitation systems are now climate strategies as much as development priorities. The 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators, under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, signal a new discipline in global governance. Two clusters stand out. The first focuses on climate-resilient water and sanitation systems: reducing climate-induced water scarcity, building resilience to floods and droughts, ensuring universal access to safe drinking water, and upgrading sanitation infrastructure to withstand extreme events. The second emphasises risk governance: universal multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027, strengthened hydrometeorological services, and updated national vulnerability assessments by 2030. Water security is no longer about asset creation; it is about whether systems continue to deliver when climate stress intensifies.

Not starting from scratch India is building on existing foundations. The consolidation, in 2019, of water governance under the Ministry of Jal Shakti marked a shift toward integrated stewardship, while the Water Vision 2047 aligns with Belém's adaptation framework, emphasising sustainability, equity, and resilience. Groundwater management illustrates this transition. The evolution of the National Aquifer Map-

ping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme 2.0 has moved from mapping aquifers to implementing aquifer-level management plans (hydrogeological knowledge to policy action), exemplifying the systems integration that global adaptation indicators now require. River rejuvenation tells a similar story. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has moved beyond sewage treatment to integrate biodiversity, digital monitoring, and international collaboration, making clean rivers a buffer against climate volatility.

Despite visible progress, three systemic risks threaten to slow momentum. First, water scarcity remains acute and unevenly distributed. Most climate disasters in India are water-related, and WASH systems often serve as the first line of defence. Ensuring rural and urban water supply during floods or prolonged droughts would require climate stress testing of infrastructure, diversification of sources, and redundancy in service delivery — not simply expanding coverage figures. Second, adaptation finance remains fragile. While global rhetoric speaks of mobilising \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035, operational pathways remain uncertain. Without predictable and accessible flows of adaptation finance, post-disaster recovery will crowd out long-term resilience planning. Water projects need explicit classification and funding as climate investments, not mere sectoral costs. Third, digital fragmentation persists. Despite India's vast hydrological and meteorological data, an Artificial Intelligence-driven real-time integration into planning, budgeting, and local governance systems remains limited. A closer look at India's institutional landscape reveals that most global adaptation targets already have corresponding domestic missions. Drinking water coverage, sanitation expansion, irrigation efficiency, urban water reforms, and climate action plans exist across Ministries and States. Climate stress indicators must be embedded into mission dashboards. Belém calls for convergence, not reinvention. India's strength in digital public infrastructure offers an opportunity to integrate hydrological data, crop advisories, insurance and financial flows into interoperable platforms for real-time decision-making.

The Belém indicators are not a bureaucratic checklist; they are a dashboard for survival. If implemented with seriousness, they can transform adaptation from a peripheral conversation into the organising principle of development strategy. India stands at a pivotal moment. Its domestic water reforms, technological capabilities, and community-led initiatives position it not just as a participant in global climate negotiations but also as a potential leader in operationalising adaptation at scale. Water must anchor climate action. Implementation must be swift, equitable, and technologically robust. Resilience should be measured not by infrastructure built, but by systems that continue to serve people when the next flood arrives, when the next drought lingers, and when the next climate shock tests the nation's preparedness. India has much of the blueprint in place. India should align its missions, metrics and money quickly enough to convert ambition into measurable resilience — and in doing so, lead the Global South by its exemplary performance.

50 threat emails, 500 schools: What's been keeping Delhi Police's bomb squads on alert 24*7 for two years

In a moderately sized, brightly lit, third-floor room on the premises of R K Puram Police Station, two men sit, checking some equipment. There is a table in the room, a few other chairs, an almirah against a wall, and several boxes full of equipment and tools.

This could be the store room of a company manufacturing machinery parts. It is, in fact, the hub from which radiates a critical response to an emergency to which Delhi Police has been repeatedly alerted over the past couple of years. This room is one of the 10-odd allotted to the Bomb Detection Team (BDT) and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS). The equipment the two men — who are part of the BDS, Southern Range — are examining are bombsuits and searchlights. There are cloth jackets in the room with "Bomb Disposal Squad" emblazoned on them.

The BDT and BDS teams — comprising a total 430 personnel of ranks from Constable to Inspector — have been unusually busy since the summer of 2024, when schools in Delhi and several NCR cities began to frequently receive emails threatening bomb attacks. All the threats so far have turned out to be hoaxes — but there is never the slightest scope for police to take any threat lightly. "We remain on standby 24 hours," one of the men in the room said. "Earlier, some days would be lean, but now our workload has gone up significantly due to the bomb threats that schools have been receiving," the other official said. Once a call comes in through the local PCR unit, a BDS team is deployed along with the Dog Squad and the Bomb Detection Team (BDT). "All three units work together," a BDT officer said.

Multiple schools have been receiving threat emails or calls at the same time. Every school is evacuated and checked. The Dog Squad and BDT enter first, and the BDS is called in subsequently, if required. As the premises are swept, the local police maintain law and order, and personnel of the Delhi Fire Services and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) stand by.

"We check every suspected corner," the BDT officer said. The call is declared a hoax only after a thorough search. Over the past two years, more than 50 threat emails, coming from different email IDs, have been received by more than 500 schools in Delhi. Some threats have also been directed at hospitals, airports, airline companies, courts, prisons, and secretariats.

Almost every major school, both government and private, has been threatened at least once — and more than 100 schools have received bomb threats more than a dozen times in the past six months. A senior Delhi Police official said school administrations have started to follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by the government for such situations. "One of the key guidelines is to avoid creating panic whenever such calls are received. Teachers and principals evacuate the premises calmly without creating chaos," the officer said.

In the first week of May 2024, around 200 schools received a strange and sinister email from the address sawarim@mail.ru: "Kill them wherever you meet them and drive them out from the places from which they drove you," it said. "There are many explosive devices in the school." The police were taken aback — never before had such a threat been issued to so many schools at the same time. Investigators noted that the Arabic word 'Sawarim' was popular with Islamist terrorists — the Islamic State (ISIS) had used "Salil al-Sawarim" as a propaganda chant in its videos over the years. Since the domain mail.ru, used for sending the threat, is Russian, police wrote to the Interpol's National Central Bureau (NCB) in Moscow, seeking help to



track down the senders of the email. But they seemed to have used a virtual private network (VPN), and the probe has gone nowhere. IP addresses were often encrypted. "In recent months, the domains used in the emails have been traced to European countries. However, accessing the IP addresses or other sender details has been nearly impossible as they were encrypted and masked using VPNs or proxy servers," the officer said. Cyber expert Shashank Shekhar, co-founder of thinktank FCRF, said that in many cases, layered anonymity techniques were employed. A sender can route communications through multiple VPN servers, temporary email services, and compromised infrastructure across different countries, which makes attribution extremely complex, Shekhar said. "Even when investigators trace a digital trail, it often leads to jurisdictions outside India, where cooperation from service providers or foreign agencies can take time. Another factor is that threat actors are increasingly aware of investigative methods and deliberately use disposable accounts and short-lived digital identities," he said.

As a result, agencies must rely on a combination of digital forensics, behavioural analysis, and international coordination, which slows down the investigations and make them more difficult, Shekhar added. Since all the emails received over the past 22 months have turned out to be hoaxes, police believe their senders may be mischief-makers. But at the same time, they cannot afford to take any threat lightly, police officers said. The mischief theory is substantiated by the breakthroughs in a few cases — both in the past couple of years and earlier — in which schoolchildren, using VPNs, were found to have sent the threat emails. These students told police they had hoped to get exams cancelled, get the day off, or sent the emails simply as a prank. In each case, they were let off after counselling.

Schools continued to receive threats through 2025. More than 35 emails were received from different IDs, and police were unable to trace their origins.

The most recent bomb threat was received on February 23 from the address krishtalburnette93@gmail.com by Army schools, the Delhi Secretariat, the Assembly, and the Speaker's office. The senders announced "Delhi banega Khalistan", and that there would be explosions over the next three days, officers said.

A senior police officer said many of the emails were sent using VPNs, Tor networks, or proxy servers, mostly based abroad. IP addresses were often encrypted. "In recent months, the domains used in the emails have been traced to European countries. However, accessing the IP addresses or other sender details has been nearly impossible as they were encrypted and masked using VPNs or proxy servers," the officer said. Cyber expert Shashank Shekhar, co-founder of thinktank FCRF, said that in many cases, layered anonymity techniques were employed. A sender can route communications through multiple VPN servers, temporary email services, and compromised infrastructure across different countries, which makes attribution extremely complex, Shekhar said. "Even when investigators trace a digital trail, it often leads to jurisdictions outside India, where cooperation from service providers or foreign agencies can take time. Another factor is that threat actors are increasingly aware of investigative methods and deliberately use disposable accounts and short-lived digital identities," he said.

As a result, agencies must rely on a combination of digital forensics, behavioural analysis, and international coordination, which slows down the investigations and make them more difficult, Shekhar added. Since all the emails received over the past 22 months have turned out to be hoaxes, police believe their senders may be mischief-makers. But at the same time, they cannot afford to take any threat lightly, police officers said. The mischief theory is substantiated by the breakthroughs in a few cases — both in the past couple of years and earlier — in which schoolchildren, using VPNs, were found to have sent the threat emails. These students told police they had hoped to get exams cancelled, get the day off, or sent the emails simply as a prank. In each case, they were let off after counselling.

In January 2025, the South district police said they had identified a student who had allegedly sent threats to more than 100 schools on multiple occasions, and had been caught after he neglected to use a VPN the last time.

Top General Zhang Youxia threatened Chinese Communist Party's leadership over military: PLA Daily

2023 under his watch as he too was detained by the military corruption investigators on Monday, according to reports. He was accused of corruption and of failing to rein in his close associates, family members and relatives and blamed for not flagging problems to the party leadership at the first instance, the charges against him said. Foreign observers view the intensification and continuation of anti-graft and disciplinary crackdown against the top brass of the military as aimed at unsettling the higher echelons and keeping them on tenterhooks. The PLA Daily editorial said the decision made by the CPC Central Committee to investigate Zhang and Liu has once again demonstrated the clear stance of the CPC Central Committee and the CMC that in the fight against corruption, no place is out of bounds, no ground is left unturned and no tolerance is allowed.

It shows the determination of the party to persevere in the fight against corruption and the firm stand that no matter who they are or what position they hold, anyone involved in corruption will be dealt with without leniency, it said. The editorial carried by state-run Xinhua news agency hailed the investigation as a major outcome of the anti-corruption fight and an important demonstration of the determination and strength of the party and the military, adding that it carries great significance for winning this tough, protracted and all-out battle in the military. Zhang and Liu, as senior officials of the party and the military, have gravely betrayed the trust placed in them by the CPC Central Committee and the CMC, and seriously trampled on and undermined the system of ultimate responsibility resting with the CMC chairman, the PLA Daily says. They have severely fuelled political and corruption problems that threaten the party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and undermine the party's governance foundation, according to the editorial. They have gravely tarnished the image and authority of the CMC leadership and severely damaged the political and ideological foundation of unity and progress among all military personnel, it said. They have inflicted grave harm on efforts to strengthen political loyalty in the military, the military's political environment and overall combat readiness, posing a serious adverse impact on the party, the country and the military, it said. The investigation against Zhang and Liu will help the military undergo a thorough renewal, injecting powerful momentum into the development of a strong military, it said. It has been well demonstrated that the more the military combats corruption, the stronger and purer it becomes, with greater combat capacity. The more thoroughly corruption is eradicated, the more confident and capable the armed forces will be in achieving the centenary goals of the PLA, says the editorial.

GNS News Agency, March 16

Beijing: PLA Daily, the mouthpiece of the Chinese military, has accused top military official Zhang Youxia and senior General Liu Zhenli of threatening the Communist Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces as one of the reasons why they were placed under investigation. They have severely fuelled political and corruption problems that threaten the Communist Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and undermine the party's governance foundation, an editorial in People's Daily said on Sunday. The two senior Chinese military officials were placed under investigation for serious violations of the ruling Communist Party's discipline and laws, the Defence Ministry here said on Saturday.

The charge of threatening the party's absolute leadership is regarded as "very serious" as the Chinese military functioned under the command of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which exercises absolute control of the armed forces. Ever since he took over the leadership in 2012, President Xi Jinping, 72, who also heads the party, the military besides the presidency has been emphasising that it is imperative for the military to function under the party leadership. The party holds the gun, he has been persistently reminding the military generals. Observers say the emphasis of party loyalty also means endorsing his absolute leadership as he has been declared as the core leader of the party and action against Zhang 75, came as Xi may regard the top general undermining his leadership.

Unlike the other generals, Zhang is the first-ranking Vice Chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high command of the Chinese military headed by Xi. Zhang's position on the CMC makes him the highest-ranking uniformed officer in the Chinese military. In the end, his fate is no different to the two defence ministers and eight other generals who were sacked since

Protesters demand immigration agents leave Minneapolis after man is shot and killed during crackdown



GNS News Agency, March 16

Minneapolis: Democrats demanded that federal immigration officers leave Minnesota after a US Border Patrol agent fatally shot a man in Minneapolis, drawing hundreds of protesters onto the frigid streets and increasing tensions in a city already shaken by another shooting death weeks earlier. Family members identified the man who was killed as Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care unit nurse who protested President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in his city. After the shooting, an angry crowd gathered and protesters clashed with federal officers, who wielded batons and deployed flash bangs. The Minnesota National Guard was assisting local police at the direction of Gov. Tim Walz, officials said. Guard troops were sent to both the shooting site and a federal building where officers have squared off with demonstrators daily.

Information about what led up to the shooting was limited, Police Chief Brian O'Hara said. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that federal officers were conducting an operation and fired "defensive shots" after a man with a handgun approached them and "violently resisted" when they tried to disarm him.

In bystander videos of the shooting that emerged soon after, Pretti is seen with a phone in his hand but none appears to show him with a visible weapon. O'Hara said police believe he was a "lawful gun owner with a permit to carry." DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said during a news conference that Pretti had shown up to "impede a law enforcement operation." She questioned why he was armed but did not offer details about whether Pretti drew the weapon or brandished it at officers. The officer who shot him is an eight-year Border Patrol veteran, federal officials said. The president weighed in on social media by lashing out at Walz and the Minneapolis mayor.

He shared images of the gun that immigration officials said was recovered and said: "What is that all about? Where are the local Police? Why weren't they allowed to protect ICE Officers?" Trump, a Republican, said the Democratic governor and mayor are "are inciting Insurrection, with their pompous, dangerous, and arrogant rhetoric." Republican Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York was among several Democratic lawmakers demanding federal immigration authorities leave Minnesota. She also urged Democrats to refuse to vote to fund US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, saying via social media: "We have a responsibility to protect Americans from tyranny." Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer later said that Democrats will not vote for a spending package that includes money for DHS, which oversees ICE. Schumer's statement increases the possibility that the government could partially shut down January 30 when funding runs out. Pretti was shot just over a mile from where an ICE officer killed 37-year-old Renee Good on January 7, sparking widespread protests. Pretti's family released a statement Saturday evening saying they are "heartbroken but also very angry" and calling him a kind-hearted soul who wanted to make a difference in the world

Hindu man burnt alive while sleeping in Bangladesh's Narsingdi amid rising violence against minorities



GNS News Agency, March 16

Dhaka: A horrifying act of violence against a Hindu minority member has shocked Bangladesh, coming just weeks ahead of the national elections as a 23-year-old Hindu man, identified as Chanchal Chandra Bhowmik, was reportedly burned alive while sleeping in a garage in Narsingdi, around 50 km from Dhaka, raising renewed fears over the security of minority communities in the Muslim-majority nation. Bhowmik, son of Khokan Chandra Bhowmik and a resident of Lakshampur village in Cumilla district, worked at a garage located in the Khanabari Mosque Market area near Narsingdi Police Lines. According to local media reports, he had finished his work on Friday night and fell asleep inside the garage when unidentified attackers set

the premises ablaze. With large quantities of petrol, engine oil, and other inflammable materials stored in the garage, the fire spread rapidly, leaving Bhowmik trapped.

Authorities have seized CCTV footage from nearby cameras that reportedly captured the attackers in action, but the culprits have not yet been identified. A police official said, "The police are conducting a thorough investigation, considering the seriousness of the case. We have recovered the body and seized the CCTV footage. Several police teams are working to identify and arrest the culprits."

Bangladesh's Hindu population is estimated at 13.13 million, accounting for nearly 8 per cent of the country's total population, according to the 2022 census. In recent weeks, violence against Hindus has been rising, prompting India to express concerns over the safety of its minority community in the neighbouring country. The attack on Bhowmik comes shortly after several other incidents targeting Hindus. Last week, a Hindu sweetshop owner in Gazipur district was beaten to death while defending an employee from an assault. In the same period, a Hindu household was set on fire in Sylhet district, and a Hindu autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death in Feni district. These incidents underscore the growing fears of minority communities in Bangladesh, particularly ahead of the upcoming elections, as the government faces scrutiny over its ability to protect vulnerable populations from extremist violence.

Last 2 pandas in Japan are leaving for China as ties are strained



Tokyo: Japanese panda fans gathered on Sunday for the final public viewing at Tokyo's Ueno zoo before twins Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei return to China this week. Their departure on Tuesday will leave Japan with no pandas for the first time in half a century, and the chances of getting a replacement are poor, with Tokyo's relations with Beijing at their lowest point in years. China first sent pandas to Japan in 1972, a gift meant to mark the normalisation of diplomatic ties between the two wary neighbours. The cuddly black-and-white bears immediately won Japanese hearts, and a dozen successors have become national celebrities. The latest departing panda twins have attracted massive crowds despite a one-minute viewing limit per visitor in the panda zone set by the zoo. Visitors, many of them carrying panda-themed toys, call out the bears' names and use smartphones to capture them as they nibble bamboo and stroll around. Many of those who couldn't get panda viewing tickets still came to the zoo anyway to mark the last day. Longtime panda fan Michiko Seki, in a panda-patterned black-and-white shirt, said she was happy to see and photograph the twins looking healthy and eating well. She was using the same camera she had bought when she started taking photos of their elder sister Xian Xian, who left Japan two years ago.

Seki says she doesn't want to see pandas stuck in the diplomatic row. "They are the animals that can provide tremendous comfort," she said. "Japan needs pandas, and (I) hope politicians will work something out." Beijing lends pandas to other countries but maintains ownership, including over any cubs they produce. Xiao Xiao and his sister Lei Lei were born in the Ueno zoo in 2021. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun, asked about China sending new pandas to Japan, said: "I know giant pandas are loved by many in Japan, and we welcome Japanese friends to come visit them in China." A devoted panda fan takes millions of photos. Web engineer Takahiro Takaiji's days revolve around pandas. It started 15 years ago when he visited the Ueno Zoological Gardens and fell in love with the twin pandas' parents, Shin Shin and Ri Ri, soon after their arrival from China. "Their shape and the way they move are honestly so cute and funny," he said at his home near Tokyo. "Sometimes they are baby-like; at other times they act like an old man."

A daily zoo visit has since become essential. He has taken more than 10 million photos of the pandas and published a number of panda photo books. On a recent afternoon, Takaiji was among thousands who entered a competitive online booking system to see the pandas one last time. During the one-minute viewing session, Takaiji held

Haryana withdraws sanction move against Ashoka University professor Mahmudabad



The Haryana government told the Supreme Court it has refused to grant sanction to prosecute Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, who was arrested in May 2025 over social media posts on Operation Sindoor.

GNS News Agency, March 16

New Delhi: The Haryana government on Monday told the Supreme Court that it has decided to show one-time magnanimity and close the issue against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, who was booked for social media posts on Operation Sindoor. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for Haryana, told a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi

that they have not granted sanction to prosecute professor Mahmudabad. "Showing one-time magnanimity, we have closed the issue and have refused to grant sanction," Raju told the bench. The bench noted that since the state has not granted sanction to prosecute Mahmudabad, the proceedings pending before the trial court concerned would stand closed.

On January 6, the top court extended its order restraining the trial court from taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the Haryana SIT in the FIR against Mahmudabad. The apex court had passed the order after Raju informed it that though chargesheet was filed in August 2025, no sanction was given by the Haryana government so far.

Haryana Police had arrested Mahmudabad on May 18 after two FIRs were registered against him. His contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor, it was alleged, endangered the sovereignty and integrity of the country. The two FIRs — one based on a complaint by the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia, and the other on a complaint by a village sarpanch — were lodged by Rai police in Sonapat district. He was booked under BNS sections 152 (acts endangering sovereignty or unity and integrity of India), 353 (statements conducing to public mischief), 79 (deliberate actions aimed at insulting the modesty of a woman) and 196 (1) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion).

‘Sell if you are overweight on equities and buy if underweight, follow the Dharma of asset allocation,’ says Nilesh Shah



As markets have taken a beating amid the rising global uncertainty following the war between US-Israel and Iran, investors have once again witnessed a severe impact on their equity investments. As there is no clarity right now as to how long this may continue, Nilesh Shah, managing director, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said in an interview with Sandeep Singh that these are times to remain equity neutral and not overweight, and even called for investors who are overweight equity to redeem.

Shah advised that investors can look at domestic focused sectors such as banking and financial services and consumer durables as they do not get directly impacted by rising oil prices. Edited Excerpts: After a period of six years, investors are once again dealing with uncertainty and with no clarity of an end to that in sight. How do you see it and how is it different from the uncertainty during Covid times?

During Covid, it was a rational and unpredictable uncertainty. We knew there is a virus, there will be medicine, and there will be a vaccine. Today, we are dealing with irrational and unpredictable uncertainty. In Covid, we were dealing with a virus for which there was a vaccine and medicine, a cure — and that confidence came because for generations, mankind has dealt with viruses and found solutions. Now, we are dealing with human minds that can either be driven by rationality or emotions and we have to go back in history to see how things may evolve, such as during the times of Iraq invasion of Kuwait or US-Iraq war, etc, that led to spike in oil prices. In most of the cases in the past, it could be seen that the market bottomed out way ahead of the closure of the war. Even when war prolongs such as in the case of Russia-Ukraine war, the markets get adjusted, supply chain evolves, economy finds ways and market corrects and then finds a balance from where it can start to move up.

Also, in the Covid crisis, people who panicked converted notional loss into real loss and people who stayed invested, eventually ended up making money, so these are

the lessons we have accumulated over the years based on similar scenarios. Will that work? Well, this is what we will have to hold on to. There will be volatility, there will be pain, the market anticipates the impact of higher oil prices on rupee, interest rate, inflation, GDP growth, jobs, employment and the situation of remittances from the Middle East. So, the market will consider all these factors and which is why it is coming down. But, at some point of time, the world will get adjusted to prolonged war, alternate supply chains will emerge and human entrepreneurship will take over which will create a bottom for the market. Now, the market is down by 10% and we don't know where the bottom lies or how the war will evolve. In that case, how do you think investors should behave? Should they hold on to equities and invest further or should they be moving to safer instruments? Please follow the dharma of asset allocation. In a market like today, you need to understand your investment time horizon and risk-taking ability. If you are overweight (on) equity based on your investment objective or risk profile, please redeem (your holdings). This is the time to be neutral with equity and not overweight.

On the other hand if you are equal weight — meaning your allocation to equity is in line with your risk profile and investment objective — then continue your SIP but don't put lump sum money. However, if you are underweight (on) equity, then look to invest in a calibrated manner. Markets are likely to remain volatile till such time that clarity emerges on the geopolitical front.

How about investment within equities and physical assets?

Within equity, investors can put slightly overweight positions on large and mid caps because they will be less volatile. You can also add to domestic-focused sectors which are not directly impacted by higher oil prices, such as banking and financial services and consumer durables. Outside equity, you need to focus on debt. In debt, interest rates are likely to go up because of higher fiscal deficit. So, in that scenario you can invest at the shorter end of the debt yield curve — arbitrage fund, short term bond fund, money market fund — so that you don't carry duration risk in a rising interest rate environment. In precious metals, one can look to invest in both gold and silver as they normally benefit from global uncertainty. Right now, they have fallen a bit because of the rise in interest rates in the US. Gold does well when US interest rates fall and there is global uncertainty. The US interest rates will eventually come down and that will support precious metal prices. So, one can look to add in the portfolio. But one should remember that there is no intrinsic value in precious metal but emotional value, so one should invest but only a certain percentage of your portfolio.

Liberia-flagged oil tanker with Saudi Arabian crude reaches India after crossing Strait of Hormuz



A Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker has arrived in Indian waters after crossing the war-hit Strait of Hormuz and is expected to discharge oil at the Mumbai port within a day or two, according to ship tracking data and industry insiders. This is the third known instance of an oil tanker reaching Indian shores after crossing the fraught waters of the Strait of Hormuz since the West Asia conflict began on February 28. Amid the raging regional war, vessel movements through the critical maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea — have effectively come to a halt, with only a handful of merchant ships managing to trickle out of the Persian Gulf.

The oil tanker — Smyrni — is estimated to be carrying up to 1 million barrels of Saudi Arabian crude, and arrived at Mumbai anchorage late Saturday, as per ship tracking data. An anchorage is a designated offshore area where vessels drop anchor and wait prior to entering a port. According to sources, the tanker — managed by a Greece-based shipping firm — is carrying crude oil for one of the Indian public sector refiners.

India has been in discussions with Iran to enable a safe passage of India-flagged vessels in the region. According to sources, New Delhi also wants foreign-flagged vessels carrying essential cargo for India, particularly energy supplies, to also get a safe passage out of the Persian Gulf. Between Friday night and Saturday morning, two India-flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tankers crossed the Strait of Hormuz, and are expected to arrive at Indian ports on Monday and Tuesday. Earlier this week, on Wednesday, two crude oil tankers cumulatively carrying 3 million barrels of Saudi Arabian and Iraqi crude arrived in Indian waters after crossing the Strait of Hormuz. One of those tankers was sailing under the flag of Liberia, while the other was an India-flagged tanker.

Vessel transits through the Strait — which usually accounts for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows — are currently rare given the serious risk in the region, with some merchant vessels having come under attack in the area. Iran has claimed that the Strait of Hormuz is closed only for the vessels linked to the US, Israel, and their allies while being open for others, although a few vessels of evidently neutral countries are also reported to have come under attack. This has led to most trading houses, insurers, and vessels becoming loath to get involved in the prevailing extremely high-risk environment. The disruption in global shipping has sent energy prices soaring, apart from resulting in physical supply shortages in various parts of the world.

Smyrni had departed from Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura on March 5 and prior to arrival in Indian waters, its last location signal was transmitted on Tuesday, placing it in the Persian Gulf, the data shows. The fact that the tanker's location signal was not updated for days suggests that it had switched off its Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder — also called "going dark" in shipping parlance — to avoid public detection before crossing the Strait, and

switched it on only after clearing the waterway. This detection-avoidance behaviour is being adopted by most vessels attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

Around 2.5–2.7 million bpd of India's crude imports — accounting for around half of the country's total oil imports — have transited the Strait of Hormuz in recent months; the longer-term average is around 40%. This oil is mainly from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait; India doesn't buy Iranian oil due to American sanctions on Tehran. India's dependence on the Strait for LNG and LPG supplies is greater than for crude. Roughly 60% of India's LNG imports come through the Strait of Hormuz; the figure is a staggering 90% in the case of LPG. With the recent crossings by these India-bound vessels, there is growing hope of more ships carrying energy supplies and other important cargo making their way to India, even as the situation in West Asia remains highly volatile and dangerous.

Majority of the Indian vessels that are waiting to cross the Strait of Hormuz to get to India are oil and gas tankers. According to data provided by the Shipping Ministry, there are six LPG tankers, four crude oil tankers, one liquefied LNG carrier, and one chemical or petroleum products tanker among the 22 Indian vessels in the Persian Gulf. The remaining Indian vessels include three container ships, two bulk carriers, one dredger, and one empty vessel; three other vessels are on dry docks for routine maintenance. In all, these 22 vessels have 611 seafarers. Additionally, there would also be a number of India-bond foreign-flagged vessels stuck in the Persian Gulf.

Magicpin aids restaurants as LPG crisis forces menu changes

New Delhi: Orders from restaurants impacted by the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders due to the ongoing West Asia conflict are starting to recover as eateries adjust their menus and adopt alternative cooking methods, according to the food delivery platform magicpin.

Anshoo Sharma, CEO and founder of magicpin, told PTI the disruption has largely affected smaller restaurants that rely heavily on LPG cylinders for cooking and have limited financial resources.

Orders in cuisines that rely significantly on LPG-based cooking initially saw a dip of about 5-10 per cent, but demand has started to recover as restaurants adjust their operations, Sharma said. He observed that restaurants have responded to the supply constraints by temporarily restricting certain menu items and adopting alternatives such as induction cooking, wood-fired stoves and electric ovens.

"Many of them are adapting by restricting certain menu items or shifting to alternatives like induction cooking, wood-fired stoves and electric ovens," the magicpin CEO said. The company said it is providing AI-enabled real-time insights on order volumes to help restaurant partners plan preparation and manage operations more efficiently during the disruption. magicpin plans to distribute induction cooking stoves to around 10,000 of the most affected restaurant partners within the next couple of days to help them continue their business operations, Sharma said. He emphasised that the restaurant sector has demonstrated resilience during previous disruptions, and the current supply issue is expected to remain short-term without a long-term impact on the industry. Meanwhile, restaurant owners explained how they are coping with the LPG cylinder shortage by switching to alternatives like electric ovens and induction cookers while prioritising dishes that require less cooking time.

Archana Puran Singh breaks down as son Aaryamann Sethi discusses his struggle with anxiety, anger, and weekly therapy: 'That's why you are a vegetarian, macchar bhi nahi maarta'



Archana Puran Singh, 63, recently broke down on her son Aaryamann Sethi's vlog as the latter spoke about his injuries, and missing his mother when away in London. "I kicked myself thinking why didn't I surprise you in London by coming over...", reflected Archana. Aaryamann shared, "No. I was already feeling so bad about the leg injury, which made it worse." Describing his struggles, Aaryamann, 30, expressed, "I've had to live with my darkness a lot. My anxiety, depression, and anger are three things that I have struggled with my entire life. As soon as I was born, there was anger. I go to therapy every week. And abhi tak samajh nahi paa raha hun ki, kyu? (I am not able to understand why?)" Archana said, "You were sunshine, full of joy, jumping around. But the other side of the coin was, there was some kind of anger." His brother Ayushmaan added, "You were born feeling sensitive to everything. Sadness was more. Anger was more. Happiness was more."

Archana said, "You felt everything more", to which Ayushmaan said, "Isliye, chui mui bulaate the (like the touch-me-not plant)." Aaryamann reflected, "Yes, I am. It's not a bad thing. Being sensitive is just how you are. My qualities, my songs come from that sensitivity." He also said how he felt the "darkness" more as he started playing a competitive sport like football. "When I started playing football, I felt that my darkness became more difficult to handle because the environment you play is hyper-competitive, and I wanted to be the best. Additionally, there was bullying. I grew up around so much aggression. I do feel guilty." Archana reflected, "He thinks about emotions, so guilty. He keeps think-

ing about his mistake. That is why he is a vegetarian. Yeh macchar bhi nahi maarta hai (He can't even kill a mosquito). Your sensitivity is in every sphere." A young man openly acknowledging therapy, anger issues and emotional sensitivity is not a weakness; according to Delna Frajesh, psychotherapist and life coach, it is a powerful sign of emotional intelligence.

"For many generations, men were raised with a very limiting emotional script. They were expected to suppress vulnerability, hide sadness, and express frustration only through anger or silence. This emotional conditioning often prevented men from developing healthy ways to process feelings such as rejection, disappointment, insecurity or fear," said Delna. More young people are beginning to understand that therapy is not only for crises; it is a space for emotional growth, self-awareness and mental health care. "Just like physical fitness strengthens the body, therapy strengthens emotional resilience and psychological clarity," shared Delna. When someone chooses to go to therapy regularly, it often means they are consciously working on understanding their emotional patterns. Anger, for instance, is rarely a primary emotion. "In psychotherapy and trauma healing work, anger is often a surface response covering deeper emotions such as hurt, helplessness, rejection or fear. Therapy allows individuals to explore these underlying layers safely and develop healthier ways of responding," said Delna.

This is particularly important for young adults navigating identity, relationships and expectations. Sensitivity, which is sometimes mocked socially, is actually a powerful emotional trait when understood correctly, Delna added. "Highly sensitive individuals often possess stronger empathy, deeper awareness of emotional environments and a heightened capacity for compassion. However, without guidance, this sensitivity can also lead to emotional overwhelm. Small conflicts may feel intensely personal. Criticism may feel deeply painful. The nervous system may react more strongly to stress. Therapy helps sensitive individuals develop emotional regulation skills, allowing them to remain compassionate without becoming emotionally exhausted," said Delna. When public figures speak honestly about therapy, it quietly dismantles the stigma that emotional support is a sign of weakness.

Isha Ambani makes her Oscar debut in Valentino's vintage gown with husband Anand Piramal



celebrity jewellery designer Julia Chafe, Isha wore pink and white diamond jewellery. For makeup, Isha exuded a soft glam vintage look with warm-toned eyeshadow and glossy nude lips. She defined her brows and accentuated her cheeks with highlighter blush.

On the other hand, her husband, Anand Piramal, wore a Dolce & Gabbana tailored suit. His look featured a white shirt, a black dinner jacket adorned with intricate red threadwork, black trousers, and a classic bow tie. He completed the look with black Oxford shoes and wide-framed glasses. Isha Ambani in vintage gown by Valentino at Oscars 2026 Isha Ambani in a vintage gown by Valentino at the Oscars 2026 Ahead of the 2026 ceremony, Isha reportedly visited the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, where she met with the museum's Director and President, Amy Homma.

Isha Ambani and Anand Piramal's marriage Isha Ambani, the daughter of Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, and Nita Ambani, serves on the company's board of directors and is also known for her work as a business leader, philanthropist, and patron of the arts. She got married to Anand, the son of businessman Ajay Piramal, in December 2018. The couple welcomed twins in 2022, a son, Krishna, and a daughter, Aadiya. Isha made her Met Gala debut in 2017. Following the year's dress code, 'Rei Kabakuwo/Comme des Garçons: Art of the In-Between,' she arrived in a tulle gown from Maria Grazia Chiuri's first couture collection for Dior. The pale pink and mint-green gown featured floral embellishments. She completed her look with a pair of drop earrings and a few rings.

‘How do you control type 2 diabetes with diet?’



It is recommended that meals not be too large and that there not be a heavy dinner too late at night, because this can affect fasting blood glucose levels. "It is not recommended that crash diets should be followed because this would affect glucose control," said Dr Ghody.

"How do you control type 2 diabetes with diet?" That's the question a Quora user asked, and to get informed insight, we reached out to Dr Pranav Ghody, consultant endocrinologist and diabetologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, who said: "Type 2 diabetes is largely caused by insulin resistance, and diet has a major impact on controlling it. In many people recently diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, particularly those who are overweight or have mild blood glucose levels, changes in diet can greatly improve glucose levels, and in some people, can even de-

lay or reduce the need for medication."

Noting that "controlling" diabetes does not always mean "curing" it, he stressed, "Diabetes is a metabolic disease, and controlling it involves many variables, including the duration of time a person has been diabetic, the insulin reserve of the pancreas, body weight, level of exercise, sleep, and stress level."

Generally, there is no such thing as a "diabetes diet", emphasised Dr Ghody, adding that some general principles, however, seem to work well. "It is recommended that meals consist of high-fibre foods such as vegetables, whole grains, lentils, and nuts. It is recommended that refined carbohydrates, such as white bread, polished rice, and sweets, be limited because they can lead to rapid increases in blood glucose levels. It is recommended that protein should always be included with meals because this helps to slow down glucose absorption."

It is recommended that meals not be too large and that there not be a heavy dinner too late at night, because this can affect fasting blood glucose levels. "It is not recommended that crash diets should be followed because this would affect glucose control," said Dr Ghody.

When is diet not enough?

If blood sugars are high to start with or if the body is not producing enough insulin, medication is necessary, said Dr Ghody. "Medicines and diet are not opposing each other; they go hand in hand. Medicines should not be ignored if they have been prescribed, as they can lead to complications with the heart, kidneys, eyes, and nervous system."

While diet is effective, it is part of the overall picture. "The most important things for people with type 2 diabetes to be aware of include early intervention, monitoring, weight, and review. With the right advice, people with type 2 diabetes can lead active, complication-free lives with normal, well-controlled sugar levels."

Sanju Samson recalls when DJ in West Indies changed English songs to Malayalam when he went to bat: 'Songs of our famous singer Jassie Gift...'



one-day game. I was batting at number five, and I was walking into the ground. The DJ was playing a lot of their local songs and English songs, but the songs then changed, and a Malayalam song started in the stadium. Songs of our famous singer Jassie Gift were being played in the West Indies." "That's the amount of love and support that I am receiving. I have to admit that I am humbled and I feel very fortunate," the opener added. Samson has now spoken about the bond that the unlikely duo share. "We are not ice and fire, we are fire and fire. Sometimes he fires, sometimes I do," said Samson on India Today. "We have that kind of combination going. We have done this since 2024, we have a Kerala-Punjab friendship in the middle."

Samson is six years senior to Abhishek in cricketing terms, having started his senior professional career for Kerala in October 2011. Abhishek's first senior professional game for Punjab was in February 2017. The pair never really opened the batting together for any side before they came together at the top of the order for India in late 2024. Samson, however, said that interacting effectively in the middle comes pretty naturally to them. "Everything comes pretty naturally to us, so we do not complicate it. He asks me, 'How is the ball coming?' I tell him that the ball is coming normally, hit it for a six. It is really simple with him. Abhishek is very brave and collected. I love his character. I really love the partnership with him on and off the field."

Sanju Samson's career might have been up and down, but the fans he accumulated over the years kept rising. The Kerala batter himself said he is a bit surprised by the amount of popularity he has amongst the fans. The 31-year-old recalled an incident when he was playing an ODI game in the West Indies when the DJ there started playing Malayalam songs. "I have also been a bit surprised experiencing all this. Definitely, I do expect some amount in Kerala and Dubai. But experiencing this in New Zealand and the West Indies was like a shocker," Samson said during the India Today Conclave.

"I still remember walking to bat when I was playing a

Shubman Gill's next target – 2027 ODI World Cup: 'Sometimes, I definitely... think a lot about it'



was lost in 50 overs, needs to be reclaimed in 50 overs. And it's Gill tasked with that challenge now.

When Harsha Bhogle asked Gill if the tiny tingling thought crossed his mind often, Gill said, "Sometimes definitely the mind goes to thoughts of 2027. The ODI World Cup is the ultimate goal. We will get another crack at it in South Africa, we were very close last time," he would say, face screwed into determination.

As such, India's 13-year wait since MS Dhoni's 2011 title (he really had a good 7 year run at ICC white ball events from 2007 to 2013), was only ended when Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were crowned T20I champs in 2024. "We needed that one spark, that one step, which we crossed in 2024," Surya said. "The taste (chaska) was important, about what it takes to win ICC... Now that we've got it, let's collect as many titles as possible," he beamed. When pointedly asked about the 2028 Olympics, he would remind there was also (yet another T20) World Cup earlier that year. "Olympics is a big opportunity... so why not do three in a year? It's a big event, the Olympics." Given how fortunes change in T20, with Sanju Samson as mascot of turnarounds, Gill, heading into IPL, might fancy his chances too. But any Indian would trade an ODI WC for a bunch of those T20 ones, so on his sights is 2027 SA.

As an outsider peeking in, Shubman Gill, who missed India's T20 World Cup triumph, has kept his hunger burning for another World Cup, the 50 overs one. Not only did Gill vamoos to France while Suryakumar Yadav's team toiled here after he was dropped from T20, his reasons for shifting focus to the ODI challenge, is how his Indian team was denied in the finals at Ahmedabad on November 19, 2023.

"That story is over," SKY laughed talking about Ahmedabad losses, pleased with the T20 turnaround. But the story will only truly be over in South Africa in 2027. What

'The meme is true; if there's a Mallu in the team, India will never lose' – Varun Chakaravarthy on Sanju 'chetta' Samson

For Varun Chakaravarthy, finishing as top wicket taker at the T20 World Cup, alongside the talismanic Jasprit Bumrah was the happiest moment. But the true miracle, the humble bowler would say at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awards night on Sunday, was watching Sanju "chetta" Samson, and how he went about shepherding India's three 200+ totals in last their last three knockout matches.

"There's a meme that's gotten popular. It says, 'If there's a Mallu involved in a World Cup we never lose. It's true. The masterstroke was getting him back into the XI,'" Chakaravarthy said.

Personally, after 2021, Chakaravarthy hadn't imagined this would be the story. Chakaravarthy was pretty much out of reckoning for selection to the Indian team for a lengthy period after a forgettable outing in the 2021 T20 World Cup, in which India had failed to make it to the knockouts. "If someone had asked me where we would be in next 5 years, you wouldn't imagine this," he would add. "Now I'd like to win more World Cups. Way things are, next 3-4 years cycle, we should dominate," he said. "Ot just shows the amount of talent we are producing, and credit to BCCI's domestic structure. And Syed Mushtaq Ali."

For Mohammed Siraj, it had turned out to be a whirl-



wind. "Last year, we had won (in 2024). The hangover of that World Cup was still there. But winning back to back World Cups was exceptional. For me it was a miracle, I wasn't in the team, but was called up and played the next day, and won the World Cup." He would credit Sanju Samson for turning things around. "West Indies was crucial because we had lost to South Africa with a big margin. Sanju came into the team, and he found himself suddenly in KnockOut matches, but it was a script written for God's favourite child," Siraj would gush.

gone on to play one of the all-time great knocks against Australia, when chasing.

"That was a very hard call," Harman recalled to Harsha Bhogle at the BCCI awards on Sunday, explaining the rationale to drop her premier batter, who as it turned out, kept India alive. "We had 4-5 batters, and one batter was underconfident," she said of Jemimah's lean run of scores before she was dropped. Harman said she had been uncertain of the call, but coach Amol Muzumdar had prevailed.

"A small break can give you confidence," Harman opined, though she was conflicted. "I was still in doubt, but Amol Sir was very clear. As a batter, sometimes you overthink. I'm sure that break gave her time to think. But all credit to her, how she handled it and came back," the captain said. Commenting on the historic win, Harman would say the title meant a lot to the entire team. "From Day 1 of women's cricket, India has had players wanting to win an ICC Trophy. We are happy we were able to do that," she said.

She recalled the last wait for the final South African wicket to fall, in the finals at DY Patil. "Last wicket we were praying we should go for that wicket, everyone was waiting for the opportunity. The last catch came my way and I'm grateful for that. I've taken many catches in my life but obvious will never forget this one."

'Agar pehla ball mila to uda denge': Sanju Samson reveals Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's talk with Rahul Dravid before IPL debut



GNS News Agency, March 16

At just 14, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has already built a reputation with his fearless batting, but the story behind the first ball he faced in the Indian Premier League debut perfectly captures the youngster's mindset. Picked up by Rajasthan Royals for INR 1.1 crore, he became the youngest player ever to debut in the IPL history when he played his first match against Lucknow Super Giants last year. At the BCCI Naman Awards, Vaibhav looked back at the moment. He said, "I made my debut against Lucknow Super Giants. I remember the first ball was in my zone and I just

went for it for a six over the covers." The teenager launched Shardul Thakur's delivery over the covers for a six, where everyone saw, he wasn't scared to take risks.

Sanju Samson, the former Royals captain, even brought up the story on stage, talking about a chat before the match with head coach Rahul Dravid who was also present there. "I was actually there in the meeting. Rahul Sir called him into the room and told me, 'Sanju, we need to talk to him. He's a very young kid, we have to explain how to go about it,'" Samson said. "So Rahul Sir asked him, 'Vaibhav, what's the plan?' Vaibhav replied, 'Kuch nahi Sir, hum to khelenge.' Rahul Sir asked again, 'What's your game plan?' The youngster's reply left them amused. "Vaibhav said, 'Agar hume pehla ball mila to hum pehla hi uda denge.' And that's exactly what he did," Samson added with a smile. Since that day, Vaibhav hasn't stopped making waves. He became the youngest player to score a century in IPL history, smashing 101 runs off just 38 balls against the Gujarat Titans in Jaipur. He also played a massive part in India's Under-19 Cricket World Cup win in 2026, blasting a record 175 off 80 balls in the final against England in Harare. When he was asked about his plan for upcoming IPL, Vaibhav says his biggest goal now is simple, he just wants to help Rajasthan lift the IPL trophy. "My aim is to help Rajasthan Royals win the IPL in 2026," he said.

'If you want to win a series at home, just invite Pakistan': Basit Ali dissects Bangladesh's 2-1 series win



GNS News Agency, March 16

Bangladesh won the third and deciding ODI on Sunday to take the friendship series 2-1, completing a miserable tour for Pakistan who had already lost the preceding Test series 2-0. "If you want to win a series at home, just invite Pakistan," said Basit Ali on his YouTube channel, the BasitAliShow.

On the incoming selection committee, Ali noted Misbah and Sarfaraz have joined, with Sarfaraz announcing his retirement from playing on the same day. "Maybe you'll see them coaching red-ball cricket," he said. As for coach Mike Hesson, Ali suggested his position was under pressure. "He had a clause that he would pick the squad of 15 himself. Sarfaraz and Misbah will never accept that."

Ali argued the problems ran deeper than the results alone. Naeed Rana had been the difference across both

formats. "Naeed Rana shook the world in this series," Ali said. "His pace troubled our batsmen in the Tests and he carried that into the ODIs." Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed then took four wickets in the decider, with Haris Rauf claiming three for Pakistan. Bangladesh posted 290, a total Ali had not anticipated. The standout performances came from Tanjid, who scored his first ODI century — "very well played, player of the match, top class" — and Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha, whose hundred from number six brought the match closer. "To come in at number six and score a hundred, and bring the match that close from a hopeless position — top class knock," Ali said. But he was scathing about the team's tactical decisions. "Rizwan should have come in at number three. Sending a young boy playing his first match at number three was a very big mistake. I want answers from the management and from Rizwan himself."

Ali was clear the result reflected a deeper structural problem. "The number ten ranked team beat the number four ranked team, and it felt like Bangladesh were number four and Pakistan were number ten." Pakistan had fielded six debutants. "Caps were handed out. But in Pakistan, whoever comes gets a cap straightaway. In the 90s players used to sit out, travel with the team, learn from seniors. That doesn't happen anymore. That's why the pool of players is getting smaller." Ali ended with congratulations to Bangladesh — and a warning about Pakistan's habit of moving on without accountability. "Everything will go under the carpet now. PSL starts in a week, and we won't talk about any of this until the next series."

Tottenham Hotspur boss Igor Tudor's roller-coaster evening at Anfield: From 'confusing' his own staff member for Arne Slot to a combative interview



GNS News Agency, March 16

It may not have got them out of the relegation scrap that they find themselves in but Tottenham Hotspur finally earned their first point under current manager Igor Tudor. Their Premier League match against Liverpool away from home finished 1-1, thus making it the first match that they hadn't lost under the Croatian manager since he took over from Thomas Frank last month. Before the match began, though, Tudor inadvertently ensured that referee Paul Tierney awkwardly standing in the middle of the Chelsea huddle won't be the only viral moment of the Premier League weekend.

Clips have gone viral of Tudor greeting Tottenham's player liaison officer Alan Dixon at the dugout before the match. While it is not clear from the clip itself, it has been widely interpreted on social media that Tudor had confused Dixon with Liverpool manager Arne Slot. The fact that Dixon and Slot both sport famously bald heads has only added fuel to the online fire. Dominik Szoboszlai fired home a free kick in the first half to put Liverpool ahead. However, Liverpool were denied a victory that would've moved them to fourth by Richarlison, whose 90th minute equaliser gave Tudor his first point as Spurs boss. This was Tudor's fifth match at the helm.

This was followed by another moment that has garnered some attention, although not as much as the aforementioned pre-match incident. Tudor got rather spiky in his post-match interview with Sky Sports, particularly when questioned about his future with the club. "It's enough with this. I always tell you what I think. Which questions need to be answered? I'm the coach. You need to ask me about how we play. You have and I answered you. These questions journalists like to ask about, it's a question that doesn't have sense," he said. When the interviewer, Patrick Davison, pressed further and asked Tudor about what he had said earlier about fans wanting a new manager for the "hope" it provides, the Croatian stonewalled it. "No I didn't say that. I didn't. What did I say? What are you asking me now? What do I need to tell you now? Are we finished or not? OK, thank you," he said.

Tudor was, however, optimistic overall about the effect the draw can have on the team. He was woefully short of options on the night, with the spate of injuries that Spurs have suffered leaving Tudor with just 12 senior outfield play-

ers available for the match. There were just seven substitutes overall for Tottenham at Anfield, two of whom were goalkeepers. "Some fresh air, some good things for the confidence of the players, everyone around the club and especially the fans," Tudor said. "Good team spirit. Seeing the circumstances, the team was today coming here to Anfield with 12 players, with what we already know, so this is something big. We stayed in the game, we believed. I felt that we could score the goal, the players also felt that." Tottenham had a forgettable season last year in the league but ended their famously decades-long drought of major trophies by winning the Europa League. This year, things have got worse for them and the draw on Sunday leaves them one point above the relegation zone at 16th place.

Hat-trick hero Navneet credits teammates and coaches for her success

Hyderabad: Veteran forward Navneet Kaur played a pivotal role in India's impressive run at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 Qualifiers in Hyderabad, Telangana, finishing as the third-highest goal scorer of the tournament with four goals.

The experienced attacker was instrumental in driving India's offensive play throughout the campaign and was named the 'Player of the Tournament' for her standout performances. Navneet also scored a hat-trick in India's commanding 4-1 victory over Wales, underlining her influence in the team's success.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team secured qualification for the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026 after finishing with a silver medal at the recently concluded FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 Qualifiers Hyderabad, Telangana. India went down 0-2 to England in the final but delivered a strong overall campaign with important victories against Uruguay, Wales and Italy. Reflecting on the team's performance and experience of playing in Hyderabad, Navneet said, "It was a good experience for us, especially since it was the first time we played in Hyderabad. The ground and support from fans were very good. We also had a new coaching setup, so there were many new things for us to learn on the field. Our main focus was to play as a team, understand each other's strengths and build that connection." "From the beginning of the tournament, our first goal was to qualify for the FIH Hockey World Cup. At the same time, finishing as high as possible in the tournament was also important because it gives the team confidence going ahead," she added. Speaking about her own performances in the tournament, Navneet credited the support of her teammates and coaching staff for allowing her to express herself on the field.

Kanye West's maiden India concert postponed by nearly 2 months due to US-Iran conflict



rescheduled to 23 May, 2026," said the statement. While all the tickets purchased for March 29 would remain applicable for the concert on May 23, there's no information on whether there'd be any refunds as yet.

This development comes days after Bahraini rapper Flipperachi also cancelled his India concerts in Bengaluru and Mumbai, scheduled to happen last week. He was scheduled to perform at the UN40 Music & Beyond festival in Bengaluru on March 14 and 15, followed by another concert on March 13 in Mumbai.

The rapper lent his vocals to "Fa9la," the popular track from Aditya Dhar's blockbuster period spy thriller Dhurandhar last year, which featured Akshaye Khanna. While fans of the rapper and the film were excited to attend his concerts in the country, Flipperachi had no choice but to cancel his gigs since he couldn't travel due to the ongoing geopolitical tension caused in the Middle East because of the US-Iran conflict. Now, Kanye West has also followed suit by postponing his concert by almost two months. The original date of his concert was quite timely, given his long-delayed album Bully is all set to drop on March 27, merely two days before his now-postponed maiden India concert. Kanye is best known for songs like "Runaway" (2010), "Heartless" (2008), "Mercy" (2012), and "Dark Fantasy" (2010) among others.

Fans of Kanye West aka Ye were all set for the rapper's maiden performance in India this month, but now they'll have to wait a little longer. The rapper, who was scheduled to perform at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on March 29 at 8 pm, will now come to India only in May. The organizers issued a statement on Monday.

"Due to the prevailing geopolitical situation and regional tensions, the Ye show in New Delhi will now be

Vivek Oberoi breaks silence on Dubai's 'reality' amid ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, chooses positivity: 'Profound, calm normalcy'

Vivek Oberoi, who has a successful business in Dubai, recently spoke about the tension in the Middle East during the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict. The Bollywood actor is currently in India shooting for Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. In a recent interaction, Vivek dismissed claims of Dubai suffering due to the war and claimed that the reality on the ground is that businesses in the city are 'adapting and evolving' according to the situation.

Speaking to Firstpost, Vivek spoke about whether businesses in the city have been disturbed by the ongoing war. He said, "There is an old saying: 'The storm does not disturb the fish in the deep sea.' While the world outside often views us through a lens of distortion, the reality on the ground is a defiance of that narrative. Dubai isn't just 'functioning'; it has found a higher gear. You can feel it in the buzzing markets and the electric energy in our offices—a conviction that comes when you are part of a community that knows its purpose. We aren't just open for business; we are a global benchmark for progress and stability. Our companies aren't merely surviving; they are adapting and evolving, mirroring the unshakeable, forward-leaning spirit of the UAE." Though Vivek insisted that there is calm on the ground in Dubai, he did admit that he was relieved to reunite with his kids and wife last week in the city during these testing times. The actor had also posted a Instagram video thanking UAE government for their support. "The moment I landed in Dubai and saw my kids, the weight of the world just fell away. They were laughing over a board game—a scene of such profound, calm normalcy. As a father, your priority is always their peace of mind. Under the visionary leadership of this nation, we are grateful that our daily lives remain focused on family and growth, providing a secure environment where children can sim-



ply be children," he said. When asked if he and his family are facing any security issues on the ground and whether the city is witnessing any regional tension, he said, "That is exactly what people abroad are fundamentally getting wrong; they are mistaking the razor-sharp precision of caution for the tremors of fear. In reality, the UAE Leadership deserves immense recognition. While uncertainty elsewhere can lead to division, here, the leadership fosters unity. We are living within a highly sophisticated framework of security where everyone is protected without differentiation. There is a beautiful sense of 'one' here. Because of this visionary protection, we are able to maintain a state of absolute, unshakeable normalcy in our professional and personal lives." Meanwhile, as reported by The Indian Express, a massive fire broke out near Dubai International Airport after a drone hit a fuel tank in the area. This led to authorities to suspend flights.

Did Amritha Suresh and sister Abhirami Suresh 'abandon their father in an old-age home' in his final days? Sisters respond to controversy

Days after one section of social media launched a smear campaign of sorts against them, alleging that they didn't take care of their father in his final days and even had him enrolled in an old-age home, musical sibling duo Amritha Suresh and Abhirami Suresh have finally broken their silence. In a joint video statement on social media, the two refuted the rumours as false and explained the connection their father, musician PR Suresh, had with the said nursing home.



Days after one section of social media launched a smear campaign of sorts against them, alleging that they didn't take care of their father in his final days and even had him enrolled in an old-age home, musical sibling duo Amritha Suresh and Abhirami Suresh have finally broken their silence.

"abandoned" their father in such an institution. The discussion even took a turn when they started debating why a man with his own house and a seemingly happy family sought "refuge" elsewhere. Subsequently, the two sisters issued a statement maintaining that the claims are factually incorrect.

"We are directly addressing the matter now so that there are no further unnecessary discussions on this. The news that spread yesterday claimed that our father spent his final days in an old-age home and that we — Amritha, Abhirami, and our mother — dumped him there. In reality, our father was a trustee of the very commune mentioned in that discussion. We ourselves have visited Mithrakulam

many times. He was a part of many such communes. He was active in teaching them (the residents) music, bringing them to perform on stages, and spending time with them," Amritha shared. The commune describes itself as a community living space rather than a traditional old-age home.

Maintaining that Anil Jose's words were misconstrued, she added, "What [Anil] uncle meant in that discussion was that many people, including our father, are a part of their commune. It wasn't that we 'dumped' him there. Before attacking us based on a single sentence someone said, remember that you all have watched our lives daily through our vlogs and other social media content. You know better than us how

active our father was in all of them."

Stating that it's deeply hurtful to see fake news being spread about them and their father by cherry-picking a few sentences from a discussion, the siblings also made it clear that they would pursue legal action against those spreading such claims.

For the unversed, Suresh passed away in April 2023 at a private hospital in Kochi while undergoing treatment following a stroke. In a recent interview, Amritha had shared that it was her former boyfriend, composer Gopi Sunder, who offered her emotional support during the difficult period following Suresh's death. She said he even performed her father's last rites and lit the funeral pyre.

'No to war': Javier Bardem's viral Palestine plea with Priyanka Chopra by his side; Jimmy Kimmel's digs at Donald Trump dominate a politically charged Oscars 2026



Although the 98th Academy Awards ceremony passed off without any untoward incidents, in contrast to the reported FBI warning of a possible attack on California by Iran in light of the ongoing war launched by the US and Israel against the West Asian country, it wasn't devoid of political references. From veiled digs at US President Donald Trump by comedian Jimmy Kimmel, who took part in the show as an award presenter, to Spanish actor Javier Bardem's politically charged short speech extending solidarity with Palestine, the Oscars stage once again became a platform for political statements.

"No to war and free Palestine! While many stuck to indirect references, Javier Bardem went all in and expressed his position loud and clear. Ahead of presenting the award for Best International Feature Film alongside Indian actor-producer Priyanka Chopra, Bardem said, "No to war and free Palestine," earning thunderous applause from the audience. He also wore a large badge on his tuxedo with the Spanish words "No a la Guerra (No to war)." Interestingly, Priyanka was seen smiling and nodding at Javier's statement while standing next to him. "Visceral and engrossing, they remind us that international is never truly far away. Because every story sends a ripple far beyond where it begins," she said before announcing the nominees.

"Trump mad as his wife isn't nominated?"

The Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, where the 98th Academy Awards ceremony was held on Monday, March 16 (IST), also saw a few celebrities delivering thinly veiled insults at Trump. Comedian and television host Jimmy Kimmel, who has been one of the most vocal critics of the US President, did not waste the chance this time either. "There are some countries whose leaders don't support free speech. I'm not at liberty to say which. Let's just leave it at North Korea and CBS," he said while taking the stage to present the awards for Best Documentary Short Film and Best Documentary Feature. This, reportedly, was

'Give it at least a decade': Pawan Kalyan's blunt reality check for Vijay as he begins political journey, accepts they last met '25 years ago'

Pawan Kalyan has some advice to share for Thalapaty Vijay as he begins his political journey. This is a road that Pawan traversed earlier — and it was anything but smooth for the Telugu superstar before he became Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister. In a new interview, Pawan clarified there was no NDA proposal from his side for Vijay, but he didn't hold back on what he thinks Vijay needs to do as he heads towards his first polls.

With Tamil Nadu heading to polls on April 23 and the question of Thalapaty Vijay's political alliance dominating headlines, Pawan Kalyan sat down and clarified what his actual role in the whole conversation has been. Both Vijay and Pawan Kalyan have dominated their respective film industries for decades taking a plunge into politics. However, while Vijay has announced that he will leave cinema altogether, Pawan Kalyan remains active in both fields — his Ustad Bhagat Singh will be releasing on Ugadi.

"There is no proposal from my side about the NDA alliance," he said plainly in an interview with Thanthi TV. "I don't know how that news came out. We met 25 years ago." For weeks, reports in political circles had suggested that Pawan Kalyan had personally spoken to Vijay and urged him to join the National Democratic Alliance, with Telugu media reporting that these discussions were said to be in their final stages. Kalyan's interview this week puts a firm line under all of that. Whatever conversations may or may not have happened, he is not the one pushing a proposal.

But while he stepped back from the alliance question, he was anything but vague about what he thinks Vijay should actually do. "I think he should just stick around, that's it," he said. "He needs to go to the people and not expect any immediate results. If he reaches out to the people without expecting results, it can open up many possibilities." He then addressed what is perhaps the most uncomfortable truth about actor-politicians entering electoral politics: that the timelines involved are far longer than any fan base prepares you for. "It takes a lot of struggle to establish a political party," he said. "It's not going to be easy. It requires strength, struggle, and time. You have to give it at least a decade."

The weight of that statement comes from the fact that he lived exactly that. Pawan Kalyan founded Jana Sena in 2014. In the 2019 elections, his party contested 137 seats and won one. He personally lost both seats from where he contested. It was only after years of ground-level work and a strategic alliance with the TDP and the BJP that his fortunes changed dramatically in 2024, when his party won all 21 assembly seats and both Lok Sabha seats it contested. He was careful not to prescribe that same path to Vijay. "What happened to me might not be suitable for him," he said. "Maybe going alone or going with an alliance, that's his decision."

Vijay and his party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam have since confirmed that there is no scope for an NDA alliance, with the party vowing to contest all 234 assembly seats independently. Vijay has been declared the party's chief ministerial face and candidate selection is already underway. TVK has also ruled out alliances with the DMK and AIADMK, positioning itself as a standalone alternative in

reference to CBS' decision not to allow The Late Show with Stephen Colbert to feature Texas State Representative James Talarico as a guest. "There's an international community of filmmakers dedicated to telling the truth, oftentimes at great risk. To make films that teach us, that call out injustice, that inspire us to take action. And there are also documentaries where you walk around the White House trying on shoes," Jimmy quipped, while wondering, "Oh man, is he going to be mad his wife isn't nominated?" Although he didn't mention names, it was evident he was referring to the recent documentary about Melania Trump, the First Lady of the United States. Host Conan O'Brien, meanwhile, slipped in a reference to the Jeffrey Epstein case and its alleged connection to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor (formerly Prince Andrew, Duke of York) in his monologue. "It's the first time since 2012 that there are no British actors nominated for best actor or best actress. A British spokesperson said, "Yeah, but at least we arrest our pedophiles," he said, referring to Andrew's arrest and also the fact that many others continue to roam free.

Paul Thomas Anderson's message to his kids Director Paul Thomas Anderson, whose One Battle After Another won six trophies, also made a speech with political undertones. "I wrote this movie for my kids to say sorry for the housekeeping mess that we left in this world we're handing off to them. But also with the encouragement that they will be the generation that hopefully brings us some common sense and decency," he said after accepting his first-ever Oscar (Best Adapted Screenplay). Oscars 2026 Winners List | One Battle After Another wins Best Picture; Michael B Jordan and Jessie Buckley bag top acting honours Quoting American writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin, Norwegian filmmaker Joachim Trier, whose Sentimental Value bagged the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film, said in his acceptance speech, "All adults are responsible for all children. Let's not vote for politicians who don't take this seriously into account." Talking to the media backstage, he said that crimes were being committed against children in conflicts being waged in the world, news agency AP reported. Meanwhile, David Borenstein, the co-director of Mr Nobody Against Putin, which won the Best Documentary Feature Film award, went after the Russian administration with all guns blazing. "Mr Nobody Against Putin is about how you lose your country. And what we saw when working with this footage is that you lose it through countless, small, and little acts of complicity. When a government murders people on the streets of our major cities, when we don't say anything, when oligarchs take over the media and control how we could produce it and consume it — we all face a moral choice. But luckily, even a nobody is more powerful than you think," he reportedly said.



what will be its first electoral contest. The election is shaping up as a four-cornered battle between the DMK-led alliance, AIADMK-NDA, TVK and NTK.

Swadesh jewellery Shines at Oscars red carpet



Oscars 2026: At the Oscars red carpet, Brandi Carlile and Catherine Shepherd wore fine jewellery by Swadesh, bringing the brilliance of Indian craftsmanship to Hollywood's most iconic stage.

Brandi Carlile wore the Petal Prism Brooch, inspired by the organic geometry of a sunflower. Handcrafted in gold and centred around a luminous oval-cut emerald, the brooch is framed by pavé-set diamonds arranged through an open-setting technique that allows light to move freely through the stones. Every petal and the diamond-studded stem were shaped with precision, requiring over 100 man-hours of craftsmanship by master artisans in Telangana, whose goldsmithing traditions have been passed down through generations. Catherine Shepherd wore a diamond necklace crafted with extraordinary flexibility, designed to drape and flow with the softness of fabric. Its articulated construction echoes the delicate barb of a feather, allowing each segment to move in harmony and create a fluid, weightless silhouette along the neckline. A continuous ribbon of hand-set diamonds runs through the piece, arranged in a refined chevron-inspired pattern with subtle Victorian-era detailing that lends the jewel an antique romance.