

BRS gears up for massive digital membership drive, party restructuring

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday accelerated its organisational restructuring exercise with a series of key decisions aimed at strengthening the party from the grassroots level. The party will soon launch a massive digital membership drive and cadre mobilisation programme across Telangana.BRS working president KT Rama Rao, senior legislators, former Ministers, MLCs and party General Secretaries attended the meeting. The leadership is expected to roll out the membership campaign and committee formation exercise in phases across the State in the coming weeks.City & Local Guides

Kothagudem police tighten vigil on cattle transport ahead of Bakrid festival

Kothagudem: Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju stated stringent action would be taken against those involved in the illegal transportation of cattle.The police department in coordination with officials from other departments has been taking measures to curb illegal cattle transport. Police officials were directed to monitor cattle markets in their jurisdiction in the wake of the Bakrid (Eid-al Adha) festival.

Rahul Gandhi gives dissent note during PM-led panel meeting to decide next CBI director

New Delhi, May 12

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday gave a dissent note during the PM-led panel meeting to decide the next CBI director.

Gandhi said, "I have written to the Prime Minister recording my dissent in the CBI director selection process. I cannot abdicate my constitutional duty by participating in a biased exercise; Leader of Opposition is not a rubber stamp."

Gandhi in his dissent note accused the government of misusing the CBI to target political opponents, journalists and critics.

"LoP is included in the selection process to prevent institutional capture; regrettably, you've continued to deny me any meaningful role," Gandhi said, adding that the deliberate denial of information on the candidates makes mockery of selection process of CBI director; made it a mere formality.

A high-powered committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra



Modi met here on Tuesday evening to decide on the appointment of the next director of the CBI.

Other members of the important panel -- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi -- also attended the meeting at the prime minister's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence.

The tenure of the current CBI director, Praveen Sood, is set to end on May 24.

CM Revanth Directs Expeditious Procurement Of Food Grains From Farmers

Hyderabad:, May 12

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed District Collectors to expedite the Paddy and Maize procurement and complete the procurement operations in a mission mode across the state. The Chief Minister, who held a video conference with district Collectors, said any negligence in the process of purchase from farmers would not be tolerated.

The Collectors were instructed to address the difficulties faced by the farmers and also conduct field visits personally to inspect the arrangements regularly. The Chief Minister reviewed the shortage of gunny bags and Hamalis (loaders) and directed the officials to supply bags adequately. Procured food grains should also be transported to the warehouses without any delay.

The CM also warned that action would be initiated against the contractors who failed to provide adequate vehicles, mainly lorries, for transportation as per the agreement. The authorities concerned were ordered to initiate criminal proceedings, if necessary, against the contractors who failed to fulfil the agreements.

The Chief Minister directed the Commissioner of the Transport Department to ensure that vehicles are readily available for the transportation of paddy. The CM stressed that the district Collectors should recognise the gravity of the situation and take appropriate measures. Every official should discharge their duties with accountability and transparency. The government would not hesitate to take action against Collectors if they neglect their responsibility in challenging times.

CM Revanth Reddy also reviewed the availability of warehouses and advised the Collectors to make temporary arrangements in such areas based on immediate requirements. The officials were ordered to utilise Rythu Bazaars (farmers' markets) and function halls to facilitate the movement and storage of paddy. Formulation of plans to transport Paddy to the permanent warehouses was discussed in the meeting.

The Collectors of the districts with high maize production were instructed to remain vigilant during procurement operations and to take all necessary measures to

ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties during procurement. The CM advised Collectors to seek police assistance if necessary to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted procurement. Specific instructions were given to the Collectors to submit regular reports to the state Chief Secretary on paddy procurement and maize purchase.

CM Revanth Reddy enquired the officials about unseasonal rains and impact on procurement. The Collectors were ordered to prepare plans to find a permanent solution to rescue the farmers from losses due to unseasonal rains. The availability of adequate tarpaulins to farmers to protect their harvested crop from getting wet during unseasonal rains should be given top priority in the action plan. Further, the Chief Minister suggested appointing a designated officer at the Mandal level to constantly alert farmers about the weather forecast predicted by the Meteorological Department. A dedicated system will also be set up specifically for disseminating weather-related information to the farming community.

To strengthen the monitoring of procurement, an officer would be assigned to each IKP (Indira Kranthi Patham) centre to solve the hurdles during procurement. A responsible officer would also be appointed at every rice mill to oversee operations including hiring Hamalis to speed up loading of the procured food grains.

The CM emphasised that measures should be taken to ensure farmers receive a receipt immediately after loading to prevent irregularities committed under the guise of "talu" (chaff) or "tarugu" (weight deductions). To overcome the shortage of lorries, CM Revanth Reddy also ordered the officials to hire tractors and other vehicles available in nearby areas. The Chief Minister asserted that problems should be resolved only through the direct supervision of the Collectors, who are responsible for resolving every issue.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, Dasarai Anasuya (Seethakka), Jupalli Krishna Rao, Adluri Lakshman Kumar, Vakiti Srihari, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Chief Secretary Ramkrishna Rao, and senior officials participated in the video conference.

exam takes a toll on our children. A solution must be found for these repeated issues and regulations," she said.

Anotherparent, T. Kavya, said her daughter struggled emotionally after the news broke.

"To be very honest, my daughter was already anxious while attempting the NEET exam. Sitting through a three-hour examination itself was stressful for her. Last year, she narrowly missed securing a government seat and wanted to get one this time. She is an excellent student with 97 per cent marks, but after hearing the cancellation news, she completely broke down," she said.

Students said they were mentally preparing to move on to the next stage after months of intense preparation when the cancellation announcement came.

S. Shravya, a NEET aspirant, said, "We spend months preparing day and night, and after the exam we slowly settle ourselves mentally for the next stage. Until now these were only allegations, but today the NTA officially cancelled the exam. I don't think authorities understand the pain of NEET aspirants."

Family members of students also expressed concern over the emotional burden caused by repeated cancellations and uncertainty.

The sister of one of the aspirants said, "I helped my brother prepare for the exam all this while and he attempted it sincerely. But now he says he does not want to go through this stress again because it is affecting his personal life and mental health

Bandi Sai Bageerath evades arrest; Seeks anticipatory bail in POCSO case

Hyderabad: The saga of Bandi Sai Bageerath continued on Tuesday with the POCSO accused evading police arrest and approaching the Telangana High Court for anticipatory bail.

Sai Bageerath, son of the Union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay was cited as the prime accused in a POCSO case in Petbasheerabad police station on May 8. The case was registered after the mother of a minor victim girl approached the police and made a complaint alleging that on numerous instances, Bageerath had inappropriately behaved with her daughter.City & Local Guides

Abu Dhabi-bound Etihad flight cancelled after technical snag detected before takeoff in Chennai

The victim's mother also made a mention of a few instances including a New Year party at a farmhouse in Moinabad where Bageerath had allegedly molested the victim and touched her private parts. The police had already recorded the victim's statement.

The Kukatpally Zone DCP Ritiraj, who is specially drafted to head the investigation in the case, is said to



have finalised the plan of action. The police are likely to meet the victim again to record her statement.

Meanwhile, Bageerath continued to remain absconding and the police so far could not trace him or call him to join the investigation. DCP Ritiraj, on Monday said that after the investigation is completed the police will go ahead and arrest Bageerath.

It's For Responsible Nations To Reflect: India On China's Support To Pak

New Delhi, May 12

India on Tuesday delivered a sharp rebuke to China for supporting Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in May last year. "We have seen these reports that corroborate what was known earlier. ... It is for nations who consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randir Jaiswal said.



He was responding to reports that Chinese military aviation engineers had provided on-site technical support to Pakistan, at his weekly briefing on Tuesday. Jaiswal added: "Operation Sindoor was a precise, targeted and calibrated response to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying state sponsored terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its behest."

The Chinese involvement in Operation Sindoor was made clear after the well-known Hong Kong-based 'South China Morning Post (SCMP)' English-language newspaper reported that the Chinese state broadcaster CCTV aired an interview with Zhang Heng, a Chinese military aviation engineer who said he had provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict with India in May last year. Up to 80 per cent of Pakistan's

defence platforms and weaponry including fighter aircraft are reportedly Chinese-made.

Asked whether there would be a joint statement after the BRICS foreign ministers meeting on Thursday and Friday, the MEA spokesperson indicated that updates on this would be provided in due course. It may be noted that as the BRICS Chair, India faces a near-impossible challenge on its hands to evolve a consensus on the West Asia conflict.

In a statement, the MEA said the foreign ministers would exchange views on global and regional issues of mutual interest. On the second day, BRICS member and partner countries will participate in a session themed "BRICS@20: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". This will be followed by a session on the "Reforms of Global Governance and Multilateral System'." The foreign ministers will call on Prime Minister Naendra Modi, the MEA said.

India had even earlier stated that formulation of a common position on the West Asian conflict in the grouping has been "difficult" and has been "impacted" as some of the BRICS members are nations involved in the ongoing conflict.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi will skip the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting to be held here on Thursday and Friday due to United States President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing. The Chinese foreign ministry had announced earlier in Beijing that Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong would represent Wang at the meeting due to "scheduling reasons".

The 11 member-nation BRICS grouping comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa besides relatively new members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia who joined the grouping in the past two years. Saudi Arabia has been associated in a very limited capacity and it's unclear whether there will be any representation from it at the meeting.

Telangana NEET Aspirants Reel Under Fresh Cancellation Shock

Hyderabad, May 12

The cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination has triggered anxiety, frustration, and emotional distress among medical aspirants and their families in Telangana, with many students saying the repeated disruptions are taking a serious toll on their mental health and future plans.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), in a statement posted on X, announced that the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on May 3 had been cancelled following inputs received from central agencies and investigative findings shared by law enforcement authorities regarding alleged irregularities and paper leak concerns. The agency stated that the examination would be re-conducted on dates to be announced separately.

According to the NTA, the decision was taken to ensure transparency in the system and maintain the credibility of national examinations. The Government of India has also referred the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a comprehensive inquiry.

In Telangana, the exam was conducted across 199 centres, with 73,024 candidates registered and 71,304 appearing, recording an attendance of 97.64 per cent.

Mary Anurupa, a paediatrician and mother of a NEET aspirant, said her daughter was devastated after hearing about the cancellation.

"My daughter asked me if she should instead join a BSc course because this is her second attempt. The NEET

Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj Participates in Hanuman Jayanti Special Pujas



“UPPAL , MAY 12(INDIAN CHRONICAL): On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, former Chilkanaar Division Corporator and GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj participated in special pujas held at the Hanuman Temple located in Beerappa Gadda Monda Market and at the NGRI Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple. “Speaking on the occasion, Geetha Praveen Mudiraj said that devotees who observe Hanuman Deeksha with devotion and dedication complete their spiritual vow on Hanuman Jayanti day. She expressed hope that Lord Hanuman would bless all devotees who completed the sacred deeksha and fulfill their wishes. “Later, she took part in the prasadam distribution programme organized by Mahankali Narasimha Mudiraj and Bazaar Rama Raju Goud at Uppal Monda Market. “BRS party state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Edulla Kondal Reddy, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Shyam, and Banti Goud also participated in the programme.

Double Bedroom Houses Should Be Allotted to Locals, Land Must Be Sanctioned for Government Degree College: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy“



“UPPAL , MAY 12(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended a review meeting chaired by Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy at the Telangana

State Housing Corporation Limited (TGHCL) office in Himayatnagar. “During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the progress of double bedroom housing projects, pending works, beneficiaries’ issues, and future action plans. “The MLA brought to the Minister’s attention that lifts in the double bedroom housing complexes at Kapra are not functioning properly. He also alleged that some village panchayats are converting layouts and selling them while continuing to avail Rythu Bandhu benefits. “Bandari Lakshma Reddy requested that 50 percent of the double bedroom houses be allotted to local residents. He also urged the government to resolve the problems being faced by residents in the double bedroom housing colonies. “Further, the MLA appealed to the Minister to sanction land for the Uppal Government Degree College. Responding immediately, the Minister directed the District Collector to take necessary action regarding the land allocation. “Reviewing the status of housing projects, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy instructed officials to take speedy measures to ensure that houses are provided to beneficiaries at the earliest.

SFI Medchal District Committee Burns Effigy of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay at Uppal Crossroads



“UPPAL , MAY 12(INDIAN CHRONICAL): The SFI Medchal District Committee staged a protest at Uppal crossroads on Tuesday by burning the effigy of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, demanding the immediate arrest of his son, Bandi Bhagirath, in connection with an alleged sexual harassment case. “Speaking on the occasion, SFI district secretary Karthik said that despite a complaint lodged with the police on May 8 by the mother of a 17-year-old girl alleging that Bandi Bhagirath had sexually harassed her daughter multiple times, no stringent action has been taken so far. He strongly condemned the inaction of the authorities and alleged that both the government and the police were neglecting justice for the victim. “The SFI leaders de-



mandated that Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar immediately resign from his post. They also accused the state government of indirectly supporting him and attempting to dilute the case. Further, they expressed disappointment that major media organizations had not highlighted the incident before the public. “The SFI demanded the immediate arrest of Bandi Bhagirath and justice for the victim’s family, while urging governments to stop neglecting women’s safety issues. “SFI district vice-president Shyam, district committee members Sai Yashwanth, Uppal mandal committee president Sai, mandal committee members Manish, Anirudh, Pawan, Ajay, and others participated in the protest. DYFI district vice-president Kiran also extended solidarity to the agitation.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Submits Representation to Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy Seeking Resolution of Cherlapally IG Colony Issues



“UPPAL , MAY 12(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy submitted a representation to Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Water Works Managing Director Ashok Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajigiri District Collector Mikkilineni Manu Choudary seeking immediate resolution of long-pending issues faced by residents of IG Colony in Cherlapally. “The MLA stated that around 1,200 houses were constructed in 2009 under the JNNURM scheme, but the drainage system established at that time has now completely deteriorated. As a result, drainage water is overflowing onto roads, causing severe inconvenience to residents. “He further explained that many of the houses built in 2009 have reached a dilapidated condition, with slabs becoming weak and posing a danger of collapse. The colony residents have reportedly appealed for urgent repair works to ensure their safety. “Keeping in view the hardships being faced by the residents of IG Colony, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy requested the authorities to immediately inspect the area, restore the drainage system, and sanction necessary funds for repair works of the damaged houses. He urged the officials to treat the issue as an emergency and take swift action. “BRS leaders Nemuri Mahesh Goud, Colony President Parshuram Yadav, General Secretary Lakshman, Sagar Goud, Venkatesh, Praha Radh Reddy, Ravi Yadav,

Venkateshwar Rao, and colony residents participated in the programme.

Grand Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations Held in Nelakondapalli



Khammam, Nelakondapalli, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “Hanuman Jayanti celebrations were conducted grandly on Tuesday in various villages of Nelakondapalli mandal. The Jayanti festivities were organized with great devotion and splendor in every Anjaneya Swamy temple. Special rituals including abhishekams to Hanuman idols, tamalapaku (betel leaf) Pooja, and the ceremonial wedding of Sri Suvarchala Sametha Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy were performed magnificently. Annadanam (free food distribution) programs were also organized at several places. “In Rayagudem village, the annadanam program was inaugurated by Sarpanch Boyinu Venu. Village elders Namburi Venkateswara Rao, Namburi Nageswara Rao, Edavali Srinu, Surepalli Ravi, Lakka Ramudu, Namburi Naresh, Lingam Venu, Mekala Venkata Narayana, and others participated in the celebrations.

“Even if the Centre does not cooperate, development will not stop...

BRS and BJP chapters are over in the district. If Bandi Sanjay’s son is not arrested, direct protests will follow. Congress will emerge as an unbeatable force with the formation of booth committees soon” — District Congress President Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud“



“Nelakondapalli, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “District Congress President Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud stated that the Centre is showing discriminatory treatment towards the state out of political bias, but despite the lack of cooperation, development in the state is continuing without interruption. “Speaking at a press conference organized on Tuesday in Bairavunipalli village of the mandal, he said that the state government is introducing several welfare schemes for the welfare of all sections of society. He alleged that while the government is working to support all communities through welfare programs, opposition parties are creating unnecessary disturbances merely for their political

survival. “He remarked that the chapters of BRS and BJP in the district have come to an end. He accused Union Minister Bandi Sanjay of encouraging lawlessness and warned that if his son is not arrested immediately, the party would launch direct protests. He demanded justice for the victimized girl. “He further stated that booth committees would soon be formed across the district to further strengthen the party organization. He said that they had met Minister Srinivas Reddy and requested that the second phase of Indiramma housing allocations be sanctioned by the end of this month, and added that the minister had responded positively. “He said the state is being burdened because of the Centre’s lack of cooperation. He called upon party workers to strive for Congress victories in all seats in the upcoming local body elections. He expressed confidence that Congress would win the Khammam Municipality, ZPTC, and MPTC seats. “After the completion of all district committees, plans would be prepared to organize a special public meeting with Rahul Gandhi, he added. “Those present at the press conference included Sarpanch Gundapaneni Lakshman Rao, district spokespersons Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Anil, Rajasekhara, Jerripothula Anjini, leaders Gundu Saidulu, Yadavalli Nagaraju, Peddapaka Muthayya, Jerripothula Satyanarayana, Kadiyala Naresh, Golla Srinivasa Rao, Uppender, Pakanati Kanna Reddy, Cherukupalli Rajesh, and others.

TPCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud Attends Ellamma Thalli Temple Consecration

“Hanumakonda/Damera, May 12 (Indian Chronicle) : Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member of the Legislative Council, visited Hanumakonda district on Tuesday. On the occasion, K. R. Nagaraju, MLA of Vardhannapet and a retired IPS officer, accorded him a grand welcome at Madikonda with a ceremonial garland and shawl. A large number of Congress leaders, party workers, youth, and women’s wing representatives were present to receive him. “Later, the TPCC President attended the consecration and inauguration ceremony of the Ellamma Thalli temple held at Mustyalapalli village in Damera mandal of Hanumakonda district as the chief guest. The event was organized at the invitation of local leader Bollam Laxman. He was welcomed by Inugala Venkatram Reddy, MLAs K. R. Nagaraju and Gandra Satyanarayana Rao. “Participating in the special rituals at the temple, Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud received sacred offerings from the priests, along with Vedic blessings. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed hope that the blessings of the village deity would always remain with the people and wished for the state’s prosperity and agricultural abundance. He affirmed that the people’s government would extend full support to spiritual and cultural activities. “Among those present were Vardhannapet



MLA K. R. Nagaraju, Hanumakonda District Congress President and KUDA Chairman Inugala Venkatram Reddy, Warangal District Congress President Mohammed Ayub, along with mandal and division-level Congress leaders and party workers.

Re-survey process must be conducted transparently as per rules: District Collector TS Divakara

“Every farmer should be given complete awareness before conducting the re-survey” Details of government lands, roads, and public places must be recorded with coordinates “Each team should complete re-survey of 50 to 70 acres per day “Data entry and map preparation should continue simultaneously with the survey process” District Collector directs officials conducting re-survey in Kakaravai village of Tirumalayapalem mandal “Khammam, Tirumalayapalem, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “District Collector TS Divakara stated that the re-survey process must be conducted transparently and strictly according to government rules and regulations. “On Tuesday, the Collector inspected the ongoing re-survey process in Kakaravai village of Tirumalayapalem mandal and gave several instructions to the officials involved in the survey. “Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the re-survey was being undertaken to resolve issues related to RSR patta extent discrepancies in Kakaravai village. He stated that the objective of the re-survey is to resolve land disputes and update land records accurately. “He instructed officials to establish a computer setup at the Rythu Vedika and register land details there itself. He informed that five survey teams had been formed for conducting the re-survey in the village, with each team consisting of one surveyor and GPVOs. “The Collector directed the officials to strictly implement the procedures and guidelines issued by the government and follow the prescribed Government Orders (GOs). He instructed that Form-6 should be issued first, and only after observing a 15-day period should the next stage of the process begin. He emphasized that the entire procedure must be implemented systematically according to the rules and suggested preparing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and following a step-by-step process. “Officials were instructed to accurately record all roads, public places, government lands, and lands belonging to government institutions in the village along with their coordinates. He also directed that government land details be properly documented through panchanama records. “The Collector set targets stating that each team should complete the re-survey of 50 to 70 acres per day, and all five teams together should survey approximately 250 to 300 acres daily. He instructed the teams to begin fieldwork every morning at 7 AM. Officials were told to collect and record details such as each farmer’s name, land extent, and complete particulars. Daily survey reports must be submitted, and data entry and map preparation should continue simultaneously with the field survey work. “The Collector reiterated that the re-survey was initiated to address RSR patta



extent issues in the village and clarified that no farmer would lose land extent due to the re-survey. He stated that the existing confusion regarding survey numbers in the village would be completely resolved and that all issues would receive a permanent solution. “He stressed that conducting Gram Sabhas is mandatory for the successful implementation of the re-survey. People from all three villages under the revenue village limits should be invited to the Gram Sabha meetings. Officials were advised to directly interact with farmers and understand their problems. “The Collector noted that various issues may arise during field-level re-survey operations and therefore directed the formation of a committee under the supervision of the RDO. People with objections should be given an opportunity to submit applications to the committee, and the survey process should proceed only after committee approval. He instructed officials to avoid disputes at the field level and work in coordination. “RDO Srinivas, Tahsildar Wilson, surveyors, and other concerned officials participated in the program.

Grand Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations

Khammam, Wyra, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, the Dakshinamukha Dasanjaneya Swamy Temple located at Alugula near Wyra Project witnessed grand celebrations. Several prominent leaders and devotees from Wyra visited the temple and offered special prayers. “Those who visited and participated in the rituals included Wyra Municipal Town Vice Chairman Sri Katla Santosh Kumar, New Little Flowers Wyra Correspondent Sri Potthineni Bhoomesh Choudhary and his spouse, Vani Vivekananda Educational Institutions head Chunduri Koteswara Rao and his spouse, Wyra 12th Ward Councillor and temple committee member Smt. Madineni Sunitha, along with many other devotees. “On this occasion, elaborate Abhishekam and Ashtottara Puja ceremonies

were conducted at the Dakshinamukha Dasanjaneya Swamy Temple under the supervision of the temple priest Sri T. Adityananta Rama Sharma. “Temple committee advisors Chintanippu Venkayya, Sri Peddi Reddy Ramakrishna, Urukonda Venkateswara Rao, Temple Committee Chairman Sri Chava Srinivasa Rao, and committee members Papineni Ramesh, Pedda Prolu Lakshmayya, Sri Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao, Eramala Srinivasa Reddy, Jaladi Koteswara Rao, Jaladi Tirupatirao, Alla Satyam, Mittipalli Kiran Kumar, Kothuri Venkataramana, Meka Nageswara Rao, Daripalli Madhu, Srihari Ramesh Choudhary, Grandhe Vishweshwara Rao, Urukonda Srinivasa Rao, and Smt. Rayala Annapurna, among others, participated in the celebrations.

Tight security in place for Hanuman Jayanti rally in Karimnagar

Around 400 police personnel deployed; traffic diversions arranged in sensitive areas.

KARIMNAGAR May 12 (Correspondent): Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam on Tuesday said elaborate security arrangements had been made for the Hindu Ekta Yatra rally being organised in the city as part of Hanuman Jayanti celebrations. Addressing police officials deployed for bandobast duty, the Commissioner said nearly 400 police personnel had been assigned for the event to ensure peaceful conduct of the procession. He said static forces, striking teams, rooftop surveillance units and mobile patrolling parties had been deployed in sensitive areas as part of the security arrangements. Traffic diversion measures had also been put in place at key junctions to prevent



congestion and ensure smooth movement of vehicles, he added. Mr. Alam said the police department had taken all necessary precautionary and security measures for the successful conduct of the Hindu Ekta Yatra procession.

Government Responsible for Problems at Procurement Centers:



“CPM Wyra Division Secretary Bhukya Veerabhadram” “Khammam, Enkoor May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “CPM Wyra Division Secretary Bhukya Veerabhadram alleged that the government’s negligence is the main reason for the severe difficulties faced by farmers at procurement centers. “A meeting of the CPM Enkoor Mandal Committee was held at the party office under the chairmanship of Itikala Lenin. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Bhukya Veerabhadram expressed concern

that farmers are facing immense hardships in selling the paddy and maize crops they cultivated with great effort throughout the season. “He said that due to the lack of sufficient gunny bags at procurement centers and the non-availability of lorries to transport the weighed grain, farmers are being forced to wait for days. He criticized the government’s negligence, stating that it has pushed farmers into distress and tears. “Veerabhadram further condemned the practice of deducting up to ten kilograms per bag in the name of moisture content or wastage, calling it open exploitation of farmers. He demanded that the government immediately provide adequate gunny bags, lorries, drinking water, shade, and other basic facilities at all procurement centers to ensure farmers do not face further inconvenience. “CPM Mandal Secretary Donthaboyina Nageswara Rao, Division Committee members Banothu Balaji, Erpula Ramulu, Regalla Tirumala Rao, former MPTC members Bhukya Lakshma, Nanduri Srinivasa Rao, Narasimha Rao, Padma, Thammineni Venkataiah, and others participated in the meeting.”

Is this a road or an invitation to an accident? “



“Khammam, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “Near the Collectorate, a short distance away, at Red Chilli Restaurant on the Wyra main road, the highway has become like a death trap for commuters. Two months ago, the authorities dug up the divider and left it unattended. Since then, every day has turned into a “journey or accident” situation for travellers. “The divider in the middle of the road has been left open like a death pit. It is unclear whether this is due to

negligence by R&B officials or contractors. As a result, it has become a life-threatening issue for commuters. It is also notable that no warning signs or reflective/radium stickers were placed by the authorities after the divider was opened. “It is also raising suspicions that such digging has been done so close to the Collectorate. Since streetlights stop functioning after 7:00 PM, drivers travelling at night are facing increased risk of accidents. “In the past two months, many accidents have already occurred. According to rules, any main road repair work—whether related to underground cables, bridges, drainage, or dividers—should be completed within 60 hours. However, even after 60 days, the work remains incomplete. “Khammam is a major center where people travel for hospitals, students, employees, and long-distance commuters. In this situation, authorities are reportedly turning a blind eye. There are also allegations of possible corruption or negligence involving contractors. “In any case, commuters are demanding that the authorities and government officials immediately respond, complete the repair work on the main road, and take steps to prevent further accidents.

Grand Celebration of the Wedding Anniversary of Chintoju Nageswara Rao and Sita Couple



“Khammam, Wyra, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “Under the auspices of the Lions Club, the wedding anniversary celebrations of Zone Chairman Chintoju Nageswara Rao and Sita were held grandly on Tuesday at the Sai Baba Temple in Wyra among club members. “On this occasion, under the leadership of Club President Y. Bucchi Rama Rao, donations were made to the cowshed of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, including paddy straw, four fans, a water pipe, a cot,

and ?10,000 in cash. “Speaking as the chief guest at the event, Past District Governor Dr. Kapa Muralikrishna said that it is a matter of pride that all Lions members work with dedication under the motto “Service is the path, Love is the goal.” He advised every Lions member to consider service as their ultimate objective and organize social service activities to earn recognition in society. “Later, Chintoju Nageswara Rao and Sita cut the anniversary cake. Club members felicitated the couple grandly and conveyed their wedding anniversary wishes. “Among those who participated in the program were District Marketing Coordinator Lagadapati Prabhakar Rao, Region Secretary Penugonda Upendra Rao, Zone Chairman Thotakura Srikanth, Women Coordinator Madineni Sunitha, LCIF Coordinator Chintalapudi Venkateswara Rao, Club Secretary Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao, District Committee Member Nookala Srinivasa Rao, and club members Kanyadari Anumayamma, Tirupati Srinivasa Rao, Madineni Gangavarapu Kishan Rai, Durga Prasad, Kolla Rambabu, Marikanti Rangopal, Abburi Ramesh, Komirishetty Sridhar, and others.

Consultative meeting held on TGMRIES admissions.

KARIMNAGAR May 12 (Correspondent): A consultative meeting was held in Karimnagar to discuss strategies for the forthcoming admission awareness drive of the Telangana Minority Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGMRIES). The meeting focused on planning, coordination and community outreach initiatives aimed at creating awareness among students and parents about admissions to minority residential educational institutions.

Regional Level Coordinator for erstwhile Karimnagar district Ramesh Lal Hatkar participated in the discussions and stressed the importance of effective public outreach for the success of the campaign. Representatives of ASEEM (Association for Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Marginalised), including social activists Mujeeb Ayyub, Ehtesham Ul Haq and Waseem Akram, attended the meeting. Vigilance Officer Mohammad Akram and others were also present. Participants exchanged suggestions on improving awareness activities and ensuring wider outreach as part of the upcoming admission drive across the district.



BJP Division President Vangala Santosh Gupta Participates in First Anniversary Celebrations of Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy Idol



“UPPAL, MAY 12 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): The first anniversary celebrations of the idol of Sri Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy and Hanuman Jayanti were conducted with religious fervor under the supervision of the temple committee at Sri Bhakta Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Srinagar Colony, Ramanthapur. “On the occasion, special rituals including Ganapathi Puja, Raksha Bandhan, Purnakumbham, Purnahuti, Mahadasharvachanam, and other devotional pujas were performed. “Ramanthapur Division BJP President Vangala Santosh Gupta attended the event as the chief guest, offered prayers to the deity, and received sacred prasadam. Later, the temple committee members felicitated him with a shawl. “BJP senior leader Pentam Shailender, temple committee member Ramabrahmam, Srinagar Colony President Sandeep, colony residents M.S. Yadav, Yadagiri, Rajamouli, Jagga Reddy, Uday Kumar, Krishna, and others participated in the program.



“Transform your life through government schools” – Nelakondapalli “



“Khammam, Nelakondapalli, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “Mandal Education Officer B. Chalapathi Rao

advised students to enroll in government schools and transform their lives. He inaugurated an awareness rally at the mandal headquarters on Tuesday. “Speaking on the occasion, he said that government education is providing many benefits. He mentioned that the government is taking several initiatives to strengthen public schools. He highlighted that government schools offer quality education comparable to private schools, with experienced teachers, free textbooks, midday meals, and uniform supply schemes. “He urged parents not to fall into the “private school craze” and end up in debt. He encouraged them to think carefully about their children’s future. “He added that the awareness campaign will continue for ten days across the mandal. “The program was attended by Deputy Tahsildar Kanaka Narasimha Rao, Sarpanch Venkatalakshmi, CRP Prasad, teachers, and others.

DCC President Inagala Participates in Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations

““Hanumakonda, May 12 (Indian Chronicle) : On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, District Congress Committee President and KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkatram Reddy offered special prayers on Tuesday at the renowned Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanumakonda. “Upon his arrival at the temple premises, he was received by the Temple Executive Officer (EO) and Chief Priest Gangu Upender Sharma. Speaking on the occasion, Inagala Venkatram Reddy expressed hope that with the blessings of Lord Hanuman, peace and prosperity would prevail among the people of the district and that everyone would be blessed with good health and well-being. “Later, Vedic scholars offered blessings and presented teertha prasad to him.



The Nellakondapalli Mandal Congress President, Kodali Govindrao, stated that he will work tirelessly from the grassroots level to strengthen the party. “



“Khammam, Nellakondapalli, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “On the occasion of his election as the new president, leaders and public representatives from various

villages in the mandal visited him on Tuesday and felicitated him warmly. “Speaking on the occasion, he said that he would work to develop the party into an unbeatable force in all panchayats of the mandal. He expressed that he is indebted to Minister Srinivasa Reddy and Dayakar Reddy for entrusting him with this responsibility based on their trust. “He added that he would ensure he does not let down their confidence and will work with dedication. He also mentioned that Thumburu Dayakar Reddy, who recently returned to the country after completing a foreign visit, was felicitated grandly. “The event was attended by Market Committee Chairman Vennapusala Seetharamulu, leaders Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Namburi Ramarao, Pakanati Kanna Reddy, Surepalli Premkumar, Cherukupalli Rajesh, Mandadi Nagasreenu, Karla Ashok, Kadiyala Naresh, Garidepalli Ramarao, Vulloji Prabhudas, Rayapudi Naveen, and others.

Vaira Lions Club has a great history: Dr. Kapa Muralikrishna

Kolla Rambabu elected as the 21st new President of Vaira Lions Club “Khammam, Wyra, May 12 (Indian Chronicle): “The 21st new executive committee of the Vaira Lions Club was unanimously elected, as informed by club president V. Buchi Ramarao. The announcement was made during a Board of Directors meeting held on Tuesday at the Sai Baba temple in Vaira, in the presence of Past District Governor Dr. Kapa Muralikrishna, stating that Kolla Rambabu was unanimously elected. “For the year 2026–27, the office bearers of the Lions Club are: “President: Kolla Rambabu “Vice President: Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao “Second Vice President: Marikanti Rangopal “Secretary: Gaddenni Raji “Treasurer: Suggala Madhavi “GMT Coordinator: Eepuri Rajarao “GET Coordinator: Namburi Ramarao “GST Coordinator: Komirishetty Sridhar “PRO: Gadwal Ravinder “V. Buchi Ramarao announced the details of the election. “Later, the chief guest Past District Governor Dr. Kapa Muralikrishna expressed happiness that the Lions Club of Vaira has completed 20 years and is stepping into its 21st year. He said that the Vaira Lions Club has a great history, and the contribution of past presidents along with the dedication of members is a matter of pride for the club. He ap-

preciated the club’s participation in rural public service activities, which has earned it strong recognition. He stated that the Lions Club of Vaira has reached an international level of prominence, and has undertaken permanent projects worth crores, earning respect within Lions Clubs International District 320E across both Telugu states. He specially appreciated the members working with the goal of public service. “Various dignitaries congratulated the unanimously elected new committee, including District Marketing Coordinator Lagadapati Prabhakar Rao, District Vision Coordinator Undru Shyambabu, Zone Chairman Chintoju Nageswara Rao, Zone Chairman Totakura Srikanth (DG), Region Secretary Penugonda Upendra Rao, Women Coordinator Madineni Sunitha, LCIF Coordinator Chintalapudi Venkateswara Rao, District Committee Members Vanama Venkateswara Rao, Dr. Perumalla Krishnamurthy, Nukala Prasada Rao, Nukala Srinivasa Rao, Gajjala Krishnamurthy, and senior club members Mittapalli Satyambabu, Madineni Durgaprasad, Kishan Rai, Mittapalli Venkataramana, Mittapalli Shiva Nagabhushanam, Mittapalli Srinivasa Rao, Kanyadari Hanumayamma, Namburi Srinivasa Rao, and others. “

AAP workers attacked BJP offices | Won’t let Punjab turn into Mamata’s Bengal: Jakhar warns Kejriwal, Mann



GNS News Agency, May 12

BJP leader Sunil Jakhar on Monday warned that the Aam Aadmi Party would not be allowed to create “Mamata Banerjee-style West Bengal-like conditions” in Punjab as he accused the ruling party workers of indulging in “hooliganism” at the BJP offices in Amritsar, Batala, Tarn Taran, and Ludhiana. “Arvind Kejriwal ji, listen carefully. Punjab will not be allowed to become Mamata Banerjee West Bengal... Attacks on BJP offices will not stop the ED and CBI raids. Wherever corruption has taken place, investigations will continue and every corrupt individual will eventually be brought to account,” Jakhar said. He said BJP will resist violence and intimidation “allegedly being carried out by AAP with the support of the police machinery” and added that “AAP’s goondaism cannot silence the voice of the people”. Jakhar accused AAP workers of attacking the BJP’s district offices and intimidating the party workers.. In Tarn Taran, around 15-20 unidentified persons allegedly stormed into the BJP office raising slogans of “BJP murdabad”, damaged furniture and defaced posters carrying photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Harjeet Singh Sandhu, BJP’s Tarn Taran district in-charge, said, “Our general secretary Shivram Saini and 4-5 other office bearers were sitting inside the office when suddenly 15-20 unidentified persons entered and attacked our people and damaged our property”. “They threatened that they would not let us enter villages or even government offices,” Grewal said, adding they have got an FIR regis-

tered against unidentified persons. Tam Taran SSP Surinder Singh Lamba said police got a call around 4:15 pm. “We checked the CCTV footage wherein 8 to 10 unidentified persons entered the office premises, raised slogans of “BJP Murdabad” and “Punjab Ekta Jindabad”, and threw pamphlets. During the incident, BJP workers apprehended one of the miscreants, following which the other individuals allegedly pelted stones at the office premises to facilitate his escape. No injuries have been reported in the incident”.

He added that he along with SP (Headquarters), DSP (City), and SHO City visited the spot and reviewed the situation. “Police is taking appropriate legal action as per the law,” he added. In Ludhiana, tension prevailed outside the Police Commissionerate where BJP leaders had gathered to protest against alleged “hooliganism” by AAP workers during Sunday’s demonstrations outside saffron party offices. During the protest, a man allegedly threw black ink on BJP’s Ludhiana unit treasurer Gurdev Sharma Debi and a few others. Debi said, “We nabbed the person handed him over to the police”. Rajneesh Dhiman, BJP Ludhiana district president, said, “When we are not safe even outside the Police Commissioner’s office, what else can we expect?”.

BJP Punjab media head Vineet Joshi also claimed that unidentified persons attacked BJP workers at the party office in Batala in Gurdaspur district and in Dera Bassi area of Mohali. Jakhar, the Punjab BJP chief, warned that “everyone will be held accountable,” including officials allegedly acting in a partisan manner. “Police and civil officers are paid from the state treasury and are accountable to the people of Punjab, not to any political party,” Jakhar said, adding that officials must work according to law and that anyone misusing their position would face action “at the appropriate time”. Meanwhile, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini accused the AAP government of indulging in corrupt practices as he referred to recent raid operations by the Enforcement Directorate in the state. Saini alleged that the Bhagwant Mann government should have focused on people’s welfare and state’s development. “Money was thrown from a (residential) tower and they (AAP) say nothing wrong was done,” said Saini while referring to the recent ED raids.

India’s first mangrove park, in Mumbai’s Gorai, to be named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee



GNS News Agency, May 12

India’s first mangrove park, which has been constructed at Gorai in Mumbai’s western suburbs and has been awaiting opening for nearly a year, is set to be named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The move aligns with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) plan to name institutions and public spaces after veteran right-wing leaders following the party’s victory in the civic elections earlier this year. The BJP-led Mahayuti administration of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had proposed naming a public park after Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, the second chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and a traffic junction after George Fernandes. Fernandes was a socialist trade unionist who later served as the defence minister in the Vajpayee-led NDA government between 1998 and 2004.

Senior BJP leader Sanjay Upadhaye, who is also the legislator from Borivali, made the proposal to name Gorai’s mangrove park after Vajpayee. “I had proposed the name to the state government, following which the Mangrove cell, which is the parent body executing the construction of the park, approved it,” Upadhaye told The Indian Express. A leisure park, Atal Smruti Udyan, located 3.7 km away from the upcoming mangrove park, is also named after the former prime minister. This is a former dumping site transformed into a park by the BMC in 2020.

Meanwhile, officials from the forest department stated

that the mangrove park would be opened to the public later this month. The park was supposed to be opened in 2023, but its opening has since been rescheduled multiple times. The officials attributed the delay to pending ancillary works. “At present, the final stages of the work are in progress, like polishing the surface, final painting works, and setting up lighting and other ancillary details. We expect these works to be completed in the next few weeks. After that, the park will be opened to the public,” said the official. The park, sprawling over eight hectares in Gorai village, will comprise several elements that will enable visitors to learn about the biodiversity found within mangroves and coastal systems.

A key feature within the park is a 750-metre-long wooden boardwalk that traverses through the mangroves. At the end of this walkway is a deck where visitors can enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding creek. Similar to the newly opened nature trail in Malabar Hills, this elevated walkway was built without disturbing the ecosystem. “We have sent a proposal to the state government to implement an entry fee. The revenue generated from it will be used in the maintenance and upkeep of the park. The final proposal is yet to be cleared by the government, following which the ticketing rates will be fixed by the authorities,” said a senior official from the state government’s forest department.

The construction of the Rs 33.43-crore park began in 2021, and the project was already earmarked as a forest reserve. To cater to bird watchers, the park has an 18-metre watchtower allowing visitors to observe the avian species that thrive in the area. This watchtower also offers expansive views of the mangroves and creek. The Mangrove Cell has also constructed a two-story Nature Interpretation Centre at the park. Here, visitors can read and learn about the mangrove and its biodiversity through informative boards, panels, and books at the library and the information centre. Additionally, the structure will feature a rooftop restaurant and a nature-themed gift shop. Eco-friendly materials, solar energy, and elevated walkways have been used in the park to ensure minimal impact on the fragile fauna and flora. India’s first mangrove park at a glance

Murder convict walks out of Sabarmati Central Jail’s main gate; manhunt begins



GNS News Agency, May 12

A murder convict sentenced to life imprisonment walked out of the main gate of the Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad on Monday morning, officials said. Malde Rama Parmar, 30, was among 33 prisoners walking around yard number 4 of the biggest and most secure prison in Gujarat when he disappeared without anyone noticing his absence. It was only during a prisoner count an hour and a half later that the jailer realised Parmar was missing, leading to a failed search within the premises.

Parmar was booked for murder at the Kamlabagh police station in Porbandar in 2023. On May 9, 2025, the trial court convicted and sentenced him to life imprisonment. He had also been booked earlier in a case of sexual harassment of a minor under the PoCSO Act, according to an FIR registered at the Ranip police station regarding his escape. The FIR, filed based on a complaint by Jailor Devduttisinh R Gohil, stated that after his conviction, Parmar had been transferred from Porbandar Special Jail to Rajkot Central Jail to serve his sentence. However, he was transferred to Sabarmati Central Jail on November 16, 2025, for medical treatment.

On Monday, when jail officials counted prisoners in “bada chhakar (circle) of yard no 4”, they found only 32 prisoners instead of 33. At about 12 pm, this led to panic as Parmar was missing. The general subedar led a search party around the prison, but he was not found, according to the FIR. When officials checked the CCTV footage, they saw Parmar walk out of the main gate at 10.10 am. Parmar has been booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita section 262 (escaping from custody). B R Rabari, Inspector of the Ranip police station, remained unavailable for comment. Sabarmati Jail Superintendent of Police Gaurav Agarwal said, “We are still ascertaining how the prisoner managed to escape the prison and whose negligence led to the incident.”

Sensex, Nifty open lower amid crude spike, geopolitical tensions

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks traded sharply lower on Tuesday for the second consecutive day in morning trade, with both indices declining around 0.5 per cent amid geopolitical tensions. Sensex declined as much as 0.62 per cent or 474 points to trade at an intraday low of 75,541 in early trade, while Nifty was seen trading at 23,689, down 0.53 per cent or 126 points from the previous close. Sector-wise, IT, chemicals, realty, cement and financial indices were among the top losers, declining by over 2 per cent. Meanwhile, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, TCS, HCL Tech, Wipro, SBI Life, HDFC Life, Maruti Suzuki, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories and Bajaj Finance were among the top laggards. In contrast, Nifty Metal, Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty PSU Bank were the only sectors trading in the green. Earlier in the day, the Sensex opened at 75,688.39, down 0.43 per cent or 326 points

Missing big names in NCP office bearer list sets off fresh buzz over power shift in Pawar camp



GNS News Agency, May 12

Two lists of the Nationalist Congress Party’s national office-bearers and working committee, now circulating on social media, have sparked fresh speculation over internal tensions within the party led by Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar. The documents, dated April 29 and purport-

edly submitted to the Election Commission, list out the National Office Bearers and their work allocations. In this 12-member list, senior leaders Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, Chhagan Bhujbal and Dilip Walse Patil are missing. Their names, however, appear in a separate 22-member national working committee list. The office-bearers list names Sunetra Pawar as National President, while Parth Pawar and Jay Pawar have been given the posts of General Secretary and National Secretary, respectively.

The absence of several senior leaders from the key office-bearers list has fuelled political chatter about unease within the party after the death of Ajit Pawar on January 28 this year. Since his death, Sunetra Pawar has taken charge of both the party and the Deputy Chief Minister’s post. Over the past few months, there has been speculation about differences between the Pawar family and senior leaders such as Patel and Tatkare over the party’s organisational control and future direction. The viral lists have added fresh momentum to those discussions.

‘Atmosphere of unease’: Sharad Pawar demands all-party meet as PM Modi’s austerity call sparks alarm

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s urgent appeal for citizens to adopt austerity measures, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar warned Tuesday that the “sudden” announcement signals a long-term impact on the Indian economy. He called for PM Modi to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the growing economic instability triggered by the conflict in West Asia. In a social media post, Pawar said, “Against the backdrop of the unstable and war-like situation in the Middle East, the Prime Minister made several announcements two days ago. These are likely to have long-term impacts on the country’s economy,” he stated.

The veteran leader noted that the unexpected nature of the PM’s advisory, which urged citizens to cut back on fuel, gold, and edible oil, has created “an atmosphere of unease” among the general public, the industrial sector, and global investors. “In matters of national interest, it is essential to implement decision-making processes by taking leaders of all political parties into confidence,” Pawar urged. He also recommended a high-level review involving prominent economists and industry experts. “A comprehensive discussion on future policies should be held. Building confidence and stability among the people of the country should be the government’s topmost priority in the current circumstances—this is our firm stance,” he said. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis defended PM Modi’s remarks, citing the dire energy crisis. He noted that the conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran has choked global supply chains. “Even our neighbour Pakistan is facing severe scarcity, with petrol prices reaching Rs 450 per litre,” Fadnavis said. “The PM has ensured our supply remains stable, but we must use resources properly to avoid



future shortages.”

Fadnavis also took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi’s criticism of PM Modi, stating, “Somewhere, his understanding is simply lacking. The public has understood the situation and will respond appropriately.” The Maharashtra Congress, however, blamed PM Modi for the brewing crisis, which it said is a result of PM Modi’s “incompetence and careless attitude”. “PM Modi’s advice to citizens on reducing the use of petrol and diesel, gold purchases, fertilisers, and edible oil is proof that the ‘compromised prime minister’ has completely failed in governing the country,” the Congress said. The current political row followed PM Modi’s recent speeches in which he asked the nation to adopt certain measures in the wake of the West Asia crisis. He has urged citizens to use petrol and diesel sparingly, adopt a work-from-home policy and use public transport. He also asked them to postpone discretionary gold purchases for at least one year, reduce edible oil consumption to save foreign exchange, and cut chemical fertiliser use.

Nashik TCS case fallout: Can an elected corporator lose his seat for harbouring an accused? Here’s what the law says



GNS News Agency, May 12

When Nashik TCS case accused Nida Khan was apprehended on May 7 from a property allegedly owned by AIMIM corporator Matiin Patel in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, it set off a chain of consequences for the first-time corporator. The Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Municipal Corporation has since issued him a notice over alleged illegal constructions, and the city’s mayor has warned that Patel could lose his seat. The case has drawn attention to a little-discussed aspect of Maharashtra’s civic law, that winning an election is no guarantee of finishing a term. Under the Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act, elected corporators can be disqualified, removed or forced to vacate office on more than a dozen grounds, from illegal construction and criminal convictions to unpaid civic dues, conflicts of interest and even not having a toilet at home. The Indian Express explains:

Q: Can a corporator be disqualified after winning an election?

A: Yes. Under Section 10 of the Maharashtra Municipal Corporations Act, disqualification can occur before elections, immediately after elections or at any point during a corporator’s term. The grounds are wide-ranging: Criminal conviction: A corporator can lose eligibility upon conviction for offences under Section 153A of the IPC (promoting enmity between groups) or Section 505 (statements creating public mischief), or for offences involving “moral turpitude,” a term courts have interpreted to include dishonesty, fraud, corruption, cheating and sexual offences. Illegal construction: A corporator can lose office if they, their spouse or a dependent constructs an illegal structure, assists unauthorised construction or obstructs demolition action, including through written communication or indirect assistance. Financial interest in civic contracts: A corporator cannot have any direct or indirect share or interest in contracts or employment with the corporation. The provision is meant to stop elected representatives from using office for personal business gain.

Certain professions: The Act disqualifies licensed surveyors, architects, engineers, structural designers, clerks of works, plumbers and members of firms involving such professionals. Since municipal corporations regulate building permissions and civic infrastructure, these professions create direct conflicts of interest. Holding a corporation office: A corporator cannot simultaneously hold a salaried or financially beneficial position under the same municipal corporation. Unpaid civic dues: Failure to clear dues owed to the corporation, including property tax, water charges and licence fees, within three months of notice can result in disqualification. Two-child rule: A corporator with more than two children can be disqualified, though exceptions exist

for children born before the amendment, multiple births and adopted children. Simultaneously holding legislative office: A corporator who becomes an MLA or MP must vacate their civic seat.

No toilet at home: The law requires a certificate confirming the corporator has and uses a toilet at home, or regularly uses a public or community toilet, as part of sanitation reforms. Misconduct: The State Government can remove a corporator for misconduct, disgraceful conduct or abuse of office, which can include corruption, improper behaviour or actions that undermine the dignity of the position. Prolonged absence: Under Section 11, a corporator ceases to hold office after three successive months of absence from corporation meetings without approval, or six successive months for any reason whatsoever. Importantly, a corporator is not automatically disqualified the moment a complaint is filed. The Act states that disqualification takes effect only after an inquiry is conducted and a ruling is issued.

Q: On what specific ground does Matiin Patel face disqualification?

A: Patel faces action under the illegal construction provisions of the Act. The law states that a corporator can lose office if they construct illegal structures, if their spouse or dependent is involved in illegal construction, if they assist unauthorised construction or if they obstruct demolition action. Crucially, Patel is not facing disqualification for allegedly harbouring Nida Khan. The charge that could cost him his seat is specifically that two of his properties, the house in Kausar Baug where Khan was allegedly staying and an office in the same locality, were found to be illegally constructed, either partially or fully. Under the Act, that alone is sufficient ground for removal.

Q: What happens now?

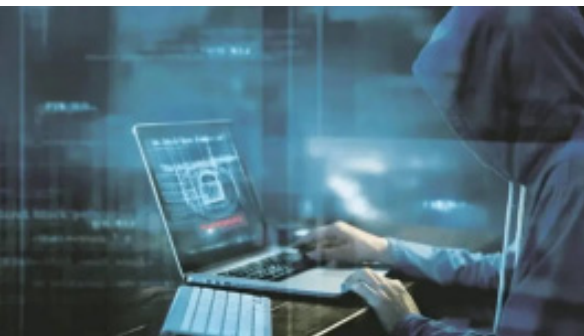
A: The Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Municipal Corporation served Patel a notice on May 9, giving him three days to respond. If his reply is found unsatisfactory, the AMC has said it will proceed with demolition of the properties. On the question of disqualification, Mayor Sameer Rajurkar has said the decision will be taken by the House and the municipal commissioner. Patel has approached a local court seeking 15 days to respond to the notice and has asked for a stay on any coercive action. That matter is expected to come up for hearing on Tuesday.

Bank of Baroda targets 10 per cent corporate loan growth in FY27

Mumbai: State-owned Bank of Baroda is aiming to grow its Rs 4.56 lakh crore corporate book by 10 per cent in FY27 and has pegged the current pipeline of such big-ticket lending at Rs 50,000 crore.

Amid concerns over sluggish private capex growth, its managing director and chief executive Debadatta Chand said nearly two-thirds of the proposals continue to be for term loans and the rest for working capital, suggesting strong demand for investment purposes.

Spooled text messages lure customers to betting links, disrupt Bengaluru wholesale e-commerce firm's operations



GNS News Agency, May 12

The Bengaluru police booked unknown people on Monday for allegedly sending fraudulent messages in the name of an e-commerce platform with promises of cash rewards. The messages allegedly brought the company's communication systems to a standstill. The Whitefield division cybercrime police registered the FIR based on a complaint filed by a representative of Hiveloop Technology Pvt Ltd (HTPL), part of the Udaan group, a business-to-business, wholesale e-commerce platform. As per the FIR, the company began receiving alerts from buyers on April 23,

Unmasking the Kaccha Baniyan gang, its operations in South Delhi

On a night in July 2025, a businessman in South Delhi's Neb Sarai area was fast asleep with his family on the top floor of his two-floor house. Around 11 pm, three shadowy figures crept towards the building. They dressed in a 'uniform': underwear and vests, their faces wrapped in white cloth. The next morning, his hand on his head, the businessman was sitting at the Neb Sarai police station to file a complaint. "Over Rs 1.5 crore worth of jewellery was stolen from his house," said a police officer. "He was asleep when it happened, and his room was locked from outside by the burglars. When we checked CCTV footage, we were taken aback — the thieves wore just undergarments. They were the Kachha Baniyan gang," he said. The case remains unsolved. It was the biggest of the four heists by the Kachha Baniyan gang in South Delhi last year, said police. The remaining three — two in Malviya Nagar in June and September 2025, and one in Hauz Khas in July 2025 — were solved, but the amount stolen was significantly low.

Come 2026, the gang has struck once again in South Delhi. On May 1, six men in their undergarments crossed the Vijay Mandal park in Malviya Nagar to enter the upscale Sarvodaya Enclave. Police said while three waited in the park, the other three entered the balcony of B-250, the house of businessman Praveen Kumar. CCTV footage showed them locking both bedrooms where Praveen's family was asleep. Kachha banyan gang, south delhi, delhi, crime, According to police, members of the Kachha Banyan gang mostly belong to the Pardi community, a nomadic tribe from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. (Express photo) They then jogged around the halls, opened some drawers, and, within four minutes, escaped with jewellery worth Rs 1.5 to Rs 2 lakh, police officers said. Praveen only realised it the next day, when he woke up to a locked door.

This time, police managed to track them down to Jahanpanah forest in Ambedkar Nagar. The accused, however, were armed and fired at the police team. "When officers reached the area, accused Nirmal Pardi, Devin and Samar opened fire at them. The police team fired in retaliation, and bullets hit the three on the legs," an officer said. CCTV footage in last year's burglaries, seen by The Indian Express, reveals similarities: apart from the uniform of choice, the robbers enter localities through parks, they are always on foot, and are good at climbing up pipes. "They usually choose localities that are either near a decent-sized park or a forest cover. It gives them a chance to vanish in the dark in case they are chased. They are always on foot... They cross boundary walls, climb up pipes to enter balconies and flee after the heist through the exact same route," a police officer said. Police said the gang was notorious in Delhi in the 90s and some of their burglaries even ended in murder. In 1991, they killed two people during a robbery in Lodhi Colony. In 2014, they killed a 21-year-old woman in Narela.

According to police, members of the Kachha Baniyan gang mostly belong to the Pardi community, a nomadic tribe from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. "Guna is the main hub of the Pardi community, a hunter-gatherer tribe. Most members of the Kaccha Baniyan gang are from here," said

Pimpri-Chinchwad housing societies hit by severe water crisis, PCMC not concerned, builders violating rule, says federation

GNS News Agency, May 12

Housing societies in Pimpri-Chinchwad have expressed resentment over the civic body allegedly neglecting their demands for water and failing to act against rule violations by builders. Sanjeevan Sangle, chairman of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Housing Society Federation, said the matter was not discussed at the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)'s general body meeting held on Tuesday. "There is widespread outrage as not a single corporator from any party uttered a word on this subject," he said. "Many housing societies in the city are currently facing a severe water shortage. While obtaining completion certificates (CC) for their projects, builders submitted indemnity bonds (guarantee letters) stating they would provide water supply at their own expense until the Bhamburda Ashed water project was completed. However, these conditions are being violated in many places, forcing residents to struggle for basic amenities," Sangle said in a letter to the PCMC administration. Sangle said it was expected that the meeting would discuss the matter, the administration would clarify its stand, and that a course of action against defaulting builders would be determined. Sangle said a heated argument broke out between two senior women corporators over an issue related to the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA). "Many said that this spat diverted the

flagging SMSes that appeared to originate from “Udaan”. The messages promised a credit of Rs 10,001 and carried shortened links, which, upon clicking, allegedly redirected users to an online betting or gaming platform, raising red flags of a wider cyber fraud operation.

HTPL denied sending the messages, stating that its communication system is tightly regulated under the distributed ledger technology (DLT), a government-regulated telecom framework overseen by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). This framework permits only pre-approved templates and whitelisted links to be sent through its registered channels. However, on April 27, the DLT system blacklisted HTPL's SMS templates citing misuse, and its sender ID "UDAANN" was suspended. Telecom operators subsequently blocked all outgoing messages from the company, including critical OTPs and transaction alerts, effectively cutting off its ability to communicate with customers. By the end of the day, its entire DLT account was suspended after complaints were flagged on Trai's Chakshu platform. Since then, the company's SMS-based services have not functioned, disrupting business operations and customer interactions. The firm has reported significant financial losses and reputational damage, with at least 13 people confirmed to have received the fraudulent messages, and fears that the number could be higher.



a police officer. A police officer, who was as involved in a three-month long raid in Guna for Kacha Baniyan gang members in 2022, after they had looted Rs 2 crore worth of jewels from a house in Defence Colony, said the main villages housing these robbers are Khera, Bila Khedi and Ratnagir.

"They don't really rob for money. It's like a family trade for them. Their fathers and grandfathers used to rob trains... as kids, most of these men went with them to learn the 'craft,'" said a police officer. "Even after such high-profile heists, they live in tents, not even a proper kukcha house. They drink at night, and roam around in the morning. Once money becomes scarce, they head to the city," he added. The members don't operate as a single unified gang. Instead, each group, typically made up of seven to eight family members, functions independently. A single village can have as many as 10 to 15 such gangs "They have codes. They arrive in the city on a bus driven by a member of their community. He, too, would get a share from their heist," the police officer said. Once in the city, police said, the gang members carry out reconnaissance of their targets. Then, they choose a half moon or a new moon to execute the robbery. "They believe they are men of the dark, and that darkness is an ally," said another policeman.

When they steal gold jewellery, police said they don't divide it ornament by ornament. "They take it to their villages, rub them on stones to extract the gold, and then divide the gold dust by weight," the police officer said. They have little interest in diamonds, referring to them dismissively as "glasses," another police officer said. If they come across gold or silver jewellery studded with diamonds, they typically discard the stones after extracting the precious metal.

The Kaccha Baniyan gang never really stopped their heists in Delhi. What has changed though, as per police, is their murderous spree. "They are still likely to kill if someone sees their face or interrupts their robbery. But the fear of being shot by the police, and the presence of high-tech surveillance systems to track, has made them avoid murders as much as possible," said a police officer. Even so, once they leave the city, tracking them down remains a daunting task. Police officers said that during raids, the Padhris display solidarity in their villages, with residents acting as their eyes and ears. "There are rivalries among different gangs, and occasionally a tip-off may come from them — but it's rare. If a gang discovers who informed the police, they will go after the person and even target their family," another police officer said.



meeting's attention away from core civic problems. Water supply is a vital issue linked to the daily lives of citizens. Had it been discussed, it would have provided the administration with a direction for a concrete decision and offered relief to the residents," he said. Sangale said, "We have been consistently raising our voice on this issue for the last 10 years. The breach of indemnity bonds by builders is a clear violation of the law. We expected that a discussion in the meeting would lead to justice. However, it is extremely regrettable that this serious matter was completely ignored. Our struggle will continue until this issue is resolved." The federation said the administration and public representatives should prioritise the residents' basic problems.

'My brother is finally resting in peace': Family of slain Bengal BJP worker finds closure amid party's win



GNS News Agency, May 12

For Biswajit Sarkar, the silence in his neighbourhood feels different. For the first time in five years, the air of intimidation that settled over his home in Kolkata's Kankurgachi following the 2021 post-poll violence has been replaced by a sense of hard-won liberation. "My brother gave his life to see what the people of Bengal are witnessing today," Biswajit told The Express, his voice thick with emotion following the West Bengal Assembly results. "I miss him terribly, but I am on cloud nine. This isn't just a political shift; it feels like a personal victory for our family."

Since the brutal killing of his brother, BJP activist Abhijit Sarkar, on May 2, 2021 — the day the West Bengal Assembly results were announced — Biswajit has become a symbol of resistance in Kolkata. He gained attention for organising Durga Pujas that dared to highlight anti-establishment themes, from the “cut money” culture to the rape and murder of a junior doctor in the city’s RG Kar Medical

Maharashtra suspends SRPF exam after 85% questions allegedly match private test set

The Maharashtra government Tuesday suspended a written examination for the recruitment of State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) constables after an allegation that 85 out of 100 questions in the question paper were directly sourced from a private publication's practice test set. The exam, conducted on May 2, was part of the recruitment drive for SRPF Group No. 5, Daund, advertised on October 28, 2025, for 104 vacancies. Around 3,500 candidates, who had qualified through a ground test, appeared for the written exam. Complaints began emerging through social media channels shortly after the examination, alleging that 85 questions in the official MCQ paper – including the questions' serial numbers and answer options – were identical to those in "Maharashtra Publication's Police Recruitment Practice Question Set 10," a private practice booklet widely used by police recruitment aspirants.

The Additional Director General of Police, Training and Special Units, Maharashtra State, Mumbai, issued a press release on Tuesday acknowledging the complaints. "A written examination for the recruitment of State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) Constables, Group No. 5, Daund, for the (advertisement) year 2024-25, was conducted on May 2, 2026. Complaints have been received through media channels alleging that, out of the 100 questions in the question paper, 85 questions were sourced directly from 'Maharashtra Publication's Police Recruitment Practice Question Set 10,'" the release stated. "In light of this, a thorough inquiry into this matter has been initiated, effective from May 4, under the supervision of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, State Reserve Police Force, Pune. The recruitment process being conducted by the Commandant, SRPF, Group No. 5, Daund, has been suspended until further orders. Appropriate further action will be taken immediately upon receipt of the inquiry report," it added.

Officials promise actionVijaykumar Magar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, SRPF, confirmed the suspension of the recruitment process and said that a final inquiry report is expected soon."The matter is under investigation, and a final report is expected in around 2 to 4 days. Around 3,500 students appeared for the exam on May 2, and after inconsistencies were brought to notice about 85 questions being from a private publication, 'Maharashtra Publication's question practice set' by Vitthal Bade, the exam was put on hold on Tuesday till further notice. The exam process is expected to continue soon after the issuance of the final



report," Magar told the Indian Express. Viithal Bade, the author and owner of Maharashtra Publication, distanced himself from the controversy, calling any overlap a coincidence. "We had issued a 20-question paper set – 10 online and others in the hard copy (print) format – on March 16. It was a normal routine for mock tests, and most of them usually are previous year questions from the official exams conducted. SRPF administration might have taken these questions from our test set in a dearth of time, maybe, and it can be a coincidence, as we have no connections with any officials and will go ahead with the inquiry," Bade said.

Student groups have demanded a thorough and transparent investigation, expressing serious concern over the impact such irregularities have on aspirants, especially those from rural Maharashtra. Student leader Nitin Andhale said the gravity of the alleged irregularity goes beyond a routine error. "Aspirants, particularly from rural Maharashtra, aspire to join government services, especially in police service, and such gross negligence hampers the candidates' trust in the exam-conducting agency and the overall process. They put in years of hard work, and such cases affect their morale," Andhale said. He further pointed to the specific nature of the alleged copying as evidence that this may not have been accidental. "The issue is very serious as even the questions' serial number and answer options in the official MCQ paper were taken as they are from the private publication's practice set. So the inquiry must be done transparently and check whether there is any nexus between government officials and private institutions, and those guilty must face strict action so no such cases repeat ever after," Andhale added.

New BJP government in Bengal to take oath at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground

The BJP, which has reportedly finalised its chief minister for West Bengal, will hold the oath-taking ceremony at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata at 10 am on May 9, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, national BJP president Nitin Nabin, several Union ministers, and chief ministers from 20 states expected to attend. "On May 8, at 4 pm, a legislative party meeting will be held, and the leader will be elected," state BJP president and MP Shamik Bhattacharya told the media. However, sources indicated that this time, there may be no voting to select the legislative party leader, as the central leadership has already decided who the chief minister will be.

According to party sources, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to arrive in Kolkata late on Wednesday night after a cabinet meeting in Patna or on Thursday morning. On May 8, Shah is scheduled to meet all the winning MLAs. After the legislative party meeting at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, the BJP is expected to visit the governor and stake a claim to form the government. Bhattacharya, BJP MPs Saumitra Khan and Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato, and other party leaders held a meeting with Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala regarding the security measures for the oath-taking ceremony and regarding the sporadic incidents of violence taking place. BJP flags violence, says 'will not be tolerated'

Meanwhile, amid reports of post-poll violence, the BJP issued an important announcement on Wednesday. "You cannot declare yourself a BJP member on your own. Unless the party formally accepts you, you cannot claim to be a BJP member," the party said. Meanwhile, Khan said, "Some people who were in the TMC in the morning, crossed over to the BJP by the evening and to prove their loyalty to the BJP, they started doing all this. Give us 2-4 more hours, and we will make everything right... Our party leadership has instructed the police to act against these miscreants in the strictest way." Bhattacharya said he has spoken to the home secretary, pointing out that violence will not be tolerated. "People who had been TMC are now suddenly putting saffron colour and disrupting peace and trying to vandalise.



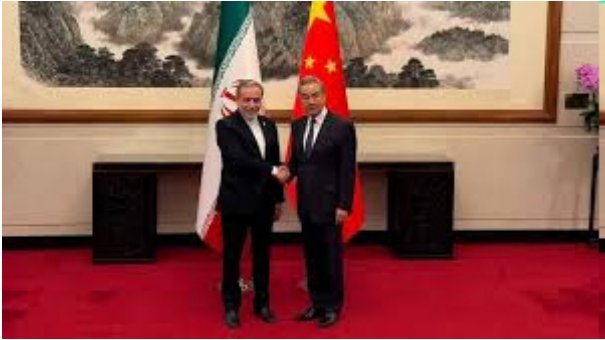
It will not be tolerated. Last night, I spoke to the Kolkata police regarding this. Two of our workers have died. From our party, we have said that those who are involved in vandalism, we will not tolerate it; they will be thrown out. The Prime Minister had promised people that they would be brought out of the environment of fear," he added.

India to get AI-powered orbital data centre satellite under Pixxel-Sarvam partnership

New Delhi: India is set to get an AI-powered orbital data centre satellite, with space-tech firm Pixxel partnering with AI startup Sarvam to develop the country's first such system, it was announced on Monday.

After the partnership, Pixxel will design, build, launch and operate the Pathfinder satellite, while Sarvam will provide the artificial intelligence backbone, enabling both training and inference directly in orbit through full-stack language models running onboard, the company said.

US and Iran closing in on memo to end war, sources say



ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON/TEL AVIV,- The United States and Iran are closing in on an agreement on a one-page memorandum to end the war in the Gulf, a source from mediator Pakistan and another source briefed on the mediation said.In an early morning social media post, U.S. President Donald Trump gave no details of any specific proposal but said the war could end if "Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to".The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.The sources confirmed information initially reported by the U.S. media outlet Axios. The proposed 14-point, one-page memorandum would formally end the war, followed by discussions to unblock shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, lift U.S. sanctions on Iran and agree curbs on Iran's nuclear programme."We will close this very soon. We are getting close," said the source from Pakistan, which hosted the war's only peace talks so far and has continued in that role of mediator, ferrying proposals between the sides.

Reports of the possible agreement caused global oil prices to plunge, with benchmark Brent crude futures falling around 11% to around \$98 a barrel . Global share prices also leapt and bond yields fell on optimism of an end to a war that has disrupted energy supplies.In this morning post, Trump said: "Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective Blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran.""If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," Trump added.Hours earlier, Trump paused a three-day-old naval mission to reopen the blockaded strait, citing progress in peace talks.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards responded by saying that if U.S. "threats" had ended, passage through the strait would be possible under new terms it was putting in place, without giving details.The White House, the State Department and Iranian officials contacted by Reuters did not immediately respond to requests for comment. U.S. news channel CNBC quoted a spokesperson from the Iranian foreign ministry as saying Tehran was evaluating a 14-point U.S. proposal.The source briefed on the mediation said the U.S. negotiations were being led by Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner.If both sides agreed on the preliminary deal, that would start the clock on 30 days of detailed negotiations to reach a full agreement, the source said.The source said the full agreement would include the U.S. lifting sanctions and releasing frozen Iranian funds, Iran and the United States lifting competing blockades on the Strait of Hormuz, and curbs on Iran's nuclear programme,

with the aim of seeking a pause or moratorium on Iranian enrichment of uranium.

While the sources said the memorandum would not initially require concessions from either side, the sources and Axios did not mention several of the key demands that Washington has made in the past and that have previously been rejected by Iran.U.S. demands that were not mentioned include: curbs on Iran's missile programme and an end to its support for proxy militias in the Middle East.While the sources spoke of a moratorium on future Iranian enrichment of uranium, they did not mention Iran's existing stockpile of more than 400 kg (900 pounds) of uranium enriched to near weapons grade.Washington has previously demanded Iran give this up before any end to the war. Iran has in the past insisted on its right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes and denied ever seeking to build an atomic bomb.Earlier, Trump announced a pause to "Project Freedom", a mission he had announced two days earlier to guide ships through the blocked strait.

The mission had failed to bring about any significant resumption of traffic through the waterway, while provoking a new wave of Iranian strikes on ships in the strait and on targets in neighbouring countries.In the latest incident, a French shipping company reported on Wednesday that one of its container ships had been struck in the strait the previous day, and that injured crew had been evacuated.In announcing he was pausing the mission, Trump cited "great progress" in negotiations with Iran, without giving further details.Trump had said last week he was likely to reject Iran's latest proposal for talks. The Iranian offer also contained 14 points, and also called for setting aside discussion of nuclear issues until after the war ended and the shipping dispute was resolved.In comments on a visit to China on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi made no mention of Trump's latest remarks, but said Tehran was holding out for "a fair and comprehensive agreement".A map showing the inbound and outbound shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to the maritime boundary between Oman and Iran.Iran has effectively shut the strait to all shipping apart from its own since the United States and Israel launched the war on February 28. In April, Washington imposed its own separate blockade of Iranian ports.Trump's Project Freedom mission to use the U.S. Navy to open the strait failed to persuade merchant ships that it was safe, while provoking new attacks from Iran, which said it was expanding the area under its control to include swathes of the coastline of the United Arab Emirates, on the strait's far side.While the mission was in effect, Iranian drones and missiles hit several ships in and around the strait and targets in the UAE, including the only major Emirati oil port on the coast beyond the strait which allowed exports without crossing through it.Ariba Shahid is a journalist based in Karachi, Pakistan. She primarily covers economic and financial news from Pakistan, along with Karachi-centric stories. Ariba has previously worked at DealStreetAsia and Profit Magazine.

Alexander has over a decade of international reporting experience. He is currently a senior correspondent in Jerusalem covering Israel & the Palestinian Territories and was formerly in Dubai where he covered the Arabian Peninsula, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, often writing about foreign policy, security and economic-related issues.

Iran says it is reviewing new US proposal after sources say sides closing in on deal



ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON/TEL AVIV, GNS News Agency, May 12- Iran said on Wednesday it was reviewing a new U.S. proposal, after sources said Washington and Tehran were closing in on a one-page memorandum to end the war in the Gulf while leaving tricky issues such as Iran's nuclear programme for later.An Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson, cited by Iran's ISNA news agency, said Iran would convey its response soon via Pakistan, which hosted the war's only peace talks and has since served as the main conduit for messages between the sides.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.In an early morning social media post, U.S. President Donald Trump gave no details of any specific proposal but said the war could end if "Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to". He later told the New York Post it was still too soon to consider face-to-face meetings to sign an agreement.

A Pakistani source and another source briefed on the mediation confirmed information initially reported by the U.S. media outlet Axios about a proposed 14-point, one-page memorandum that would formally end the war.The memorandum would be followed by discussions to unblock shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, lift U.S. sanctions on Iran and agree curbs on Iran's nuclear programme, the sources said.Reports of the possible agreement caused global oil prices to plunge, with benchmark Brent crude futures falling around 11% to around \$98 a barrel . Global share prices also leapt and bond yields fell on optimism of an end to a war that has disrupted energy supplies.

In his morning post, Trump said: "Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective Blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran.""If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," Trump added.Hours earlier, Trump paused a two-day-old naval mission to reopen the blockaded strait, citing progress in peace talks.Iran's Revolutionary Guards responded by saying that if U.S. "threats" had ended, passage through the strait would be possible under new terms it was putting in

place, without giving details.

The White House, the State Department and Iranian officials contacted by Reuters did not immediately respond to requests for comment.The source briefed on the mediation said the U.S. negotiations were being led by Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner. If both sides agreed on the preliminary deal, that would start the clock on 30 days of detailed negotiations to reach a full agreement.

The full agreement would include the U.S. lifting sanctions and releasing frozen Iranian funds, Iran and the United States lifting competing blockades on the Strait of Hormuz, and some curbs on Iran's nuclear programme, with the aim of a pause or moratorium on Iranian enrichment of uranium.While the sources said the memorandum would not initially require concessions from either side, they did not mention several key demands Washington has made in the past, which Iran has rejected, such as curbs on Iran's missile programme and an end to its support for proxy militias in the Middle East.The sources spoke of potential curbs on future Iranian enrichment of uranium, but made no mention of Iran's existing stockpile of more than 400 kg (900 pounds) of it, already enriched to near weapons grade, which Washington has previously demanded it give up before any end to the war.And even if the reported text appeared to sidestep some demands rejected by Iran in the past, there were indications Tehran could still hold out for more U.S. concessions.In a post on X, Iranian lawmaker Ebrahim Rezaei, a spokesperson for parliament's powerful foreign policy and national security committee, described the text reported by Axios as "more of an American wish list than a reality"."The Americans will not gain anything in a war they are losing that they have not gained in face-to-face negotiations," he wrote.Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, visiting China, made no mention of Trump's latest remarks, but said Tehran was holding out for "a fair and comprehensive agreement".

TRUMP PAUSES MISSION TO UNBLOCK STRAITEarlier, Trump cited "great progress" in negotiations to announce a pause to "Project Freedom", a mission he had announced two days earlier to guide ships through the blocked strait.The mission failed to bring about any significant resumption of traffic through the waterway, while provoking a new wave of Iranian strikes on ships in the strait and targets in neighbouring countries, particularly the United Arab Emirates.In the latest incident, a French shipping company reported on Wednesday that one of its container ships had been struck in the strait the previous day, and injured crew had been evacuated.A map showing the inbound and outbound shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to the maritime boundary between Oman and Iran.Ariba Shahid is a journalist based in Karachi, Pakistan. She primarily covers economic and financial news from Pakistan, along with Karachi-centric stories. Ariba has previously worked at DealStreetAsia and Profit Magazine.Alexander has over a decade of international reporting experience. He is currently a senior correspondent in Jerusalem covering Israel & the Palestinian Territories and was formerly in Dubai where he covered the Arabian Peninsula, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, often writing about foreign policy, security and economic-related issues.

Iran conflict may have motivated Trump dinner shooting suspect, US intelligence report finds

WASHINGTON, May 6 (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security identified the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran as a potential motive for the man accused of attempting to assassinate President Donald Trump and senior members of his administration at a White House reporters' gala last month, according to an intelligence report sent to state and local law enforcement nationwide and other federal agencies.The report, a preliminary assessment by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis dated April 27, assessed that the suspect Cole Allen had "multiple social and political grievances." It concluded that the Iran conflict "may have contributed to his decision to conduct the attack," citing social media posts from Allen that criticized U.S. actions in the war.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

The assessment sheds new light on the U.S. government's search for a motive in the foiled attack on the White House Correspondents' Dinner on April 25. Its conclusions, while preliminary, offer the most definitive evidence to date that the Iran conflict, which has killed thousands in the Middle East and rattled the global economy, could have been a trigger.The report, marked as a "Critical Incident Note," was obtained through open records requests by the transparency nonprofit Property of the People and shared with Reuters.Spokespeople for DHS and the U.S. Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The FBI declined to comment.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Justice Department added a charge of assault on a federal officer, accusing Allen of firing at a U.S. Secret Service agent at a security checkpoint, in addition to attempted assassination, discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence, and illegal transportation of a firearm and ammunition across state lines. He has not yet entered a plea.U.S. officials have so far said little about Allen's alleged motivation, pointing only to an email Allen sent to relatives on the night of the attack. The message, which officials have called a manifesto, expressed anger at the administration and referred to his desire to target the "traitor" giving a speech, without mentioning Trump by name.In court documents, prosecutors have alleged that Allen "disagreed" with Trump politically and "wanted to 'fight back' against government policies and decisions that he found morally objectionable."The FBI has been carrying out a detailed examination of Allen's social media activity and digital footprint in searching for a motive for the attack, a senior law enforcement official told Reuters, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The examination includes a review of posts on a Bluesky social media account linked to Allen that posted and shared a range of anti-Trump messages in the weeks leading up to the attack. The posts include criticism of the U.S. actions in Iran but also broadsides against the Trump administration on immigration enforcement, Elon Musk, and Russia's war on Ukraine.The account shared a post calling for Trump to be impeached over his April 7 threat to destroy Iranian civilization, which came hours before Trump agreed to a ceasefire. It also shared criticism of reporters who planned to attend the press dinner.The FBI has also reviewed a 2024 post in which an account connected to Allen, while quoting a Bible verse, appears to call Trump "the devil" in response to a message from Trump's daughter Tiffany.The focus on Allen's online activity is in part to

stave off conspiracy theories about the motive and online activity of the suspected shooter, the official said, adding that speculation about the online activity of the man who fired at Trump during a 2024 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, had sparked widely spread conspiracy theories.

Develop Raghunathapalem as a Solar Village: District Collector Divakara TS“Solar Rooftops to Be Installed on Community Buildings”

Public Asked to Cooperate Fully with Census–2027“Khammam, Raghunathapalem, May 12(Indian Chronicle):“Divakara TS said that Raghunathapalem village should be developed as a pilot “Solar Village” with wide-spread solar rooftop systems to promote the use of renewable energy in the district.“The District Collector conducted a surprise inspection on Tuesday of the Solar Model Project being implemented in Raghunathapalem village. He reviewed the progress of solar rooftop installations and sought details from officials regarding the implementation status.“Officials informed the Collector that there are a total of 1,081 Gruhajyothi beneficiaries in the village, of which



821 houses were identified as suitable for installing solar rooftop systems. So far, installations have been completed in 110 houses.“Speaking on the occasion, Collector Divakara TS said that the administration aims to transform Raghunathapalem into a full-fledged “Solar Village” in the future. He stated that efforts are underway to install solar rooftop systems with a minimum capacity of 2 kilowatts for every household.“The Collector directed officials to prepare a special action plan for installing solar rooftops on community halls, government buildings, and other public spaces in the village.“He also instructed electricity department officials to set up an additional transformer and install extra electricity poles wherever necessary. He said steps are being taken to enable surplus electricity generated through solar rooftops to be sold back to the power grid.“The Collector also reviewed the ongoing Census–2027 activities in the village. He appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to census staff and provide accurate information. He advised people not to fall prey to misconceptions or provide false details during the enumeration process. He clarified that no government welfare schemes would be affected because of the census exercise.“Raghunathapalem Tahsildar Shwetha, RI Waheed, officials from various departments, electricity department staff, and villagers participated in the programme.

CMA CGM vessel attacked in Strait of Hormuz as shipping halted by US-Iran war

PARIS, GNS News Agency, May 12- A CMA CGM container ship was attacked while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, injuring crew members and damaging the vessel, the French group said, as the U.S.-Iran conflict left traffic in the crucial oil and trade corridor at a standstill.The incident, which CMA CGM said occurred on Tuesday, was the latest attack on ships since the war erupted, stranding hundreds of vessels and disrupting 20% of global oil trade.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Washington launched an operation on Monday to help escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, allowing two U.S.-flagged vessels to exit the Gulf. However, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday the effort would be briefly paused amid talks aimed at a broader deal with Iran.A map showing the inbound and outbound shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to the maritime boundary between Oman and Iran.Shipping through the Strait was effectively halted over the past 24 hours, with tracking data showing no vessels transiting the waterway.Tehran, meanwhile, issued a map of the waterway by expanding a zone it said was subject to its control, its state media reported.CMA CGM said on Wednesday that injured crew from the San Antonio vessel were evacuated and receiving medical treatment, declining further comment.Eight crew members were wounded, the UN's International Maritime Organization said, in the 32nd such incident since the war began.France was not specifically targeted, government spokesperson Maud Bregeon said, adding the crew were from the Philippines.A maritime se-



curity source said the ship was struck by an Iranian projectile while attempting a night transit near Oman.It was unclear if it was sailing under the now-paused U.S. escort operation to release stranded ships.TRANSITS WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH IRAN AT RISK"While a few ships made it out safely while 'Project Freedom' was in place, it was clear that transits without coordination with Iran entailed significant risk," said Jakob Larsen, chief safety and security officer with shipping association BIMCO.The French firm, the world's third-largest container shipping line, has indicated that 14 of its vessels were stranded in the Gulf at the start of the war. One ship, the CMA CGM Kribi, exited the Strait of Hormuz at the start of April.The Maltese-flagged San Antonio's destination was marked as Mundra in India, according to shipping data.

Zelenskiy accuses Russia of spurning ceasefire proposed by Kyiv

KYIV, GNS News Agency, May 12- Ukraine accused Russia of flouting a Kyiv-proposed ceasefire on Wednesday by carrying out dozens of battlefield assaults, air strikes and drone attacks in what President Volodymyr Zelenskiy described as Moscow's "obvious spurning" of peace.Zelenskiy had floated the cessation, starting on May 6, in response to Russian leader Vladimir Putin's own proposed ceasefire from May 8 to 9 to coincide with its World War Two victory commemorations.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.In a statement, Zelenskiy said Russia - which did not confirm its adherence to Ukraine's proposal - had committed 1,820 violations by late morning on Wednesday.Officials in the north-eastern Sumy region said two people were killed in separate Russian drone attacks on a civilian car and a kindergarten where children were not present.In major cities such as Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih and Zaporizhzhia - where an attack on Tuesday killed 12 people - private buildings, infrastructure and industrial sites were damaged in air attacks after midnight, officials said."This shows that Russia rejects peace and its fake calls for a ceasefire on May 9th have nothing to do with diplomacy," said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on X."Putin only cares about military parades, not human lives."Item 1 of 6 A resident with a dog

and rescuers run during an air raid alarm at the site of the kindergarten hit by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Sumy, Ukraine. [1/6]A resident with a dog and rescuers run during an air raid alarm at the site of the kindergarten hit by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Sumy, Ukraine.The rival overtures come amid stalled U.S.-backed peace talks to end the more than four-year war, and as Russia presses an offensive to capture the rest of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.Russia this week will hold a slimmed-down version of its annual military parade in central Moscow, citing an increased threat of Ukrainian attacks.

Zelenskiy said on Wednesday that officials would decide on "further actions" later in the day in response to Russia's attacks. He had earlier said Kyiv would act "symmetrically" if its ceasefire was violated.On Monday, Russia's defence ministry had warned that it would respond to Ukrainian attacks during victory celebrations with a "massive missile attack" on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv."We are warning the civilian population of Kyiv and staff at foreign diplomatic missions of the need to leave the city in a timely manner," it said.Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on Monday that a Ukrainian drone had struck a building in Russia's capital overnight, but had caused no casualties.

‘I ignored period pain, then my organs got stuck together’: How a 31-year-old teacher beat endometriosis to birth a child



For years, Sunanda Jadhav (name changed), a 31-year-old assistant professor from Navi Mumbai, quietly endured excruciating pain each month, convinced it was “normal” period discomfort. “I used to manage with painkillers. Some days, the pain was so bad that I struggled to concentrate at work but I thought every woman goes through this,” she says. Little did she know, the signals her body had been sending were a warning of endometriosis, a condition where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, often on the ovaries, fallopian tubes or pelvic tissues. Over time, this can cause painful periods, cysts and adhesions that make organs stick together, and in severe cases, affect fertility, threatening a woman’s ability to conceive naturally.

Sunanda’s symptoms were subtle yet persistent. She had pelvic pain, digestive discomfort and irregular ovulation cycles. It was only after she underwent detailed tests at Motherhood Hospital, Kharghar, including transvaginal sonography (TVS) and color Doppler scans, that the extent of her condition became clear. “My left fallopian tube was damaged and overlapped with my intestine. Because of that, even eating something as simple as bread caused unbearable pain. I had noticed it especially during my time in Europe. I ate a lot of bread there and my pain worsened,” she says. Like many women, she normalised the suffering until she failed to conceive after four years of marriage.

Why endometriosis affects fertility

The overgrown tissue can cause pelvic organs to stick together, block fallopian tubes and reduce egg quality, with 30% to 50% of people with the condition facing infertility. Inflammation hinders ovulation and implantation of the embryo. “Her left fallopian tube was severely affected and almost ‘frozen’ alongside surrounding organs,” says Dr Surabhi Siddhartha, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Motherhood Hospitals. “Endometriosis often causes organs to stick together due to scar tissue, making natural conception difficult.” She needed surgery to clear out the overgrowth. A multi-step intervention Sunanda had advanced laparoscopic surgery to remove cysts and sticky tissue mass. Then she was put on hormonal injections (Leuprolide) to suppress residual endometriotic tissue. In March 2025, she conceived naturally and delivered a 3.1 kg baby girl in October via planned C-section. The birth seemed easier compared to the surgery to remove the overgrown tissue, according to Dr Siddhartha. “We discovered

that the uterus had stuck to the bladder in the front and the intestines behind. Separating these organs required extreme precision to avoid injury. The aim was to restore normal anatomy so natural conception could occur,” she says. The surgery lasted nearly two hours. Sunanda then needed three cycles of hormonal injections to suppress remaining endometriotic tissue and allow her reproductive system to heal.

Diet played a crucial role in her recovery and conception. “After my laparoscopy, I gave up bread completely; no burgers, pizza and pav. I also gave up packaged and processed foods,” says Sunanda. Before conceiving, she also added an empty stomach morning routine that included ½–1 teaspoon of overnight soaked fenugreek seeds, a walnut, five almonds and five to six raisins. She stopped drinking fenugreek water once she conceived. Her breakfast included simple home-cooked foods such as upma, poha, idli, dosa followed by a cup of tea. Her mid-morning snacks were fresh fruits. For lunch she packed home-cooked roti, bhaji and salad followed by roasted seeds and makhana for evening snacks. She would eat dinner by 7 pm. “Under my doctor’s guidance, I included Vitamin C-rich foods such as amla, murabba and strawberries. Since I am a vegetarian, I also had a homemade probiotic drink called kanji made of carrots and beetroots. I exercised regularly. In short, diet and activity were real game-changers,” she says. That’s why she conceived naturally within two to three months of surgery. “This is not unusual,” explains Dr Siddhartha. “With timely surgery, hormonal support and careful monitoring, many women with severe endometriosis can still conceive naturally. It requires precision and close follow-up but outcomes can be remarkable.”

Given the extent of adhesions, Sunanda’s pregnancy was closely monitored. “We recommended a planned C-section to ensure safety. What mattered were frequent antenatal visits, hormonal support and careful observation of both mother and baby,” says Dr Siddhartha, adding cases like Sunanda’s are increasingly common in India. “Previously, endometriosis was rare, perhaps one in a thousand women. Now, in clinical practice, it is closer to one in a hundred. We see women mostly above 26 years of age, though even those as young as 24 are being diagnosed in our clinic,” she says. Lifestyle factors such as sedentary habits, dietary patterns and delayed child-bearing are contributing to this spiral. “But most women do not understand what their menstrual pain means. Many women consider severe cramps normal. Pain that affects your daily routine and digestion during cycles, leads to irregular ovulation or difficulty conceiving are warning signs that require evaluation,” says Dr Siddhartha. During menstruation, retrograde blood flow can carry uterine-like tissue to the ovaries, fallopian tubes or pelvic tissue. Over time, this forms cysts, known as chocolate cysts and adhesions leading to what is called a “frozen pelvis.” That’s why, Dr Siddhartha says, consult a doctor before reaching out for the pill.

Hope for pancreatic cancer? Top oncologists explain how an experimental vaccine hunts down rogue cells

Pancreatic cancer remains one of the deadliest forms of cancer, with fewer than 13 per cent of patients surviving beyond five years after diagnosis. Unlike cancers that benefit from routine screening methods such as colonoscopies or mammograms, pancreatic cancer has no standard early-detection test, and symptoms often emerge only after the disease has reached an advanced stage. Treatment options are limited and only about 20 per cent of cases are considered operable. Now imagine a vaccine custom-built just for the patient, designed to teach their own body to fight off cancer. That’s exactly what researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Center have done. They developed an experimental, individualized therapeutic cancer vaccine that uses messenger RNA (mRNA) to treat pancreatic cancer. Messenger RNA is a molecule that carries genetic instructions from DNA to help in protein synthesis. Follow-up results from a phase 1 clinical trial show that nearly 90 per cent of people whose immune systems responded to the vaccine were still alive up to six years after receiving the last treatment. “These early results show this new immunotherapy approach has the potential to make a difference for one of the deadliest cancers,” Dr Vinod Balachandra, the trial’s principal investigator and director of the Olayan Center for Cancer Vaccines at MSK, was quoted as saying. The findings were presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). What does this mean for the future of treatment? Dr Deepak Govil and Dr Vivek Tandon, who deal with such cases in GI Surgery and GI Oncology at Medanta, Noida, explain that the findings show how cancer therapies can become more targeted and personalized. “Early research has shown that in some patients, this approach can trigger a strong immune response and may help reduce the risk of the cancer coming back after surgery. However, it is still being studied in clinical trials, and it may work best when combined with other treatments like chemotherapy or immunotherapy,” they told the Indian Express. Over to them.

How does an mRNA cancer vaccine work?

A personalised mRNA cancer vaccine is an emerging type of treatment designed to help the body’s own immune system to recognise and attack cancer more effectively. This is in contrast to traditional treatments, such as chemotherapy or radiation, which broadly target cancer cells and can also impact healthy tissue, and is highly personalised for each individual patient. Pancreatic cancer is especially difficult because it often “hides” from the immune system, so the body does not see it as a threat. In this approach, doctors first remove the tumour during surgery and closely study it to identify specific genetic changes. These changes create unique proteins, called neoantigens, which are found only on that patient’s cancer cells. Scientists then use this information to design a personalised mRNA vaccine that carries instructions to make these same proteins. When the vaccine is given, the mRNA enters certain immune cells in the body and guides them to produce harmless copies of these cancer-specific proteins. This acts like a signal or alert, showing the immune system exactly what the cancer looks like. Immune cells, especially T-cells, are then trained to recognise these markers and begin searching for real cancer cells carrying them. Once they find them, they attack and destroy them. In simple terms, the vaccine works like a “training tool” or “wanted poster” for the immune system, helping it identify and fight cancer more effectively.



Why is it effective in pancreatic cancer?

Pancreatic cancer is a fast growing type of cancer that is often diagnosed late and difficult to treat. Even with surgery and chemotherapy, the chances of recurrence are high. And this is where a personalised vaccine could help – by teaching the immune system to continue to target any residual cancer cells that may remain in the body. The latest results are promising, with years of tumour-free survival for roughly 80 per cent of patients. This means that, for some people, the immune system was effectively “trained” to keep the cancer in check for a significant period of time. However, these results should be interpreted with caution. These are early clinical findings in a relatively small number of patients, and not all patients may respond in the same way.

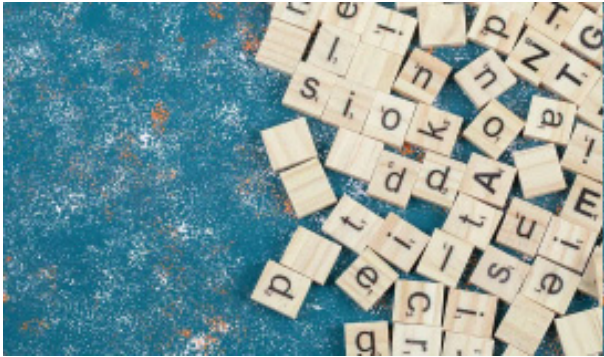
What are challenges for rollout?

Further research is needed to confirm how durable these responses are, whether the benefits extend to a larger population, and how this therapy can be best combined with existing treatments. Questions around accessibility, cost, and scalability also need to be addressed before such vaccines can become widely available.

Watermelon, lemon or coconut water? The summer drink that replenishes electrolytes best

As temperatures rise across India, hydration becomes critical not just for comfort but for maintaining energy, muscle function and overall health. Summer heat increases fluid loss through sweat, and with it the body also loses essential electrolytes such as sodium and potassium. While plain water remains the gold standard for daily hydration, many people turn to fruit-infused waters and natural drinks for minerals or electrolytes. These help regulate fluid balance, support nerve signalling and keep muscles functioning efficiently. During prolonged heat exposure or physical activity, the body loses significant amounts of sodium through sweat, along with smaller amounts of potassium and magnesium. Replacing lost electrolytes becomes important to prevent fatigue, cramps and dehydration, making the right beverage choice more than just a matter of taste. Watermelon is nearly 92 per cent water, which makes it naturally hydrating and particularly appealing during hot weather. It also contains small amounts of potassium and natural sugars that can provide a mild energy lift. However, when watermelon is simply infused into water, the transfer

Sramcbled wrods: real reason you can still read jumbled text



You’ve probably seen it on social media before: a paragraph of scrambled text that looks like nonsense at first glance, yet somehow you can read it with surprising ease. Aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn’t mttiae in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteers be at the rghit plcae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can stlll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteer by itslef, but the wrod as a wlohe. This effect, often playfully referred to as typoglycemia, is frequently shared online as a quirky insight into how our brains work. But this viral claim is only part of the story. To understand why it works, we need to look at how the brain actually processes written language. The claim that usually accompanies this snippet is that as long as the first and last letters of a word are in the right place, the order of the middle letters doesn’t matter. At first glance, the claim seems plausible. But while there is a kernel of truth here, the explanation is misleading.

Reading scrambled words has much less to do with a magical “rule” about first and last letters, and much more to do with how our brains use context, pattern recognition and prediction. When we read, we typically don’t painstakingly process each letter in sequence. Instead, skilled readers recognise words rapidly by drawing on multiple cues at once.

Psycholinguistic research shows that we process words as patterns rather than as sequences of individual sounds. These include familiar letter patterns, the overall shape of the word and, crucially, the context of the sentence. Our brains are constantly predicting what is likely to come next, then checking those predictions against the visual input. This is why we often miss typos in our own writing. We don’t see what’s actually on the page, we see what we expect to be there. The same principle helps us make sense of jumbled words. Even when letters are out of order, enough of the structure remains for the brain to make an educated guess. Word shape and structure matter.

The viral meme suggests that only the first and last letters matter. But this oversimplifies what’s really going on. We are sensitive to how letters relate to each other within a

India may avert 10 million cervical cancer but vaccine cover remains low

High-income countries could eliminate cervical cancer by 2048, but without expanded efforts in vaccination and screening, many women in other regions will still face high risks of cervical cancer according to a new modelling study in The Lancet. The study highlights that reaching the World Health Organization’s (WHO) goals—vaccinating 90% of girls, screening 70% of women, and treating 90% of pre-cancer and cancer cases—is crucial to eliminating cervical cancer globally and saving millions of lives.

Achieving these goals could avert 37 million cervical cancer cases over the next century and accelerate progress toward elimination. “For India, reaching these targets would avert over 10 million cervical cancer cases over the next century, accelerate progress toward elimination, and would reduce inequalities with high income countries,” said Prof Marc Brisson, Canada Research Chair in Mathematical Modelling and Health Economics Related to Infectious Diseases and lead author of the study. Importantly, working towards these targets, India rolled out its HPV vaccination campaign earlier this year. Over 1.5 lakh primary health centres across the country screen for three most common forms of cancers in the country, including cervical cancer. And, the country is working towards setting up more cancer centres and creating a grid to ensure people are able to access care. The lancet model findings Using current national cervical cancer vaccination and screening efforts, researchers estimated that high-income countries are on track to eliminate cervical cancer by 2048, while low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will see only slight reductions over the next century. As a result, the gap between regions will widen dramatically, with women in the poorer countries facing much higher rates of this preventable disease. For India, according to Prof Brisson, a low HPV vaccination coverage would mean that the incidence rate would increase from 2 times more than high income countries to 12 times more by the end of the century. “However, if India reaches 90% vaccination coverage of girls, elimination would be possible by 2085, preventing 6 million cervical cancer cases over the next century,” he said.

The study authors also said that recent advancements, such as lower-cost and single-dose vaccines, expanded screening programmes. Multi-age cohort vaccinations and efforts to include boys in vaccination campaigns



can help make cervical cancer elimination feasible worldwide but require global, coordinated efforts from governments and international health agencies. Low uptake of HPV vaccination in India accounts for a fifth of all cervical cancer cases in the world, with it being the second most common form of cancer among Indian women. India reports over 1.2 lakh cases and 80,000 deaths each year. So, the HPV vaccination campaign for all 14-year-olds rolled out on February 28 this year was a welcome move.

“It is true that the uptake of HPV vaccination is very slow/ low in India. There are multiple factors such as the timing of HPV vaccination launch just before the final examinations, with majority of schools on summer break in April and May. There was not enough awareness generation or demand generation from the public, no strong messages on social media, in fact negative messages, videos are also going viral,” Dr Smita Joshi, senior scientist at Prayas, said. Data from Gol’s central digital platform U-WIN portal suggests that till April 10 this year, only 10.63% of the 1.15 crore girls eligible for vaccination got their shot. Dr Joshi added that successful strategies from the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia could be studied. Cervical cancer screening coverage is also very low in India with less than 2% of the women getting screened, she said. “We need to screen at least 70% women aged 30 to 49 with an HPV test yet we are still using VIA. There is no vertical investment into the screening as well as vaccination and the programme implementation needs to be really examined again,” Dr Joshi said.

A disturbing step for rights, dignity and mental health



The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 has caused deep confusion, perplexity, and, over the past two weeks since its introduction, apprehension and fear. In trying to make sense of both the intent and the possible implications of the amendment, these days have raised more questions than they have provided satisfactory answers. At the core is the question, "Who owns my gender and therefore my gender identity?" For the majority of men and women who happen to be cisgender, life hardly ever brings us to a point where we are faced with this as a question. There is no 'evaluation' that we need to undergo. Whether it is a form at a hospital, clinic, bank, or workplace, we claim our gender ourselves by ticking a box. We simply state our gender, not expecting anyone to question the obvious. However, for gender diverse and transgender individuals, this is what is proposed henceforth. This violates the foundational principles of dignity, autonomy and mental well-being.

From progression to regression!In 2014, the Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment in NALSA vs Union of India, recognising transgender persons as a legitimate gender identity. It was a watershed moment for jurisprudence, public policy and governance because it rested on a simple and powerful principle: gender identity is self-identified. Just as any individual declares themselves a man or a woman without external verification, transgender persons, too, were reaffirmed as the final and only authority on their gender identity. This principle is rooted not only in human dignity and autonomy but also in constitutional morality under Articles 14 (Equality before Law), 15 (non-discrimination), 19 (Freedom of Expression) and 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).

In 2019, Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. While parts of it were criticised by the community, it remained aligned with NALSA on the cornerstone issue of self-identification. Indeed, it acknowledged the community's long history of discrimination and exclusion, and sought to prohibit discrimination, ensure access to education and health care, extend welfare measures such as housing, skill development and employment support. These welfare schemes, in our minds, as allies and health-care practitioners, represented an attempt to build an enabling framework rather than a restrictive one.

Much of the work being done at both the health-care training and education levels, as a result of the 2019 Act, requires sensitisation drives to ensure that curricula and training for health care and allied professions are sensitive to gender-affirming practices, and to make welfare schemes more widely known and implementable. In these six years, all stakeholders had just about started to align themselves with the global standards that the 2014 judgement and the 2019 Act both validated. The amendment to the 2019 Act — which was notified in the Gazette on March 30, 2026 — fundamentally reverses the NALSA judgment. It replaces self-identification with medical and bureaucratic gatekeeping, redefining who is 'allowed' to call themselves transgender. Under this amendment, a transgender person must appear before a medical board; undergo an assessment to 'prove' their gender identity; wait while the board forwards its recommendation to the District Magistrate, and obtain a certificate declaring them transgender.

There is no medical or evaluative biomarker for gender identity. No external knowledge or proof of any sort can determine the deeply held and personally felt experience of one's gender identity. There would have been no need for trans individuals to "come out" at all if that had been the case. This is the accepted truth in medicine and health care across the globe. Therefore, it is perplexing that the Amend-

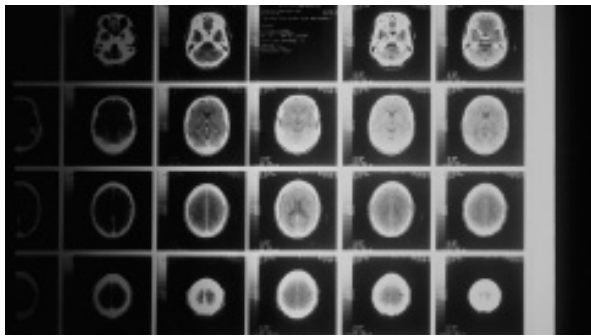
ment talks about determining and validating someone's gender through a process in which the answer to the question "what is my gender?" has to be given by complete strangers. This raises many issues that seem to present challenges at many levels.

Medical boards — many of which do not exist at the district level — are already overburdened even for urgent health-care needs. In the absence of criteria, as well as time and process, it is likely that boards may fall back on arbitrary, invasive or abusive examinations, including the possibility of genital inspection. This stems arguably from the traditional way of "assigning" gender at birth by looking at the genitals of a newborn child by a doctor or another adult. This is far from what we know to be the understanding of gender identity for gender diverse and trans individuals. Extrapolating this method to an adult and making it mandatory is in direct and complete violation of dignity, privacy and bodily autonomy. I cannot imagine any circumstance that would make me wish to approach this premise for myself as an adult cisgender woman. The very thought of such a scrutiny by a board of strangers, would probably create anticipatory mental distress and make me actively avoid approaching such a premise. Instead of improving welfare access, the amendment will likely shrink it, deter individuals from approaching the state, and reintroduce fear and humiliation into an already vulnerable population.

Mental health fallout, crisis in the makingThe transgender community already faces extreme vulnerability. Data show that 99% of transgender persons have faced social rejection; 52% have faced harassment or violence in educational spaces; 57% of trans women report experiencing physical or sexual violence at least once, and transgender adolescents have suicide attempt rates estimated between 13% and 50%, far above the national average. Against this backdrop, introducing additional layers of suspicion, verification and scrutiny is not just insensitive. It is unsafe. As a mental-health practitioner and an ally for the trans community, I am deeply concerned. Not just prospective; what is concerning is the uncertainty for thousands of transgender individuals currently enrolled in health-care services, whose access may now be questioned or invalidated in the face of the ambiguity about supporting the gender exploration and gender journey of an individual. This is not merely a procedural shift; it has the potential of developing rapidly into a public mental-health emergency.

The amendment introduces a clause that criminalises 'undue influence' in helping someone identify as transgender, with penalties up to 15 years of imprisonment. For mental-health practitioners, psychologists, lawyers and educators, this creates an unprecedented ethical and legal risk. In many families, gender-identity journeys create tension or disagreement. Community-based organisations, trans-affirmative mental health practitioners and services are frequently accused of 'encouraging' adolescents simply for acknowledging their lived reality. Under this amendment, such allegations could become criminal charges. This will discourage health-care practitioners from providing essential, evidence-based care; challenge community-based organisations to remain as allies, and push transgender persons away from formal health care and heighten mental distress that will likely remain unsupported. Additionally, the amendment collapses distinctions between transgender, intersex and hijra identities, erasing cultural, social and biological differences. Trans men remain nearly invisible in the framework, further marginalising them. An appeal for reflection and action!The current amendment risks undoing a decade of progress across law, governance, health systems and institutional practice. If misuse has occurred — even if limited to the 0.01% that the government suggests — the solution lies in audits, verification protocols and administrative strengthening — not in policing gender identity or forcing medicalisation. To uphold constitutional values, protect mental health, and ensure administrative feasibility, this amendment must be reconsidered. We owe each individual in India the assurance that governance frameworks do not deepen fear, stigma, or exclusion for any community. Dr. Kavita Arora is a senior psychiatrist with over 25 years of clinical practice and lived-experience expertise, a Founding Cohort member of India Mental Health Alliance (IMHA), Co-Founder of Children First, and an adviser and trainer in gender-affirming mental health practices across several Indian institutions

Psychedelics are revealing how the brain builds the sense of self



Many people have reported moments when the sense of being a distinct self 'loosens'. Among astronauts, it is called the overview effect while deep-sea explorers report a similar shift sometimes called the underviewer effect. Both involve sudden changes in perspective in which the usual boundary of 'me' briefly softens, as if the vastness they encounter is mirrored inwardly and the distance between self and world is momentarily absent. This dissolution often translates into shared experiences of oneness and interconnectedness with the outside world.

The 19th century Indian teacher Ramana Maharshi treated this instability not as an anomaly but as something to examine directly. Continuing a long philosophical tradition, he invited people to look for the 'I' in their own experiences — in the body, sensations, and thoughts — and notice that none of them fully captures the true nature of the self. Such inquiry explores experience from the inside, a subjective, first-person view. Modern science, by contrast, examines the brain processes that accompany experience from the outside, making these inner shifts harder to access directly. Only recently, however, has a new experimental tool offered a way to observe what happens in the brain as the sense of self begins to shift. Psychedelics can temporarily 'loosen' the brain patterns that support the feeling of a 'me', allowing researchers to watch that system reorganise itself in real time.

To study what happens when the sense of self weakens, an international team of researchers turned to a fast-acting psychedelic compound called N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) in a laboratory study with 27 volunteers. DMT produces a brief and intense shift in awareness that often includes a loss of the usual feeling of being a separate 'me'. In the experiment, published in The Journal of Neuroscience on January 14, volunteers received DMT while researchers recorded their brain activity using electroencephalography (EEG) to track rhythmic electrical patterns across the scalp. In normal conditions, one of the brain's dominant rhythms is the alpha wave — a slow oscillation linked to inward focus. This rhythm helps regulate internally focused processing. Importantly, this rhythm is not the self itself but one neural signature associated with how the brain maintains a coherent sense of self over time. During the DMT experience, that pattern began to loosen. Alpha rhythms weakened and lost coordination. Overall brain activity also shifted away from its usual organisation. And the more this rhythm weakened, the more strongly participants reported losing their ordinary sense of self.

A one-second sample from an EEG filtered to show the alpha waves. The findings suggest that specific brain processes are involved in maintaining aspects of the felt sense of self. When neural patterns associated with maintaining a stable sense of 'me' loosen, the organisation of that experience can temporarily shift. Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. This regime is sometimes called criticality. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. Under the influence of DMT, that balance shifted towards a quieter, less coordinated mode. As the organising rhythm weakened, the brain activity associated with maintaining a coherent self-model also shifted.

But what shifts in these experiments is not something transcendental, like in the philosophical traditions of India and China. Dan Zahavi, professor of philosophy at the University of Copenhagen, cautioned that the self isn't a single thing that can simply vanish. "It involves multiple layers," he explained, including bodily awareness, lived experience, and personal narrative, "and altering how those layers are organised is not the same as erasing identity". Neuroscience, in this view, is observing temporary changes in how the self is structured rather than its elimination. At a more practical level, Jeff Greenberg, professor of psychology at the University of Arizona noted that a stable sense of self plays an important role in everyday functioning, including supporting emotional regulation, planning, and continuity. Brief disruptions can be informative, he added, but they should not be mistaken for a lasting loss of identity. Self, mortality, emotional acceptance

If a brief disruption of the brain's self-model can reveal how fragile the feeling of 'me' really is, the question naturally arises whether that insight changes how we face impermanence or the transient nature of the world.

Psychologists have long shown that reminders of death can influence the way we behave, in part because the sense of self is a continuous, bounded self and acts as a psychological anchor, keeping change and mortality at a distance. In a study published recently in Psychopharmacology, researchers asked whether repeated ego-softening might reshape how people relate to death by comparing 54 long-term ayahuasca users, each with at least nine lifetime uses and averaging around fifty uses, to 53 people who had never taken psychedelics. Participants completed psychological measures assessing death anxiety, avoidance, and emotional attitudes towards impermanence. The ayahuasca group reported less fear and anxiety about death, were less likely to avoid thinking about it, and were more comfortable with the idea of impermanence. The researchers found that this pattern was best explained by what they called "acceptance of impermanence", an emotional ability to stay open to change — rather than religion, personality or general mindfulness. Yair Dor-Ziderman, research director at the University of Haifa, Israel, and lead author of the study, said this was striking because popular narratives often assume psychedelic experiences reduce fear of death by changing one's beliefs.

Instead, he explained, the data pointed to a different mechanism: not adopting a comforting metaphysical story but developing "a more flexible emotional relationship to uncertainty, dissolution, and loss". The emotional acceptance of change rather than belief or personality best explained the difference between the groups.

To clarify what that kind of acceptance entailed, M. Samir Hossein, a psychiatrist and thanatologist, noted that fearing death less was not the same as accepting impermanence. Fear, he explained, could diminish in defensive ways like distraction or reinterpretation whereas acceptance reflected a deeper shift in how a person related to loss and change in everyday life. "Fear can quiet down without disappearing but acceptance reorganises how we live with

impermanence." Prof. Greenberg cautioned that studies of this kind are correlational and rely heavily on self-report measures, making it difficult to determine whether psychedelics themselves produce lasting changes in how people relate to death. Larger, more controlled research will be needed to clarify if there is a causal link. "But if someone who is in need thinks one of these approaches might help, I would not discourage them from trying," he said. Meditation and the brain's defencesThe ayahuasca findings point towards a broader possibility: that such shifts may not be unique to psychedelics but reflect a more general capacity of the brain to relax its defensive stance, in general and toward death.

In one February 2025 study involving magnetoencephalography — a brain-imaging method similar to EEG that tracks small magnetic signals produced by neural activity — Dr. Dor-Ziderman and another team of researchers compared how meditators and meditation-naïve participants responded to death-related words. The participants repeatedly saw words paired with images of their own face or a stranger's, while the brain's rapid 'surprise' signal — a built-in response that appears when something unexpected happens — was measured in real time. In most people, reminders of mortality triggered an automatic defensive pattern. When death-related words were paired with self-images, the 'surprise' signal weakened, suggesting the brain was dampening the association before conscious awareness, effectively filtering out the implication that "death applies to me". Experienced meditators showed a different response. Their brains registered the same death-related cues without that suppression. Rather than reflexively filtering the signal, neural activity indicated the information was processed more directly, pointing to a reduced automatic defence linking death and self.

Dr. Dor-Ziderman interpreted this shift as reflecting a change in how the embodied self is represented. Ordinarily, he explained, the brain models the self as a stable object that must be protected, especially when confronted with mortality. Meditation repeatedly exposes practitioners to experience as an unfolding process: sensations arise and pass, agency fluctuates, and the sense of being a fixed 'someone' loosens. In this context, death is processed less as a catastrophic contradiction and more as another expression of change, allowing the brain to encounter existential cues without automatically reinforcing defensive boundaries.

A common patternRepresentative image of a psychedelic liquid light show. Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. Representative image of a psychedelic liquid light show. Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. [Photo Credit: Dominik (CC BY-SA)None of these results implies that ego dissolution is inherently beneficial or that altering the sense of self is a universal remedy for existential distress. Dr. Dor-Ziderman cautioned that not all disruptions of self-experience operate at the same level. Acute psychedelic states may reshape concepts and emotions whereas deeply rooted perceptual defenses — including those tied to mortality — likely require sustained training and repeated evidence for the brain to revise them. The studies also rely on different methods, populations, and interpretations, so they can't establish straightforward cause-effect claims.

What the findings do point to, however, is a clearer view of how the brain might construct its sense of self. Moments when that sense loosens — whether in orbit, in meditation or under carefully studied conditions — reveal what feels like a fixed boundary is actively maintained and can shift. The emerging evidence points less to transcendence than to flexibility: a reminder that the experience of self is dynamic, not fixed. In that light, as Dr. Dor-Ziderman put it, acceptance of impermanence is less about adopting a belief than "developing an emotional stance toward change", the capacity to remain open to endings without reflexively turning away. The idea echoes a long-standing contemplative insight — known in Buddhist thought as 'anicca', for instance — a doctrine asserting that all conditioned existence, physical and mental, is in a constant state of flux, arising and passing away. Modern neuroscience doesn't quite resolve the mystery of the self — yet. But it does suggest that learning, whether through experience or training, to hold that 'me' a little more lightly may change how the mind responds to temporariness.

Iran rejects latest ceasefire proposal as Trump deadline approaches

Iran GNS News Agency, May 12 rejected the latest ceasefire proposal and instead said it wants a permanent end to the war, even as U.S. President Donald Trump's ultimatum approaches.

"We won't merely accept a ceasefire," Mojtaba Ferdousi Pour, head of the Iranian diplomatic mission in Cairo, told The Associated Press. "We only accept an end of the war with guarantees that we won't be attacked again." Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Tehran had conveyed its response through Pakistan, a key mediator.

Mr. Trump's deadline centres on Tehran opening the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped in peacetime. Ferdousi Pour said Iranian and Omani officials were working on a mechanism for administering the shipping chokepoint. Iran's grip on the strait has caused oil prices to surge and shaken the world economy.

Iran's rejection came after Israel struck a key petrochemical plant in the massive South Pars natural gas field and killed two paramilitary Revolutionary Guard commanders. The gas field attack aimed at eliminating a major source of revenue for Iran, Israel said. The field is critical to electricity production, but the strike appeared to be separate from Mr. Trump's threats. The gas field shared with Qatar is the world's largest.

Under pressure at home as consumers worry, meanwhile, Mr. Trump has warned Iran that if no deal is reached to reopen the strait, the U.S. would set the country "back to the stone ages." Mr. Trump has given multiple deadlines to Iran. The report of Iran's rejection came as he was making comments to journalists at an annual Easter event at the White House, ahead of more extensive comments Monday (April 6, 2026) afternoon.

Climate change as a public health emergency

When we talk about climate change, the conversation almost always veers toward rising sea levels or extreme weather events. Some may even talk about the economic disruption that these natural disasters can and do cause. However, few, if any, touch upon another dimension of climate change: the broad-spectrum medical crisis that changing planetary patterns can trigger, as climate change intensifies every disease we already know and opens the door to those we have yet to face. Nowhere is this more visible than in India. Increasingly frequent and severe waterlogging due to excess rain in cities such as Mumbai is creating ideal conditions for waterborne infections including cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and leptospirosis. Recurrent waterlogging overwhelms sanitation infrastructure, contaminates clean water supplies, and leaves urban populations exposed to serious illnesses. Conversely, drought-prone regions are facing worsening water scarcity, forcing communities to rely on unsafe water sources, thereby increasing the burden of diarrhoeal diseases as well as chronic dehydration. Expanding disease risk

Meanwhile, shifting seasonal patterns are driving a rise in infections, allergies and vector-borne diseases, as changing temperatures and rainfall cycles disrupt established trends and prolong pollen seasons. Disease windows are expanding, and their geographic reach is steadily widening, quietly accelerating climate-driven spread. Communities with no prior exposure lack immunity, while health-care systems in these regions remain underprepared to respond at scale. One major example of this is the exponential growth of mosquito-borne diseases, as rising temperatures have made previously inhospitable regions suitable for this insect. The impact on dengue patterns is already measurable in Delhi-NCR. The number of cases traditionally peaked in September but now peaks in November, as warmer and rainier conditions sustain mosquito populations for longer periods. Malaria, once largely confined to endemic pockets of the Gangetic Plains and the warm, humid regions of central India, is now being reported in cooler areas such as Himachal Pradesh, where it historically had minimal presence. Climate change also threatens

Climate change also triggers rising air pollution. As summers become increasingly hotter, greater reliance on

air conditioning drives higher energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions contain elevated levels of PM2.5 — microscopic pollutants that penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream — exerting widespread effects across multiple organs in the body, particularly the lungs, heart and kidneys. Fine particulate matter penetrates deep into the lungs, causing inflammation, reduced lung function, and exacerbating respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. These particulates can also damage blood vessels, accelerate atherosclerosis, and increase the risk of hypertension, heart attack and stroke. The kidneys are equally vulnerable, and chronic exposure can impair kidney function, reduce filtration efficiency, and contribute to the progression of chronic kidney disease. Greenhouse gases also trap more heat in the atmosphere, creating a feedback loop that amplifies the very crisis we are trying to manage through air conditioners and other cooling appliances. This heat stress forces the heart to work harder to regulate the body's temperature, increasing strain on the cardiovascular system. This can trigger complications such as hypertension, heart attack, and stroke. These conditions disproportionately affect people without adequate shelter, such as manual labourers who spend long hours working outdoors in extreme conditions.

Parts of the country, such as Odisha, Telangana, and Vidarbha, are reporting a rising number of heat-stroke-related deaths. In addition, rising night-time temperatures in urban pockets such as Delhi-NCR and Mumbai are eliminating the critical recovery window that the human body relies on to cool down after prolonged daytime heat exposure. Infant health outcomes are also increasingly at risk — exposure to extreme heat and air pollution has been linked to preterm births and low birth weight among newborns. The health consequences of climate change also extend into food systems and nutrition. Extreme weather events and unseasonal rain disrupt crop cycles and reduce agricultural productivity, contributing to food shortages. The declining nutritional quality of food crops, combined with rising prices, further compounds the crisis, creating a hidden burden of micronutrient deficiencies and chronic malnutrition, especially among children. Rising temperatures can also cause a decline in milk production, as cattle affected by heat stress compromise infant and child nutrition.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's niece Claire Mazumdar set to lead Biocon into its next growth era



Poised to succeed Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at the helm of Biocon Ltd, Claire Mazumdar brings a formidable mix of scientific brilliance, global biotech leadership and entrepreneurial success that marks her as a defining force in the next chapter of the Bengaluru-based biotech company's growth. Claire who is set to take over the mantle from Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw as the head of Biocon, is a success story in her own right as the CEO of Boston-based Bicara Therapeutics, a biotech firm incubated with funding from Mazumdar-Shaw and listed on Nasdaq in 2024.

Daughter of Ravi Mazumdar, who is the brother of Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Claire, 37, will head Biocon which operates in more than 120 countries, supported by seven manufacturing sites, three R&D sites, 18 offices worldwide, and a workforce of over 9,500 employees. Mazumdar-Shaw, who is now Chairperson of Biocon, said it's part of the five-year phased transition plan for the company which has a

market capitalisation of Rs 61,700 crore. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering from MIT, earned her MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and a PhD in cancer biology from Stanford School of Medicine. Her research in tumour immunology and cancer epigenetics has been published in Nature, Cell Stem Cell and Cancer Cell. Bicara is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company committed to bringing transformative bifunctional therapies to patients with solid tumours. Bicara has built a platform designed to facilitate the development of bifunctional therapies that precisely target the tumour and deliver a tumour-modulating payload to the tumour site.

Claire who had a chequered career, led business development and corporate strategy at Rheos Medicines, where she supported a major partnership with Roche. As a Senior Associate at Third Rock Ventures, she focused on company formation and supported business development for TRV portfolio companies. She is also a Member of the Board of Directors for Noora Health, a global non-profit which works to improve patient outcomes and strengthen health systems by equipping family caregivers with the skills they need to care for their loved ones. Corporate observers say that Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has selected the right person to succeed her at the Indian biotech firm. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's brother Ravi Mazumdar is also on the board of Biocon. Biocon has commercialized 12 biosimilar products and 30 plus generic formulations globally. It has robust research and development pipeline of 20+ biosimilar assets, as well as GLP-1 peptides and other complex generics. Biocon reported a turnover of Rs 2,242 crore and a net profit of Rs 609 crore for year ended March 2025.

Nuclear fuel company Clean Core concludes thorium fuel irradiation, reports high 'burnup'

Nuclear fuel company Clean Core, Nuclear fuel company Clean Core concludes thorium fuel irradiation, thorium fuel irradiation, Nuclear fuel company thorium fuel irradiation, Indian express news, current affairs Apart from exploring development and deployment of ANEEL fuel in India, NTPC and CCTE intend to collaborate for exploring the possible indigenisation of its manufacturing with local supply chain development, establishing supply chain for HALEU, and supply of Uranium to India with sovereign guarantee.

Chicago-based nuclear fuel company Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) announced that its patented 'ANEEL' fuel has completed its high burnup irradiation test in an Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) at Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The company said the final set of irradiation capsules have achieved more than 60 GWd/MTU of 'burnup' — a measure of how much energy is extracted from nuclear fuel that is typically expressed in gigawatt-days per metric tonne of heavy metal or GWd/MTU. This burnup rate represents more than eight times the typical discharge burnup of traditional pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) and Canada Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) reactors, the company said in a statement on Tuesday. This testing, the company said, highlights the potential of ANEEL nuclear fuel (Clean Core's patented thorium-based fuel that blends thorium with a more concentrated type of uranium—HALEU—for PHWRs). The significance of higher burnups derived from ANEEL fuel, the company said, translates to "several operational benefits when integrated with the existing reactor design: reduced nuclear spent fuel volumes, improved reactor economics, enhanced safety performance and improved proliferation resistance". It said the irradiation results build on decades of global research into thorium fuel cycles to improve fuel utilisation and resource efficiency in existing heavy-water reactor fleets without reactor modifications.

Clean Core, whose founder and CEO Mehul Shah is of Indian origin, is only the second American company to have secured an export license from the US Department of Energy (DAE) to sell nuclear technology to India in nearly two decades. "Surpassing 60 GWd/MTU of burnup in the Advanced Test Reactor marks an important milestone for the ANEEL fuel program," said Shah. "This irradiation campaign provides meaningful performance data and demonstrates that thorium-HALEU fuel can achieve burnup levels comparable to those seen in PWR fuels while offering im-



proved fuel utilisation, enhanced safety characteristics, inherent proliferation resistance, and meaningful reductions in long-lived nuclear spent fuel radioisotopes. Our objective has been to introduce thorium into the nuclear fuel cycle in a practical way using existing reactors, and this milestone represents a significant step toward that goal." CCTE is now planning its next milestone: a demonstration irradiation in a commercial power reactor that will move ANEEL fuel from proven test concept to commercial reality. Earlier, in December 2024, state-owned NTPC Ltd and CCTE had announced a strategic partnership to explore the development and deployment of ANEEL for existing nuclear stations in India, subject to regulatory clearances. "The expected benefits of ANEEL fuel include the utilization of thorium as a fuel in existing PHWR reactors, significant reductions in nuclear waste, enhancing India's energy security using domestically available thorium, and improved safety and proliferation resistance.

Additionally, ANEEL fuel offers cost savings by delivering greater energy output within existing safety margins and lowering the operating costs of current reactors," NTPC had said in December 2024. Apart from exploring development and deployment of ANEEL fuel in India, NTPC and CCTE intend to collaborate for exploring the possible indigenisation of its manufacturing with local supply chain development, establishing supply chain for HALEU, and supply of Uranium to India with sovereign guarantee.

India can tweak inflation target band if growth-inflation mix evolves, says RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta



Reserve bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta on Tuesday said India could perhaps consider tweaking the level of inflation and the tolerance band a bit if growth-inflation mix evolves as it has in the past ten years with robust growth, and lower and more stable inflation. "But if the global environment remains as challenging as it has been during the past six years, it would warrant both predictability and flexibility inherent in the existing framework," she said at an NCAER seminar. The government, after consultation with the central bank, has notified the inflation target framework for a five-year period through March 31, 2031. As per the framework, the RBI has to keep inflation at 4% (+/-2%) from FY27-FY31.

Gupta said the case for retaining the 4% target rests on several mutually reinforcing factors. "First, 4% target was as per the assessment of the RBI's Expert Committee in 2014. They established it as the rate at which macroeconomic conditions were deemed to be optimised with a zero-output gap," she said. "Subsequent re-estimations of trend inflation for India also reiterated this assessment. Second, current 4% target is considered to be suitable to its stage of economic development when compared with other inflation-targeting economies," Gupta said. Advanced economies (AEs) such as US, UK, Euro Area, Japan, Canada and others, cluster around a 2% target, reflecting the lower equilibrium inflation rates associated with their advanced and low-growth economies.

"On an ongoing basis, RBI too, on its part, can con-

sider some further refinements, particularly with regard to more engagement on its core inflation measures. More, better, and timely communication has been a work in progress and will continue to remain so," she said. Emerging markets and developed economies (EMDEs) are placed at a higher range between 2.5% and 4%. India's 4% target places it at the upper end of the EMDEs, Gupta said. "Thus, the analytical arguments, suggestions received and international experiences seem to favour 4% target as optimal for India," Gupta said. Gupta said renewal of India's inflation targeting framework through March 2031, has come at a moment of considerable global uncertainty. "Geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, energy price volatility, and an uneven global growth outlook have made the macroeconomic environment more complex and less predictable," she said. In this context, the decision to preserve the framework's core architecture including the headline CPI inflation target of 4% and the $\pm 2\%$ tolerance band is a policy choice of consequence, she said. "The review strengthens the framework precisely when it is most needed," she said.

Sattva Group aims to generate Rs 5,500 Cr from 1st housing project in Mumbai

New Delhi: Realty firm Sattva Group will develop a housing project in Mumbai with an estimated revenue of Rs 5,500 crore, as part of its expansion plan. In a statement on Wednesday, the company said it has launched its first residential project 'Sattva Sumera' at Parel in Mumbai. The project, spread across a two-acre land parcel, has a total development potential of over 20 lakh square feet and an estimated revenue potential of Rs 5,500 crore. Shivam Agarwal, VP Strategy, Sattva Group, said, "Mumbai is at a point where redevelopment is no longer just about replacing older buildings, it's about improving how people live."

'It's as simple as that': Sadhguru shares how to reduce body heat in summer; expert weighs in



Sadhguru recently shared a summer remedy to bring down excess heat in the body. "How do you know excessive heat is... you will notice your eyeballs are hot, or you want to go and pee... It's full, but it won't come out... it hurts. That means there is excess heat. If such a thing happens, you drink some ash gourd juice, eat some green gram, or take some castor oil and apply it to your navel or behind your ears. Instantly, within five minutes, the system will cool down. It's as simple as that," he said in a video post on Instagram. To verify, we reached out to Dt Amreen Sheikh, chief dietitian, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, who elaborated that by 'body heat', one is most likely referring to dehydration, acidity, or the body's response to high temperatures. "In summer, the body loses fluids and electrolytes faster. This can lead to fatigue, irritability, and digestive discomfort. So, the goal isn't to cool the body in a literal sense, but to support hydration, maintain electrolyte balance, and ease digestion," said Sheikh.

While traditional remedies like ash gourd juice or green

gram are nutritious and can support hydration, claims of instant 'cooling' within minutes should be viewed with caution, emphasised Sheikh. "The body regulates temperature through complex physiological mechanisms, not quick topical fixes. Applying substances such as castor oil to the navel or behind the ears has no proven scientific basis for reducing body heat. Instead, consistent hydration, balanced meals, and electrolyte support remain the most reliable ways to help the body cope with heat." However, many other practices like increasing water intake, eating seasonal fruits, or avoiding overly spicy and fried foods do have a scientific basis. According to Sheikh, foods like watermelon, cucumber, and coconut water help replenish fluids. However, it's important not to overgeneralize. What works for one person may not suit another, especially those with conditions like diabetes or kidney issues. Focus on simple, water-rich foods. "Include buttermilk, lemon water, and fresh fruits in your routine. Light meals are easier to digest, so think dal, rice, and vegetables instead of heavy, oily dishes. Also, spacing meals and avoiding long gaps can help prevent acidity, which many people mistake for body heat," said Sheikh.

One common myth is that extremely cold drinks or ice-heavy foods cool the body effectively. "In reality, they can sometimes disrupt digestion and cause throat irritation. Another is relying on a single 'superfood' to fix everything. Balance and consistency matter far more than quick fixes," said Sheikh. Listen to your body. Stay hydrated, eat seasonal and local foods, and don't ignore signs like dizziness or fatigue. "Small, mindful choices go a long way in staying comfortable and healthy during the heat."

Beyond A, B, and C: Why scientists are closely tracking Influenza D

A growing body of research is turning global scientific attention toward Influenza D virus (IDV), a relatively lesser-known member of the influenza family with zoonotic potential. A study published by the National Library of Medicine, US, highlights early insights into its interaction with humans, revealing both low general prevalence and significant exposure among high-risk groups.

In its paper titled 'Influenza D,' the health body revealed, "Serological evidence of previous exposure to IDV infection in humans has been collected from three independent studies. The first study showed that IDV seroprevalence rate in a cohort aged 60 years and older living in Canada and the eastern US (Connecticut) was about 1.3% (4/312) [4]. The observation of low prevalence of IDV in the general population seems to be in agreement with an etiological investigation in Scotland showing no evidence of IDV infection in archived respiratory samples from hospital-visiting patients [31]. The second study focused on an occupational exposure cohort (cattle-exposed farmers) living in Florida and documented a 97% seroprevalence (34/35), which mirrored the seroprevalence in the cattle population [32]. This study also revealed an 18% seroprevalence (2/11) in non-cattle exposed persons. The third study represents a comprehensively longitudinal study of more than 1,000 human serum samples collected in Italy from 2005 to 2017 for examination of the prevalence of antibodies against influenza D virus [33]. The results of this study showed that the prevalence of IDV antibodies increased in the human population in Italy from 2005 to 2017 with up to 33.9–41.0% of surveyed subjects tested positive in some years. "While these findings suggest exposure, they do not yet indicate a significant disease burden in humans. Still, experts caution against complacency. Here's why: A virus to watch, not fear" "Influenza D is primarily a virus of cattle, with occasional spillover into humans, particularly those in close contact with livestock," explains Dr Neetu Jain, Senior Consultant, Pulmonology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, PSRI Hospital. "At present, it has not demonstrated sustained human-to-human transmission or caused significant illness in people." Dr Jain notes that zoonotic viruses become serious threats only when they adapt effectively to human biology. "For a virus to become a public health concern, it must bind efficiently to human receptors, replicate well, and evade immune responses. Influenza D shows only partial compatibility with human airway cells at this stage."

Why lab findings don't translate into outbreaks Laboratory studies have shown that Influenza D can replicate in human respiratory cells, raising questions about its outbreak potential. "Replication in airway tissue is just one part of the equation," says Dr Jain. "The virus still lacks efficient receptor binding and the ability to overcome innate immune defenses in humans. This limits viral load



and reduces its capacity for transmission." She adds that epidemiological data so far do not support human-to-human spread. "Despite some biological competence, Influenza D has not achieved the evolutionary adaptations required for outbreak-level transmission."

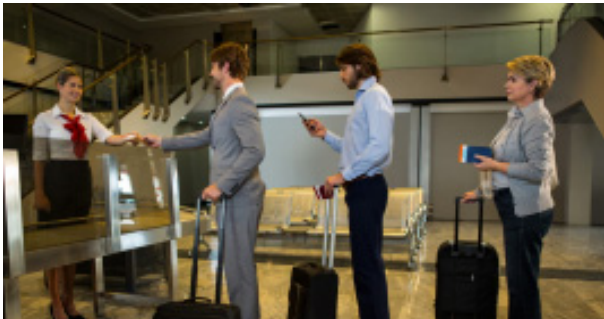
What would it take for Influenza D to spread among humans?

"For Influenza D to achieve sustained transmission, it would likely need mutations that enhance binding to human-type receptors in the upper respiratory tract," explains Dr Jain. "It would also require improved replication efficiency at human body temperature and mechanisms to evade immune responses, such as interferon activity." She points out that structural changes improving airborne stability or increasing viral shedding could further aid transmission. "These changes typically occur gradually through mutation or reassortment, especially in viruses with segmented genomes like influenza."

Are farm workers at higher risk?

Study suggests that people working closely with livestock are more frequently exposed to the virus. "Serology studies indicate that farm workers and veterinarians often have antibodies against Influenza D, meaning they've been exposed," says Dr Jain. "However, most of these cases are asymptomatic or very mild." This makes such populations crucial for early detection. "They act as sentinel groups. The human-animal interface is where viral adaptation is most likely to begin due to repeated exposure." Why surveillance matters now Although Influenza D is not an immediate threat, experts stress the importance of proactive monitoring. "Surveillance should be strategic, not reactive," Dr Jain emphasises. "Routine testing in livestock, genomic sequencing, and monitoring occupational exposure can help detect early changes in the virus." She concludes with a note of caution: "Viruses evolve under ecological pressures. While Influenza D is not a current pandemic risk, continuous surveillance ensures that we are not caught off guard if that risk changes."

Why you should never change seats on a nearly empty flight before takeoff



It's a familiar travel temptation, boarding a flight, spotting an empty window seat or an entire vacant row, and wondering if you can quietly move for extra comfort before takeoff. On an almost empty flight, many passengers assume shifting seats is harmless. But according to aviation expert Amit Mittal, Director, AeroIntellect Aviation, before every flight takes off, multiple technical checks and safety procedures are completed, and passenger seating plays an important role in them. "There are many pre-flight checks, procedures and protocols which are carried out by the technical staff before a flight is released and cleared for take-off," says Mittal. "One of them is 'Weight and Balance' calculation and assignment of seats, which ensures that the passenger manifest maintains the center of gravity of the aircraft within safe limits for a stable departure." If multiple passengers change seats without notice, it can technically affect the plane's trim and takeoff performance," he explains. This becomes even more important on smaller aircraft or lightly loaded flights, where even a few passengers moving rows can impact the aircraft's balance. "It is avoided that the aircraft is neither 'nose heavy' nor 'tail heavy'. The aircraft must be in a balanced position," Mittal adds. "In the

event of an emergency or a medical issue, flight attendants and ground crew rely on the passenger manifest to identify the passengers," says Mittal. Having everyone in their assigned seats helps ensure identification, contact details, and emergency coordination remain accurate during critical moments like takeoff and landing. He also points out that passengers with disabilities, medical conditions, or unaccompanied minors are often seated strategically so crew members know exactly where they are if help is needed.

That empty-looking seat may not always be available for casual shifting. "Seat allocation is usually based on preferred seat selection at the time of booking the flight," says Mittal. Many airlines charge extra for window seats, extra legroom rows, exit rows, or priority seating. "These may be paid upgrades, and changing seats without permission may mean occupying a seat that belongs to another passenger who has not yet boarded." This can also create unnecessary aisle blockages and confusion during boarding. Exit rows and premium seats have stricter rules. "Flight attendants will likely say no to shifting to exit row seats because these have extra legroom and specific safety requirements," Mittal explains. Passengers seated there must be physically able to assist during emergencies and must receive a proper safety briefing. Similarly, business class, first class, and premium economy seats are tied to fare categories and cannot be treated as empty public spaces, he adds.

So when is it okay to ask?

"After boarding and before takeoff, you can ask a flight attendant if you can move to an empty seat," says Mittal. "If it doesn't affect weight balance, safety, or paid seating, they may allow it." He advises passengers to wait for the right moment, preferably after boarding is nearly complete, once the cabin crew knows which seats are truly empty. "

Kuldeep Yadav’s coach explains why he has struggled for Delhi in IPL 2026



GNS News Agency, May 12

Delhi Capitals' Kuldeep Yadav bowls a delivery during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in New Delhi, India, Saturday, April 25, 2026. (AP Photo)Delhi Capitals' Kuldeep Yadav bowls a delivery during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in New Delhi, India,

It's not every day that a captain singles out a particular player for criticism after a defeat, especially if he's a senior member of the side. But Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel did just that after the hammering at home at the hands of Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday, when he said, unprompted, that "When we were bowling, I missed my partner."That comment was a reference to Kuldeep Yadav, one half of one of the more potent spin-bowling duos in the Indian Premier League, but which has largely underperformed this season.On match eve, DC bowling coach Munaf Patel had claimed that his team would benefit if pitches slowed down as the tournament progressed. But on a spin-friendly surface at the Arun Jaitley Stadium against CSK, Kuldeep was taken to the cleaners by Sanju Samson and Kartik Sharma, leaking 34 runs in three wicketless overs.Forgettable season

And this is not just a case of one bad game. The left-arm wrist-spinner is having a forgettable season, his seven wickets in 10 games coming at an economy rate of 10.37 runs per over, and a bowling average well north of 44.When-ever Kuldeep has faced a problem or crisis in his career, he has turned to his longtime coach Kapil Pandey for guidance. The coach from Kanpur had orchestrated his comeback after injuries and surgeries and helped him bounce back when his effectiveness was questioned due to his slow

pace, which often allowed batters time to adjust even after being beaten in the air.Pandey, who was watching Tuesday's game, took it upon himself to call his protégé and offer words of advice and encouragement."I saw that he was a bit disturbed and called him after the game to tell him not to worry too much," Pandey told The Indian Express. "He bowled well in his first two overs in which he conceded just 16 runs. It was only in the third that he lost the plot a bit and gave away 18 runs."

"He is missing his length. Yesterday, he bowled a fast one down the leg side, which Samson just tickled for a boundary. He should have gone for a googly but was bowling short a lot of the time," he said. "Kuldeep should have relied on his skill and variations and tried to spin the ball."The Delhi pitch on Tuesday had something for the bowlers, but Pandey said there wasn't much assistance by the time Kuldeep came on to bowl."There was some grip and turn, and Akeal Hosein took advantage. But that was only in the first innings. DC should have bowled first. Generally, the IPL has good wickets with not much in them for spinners," he said.Kuldeep hasn't taken a wicket since April 25, when Punjab Kings achieved the highest-ever successful run-chase in the IPL. Pandey went back to that game to explain Kuldeep's recent struggles."In that game, an easy catch of Shreyas Iyer was dropped off Kuldeep's bowling, and he went on to win the game for the Punjab Kings. That's not the only drop suffered by him this season. A spinner needs support from his fielders to provide results. That game hurt his confidence."The coach said the present scenario isn't unusual for a spinner playing in the IPL for 11 years now, apart from his international career."Batters face him in the nets and matches. They get to read his variations, and there is not much novelty left. The team needs to back him now as he has done very well for the franchise over a long period. One also needs to see that a score of 155 made matters tough for the bowlers."

Even if Axar can be excused for seething a bit after a defeat that puts their Playoff hopes in further jeopardy, Kuldeep's poor returns have not escaped the attention of DC head coach Hemang Badani either."We would ideally want him to be better than this. He hasn't struck peak form yet. He hasn't bowled at the speeds he would normally bowl. But we will rally around him," Badani said.As far as Kuldeep himself is concerned, his coach advised him to get back into the nets and iron out his shortcomings."One doesn't need to worry about the odd bad day. He should practice spot bowling to get his length back," Pandey added.

‘Head-scratching strategy’: Aaron Finch blasts Delhi Capitals’ decision making

GNS News Agency, May 12

After the eight-wicket defeat to Chennai Super Kings at their home turf on Tuesday, Delhi Capitals have now suffered their sixth loss of IPL 2026 in ten matches. The Axar Patel-led team now sits at the seventh spot in the points table with eight points and would need to win their remaining four matches to have some hope of qualifying for the play-offs with the chance relying on other results going their way.While Delhi Capitals have lost three matches batting second and won four batting second, the team has lost all their matches batting first.After Patel won the toss and elected to bat first in the team's eight-wicket loss against Chennai Super Kings, former Australian captain and T20 World Cup winner Aaron Finch has blasted Delhi Capitals for their decision and branded their decisions as 'head scratching' ones.When asked about the team's decision making being a mess, Finch replied in affirmative.

"Absolutely it is (a mess up). You can't sugarcoat it any easier than that. I mean when you got all the information in front of you—that they haven't won batting first—it makes no sense. We keep scratching our heads with some of the decisions DC makes with all the information in front of them. I can understand if you are making calls on the field on the fly. You are making a gut-feel call here and there whether it's a bowler here or there or maybe a batting position change. But when you have got all the information in front of you, that's when you should not be making a mistake. You can understand poor execution, winning and losing. That's the game of cricket. That's a professional sport. But when it comes down to black and white decisions. That you are getting wrong time and time again, that's a concern," Finch said on ESPNcricinfo.Skipper Axar Patel had won the toss and decided to bat first. Delhi Capitals only



managed a total of 155 for 7 in 20 overs. At one point, Delhi Capitals were placed at 69 for 5 before a 65-run partnership between Tristan Stubbs and impact sub Sameer Rizvi meant that the home side crossed 150 runs. Chennai Super Kings chased the target in 17.3 overs with Sanju Samson playing an unbeaten 52-ball knock of 87 runs.Prior to the match, Patel had spoken about how he saw the surface as a good one and the pitch might slow down in the second innings. "We will bat first. I think the surface looks good, and we feel it's a very good pitch. Maybe in the second innings it might slow down a bit, so I'd like to give that advantage to our bowlers," Patel had said.Following the loss, Patel spoke about how the team was 10-15 runs short and how the wicket got slightly better in the second innings. "The way the wicket was behaving in the first innings, I thought 155 was a good score. We are playing with eight batters, so I feel we were 10-15 runs short. I feel the wicket got slightly better in the second innings, but it was just a case of us not having any set batter," Patel said in the post match presentation.

‘He is not a wild slogger’: CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad lauds Kartik Sharma

GNS News Agency, May 12

Having scored his maiden IPL fifty in the form of his knock of 54 runs against the Mumbai Indians last week in IPL, 20-year-old Kartik Sharma played a 31-ball knock of 41 runs in the team's eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals on Tuesday night.The Rajasthan cricketer, who was bought by Chennai Super Kings for Rs 14.2 crore in last year's IPL auction, making him the joint-most expensive uncapped player, was involved in an unbroken 114-run third wicket partnership with Sanju Samson. Sharma had scored 58 runs in his first five matches for CSK this season before he hit his maiden fifty. Following the win over Delhi, CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was asked about the development of Kartik Sharma. The Chennai skipper shared how the skillset was always there in Sharma and how the youngster needed some time in the middle.

"Well, I think the skillset was already there. I feel there is no development as such. But the skillset he is showing in the last couple of games, it was already there. Just that he needed a couple of games to start with. He did not get the momentum and we were chasing high targets as well.So I think he did not get that much time. Last game he got some time, played 10-15 balls and after that he got into it. We all knew what skillset he has. As I said in the last game as well. He is not someone who is a wild slogger. He can rotate the strike well and he can hit the pockets really well. He is someone who can play all around the game. So good to get the confidence for him," said Gaikwad in the post-match presentation.On Tuesday night, Sharma came after the fall of Urvil Patel in the seventh over, with CSK placed at 45 for 2 in 6.3 overs in their chase of the target of 156 runs. Sharma hit four fours and two sixes during his stay at the crease and spoke about how he tackled the ball, stopping a bit on the wicket and how the focus was on building a partnership with Samson. "It was fun to be involved in a partnership with Sanju Samson. The wicket had some help for spinners and the ball was stopping a bit as well spinning. But



"Well, I think the skillset was already there. I feel there is no development as such. But the skillset he is showing in the last couple of games, it was already there. Just that he needed a couple of games to start with. He did not get the momentum and we were chasing high targets as well.So I think he did not get that much time. Last game he got some time, played 10-15 balls and after that he got into it

then we knew that it was not that big a score. Sanju Bhaiya also told me that the ball is coming after stopping on the wicket but do what you already know. My thought was that whichever ball will be in my range, I will hit it. I was playing the ball and nothing else was there in the plan," Sharma said post the match.

Earlier, CSK coach Stephen Fleming had also lauded Sharma's batting post his maiden half-century against Mumbai Indians in CSK's previous match. "You have the young players, there's two parts to it. One is how you introduce them. It is a big stage no matter what they've been doing at domestic level. So understanding their mentality is really important and it is a big step-up. They can have all the talent in the world but the temperament is what we're looking for, and his (Kartik Sharma's) introduction was tough at the start and then he had a little bit of time out. He worked hard and today was a good reward for that," Fleming had said post the win last week.

Government sets Pakistan sports policy: No bilateral ties, open doors for global events in India



GNS News Agency, May 12

Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India', paving the way for them to compete in international cricket and multi-discipline events in the country. (AP Photo)Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India', paving the way for them to compete in international cricket and multi-discipline events in the country. A year after the Pahalgam terror attacks and Operation Sindoor, India has formally opened the door for Pakistani athletes and teams to compete on its soil in international events, spelling out a clear policy that separates bilateral ties from global sporting commitments.In an Office Memorandum issued on May 5, the Sports Ministry stated that 'Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in multilateral events hosted by India,' while also signalling a more supportive visa regime for athletes, officials and international federation representatives.

The policy draws a firm line between bilateral and multilateral sport. "In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the memorandum said. But in the same breath, it clarifies that for international competitions, "we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interest of our own sportspersons."Crucially, it underlines that 'Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India', paving the way for them to compete in international cricket and multi-discipline events in the country.

The government said 'India's approach to sports events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country'. Yet, by formally notifying a dual approach – no bilateral engagement, but full compliance in international sport – the policy attempts to balance geopol-

‘Had faith even after the first three defeats’: Ruturaj Gaikwad on CSK’s turnaround

With their eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in Delhi on Tuesday night, Chennai Super Kings scored their fifth win of this IPL season and now sit at the sixth spot in the points table with ten points. The Ruturaj Gaekwad-led team had started this year's IPL with three losses in their first three matches before winning the next two matches. With four matches left for the team in the league stage, Chennai would hope to win a minimum of three out of those four to have a chance to make it to the play-offs. When asked about everything seeming to be coming together for his team, CSK captain Gaikwad shared how the team had the belief right from the start and needed those couple of wins to get the momentum."I think even initially after the second and third game, the talk was about you know even Fleming and myself were always positive. We always thought we were closer than what we thought or what we were last year. I think we pretty much covered all the bases. Sanju (Samson) coming in and then we had a great middle order as well. Our bowling was going well as well. We just needed that couple of wins to get that momentum. I think after the third game, we got those couple of wins and everyone just started to gel together," Gaikwad said in the post match presentation.

In their last four matches, CSK have won three, with the win against Delhi Capitals being the latest. While Sanju Samson hit an unbeaten 87, having already scored two hundreds earlier in the tournament, CSK bowlers Jamie Overton and Akeal Hosein have led the bowling unit with 11 and seven wickets respectively.Praising Samson's role in the team, Gaikwad also highlighted the role of Overton and Hosein in the team apart from the supporting role played by Anshul Kamboj. "On the batting side, I would say more than grateful to have Sanju in the side. After the tournament he



had in the T20 World Cup and even now. Obviously he is the backbone now. But bowling is something which wins you tournaments. Obviously to have Akeal (Hosein) and Jamie (Overton) do the job where everyone is going for more than 10s or 12s, they are coming silently and doing their job. That gives you a lot of confidence. And then Anshul Kamboj is there as well. Who is obviously a smart bowler and knows what are his strengths. Yes he had his day off today but I feel he is someone who is already upset about it and eager to come back," Gaikwad added.When asked about what the opening duo talk among themselves during the partnerships, Gaikwad shared how they don't really plan the talks but shared their inputs about the wicket and conditions. "Nothing, actually. We don't really plan. We just kind of let each other know what the wicket is, what is happening exactly and how we can access and how we can move forward. That's the only talk. After that it's more about how the over is going and how the match is progressing. So the talk is very less and more often than that you rely on yourself to do the job. So definitely he is doing the job for me, so I am really happy," Gaikwad said.

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The government said 'India's approach to sports events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country'. Yet, by formally notifying a dual approach – no bilateral engagement, but full compliance in international sport – the policy attempts to balance geopolitical realities with the demands of global competition, where participation norms leave little room for exclusion.The memo stated: "With regard to international and multilateral events,



in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interest of our own sportspersons. It is also relevant to take into account India's emergence as a credible venue to host international sports events."The notification comes at a critical point when India is positioning itself as a global sporting destination. The country will host the Commonwealth Games in 2030, and has made an aggressive pitch for the 2036 Olympics and 2038 Asian Games. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) officials are set to visit Ahmedabad to evaluate India's bid. India will also host the cricket Champions Trophy in 2029 and the 50-over World Cup in 2031.

At the same time, in the coming months, Indian and Pakistani athletes are likely to face each other multiple times, at the Commonwealth Games in July-August and the Asian Games in September-October. India and Pakistan are also set to face each other in hockey tournaments at least thrice in the next few months – in the FIH Pro League in London on June 23 and 26, and again at the World Cup in Amsterdam on August 19.

When Trisha called Vijay her ‘home’: ‘We have the same love, comfort, friendship’



Vijay and Trisha in Ghilli. Vijay and Trisha in Ghilli, the 2004 blockbuster that made them one of Tamil cinema's most recognised on-screen pairings. There is a version of Vijay that Tamil Nadu saw on Monday, the man standing at the centre of the state's biggest political upset in decades. And then there is the version Trisha Krishnan has been describing in interviews for years, the one who walks onto a film set, finds a corner, stares at a wall, and says almost nothing to anyone. Vijay and Trisha appeared on Coffee With Anu, the chat show hosted by actress Anu Haasan, together during the period when they were Tamil cinema's most in-demand on-screen pair, fresh off the back of back-to-back hits starting with Ghilli in 2004.

While describing life on a film set, Trisha pointed out that the cast and crew generally spent their downtime together, socialising, hanging around between shots, the usual rhythm of a long shoot day. Vijay, she said, did not do any

of that. "Instead, he would find a corner somewhere on set, sit down facing a wall, and stay there for hours. He always has his calm and did not talk much on set," she recounted. Vijay, sitting beside her on the show, had a response ready. He was not, he said, simply sitting in a corner doing nothing. He was thinking about the scene for the next shoot. In an old interview with Behindwoods, Trisha reflected more fully on what four films with Vijay had actually meant to her professionally and personally. Calling Vijay amazing, she acknowledged the four films, Ghilli, Thirupaachi, Aathi and Kuruvu, and spoke about what it was like to work with someone she had not immediately connected with when they first started. "When we started Ghilli I didn't have much of a rapport with him," she said, "because everyone knows Vijay is a very quiet person. Very reserved, comes on set, does his work. But thanks to my team of Ghilli, we became really good friends."

What she found on the other side of it was someone she has not stopped talking warmly about since. "Vijay is a person who will always be very special to me because he was the co-star with whom I have given the biggest hits," she said. "I've never seen him lose his cool. He's so professional on set, he does his work, completes his task." She described him as a very kind, gracious person, and then added, "He's someone who you always look back and say, that one person I'll always be fond of. He's one of them." By the time Vijay and Trisha reunited for Leo in 2023, fifteen years after Kuruvu, she had not changed her description of him in any meaningful way. At the Leo success meet, standing on stage in front of a packed auditorium, she said working with him again felt like meeting a school friend. "There was the same comfort, love and friendship. In my 20-year career, the most long-term journey I had with a co-star was with Vijay. They say home is not a place, but a person"

‘Main hi karunga’: Kanu Behl recalls how Rahul Roy cast himself in Agra as Bollywood stopped calling

Last week, Rahul Roy had to issue an explanation about his financial state after rumours doing the rounds online that the actor, once a 1990s heartthrob, has been abandoned by family and is out of work that he's had to collaborate with unknown social media influencers to earn his livelihood. He admitted that he kept waiting for work in the Hindi film industry, but took matters into his own hands once nobody showed up knocking on his door. Rahul's last appearance on the screen was in Kanu Behl's psychological drama Agra, last year. After premiering at the Cannes Film Festival in 2023, the film underwent a long and arduous journey to see a theatrical release in India. It's now streaming on Prime Video India. Kanu, in an exclusive interview with SCREEN, talked about how the unlikely collaboration between him and Rahul took place.

"We always knew we probably need some sort of a face in the casting of the seven primary characters. Because none of the others weren't prominent faces," said Kanu. Agra starred newcomer Mohit Agarwal as the protagonist Guru, Ruhani Sharma, Priyanka Bose, Devas Dikshit, Vibha Chibber, and Rahul Roy, with the latter playing Daddy ji, the protagonist's father. "Ruhani is a big star down South. But at that point, she was also just starting out," said Kanu. "So, I felt like we needed a little something. We talked to a few people who were not completely unknown, including Rahul. He was looking to transition into something he usually doesn't do," he recalled. But Kanu wasn't certain of the casting, and he did three-month workshops with three actors as options for all seven primary characters, including Daddy ji, and selected the final casting halfway through. Rahul Roy recreates his Aashiqui performance at a Bihar wedding. Rahul Roy recreates his Aashiqui performance at a Bihar wedding.

"In that environment, for someone with the pedigree of a Rahul Roy, with the history that he has, to come in every morning at 9 am and be the last one to leave at around 10-10:30 pm, that just that had me hooked early on," said Kanu. He then recalled one particular night, when it was just the two of him left at the workshop, having chai together. That's when Rahul took him by surprise and said out of the blue, "You know what? Ye picture main hi karunga. Aur koi nahi karega. Main bata raha hu aapko. (I'll only do this film. No one else will. I'm telling you right now)."

"I think that made the final decision for me because he wanted to do it so bad, and he was putting so much into this, that he's probably the right choice," said Kanu, adding with a smile, "He didn't give me a choice. He cast himself." Besides Rahul's "exemplary dedication", Kanu also argued that what sealed the deal was that the character of Daddy ji demanded the kind of life experiences Rahul had



had in his own. The actor, who broke out with his debut film, Mahesh Bhatt's 1990 musical romantic drama Aashiqui, could never replicate the success of that mega hit. While he continued to work in films through the 1990s, work began drying up once he entered the new millennium.

Winning the inaugural season of popular reality show Bigg Boss in 2007 lent him a minor resurgence, but Rahul couldn't sustain it with memorable work on the big screen. After a special appearance as himself in the 2019 romantic thriller Cabaret on ZEE5, produced by Mahesh's daughter Pooja Bhatt, Rahul had a brain stroke in 2020, which affected his speech skills permanently. After his return in Agra couldn't yield desired results, Rahul has been seen doing minor gigs, including performing to his popular track "Ek Sanam Chahiye Aashiqui Ke Liye" at a Bihar wedding last year. Last Sunday, Rahul cleared the air about his financial condition and the rumours of him being abandoned by his family. "I live at my sister's place. We have a lovely house in Madh, and I'm deeply loved by her, which makes me the luckiest brother in the world. I have clothes, I have shoes, I have food, I have a car, and I'm not an abandoned person on the road. The way fake videos are coming out is not true. My sister, Hari Maa, and my brother-in-law, Romeer Sen, have provided me with everything. Please do not disturb their sanity. They are the only thing that is left to me," he wrote on Instagram. "I don't take bodyguards, that's my personal choice. If I sometimes travel by autorickshaws, it's easy and quick; it's my personal choice. I did those reels with simplicity, not with clever thoughts. It was work and not any financial help to me. I always think work is work; that's my personal choice. My decisions are my choice. I waited for good work long enough, but it didn't come. I cannot sit and waste myself. And, of course, I have to look after my personal court cases too," added Rahul.

Salim Khan recovering ‘slowly but surely’ after health scare, new picture reassures fans

Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan is steadily recovering after a major health scare earlier this year that left fans and the film industry deeply concerned. Months after spending nearly a month in hospital, the legendary writer appeared in a new picture shared by trade analyst Komal Nahta, who also provided an update on his recovery. On Wednesday, Komal took to X to post a photograph from his recent visit to Salim Khan's residence. The image shows the veteran writer seated on a beige sofa, dressed in a colourful checkered shirt, light trousers and white sandals, while Komal and his friend Raja Shetiya sit beside him. The picture appears to have been taken at the Khan family's residence in Bandra. Sharing the update, Komal wrote, "Was delighted to meet Salim Khan saab yesterday at his residence, with friend Raja Shetiya. The veteran writer is recovering slowly but surely after his 28-day hospitalisation in February-March. Thank you Dr. Sandeep Chopra for making this meeting possible." Was delighted to meet Salim Khan saab yesterday at his residence, with friend Raja Shetiya. The veteran writer is recovering slowly but surely after his 28-day hospitalisation in February-March. Thank you Dr. Sandeep Chopra for making this meeting possible. pic.twitter.com/CMkNOHLJ3T Soon after the post surfaced online, fans flooded social media with messages wish-

ing the veteran writer a speedy recovery. One fan commented, "It was wonderful to hear that Salim Khan Sahab is recovering. Given the gravity of a 28-day hospital stay, 'slowly but surely' is exactly the kind of progress one would hope for." Another wrote, "Glad to hear that Salim Khaan Saab is recovering." Earlier, Salim Khan made his first public appearance following his discharge from the hospital during Eid celebrations in March. He joined son Salman Khan on the balcony of Galaxy Apartments to greet fans gathered outside their residence. Salman had also shared a video from the moment and thanked fans for their prayers. "Eid Mubarak, Thank you very much for your blessings, Dad is back home thank you," Salman wrote. In the video, Salim Khan was seen seated in a wheelchair. Salim Khan, 90, was admitted to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital on February 17 following a minor brain haemorrhage. He underwent a medical procedure soon after being hospitalised, after which the family requested privacy regarding his health updates. Several close friends and film personalities, including Aamir Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Shilpa Shetty and Javed Akhtar, visited him during his hospital stay. Salim Khan remains one of the most influential screenwriters in Hindi cinema history. Alongside Javed Akhtar, he transformed Bollywood storytelling in the 1970s and 80s with iconic films such as Sholay,

Dhurandhar actor R Madhavan says he taught son Vedaant about contraception, boundaries before teenage



There is a particular kind of parent who decides, early on, that the most dangerous thing they can do for their child is keep them comfortable and uninformed. R. Madhavan is that kind of parent. He spoke to his son Vedaant about sexual touch before most parents would have thought to and he explained contraception. He laid out the realities of celebrity life, the good parts and the parts that quietly do damage, before Vedaant was old enough to stumble onto them on his own. In a recent conversation with Kumudam, Madhavan opened up about how he raised Vedaant, now in his early twenties, and the picture that formed was of a father who decided long ago that honesty was cheaper than the alternative.

"I have treated him as an adult since a very young age," he said. That was not just a philosophy, Madhavan explained, it had a practical edge. He talked to Vedaant about sexual touch, about boundaries, about contraception, not when he was a teenager but well before that, at a point when most households would not have considered the conversation necessary or appropriate. "I have always treated him as an adult since a very young age, be it talking about sexual touch, or using condom," Madhavan said. "Since the age of 4, I've been talking freely with him. This has instilled a kind of trust in him, like 'my father treats me with respect', this has made him feel responsible as well. This became easy for me to communicate."

That early groundwork, he explained, made the harder conversations that followed feel like extensions of the same ongoing dialogue rather than sudden, uncomfortable interruptions. "I think addressing them and giving them the importance makes them responsible at a very young age,"

‘Why Akshay Kumar does 4 films a year’: Ekta Kapoor reveals secret ‘pure commerce’ keeping Bollywood alive



Producer Ekta Kapoor is basking in the success of Bhooth Bangla and recently took to social media to highlight the importance of discipline and consistency in the film industry. Reflecting on the journey of cinema, she praised her father and veteran actor Jeetendra and actor Akshay Kumar for their strong work ethic and lasting contributions.

In her note, Ekta emphasised that actors like Jeetendra and Akshay Kumar have played a crucial role in keeping the business side of the industry alive. She highlighted how

Madhavan said. "It became easy for me to communicate." Teaching Vedaant how to treat women with respect, walking him through what growing up inside a celebrity household actually means, making sure he could tell the difference between the privileges of that life and its pressures, all of it traced back to the same decision made years earlier: to speak to his son plainly and trust him with the truth.

Any parent who has tried to get a genuine reaction from their child about their own work will recognise exactly what Madhavan described next. Vedaant's favourite film of his father's is Yaavarum Nalam, the 2013 Tamil horror thriller released in Hindi as 13B. When Rocketry: The Nambi Effect came out in 2022, the National Award-winning film that Madhavan spent years producing, directing and inhabiting completely, he waited for his son's verdict. "He told me, 'not bad dad'," Madhavan said, with the measured delivery of a man who has made complete peace with the fact that his son is not easily moved. "He is very difficult to impress." That line landed because it is so recognisable. A father who poured years of his life into a single project, who took on the story of scientist Nambi Narayanan when few others would, who directed, produced and starred in the film simultaneously, and the person whose opinion matters most to him responds with two words. The conversation also touched on something fathers in the film industry are often expected to feel. "Every father wishes for his son to continue their legacy. It is not important for me," Madhavan added.

Madhavan has spent more than two decades building one of the most respected careers in Indian cinema, moving across Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam films with a consistency that very few actors from his generation have matched. Rocketry, his most personal work, earned him recognition that went well beyond industry appreciation. The assumption from the outside would naturally be that a man who has invested that deeply in his craft would want to see it carried forward by his son. What he wanted for Vedaant was not a continuation of his own story but the equipment to write a different one. That, he suggested, was always what the early conversations were building toward. The celebrity environment, he acknowledged, comes with real and specific risks for a child growing up inside it. Constant attention, easy access, the steady presence of people whose interests do not always line up with the child's. Madhavan said he worked deliberately at making sure Vedaant could see those dynamics clearly rather than drift into them unprepared. "I wanted to make sure he doesn't come under bad influence," he said.

their ability to consistently work across multiple projects ensures opportunities for producers and helps sustain the broader ecosystem of filmmaking. She also pointed out that while occasional big projects may bring attention, it is the regular output of disciplined actors that keeps the industry thriving. Ekta's remarks come at a time when Bhooth Bangla, featuring Akshay Kumar, has been performing well and contributing to the current box office momentum.

Ekta Kapoor's note read, "The time has come for me to say my thank yous... ?? This picture of Dad and Akshay Sir reminds me exactly of what discipline can do. They are so similar that every time I talk to Akshay Sir, I feel like I'm talking to my Dad... Their discipline & their belief in the producer's conviction, along with deep trust and respect is just wonderful!" She added, "These two men are the reason the commerce of our industry is alive and why producers continue to have some agency. Doing a few films with top directors once in a while only sustains one layer of the industry... For an industry to thrive, you need actors who work regularly so that every producer gets a chance." "The pure commerce these two men have brought is rarely appreciated. So, every time someone asks, 'Why does Akshay Kumar do four films a year?' know it's because of the Dharmendras, the Jeetendras, and the Akshays that this industry flourished. In volume, there is job creation. That is what they bring to the table! Thank you, Akshay Sir, for giving every producer, from the top to the mid-sized, a chance to put their best foot forward! Love you, Gurujii ?? @akshaykumar," she concluded. Bhooth Bangla, backed by Ekta Kapoor, has emerged as one of the notable horror-comedy successes of the year, drawing audiences with its mix of humor, spooky elements, and mass appeal. Headlined by Akshay Kumar, the film has performed strongly at the box office, maintaining steady collections and attracting family audiences across urban and mass circuits.

Panicked Ranbir Kapoor called mom Neetu at Shimla set during India-Pakistan conflict: ‘Please come back’



Shot in Shimla, Daadi Ki Shaadi turned into more than just another film set for its cast. Away from the usual chaos of vanity vans and luxury hotels, the team spent weeks living in neighbouring cottages, bonding closely while filming the family entertainer. But during the shoot, the atmosphere off-screen suddenly became tense as Operation Sindoor took place in May 2025. Recently, the

cast of the film, including Neetu Kapoor, Kapil Sharma and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, sat down together and recalled those unforgettable days on set. Kapil Sharma recalled how much Neetu Kapoor enjoyed the filming experience and revealed that she herself had admitted she had not had this much fun on a set in years. Neetu agreed and explained how the unusual setup in Shimla helped everyone connect more naturally. "That's true. We had so much fun during the shoot. These days, everyone stays inside their vanity vans, but there were no vanity vans there," she said. Kapil added that the lack of film-set luxuries unexpectedly became one of the most memorable parts of the schedule. "There wasn't even enough space there for vanity vans, and we weren't staying in hotels either. We stayed in cottages nearby and genuinely had a great time together," he said. The actor-comedian then revealed that the India-Pakistan conflict had broken out while they were shooting the film. "So many things happened during the making of this film. The war had started, and the situation had become very serious at that time. I think Ranbir had called you," Kapil said while speaking to Neetu Kapoor. Neetu recalled receiving a concerned call from her son, Ranbir Kapoor, asking her to return home immediately. "Yes, Ranbir called me and said, 'Mumma,