RNI No.TELENG/2013/49469

@ indianchronicle

INDIAN CHRONICLE

15 May 2026| Friday | Volume No:14 | Issue No: 88 Pages: 12+8 www.indianchronicle.com Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

Two killed, three injured in car and RTC bus collision on Manakondur flyover

Karimnagar: Two died and three others injured in a road accident that occurred on Khadarguda flyover in Manakondur mandal late on Wednesday night.The incident occurred when a car and TGSRTC bus rammed into each other. While the car was moving towards Mancherial from Warangal, Bodhan depot bus was proceeding towards Warangal.Car driver Khaleed (58) of Asifabad and Gajabhimkar Raju from Peddapalli died on the spot. A couple from Mancherial, Varaprasad and Uma and another woman Sumathi from Peddapalli were injured.

Siddipet woman found murdered, kin allege husband, in-laws responsible

Siddipet: A married woman Jyothi (35) was found murdered at her residence at Munigadapa in Jagadevpur mandal on Thursday. The parents of Jyothi and her kin accused her husband and in-laws of killing her by brutally assaulting her.When the body was brought to the government hospital in Gajwel for postmortem, the family members of Jyothi and her in-laws engaged in a scuffle. Finally, the police escorted Jyothi's husband to the police station. The police registered a case and an investigation is underway.

PM Modi Meets BRICS Foreign Ministers

New Delhi:, May 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hosted top diplomats from the BRICS nations as New Delhi kicked off a high-stakes conclave of the foreign ministers of the influential bloc.The visiting dignitaries, who made a joint call on the prime minister, included Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Iran's Abbas Araghchi, Brazil's Mauro Vieira, Indonesia's Sugiono, and South Africa's Ronald Lamola.

The India-hosted meet assumed greater significance as the influential bloc grapples with the economic consequences of the West Asia crisis, particularly the severe energy supply disruptions, and Washington's policy on trade and tariffs.

India, as the chair of the BRICS, is hosting the two-day conclave from Thursday ahead of the annual summit of the grouping in September.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

It has emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

The BRICS meeting will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates VD Satheesan On Becoming Kerala CM

Hyderabad:, May 14

Chief Minister of Telangana, A. Revanth Reddy, today extended his warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to V. D. Satheesan on being appointed as the Chief Minister of Kerala.

In his message, the Chief Minister described Sri Satheesan's appointment as a well-deserved recognition of decades of dedicated public service, principled politics, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Kerala. He observed that the people of Kerala have, through the recently concluded Assembly elections, reaffirmed their faith in the values of democracy, social justice, and inclusive development by entrusting the United Democratic Front, led by the Congress, with the mandate to govern the state.?

Revanth Reddy noted that Kerala has long been a beacon for the rest of the country in matters of human development, public health, literacy, and grassroots democracy. He expressed confidence that, under Sri Satheesan's stewardship, the state will scale even greater heights in education, healthcare, employment generation, and equitable growth, while continuing to set benchmarks that inspire sister states across the Union.?

The Chief Minister affirmed that the Government of

Telangana looks forward to working closely with the new Government of Kerala on matters of mutual interest, particularly in the areas of investment promotion, skill development, tourism, knowledge exchange, and cooperative federalism.?

"On behalf of the Government and the people of Telangana, I extend my best wishes to Sri V. D. Satheesan and the people of Kerala for a tenure marked by progress, prosperity, and the further deepening of Kerala's proud democratic traditions," the Chief Minister said.

EC must not only be independent but also appear so: Supreme Court

New Delhi:, May 14

The Supreme Court on Thursday said free and fair elections can't be ensured unless the Election Commission not just remained independent but also appeared to be independent even as the Centre defended the law on appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

While hearing PILs challenging the 2023 law on appointment of the CEC and ECs that replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet minister in the PM-led three-member selection panel, a Bench of Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice SC Sharma asserted that independence of the Election Commission was a facet of the "basic structure" of the Constitution, as free and fair elections depended on it.

"The level of confidence must be to that degree (that it must appear) as if there had been a third neutral person in the selection committee. Why should it be a minister from the cabinet?" asked the Bench which had on May 7 lamented the failure of successive governments to introduce a law to ensure the independent functioning of the Election Commission.

"It is not sufficient for the Election Commission to be independent, it has to appear to be independent, the Bench told Attorney General R Venkataramani, who asserted that Parliament has the absolute right to legislate and that it was not bound to follow the "stop-gap" arrangement suggested by a five-judge Constitution Bench in the Anoop Baranwal judgment.

The Attorney General cautioned the Bench against "entering the legislative arena" or acting as a "second chamber of Parliament".

The Baranwal judgment was an exercise of Article 142 (discretionary power to do complete justice) and did not constitute a binding law under Article 141 that could override an Act of Parliament, he said, adding the top court should not strike down a law based on hypothetical bias.

"We have to eat the pudding to know if it's bad. Unless the ECs demonstrate a lack of independence in their actual functioning, the law cannot be held invalid," Venkataramani said, adding such a question can't be answered in the abstract and that it's a question of fact and evidence.

Brushing aside the Centre's concerns on judicial overreach, the Bench sought to emphasise mutual respect between the organs of the State. "Parliament may attribute anything to the judiciary, but we know our Lakshman Rekha. We will never do that," Justice Datta said.

Venkataramani said if the petitioners' prayer for declaring the law unconstitutional failed, no other prayer survived.

Former IAS officer SN Shukla alleged on behalf of NGO 'Lok Prahari' that the new Act was a "fraud on the Constitution as it intentionally bypassed the safeguards suggested by the Supreme Court in the Anoop Baranwal judgment.

Ending the 73-year-old system of the government appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, the Supreme Court had on March 2, 2023 in the Anoop Baranwal case ordered creation of a three-member panel comprising the PM, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha or leader of largest opposition party and the CJI to select them. In a unanimous verdict, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Justice KM Joseph (since retired) had, however, said, "This norm will continue to hold good till a law is made by Parliament."

In December 2023, Parliament enacted the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Condition of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, that replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister in the three-member selection panel. The top court had on March 21, 2024 refused to stay the 2023 Act.

The petitioners contended that the 2023 law went against the Supreme Court's judgment in the Anoop Baranwal case as it replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet minister in the panel for selection of the CEC and ECs.However, the Bench had on May 7 pointed out that the selection mechanism laid down by the top court in the Baranwal verdict was a stop-gap arrangement till Parliament enacted a law

BCI Asks Bengal Bar Council to Verify Mamata Banerjee's Enrolment, Practice Status

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India on Thursday asked the West Bengal Bar Council to furnish a detailed report within 48 hours regarding the enrolment and professional practice status of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Earlier in the day, Banerjee, in a lawyer's gown, appeared before the Calcutta High Court to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence and attacks on party offices.

As per prevalent practice, a person, who was holding a constitutional post or gainfully employed, has to get the bar licence suspended during the service and for practising law again, the same has to be revived.

In a letter, the Bar Council of India (BCI) directed the secretary of the West Bengal Bar Council to furnish within two days complete records relating to Banerjee's enrolment as an advocate, if any, and her practice status during and after her tenure as chief minister from 2011 to 2026.

The communication, issued by BCI Principal Secretary Sriramanto Sen, stated that the Council had taken note of "various media reports" claiming that Banerjee appeared in court in legal attire, including white advocate bands.

"Mamata Banerjee served as chief minister of West Bengal from 2011 to 2026. Having regard to the constitutional public office held by her during the said period, and without expressing any opinion at this stage on the permissibility or otherwise of such appearance, the Bar Council of India requires the factual status of her enrolment, practice, suspension, if any, and resumption, if any, to be verified from your records," the communication said.

Fish prasadam distribution for asthma patients on June 8 in Hyderabad

Hyderabad:, May 14

The Hyderabad district administration is geared up for the fish prasadam distribution to asthma patients at Nampally exhibition grounds here on June 8.

Hyderabad district in-charge minister and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar held a meeting with Hyderabad Collector Priyanka Ala, members of the Bathini family, and other officials concerned at the Hyderabad Collectorate here on Thursday.

Ponnam Prabhakar said the fish prasadam event, which has been a symbol of trust and faith for 179 years, is a unique feature of Hyderabad city.

He said thousands of devotees and asthma patients from Telangana, various states across the country, and abroad are expected to attend, with an estimated participation of hundreds of thousands this time.AP News Alerts

As a large crowd is expected to take fish prasadam, the Minister instructed police to implement strict security measures, traffic control, parking management and crowd control.

He also instructed police to keep special surveillance to prevent incidents like pickpocketing, theft, chain snatching and eve-teasing. Officials concerned were directed to make full lighting arrangements throughout the night in the event area and its surroundings.

Man Thrown 50 Ft Into Air as Powerful Storm Lashes UP's Bareilly

Man Thrown 50 Ft Into Air as Powerful Storm Lashes UP's Bareilly Current Affairs PTI 14 May 2026 4:26 PM The man in the video, Nanhe Mian of Bamiyana village, suffered multiple injuries in the incident that occurred on Wednesday Screengrab from the visual. (X) Bareill: In a shocking incident, a man was flung nearly 50 ft into the air along with a tin roof and thrown into a field during a powerful storm in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly district, where the adverse weather claimed at least four lives. The man in the video, Nanhe Mian of Bamiyana village, suffered multiple injuries in the incident that occurred on Wednesday. In a video of the incident doing the rounds on social media, the man is seen being launched into the air while he is holding onto the tin roof. He then lets go, does a somersault in the air and lands in the adjacent field.

Indian Chronicle
English Daily

Prosecution must not become persecution

THERE is something horribly wrong with India's justice delivery system when prosecution becomes synonymous with persecution, when the procedure itself serves as the punishment. The Supreme Court has quashed a 35-year-old criminal case against a police officer, bringing his prolonged ordeal to an end. A brawl among constables over food in a police mess had led to the registration of a case of "simple hurt" and criminal intimidation. The apparently trivial matter should have been resolved within months, but it dragged on for decades. Kailash Chandra Kapri, who was in his early twenties when the FIR was lodged, is now nearing retirement. His youth and middle age were consumed by the long shadow of an unresolved trial, even as two co-accused died awaiting justice.

The Court has repeatedly stated that the right to a speedy trial is a fundamental constitutional guarantee under Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty), but Kapri's nightmare shows that the rot runs deep. The SC has itself identified lack of accountability as a major reason why earlier judicial directions have failed to bring effective reform. Justice is inevitably delayed and denied when the guidelines issued by the higher judiciary are ignored.Endless litigation leaves citizens hostage to uncertainty, damaging careers, reputations, mental health and family life even before guilt is established — if at all. The Court's sharp criticism of institutional apathy should prompt introspection within the judiciary itself. The backlog crisis is no longer an administrative problem; it is a constitutional emergency. Case pendency is inseparable from undertrial detention, overcrowding in jails and judicial vacancies.

Inter-State gang busted in PMJ jewellery robbery

Three arrested; police identify 13 accused, says Commissioner Gaush Alam.

KARIMNAGAR May 14 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar Police have cracked the armed robbery case at PMJ Jewellery Shop and arrested three members of an inter-State gang allegedly involved in the heist in which jewellery worth over ?82 lakh was looted and four employees were injured.Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Police Commissioner Gaush Alam said the police had identified 13 persons linked to the crime and launched multiple special teams to trace the remaining accused and recover the stolen jewellery.

According to the police, the robbery took place on May 3 under the limits of Karimnagar II Town Police Station. The accused allegedly escaped with 161.4 tolas of gold ornaments and 112 carats of diamond jewellery valued at ?82.02 lakh.Police said the operation was allegedly masterminded by Subodh Singh, an inter-State gang handler currently lodged in a Bihar jail and known in criminal circles as "The Golden Thief".

The prime accused, Raghunath Karmakar alias Jagira Singh, was arrested near Velichala Cross Road on May 13. Two others — Ravish Kumar alias Pradyuman and Mehtab Khan — were taken into custody from Bihar and West Bengal on transit warrants.Investigators said the gang operated across Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Telangana and Maharashtra, targeting jewellery shops and banks. During interrogation, the accused allegedly disclosed details about the gang's methods, including advance reconnaissance, use of fake Aadhaar cards, fake vehicle number plates and SIM cards procured using false identities.Police said the gang members had entered Telangana nearly two months ago and conducted reconnaissance in Khammam, Siddipet, Peddapalli and Karimnagar before selecting the PMJ Jewellery Shop as their target. The accused initially stayed at a lodge in Peddapalli and later shifted to a guest house in Dharmapuri before carrying out the robbery.According to the investigation, one of the accused allegedly procured six pistols and magazines near Gadchandur in Maharashtra before returning to Telangana. On the day of the offence, the gang travelled on two motorcycles, changed number plates en route and assembled near Velichala Cross Road before executing the robbery.

Police said one accused entered the jewellery shop posing as a customer and alerted the others after assessing the situation inside. The remaining gang members then allegedly entered the showroom, threatened the staff with firearms and opened fire when employees resisted.While fleeing, the accused escaped with one bag containing jewellery but reportedly left behind another bag inside the showroom in the confusion.Investigators said some gang members later crossed the Godavari river on foot before escaping by train from Mancherial, while others allegedly handed over the stolen jewellery and motorcycle to unidentified persons travelling in a white SUV in the Gundala forest region before fleeing to Bihar.Mr. Alam said cash, mobile phones, SIM cards and a fake Aadhaar card had been seized from the arrested accused. Five special police teams are continuing efforts to trace the absconding accused.The Police Commissioner also advised banks, jewellery establishments, lodges and guest houses to strengthen security measures, including installation of quality CCTV cameras, deployment of private security guards, verification of guest identities and installation of panic alarm systems.

27 Crore Development Works Planned in Uppal Constituency; Parameshwar Reddy Meets Commissioner

"UPPAL , MAY 14 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):"Following the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and District In-charge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, development works worth 27 crore are set to be undertaken in the Uppal constituency covering Uppal, Beerappagadda, Ramanthapur, Habsiguda, Chilukanagar, and Venkat Reddy Nagar divisions."The proposed works include construction and development of graveyards, storm water drains, and CC roads."Seeking sanction of funds for these projects and urging speedy completion of pending works, Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy met Malkajgiri Corporation Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy on Thursday."During the meeting, Parameshwar Reddy requested the officials to focus on providing better infrastructure facilities in the constituency and work towards permanent solutions to long-pending public issues with the support of the Chief Minister and Minister Sridhar Babu. He also appealed to the authorities to ensure that drainage and road-related problems are resolved before the onset of the monsoon season."Among those who participated in the programme were Rafiq, Upender Reddy, Kandi Shravan Reddy, Akarapu Arun Patel, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Agam Reddy, and Rajesh Mudiraj, along with other party leaders and activists.

CPM Protest in Uppal Demands Immediate Arrest of Bandi Bhageerath"

"UPPAL , MAY 14 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): CPM leaders staged a protest on Thursday at the CPM office in Uppal demanding the immediate arrest of Bandi Bhageerath, accused in a POCSO case involving the alleged sexual assault of a minor girl."Speaking on the occasion, CPM leaders demanded that the accused be arrested without delay and also called for the removal of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar from his ministerial post. They stated that the CPM would organize large-scale protest programs until justice is delivered to the minor victim."The leaders also criticized the state government for its alleged negligent attitude in arresting Bandi Bhageerath."CPM Uppal Circle Secretary J. Venkanna, Circle Committee members Bhishmachari, Sheshu, Padma, MD Ghouse, and party leaders Venkatesh, Anjaneyulu, Ravinder, Ravi, Ramdas, Manikumar, Prabhakar, Naveen Kumar, Sai Ram, Arun, Sai, Preetham, Shiva, Shashi, Pasha and others participated in the protest.

Efforts Needed to Resolve Drainage Problems in Cherlapally Division

: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Meets Water Works MD Ashok Reddy""""UPPAL , MAY 14(INDIAN CHRONICAL):"A key meeting was held regarding the persistent drainage problems in the Cherlapally Division under the Uppal constituency. On this occasion, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy met Water Works Managing Director Ashok Reddy at the Khairatabad office and explained the issues faced by residents in the area."The MLA brought the severe drainage problems to the attention of the officials and stated that people are suffering from health issues due to the unhygienic conditions. He urged the authorities to sanction the required works and begin them immediately to provide a permanent solution to the problem."Responding to the request, Water Works officials assured that necessary steps would be taken to address the issue at the earliest."MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that improving basic civic infrastructure for the public remains their top priority and assured that they would always work proactively to resolve local issues.BRS party leader Nemuri Mahesh Goud and others participated in the meeting.

Efforts Will Be Made to Resolve Pragathi Nagar Issues:

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy"

""UPPAL , MAY 14 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):"BRS leaders Gantham Nageswara Rao and colony chief advisor Venkat Reddy met Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy on Thursday and urged him to address the problems being faced by residents of Pragathi Nagar in Ramanthapur Division."During the meeting, they brought several civic issues in Pragathi Nagar to the notice of the MLA. They particularly highlighted the severe drainage problem in the colony and requested him to take necessary measures for a permanent solution."Responding positively, the MLA assured them that he would speak to the concerned officials and make efforts to ensure a lasting resolution to the issue. He also stated that during his visit to the colony, the matter should be brought to the attention of the relevant authorities once again, and he would personally meet the officials to push for an early solution.

Let's work for 100 percent pass rate in the district..

" District Collector Deepak Tiwari at the Jaya Shankar Sir Badi Bata program..

""Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (may 14)""The Sir Jayashankar Badibata program was held grandly at Government Number One School in Tandur town, Vikarabad "District Collector Deepak Tiwari and Municipal Chairperson Patlolla Neeraja Balreddy attended the program as chief guests. ""Speaking at the meeting organized on the occasion, District Collector Deepak Tiwari said that along with many welfare and development programs, the Telangana government is working to provide quality education in the state. As part of this, he said Amma Adarsha Schools and pre-primary schools have been started in the district. He informed that 91% of students in the district passed this academic year. He said that with qualified teachers in government schools, students are receiving good instruction. He urged teachers to bring 100% results next year with the encouragement of parents and leaders. He said efforts are being made to provide basic infrastructure in schools with government support. The Collector said that summer camp training programs are ongoing in some schools, and if students utilize them, they will become proficient in languages and excel in various fields. ""He congratulated the school principal, teachers, and students of Tandur Number One School for their efforts in achieving good results this year. He said teachers should conduct such Badibata programs in every school in the district. ""Later, the District Collector appreciated the students of Government Number One School, which achieved the best results in the district, and presented mementos to them. ""Tandur Municipal Chairperson Neeraja Bal Reddy said that government schools are being developed on par with private schools. She expressed happiness that Number One School students stood as toppers in the district. She urged that parents be further motivated and admissions be started from now. ""Along with District Collector Deepak Tiwari, Municipal Chairperson Neeraja Balreddy, Municipal Commissioner Madhusudan Reddy, councillors, District Education Officer, Tandur Division RDO, MRO, MPDO, school principal A. Shivakumar, and headmasters, teachers, students, and parents of school and primary schools participated in the program.

Road Works Launched in Venkat Reddy Nagar

Residents Thank Congress Leaders Parameshwar Reddy and Akarapu Arun Patel""

"UPPAL , MAY 14(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Road development works were officially launched in Venkat Reddy Nagar following the initiative taken by Uppal Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel after noticing the hardships faced by local residents due to the poor condition of the road."Residents of the colony brought the issue to the attention of Arun Patel, who immediately coordinated with Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy and discussed the matter with concerned officials. By pressing the authorities and highlighting the urgency of the issue, they succeeded in getting the road works sanctioned."The road works, stretching from Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple to Gandhi High School, were formally commenced on Thursday."Colony residents expressed their gratitude to Akarapu Arun Patel for responding promptly to their problems and to Parameshwar Reddy for extending his support in getting the works approved and started."Work Inspector Ramesh Rathod, senior residents Shiva Goud, Gadda Narasimha, Pottelu Paramesh, Dhanaraj, Oggu Dinesh, Bhanu, Chota Rajesh, Prasad, Razak, and several colony residents participated in the programme.

Congress Leaders Act Swiftly to Resolve Drainage Issue in Maheshwari Nagar

"UPPAL , MAY 14 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Residents of Maheshwari Nagar Colony under Habsiguda Division faced severe inconvenience after sewage water overflowed from drainage pipelines and entered houses in the backside area of Swathi Tiffins."Responding promptly to complaints from local residents, Congress leader Janampalli Venkateshwar Reddy immediately informed Water Works GM Santosh and Water Works Manager Ravinder about the issue over the phone. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the officials swiftly deployed cleaning staff to the area, and drainage cleaning works were taken up immediately. The cleaning operations are currently underway."Residents of the colony expressed gratitude to the officials for their quick response and thanked the Congress leaders for their efforts in addressing the issue."Speaking on the occasion, colony members urged the authorities to take permanent measures to prevent such drainage problems from recurring in the future."Among those present were Congress leader Janampalli Venkateshwar Reddy, senior Congress leaders, Colony Association President Malupeddi Arvind Reddy, Street No. 8 Colony Association President Kommidi Mallareddy, and Kondal Reddy.

Say No to Drugs... Life is Precious...

"BJP District leader Sangishetty Ravindra Sagar""Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, May 14: ""BJP District Executive Member and Uppal Constituency MBC Chairman Sangishetty Ravindra Sagar advised college students and youth not to ruin their valuable lives by falling prey to drugs."Speaking on the occasion, he said that education plays a crucial role in shaping the future of today's youth, but many young people are being misguided by bad company and harmful habits, leading them towards drug addiction. He expressed concern that the use of drugs not only destroys health but also affects families and society as a whole."He urged the youth to stay focused on their goals and move forward with discipline and determination. He also advised parents to closely monitor the behaviour and activities of their children. Students should actively participate in sports and social service activities to build a bright future, he added."Ravindra Sagar appealed to everyone to support the efforts of the government and police in eradicating drugs from society. He called upon the youth to take the lead in creating awareness and preventing the spread of drug abuse.

BJP Telangana Hosts Special Event on PM Modi's Sapta Sutras Releases Awareness Pamphlet

Hyderabad, May 14 : Telangana state BJP unit today organized a special programme and released a pamphlet focusing "seven sutras" (seven points) outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged people to contribute their share in protecting the national interest and face challenges arise in view of West Asia crisis." Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing a public meeting here recently has suggested some austerity measures and appealed people to follow it which include reduce petrol and diesel consumption, avoid buying gold, prioritize work from home, usage of public transport, cut down usage of cooking oil, move towards natural forming avoidng usage of chemical fertilizers, adopt swadeshi products and avoid foreign tours to help to make national economic self-reliance." BJP State President N Ramchander Rao attended the event as the chief guest and officially released pamphlet in English and Telugu featuring guidelines suggested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the citizens of the country." Speaking on the occasion, Rao emphasized that every citizen must act responsibly to strengthen the nation's economy. "Public participation is vital in achieving the goals of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India). Factors such as consuming indigenous products, conserving energy, and encouraging domestic investments will further strengthen India's economic future," Rao said." Elaborating further during his address, BJP State President called upon citizens to partner with the government in fortifying the national economy. "Patriotism does not just mean sacrificing one's life for the country, living and serving the nation is also a profound act of patriotism," Rao asserted. He clarified that the Prime Minister's suggestions are not political gimmicks but were deeply rooted in national economic security and social responsibility. He underscored the urgent need to protect the domestic economy by championing local products under the "Vocal for Local" initiative." In light of global economic conditions and inflation, Rao advised the public to practice austerity in their spending. He pointed out that the Prime Minister set a personal example by downsizing his own convoy vehicles." Rao urged citizens to use personal vehicles only when necessary and encouraged residents of Hyderabad to utilize the Metro and other public transport systems. He further stated that corporate practices like carpooling in the IT sector and the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) would go a long way in conserving fuel. " Drawing a historical parallel, Rao reminded critics that previous Prime Ministers, including Manmohan Singh and Indira Gandhi during the Congress regimes, had also implemented strict austerity measures during times of economic distress. Therefore, he noted, criticizing the current PM's suggestions is unjust." Rao shared a personal anecdote, mentioning that he recently chose public transport to attend an event, noting that top officials abroad regularly follow similar practices." He appealed to the people of Telangana to draw inspiration from the Prime Minister's call and actively participate in building the nation." Renowned economist Professor Dr. Krishna Reddy provided a comprehensive analysis of the "Sapta Sutras" during the event. Utilizing statistical data, he explained the current global challenges facing the Indian economy and the dynamics of foreign exchange utilization."

Professor Reddy noted that the Seven Principles outlined by the Prime Minister were not merely government policies, but a national economic movement that requires active public participation. He remarked that ordinary citizens could significantly boost the nation's economic strength by making minor adjustments in their daily lives."

He highlighted how specific practices can significantly contribute to national economic stability including promoting the consumption of local, indigenous products, exercising responsibility in fuel and energy consumption, regulating the consumption of cooking oil, adopting natural farming practices and encouraging 'Work from Home' models where applicable." The event saw the participation of BJP Telangana State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash, along with state office-bearers, official spokespersons, and media panelists.

Surprise inspections of paddy, maize procurement centers District Collector Deepak Tiwari

"Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (may 14)""District Collector Deepak Tiwari made a surprise visit on Thursday to inspect paddy and maize procurement centers at Sri Balaji Rice Mill in Laxminarayanpur, Agganoor, and Gonur villages under Yalal Mandal in Tandur constituency, and at DCMS and Venkata Padmavathi Rice Mill in Tandur town.""During the visit, the Collector reviewed the progress of paddy procurement, loading, lifting, and other operations at the procurement centers. He instructed officials to complete the procurement process swiftly so farmers do not face any difficulties. ""He directed officials to complete the loading process quickly and arrange adequate trucks and hamalis as required. He said steps should be taken to weigh procured paddy without delay and shift it to mills. ""He said all necessary facilities should be made available at procurement centers so farmers do not face any trouble while selling their crop. He instructed that transparency be maintained in checking moisture content and quality standards. ""On this occasion, he closely observed the lorry loading process. ""He also visited the maize collection center operating in Tandur Mandal and inspected the procurement process. During the visit, he personally observed the lorry loading works. ""He ordered concerned officials to arrange sufficient hamalis to immediately procure the remaining maize, and to make required vehicles available to shift the procured grain to allotted godowns. ""He suggested concerned officials speed up tab entries. ""Keeping the upcoming rains in mind, he directed that necessary precautions be taken to prevent any loss in storage of paddy and maize, and that suitable steps be taken to safeguard the grain. He said the procurement process should be managed efficiently so farmers do not face difficulties. "He instructed DCMS officer Salam to ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties or problems.""DMC S Mohan Krishna, DSO Sudarshan, RDO Anita, Tahsildars Tarasingh, Venkata Swamy, and farmers participated along with him.

MEPMA reviews welfare scheme implementation in Karimnagar

Project Director stresses stronger coordination among self-help group functionaries.

KARIMNAGAR May 14 (Correspondent): Project Director of MEPMA G. Swarooparani on Thursday conducted a review meeting with Community Organisers (COs) and Town Mission Coordinators (TMCs) on the implementation of various welfare and livelihood programmes in villages under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits.

The review covered Chintakunta, Malkapur, Laxmipur, Bommakal, Durshed and Gopalpur. Discussions were held on the functioning of self-help groups, bank linkages, implementation of social security schemes and field-level activities being carried out under the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA).Ms. Swarooparani instructed officials to identify village-level issues through Resource Persons (RPs) and other field staff and take prompt measures for their resolution. She emphasised the need for timely implementation of programmes and directed the staff to work in accordance with the targets set by the department.

Stressing women's economic empowerment, she called for greater awareness among self-help group members and urged officials to promote livelihood programmes extensively. She also directed the staff to conduct meetings regularly, maintain records systematically and ensure that government welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries without delay.The Project Director further asked officials, including ALF RPs, OBs, TLF RPs, OBs, COs and TMCs, to work in coordination for strengthening women's groups across the municipal limits. Continuous monitoring of programmes and timely submission of progress reports were also emphasised.

She advised field-level staff to maintain close interaction with the public and address local issues promptly. Referring to the ongoing 99-day action plan, Ms. Swarooparani said representatives should discharge their responsibilities effectively to ensure better delivery of welfare initiatives.Officials and representatives associated with MEPMA and the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation attended the meeting.

Divisional Panchayat Officer Vijaya Lakshmi Conducts Surprise Inspection of Gram Panchayats"Reviews Records and Visits Panchayat Nurseries

""Khammam Enkoor May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""Divisional Panchayat Officer G. Vijayalakshmi, along with MPVO GVS Narayana, conducted surprise inspections of Bhadru Thanda and Nacharam Gram Panchayats in the mandal headquarters."During the visit, the officials examined Gram Panchayat records, reviewed drinking water supply arrangements, monitored employment guarantee scheme works, and assessed the progress of Indiramma housing construction works."Vijaya Lakshmi also visited the Gram Panchayat nurseries and offered several suggestions and instructions to Panchayat Secretaries regarding administration and implementation of development programmes."Gram Panchayat Secretaries and Sarpanches participated in the inspection programme.

Several Leaders from Raghunadhapalem Mandal Join CPI

Khammam ,May 14 (Indian Chronicle):"Several leaders, including Nadendla Pullaiah from KCR Nagar in Raghunadhapalem mandal, joined the Communist Party of India (CPI) on Thursday at the party's district office, Giri Prasad Bhavan."Along with Pullaiah, Kuncha Nagaraju and Gundla Ashok from Chimmapudi village also joined the party. They were welcomed into the CPI by party leaders, including CPI National Council member Bhagam Hemanth Rao, district assistant secretary Jammula Jitender Reddy, district executive member Tati Venkateswarlu, and district committee member Chintala Ramesh, who formally welcomed them by offering party scarves."Among those who joined, Nadendla Pullaiah had previously served as a CPM Mandal Committee member, PNM District Committee member, Agricultural Workers Union Mandal Secretary, and as a full-time activist for many years."Speaking on the occasion, Pullaiah said that despite political pressures, hardships, and challenges, he had decided to remain a communist throughout his life and continue working within communist parties. He stated that, inspired by veteran leader Rajab Ali, he would work tirelessly to strengthen the CPI in the mandal and fight continuously for agricultural workers and public issues."Expressing happiness over joining the CPI, he thanked the district leaders who welcomed him into the party.

District Congress Committee President Participates in Felicitation Meeting Marking 40 Years of Tummala Nageswara Rao's Ministerial Journey

"Khammam May 13 (Indian Chronicle):""District Congress Committee President Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud participated in a special gathering organized by admirers to mark 40 years since Tummala Nageswara Rao first assumed office as a minister."The event was held at the SR&BGNR College grounds in Khammam city on May 13, 2026. Speaking on the occasion, Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud said that the development carried out by Tummala Nageswara Rao is visible in every village from Paleru to Vajedu across the erstwhile Khammam district."He expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the meeting beyond political affiliations and said the gathering reflected the public admiration for Tummala's four-decade-long development journey and public service."Several supporters, public representatives, and leaders attended the event.

In the Presence of Minister Ponguleti, Several Leaders Join Congress

""Munigepalli Sarpanch and Five Ward Members Join the Party""Khammam Kuchumanchi May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""Political migrations into the ruling party have intensified in Kusumanchi mandal of the Paleru constituency. Munigepalli Sarpanch Ganga Sravanthi joined the Congress party on Thursday along with her supporters. The joining program was held at the camp office of Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy in Khammam."Ganga Sravanthi, who had contested as an independent candidate and won the sarpanch election five months ago, stated that she was attracted by the welfare schemes and developmental activities being implemented by the government and therefore decided to join the Congress party."Along with the sarpanch, five ward members who were elected alongside her, village leaders, and nearly 50 families belonging to various political parties also joined the party in the presence of the minister by wearing the Congress party scarf."Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that everyone would be made partners in the development of the constituency and that the government is working with the objective of resolving public issues. He assured that those joining the party would be given due recognition and importance."Several public representatives and senior party leaders participated in the program.

Excellent Teaching Being Provided in Government Schools

"Khammam Nelakondapalli May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""Rayagudem Sarpanch Boyina Venu said that government schools are providing quality education and urged parents to make proper use of them."A "Badibata" enrolment awareness programme was organized on Thursday under the supervision of the Rayagudem Government School in the mandal. As part of the programme, teachers and local representatives visited households and conducted counselling sessions for parents of students."They explained various welfare schemes and facilities being provided by the government in schools."Speaking on the occasion, the Sarpanch said experienced teachers are offering effective teaching in government schools. He highlighted that students are receiving benefits such as mid-day meals, free textbooks, uniforms, and several other welfare programmes."He advised parents not to be influenced by the attraction towards private schools and warned against risking students' future unnecessarily."Deputy Sarpanch Surepalli Prem Kumar, Committee Chairperson Kumari, Headmaster G. Nageswara Rao, Ushasri, Sharada, Prameela, and others participated in the programme.

Indiramma Housing Construction Works Should Be Completed Quickly

"Khammam Karepalli May 14 (Indian Chronicle):" In-charge MPDO Mallela Ravindra Prasad instructed officials to speed up the construction of Indiramma houses being built in the mandal with the cooperation of beneficiaries."A special review meeting was held on Thursday at the Mandal Parishad Office with Panchayat Secretaries and EGS staff. Addressing the meeting, Ravindra Prasad said that officials have the responsibility to ensure faster progress in the construction of Indiramma houses sanctioned in the first phase across the mandal.""He stated that with another phase of Indiramma house sanctions likely to begin from June 2, officials must ensure that the houses currently under construction are completed at a faster pace.""EGS APO Koteswara Rao, Housing AEs Nagendra and Swapna, RWS AE Narendra Rao, and

Government Will Procure Every Grain Produced by Farmers at MSP: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

Government Allocates 22,000 Crore for Paddy Procurement"Special Measures Taken to Resolve Hamali and Transportation Issues""Khammam ,Palair, May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the government will procure every grain of paddy produced by farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP)."On Thursday, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, inspected the fine variety paddy procurement centre established under the supervision of Sri Lakshmi Gram Samakhya through the District Rural Development Agency (SERP) at Palair village in Kusumanchi Mandal."During the visit, the ministers reviewed paddy collection, weighing procedures, quality standards, and storage arrangements at the procurement centre. Officials were instructed to ensure speedy procurement operations without causing inconvenience to farmers."Speaking on the occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government is fully committed to paddy procurement and assured farmers that there is no need for concern, as the government will purchase every last grain produced by them at MSP."He announced that the government has allocated ?22,000 crore for paddy procurement this season and plans to procure between 82 lakh and 85 lakh metric tonnes of paddy across the state."The Minister noted that there is currently a shortage of hamalis (loading workers) and transport vehicles. He explained that hamalis usually come from Bihar and West Bengal, but due to the recent West Bengal Assembly elections and the extended agricultural season in Bihar, there is a severe shortage of workers. However, he said the government is taking urgent steps to address the issue."To resolve transportation problems, the government has taken an important decision to reserve lorries and DCM vehicles exclusively for paddy transportation for the next 15 days. He said all necessary measures are being implemented to ensure uninterrupted transportation of paddy."The Minister further stated that ministers are touring districts and continuously reviewing the procurement process, while all departments are working in coordination to prevent difficulties for farmers."District Collector Divakar TS, CP Sunil Dutt, Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, DRDO Sriram, District Marketing Officer M.A. Aleem, In-charge DM Civil Supplies Sunil Reddy, DCO Gangadhar, Centre In-charge Renuka, AEOs, officials, farmers, and public representatives participated in the programme."— Issued by the District Public Relations Officer's Office, Khammam.

AAP Alleges Congress-BJP Nexus Behind Illegal Activities in Telangana

"Khammam May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""Leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party alleged that the Congress and BJP are working together in Telangana, leading to increasing irregularities and misuse of power in the state."The party leaders claimed that the Congress government is deliberately delaying action against the son of BJP Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar. They questioned the reason behind the delay and said the issue is being widely discussed among the public."AAP leaders further alleged that the Congress government is obstructing protest programmes organized by the party on this issue and accused the government of illegally arresting AAP state leaders as part of the same political understanding between Congress and BJP."The party stated that instead of taking action against offenders, both the Central and State governments are focusing on suppressing opposition parties, which they described as a sign of administrative failure. They also alleged that rising prices are causing severe hardship to the public."Criticizing the Centre over the conduct of NEET examinations, AAP leaders said the "double-engine government" has failed to properly manage the exams, thereby affecting the future of lakhs of students."The party alleged that the illegal arrest of Telangana A AAP State Convenor Hema Jilloju is proof of the alleged Congress-BJP alliance in the state."AAP leaders claimed that while no protest programmes were being allowed and no action was being taken against Bandi Sanjay's son, the Congress government was instead focusing on suppressing AAP activities."Speaking in a statement, AAP Khammam District Convenor Swarna Subba Rao, Co-Convenor Pasumarthi Srinivas, and Paruchuri Narasimha Rao said they staged a protest in front of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statue at the local ZP Centre to condemn the issue.

Interstate Temple Theft Gang Arrested

"Khammam Kalluru May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""Kalluru ACP Vasundhara Yadav stated that an interstate gang involved in temple thefts has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody."Based on credible information, Kalluru SI D. Haritha along with police staff conducted vehicle checks on Madhira Road in the outskirts of Kalluru on Wednesday evening. During the checking, three suspects traveling on two motorcycles attempted to flee after noticing the police. The police chased and apprehended them."The arrested accused were identified as:""Bolusu Yesubabu alias Manikala Yesubabu (23), originally from Obulapalem village, Mylavaram Mandal, NTR District, currently residing at Erraguntapadu village, Vemsur Mandal."Chevuri Adinarayana (30), resident of Kotapadu village, Chatrai Mandal, NTR District."Tummala Murali (25), resident of Erraguntapadu village, Vemsur Mandal."Police checked their fingerprints using the MSCD device, and fingerprints of two accused matched existing criminal records in the police database. According to police records, the two had previously been jailed in multiple theft cases."During interrogation, the accused confessed that they used to travel at night on motorcycles across border mandals of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, conduct reconnaissance of temples, and target isolated temples by breaking open donation boxes (hundis) and stealing cash. They also admitted to breaking into grocery shops along the way and stealing money and goods."Police said that over the past six months, the gang

committed thefts in temples located at Chennur and Chinna Korukondi in Kalluru Mandal, Venkatagiri in Tallada Mandal, Mallaram in Madhira Mandal, and at Anjaneya Swamy temples in Vissannapeta, Andhra Pradesh. They were also involved in a grocery shop theft in Chennur and a theft at a post office in Penuballi."Police seized two motorcycles and an iron crowbar allegedly used in the thefts from the accused."ACP Vasundhara Yadav appreciated SI D. Haritha, Head Constables Nagendra Babu, Satyanarayana, Narasimha Rao, and the Kalluru Police Station staff for their effective work in solving the theft cases.

Remove Difficulties in Paddy Procurement: CPI Appeals to Minister Uttam

Khammam May 14 (Indian Chronicle):" Leaders of the Communist Party of India (CPI) submitted a memorandum to State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy demanding immediate steps to resolve problems being faced in paddy procurement across the undivided Khammam district."The memorandum was submitted on Thursday when the Minister visited the Khammam Collectorate to review paddy procurement operations. The delegation was led by MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao and Bagam Hemanth Rao."In the memorandum, CPI leaders stated that farmers are facing severe hardships during paddy procurement and are being forced to wait for days at procurement centres. They explained to the Minister that shortages of gunny bags and delays in weighing procedures have become a major burden for farmers."The leaders alleged that rice millers are exploiting farmers in the name of moisture deductions and are reportedly cutting between 5 to 11 kilograms per quintal. They urged the Minister to take immediate action to stop such practices."The delegation also requested the government to address issues in maize procurement and take urgent measures to ensure smooth purchasing operations.""Further, they pointed out that there is

a serious delay in depositing procurement payments into farmers' bank accounts and appealed for immediate steps to ensure timely payments."

"Those who participated in submitting the memorandum included CPI District Assistant Secretary Jammula Jitender Reddy, Farmers' Association district leaders Dondapati Ramesh and Kondaparthi Govinda Rao, along with SK Jaanimiah, Epuri Ravindra Babu, Kuchipudi Ravi, Tammishetty Venkateswarlu, Puchchakayala Sudhakar, Dobbala Vengal Rao, Mallikarjun, Varada Narasimha Rao, Gopala Rao, and others.

Public Welfare Is the Government's Goal: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy"Second Phase of Indiramma Houses to Begin from June 2

Dharani and Sada Bainama Issues to Be Resolved Through Bhu Bharati"Minister Ponguleti Participates in Praja Darbar at Edulapuram Municipality""Khammam Edulapuram, May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that resolving public grievances is the primary objective of the people's government."The Minister participated in the Praja Darbar programme organized as part of the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika initiative at TCV Reddy Function Hall in Edulapuram Municipality on Thursday. District Collector Divakar TS and Additional Collector Dr. P. Sreeja were also present."Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the people's government has entered its third year with the blessings of the public. He reiterated that supporting the poor remains the government's foremost priority and added that the administration is continuously working for the welfare of farmers, women, and unemployed youth."He stated that immediately after assuming office, officials were sent to villages to receive public applications and address grievances. After completing two years in governance, the government has once again launched the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika programme to directly interact with the people and resolve their issues."The Minister explained that in the Palair constituency, each mandal has been divided into three clusters and municipalities into two clusters for conducting Praja Darbar programmes. So far, 11 cluster-level programmes have been successfully completed. He emphasized that officials would be held fully accountable for every application submitted."He said some problems would be resolved immediately, while others may take some time. However, all eligible applications would be addressed within three months as per government rules and regulations."The Minister said the government is fulfilling the promises made to the people by successfully implementing welfare schemes such as free bus travel for women, distribution of fine rice through ration cards, 200 units of free electricity for poor families, and issuance of new ration cards."To provide international-standard education, the government is constructing Young India Integrated Schools, he added. He also noted that diet charges in Gurukul schools have been increased by 40 percent and cosmetic charges by 200 percent."Highlighting the government's commitment to farmers' welfare, the Minister said paddy is being procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP), while fine variety paddy farmers are additionally receiving a ?500 bonus per quintal."He criticized the previous government for failing to provide houses to the poor during the last ten years. In contrast, he said, the present government has already sanctioned lakhs of Indiramma houses in the first phase itself. Funds are being directly deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday."The Minister announced that the second phase of Indiramma housing sanctions will begin from June 2, followed by the third and fourth phases. He assured that every eligible family would receive ?5 lakh financial assistance for house construction, irrespective of political affiliation."He noted that most applications received during Praja Darbar programmes are related to Indiramma houses, mainly due to the previous government's failure to construct houses for the poor. Public confidence has increased because the funds are being directly credited to beneficiaries' accounts, he added."Regarding land issues, the Minister stated that disputes arising from the Dharani system are being resolved through the Bhu Bharati initiative. He further said the government would also resolve Sada Bainama applications based on eligibility and that pending land-related issues would be addressed soon."On employment, the Minister said that more than 70,000 jobs had been provided to unemployed youth within the government's first year. Recruitment examinations were conducted transparently without leaks, ensuring justice for meritorious candidates. He assured that more good news for unemployed youth would be announced in the coming days."District Collector Divakar TS said that this was the first Praja Darbar programme being conducted in Edulapuram Municipality.

Earlier, cluster-level programmes had been organized in villages, through which around 16,000 applications were received."Following the Minister's instructions, every application is being reviewed on priority basis and necessary steps are being taken to resolve issues as per government guidelines, the Collector added."Beneficiaries Jayalakshmi and Mamatha shared that after the formation of the present government, they were sanctioned Indiramma houses and are now living happily in their own homes. They also stated that eligible poor families are benefiting from ration cards, 200 units of free electricity, and fine rice distribution schemes, helping them save nearly ?4,000 every month."Edulapuram Municipal Chairperson Anita, Vice Chairman, Maddulapalli Market Committee Chairman Harinath Babu, Municipal Commissioner, district officials, ward members, public representatives, and others participated in the programme."— Issued by the District Public Relations Officer's Office, Khammam.

Six-Member Gang Arrested for Robbing Auto Passengers

"""Geesugonda, May 14 (Indian Chronicle) : Geesugonda police on Thursday arrested a six-member gang involved in threatening and robbing passengers who were travelling in autorickshaws. Police seized the autorickshaw used in the crime, cash, and mobile phones from the accused."According to CI D. Vishweshwar of Geesugonda, all the accused were known to each other. Due to alcohol addiction and rising expenses, they allegedly conspired to make easy money. As per a plan devised by the prime accused, auto driver Martha Sai Kumar, the gang would pick up passengers during late hours, take them to isolated locations, threaten them, and rob them of cash."In April, a B.Tech student, Perumandla Siddharth from Karimabad, Warangal, along with his friend Mudraboyina Rajaphani, was waiting for an autorickshaw near Kotagandi Maisamma to travel to Shivajinagar in Duggondi mandal. The accused approached them, offering a ride and claiming they would drop them at Girnibavi. Instead, they took the victims to a deserted area near the cremation ground at Gangadevipalli in Geesugonda mandal, threatened them, and robbed ?70,000 that Siddharth had kept aside for his college fees before fleeing the scene."Based on the victim's complaint, a case was registered on May 3. Acting on the instructions of Warangal Police Commissioner Sun Preet Singh, three special teams were formed under the supervision of East Zone DCP Ankit Kumar and Mamnoor ACP N. Venkatesh. Using technical evidence, the teams conducted an intensive investigation."On the morning of May 14, during vehicle checks at Ukkal Haveli Cross Road, the ac-

cused, who were travelling in the autorickshaw, noticed the police and attempted to escape. However, the police chased and apprehended them. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime."The arrested accused were identified as Martha Sai Kumar (24), Perumandla Balaji (19), Mekala Premanth Kumar (21), Pittala Sandeep (19), Neelam Akhil (29), and Koluguri Vikas (17)."Police seized a Bajaj passenger autorickshaw bearing registration number TS-26-TA-2508, five mobile phones, and ?15,000 in cash from their possession."Warangal Police Commissioner Sun Preet Singh and East Zone DCP Ankit Kumar appreciated CI D. Vishweshwar, SIs K. Kumar and G. Anil Kumar, and staff members P. Aravind, G. Bhaskar, K. Vijay Kumar, G. Praveen Kumar, N. Kumaraswamy, P. Lokesh, and S. Sai Kumar for their commendable efforts in solving the case.

Government Will Procure Every Grain of Paddy at MSP

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy22,000 Crore Allocated for Paddy Procurement

Special Measures at District Level to Resolve Hamali and Transport Issues"Lorries and DCM Vehicles to Be Used Exclusively for Paddy Transport for 15 Days""Khammam, May 14 (Indian Chronicle):""State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the government will procure every grain of paddy brought to procurement centres at the Minimum Support Price (MSP)."On Thursday, the Minister, along with State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, reviewed paddy procurement operations with officials of the undivided Khammam district at the Khammam Collectorate conference hall. District Collector Divakar TS, Kothagudem District Collector Ankit, MLC Shankar Naik, Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, and Wyra MLA Ramdas Naik also attended the meeting."Speaking on the occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that 8,575 procurement centres have already been opened across the state. During the current Yasangi season, paddy cultivation was carried out in 65 lakh acres, yielding around 140 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. Out of this, the government aims to procure 90 lakh metric tonnes."He said the government has kept ?22,000 crore ready for paddy procurement. So far, 30 lakh metric tonnes of paddy have been procured and ?4,800 crore has been paid to farmers. He added that the Telangana government spends nearly ?45,000 crore every year on paddy procurement from farmers."The Minister explained that hamalis (loading workers) usually come from Bihar and West Bengal, but due to prevailing conditions in those states, there is currently a shortage of labourers. He also said the extreme summer heat has affected daytime work. To address the issue, special measures are being taken at the district level."To solve transportation problems, the government has decided to use lorries and DCM vehicles mainly for paddy transportation over the next 15 days. Restrictions have been imposed on sand, cement, and other transport operations to prioritize paddy movement."The Minister noted that the record crop yield this season has also created storage challenges. The government is taking steps to increase storage capacity and arrange additional warehouses."He advised farmers to bring only clean paddy with permissible moisture levels, as per Central government guidelines. Warning against illegal deductions during procurement, he said reports have been received that some traders and millers are making unlawful cuts of five to six kilograms per quintal. The government will not tolerate such practices and strict action will be taken against those harassing farmers in the name of moisture or wastage deductions."Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the government is prepared to bear financial losses if necessary for the welfare of farmers.

Adhikari government allows CBI to file charge sheets against 9 Bengal officials accused of corruption

GNS News Agency,May 14

The West Bengal government Wednesday gave approval to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to file charge sheets against nine government officials allegedly involved in recruitment scams during the erstwhile Trinamool Congress-led regime. Among these officials, eight are accused of being involved in the teacher recruitment scam, and one in the municipal recruitment scam.The eight officials accused of involvement in the teacher recruitment scam are Santi Prasad Sinha, Subiresh Bhattacharya, Kalyanmoy Ganguly, Saumitra Sarkar, Samarjit Acharya, Parna Bose, Ashok Kumar Saha, and Sharmila Mitra. The official alleged to be involved in the municipal recruitment scam is Jyotisman Chattopadhyay.

According to administrative rules, a sanction for prosecution is required from the state government concerned to file an investigation or charge sheet against a government official.Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said the state government has zero tolerance for any corruption.Attacking former chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Suvendu Adhikari alleged, "The outgoing chief minister-cum-home minister withheld this permission. As a result, the CBI could not take legal action against many officers despite evidence of corruption.""People have a lot of expectations from the new government. Our government will follow a 'zero-tolerance' policy on corruption. No illegal activity will be tolerated," Adhikari added.The government order stated, "That the said accused persons have violated Section 7A (of the Prevention of Corruption Act) by accepting undue advantage to induce a public servant, by corrupt and illegal means, and by exercise of personal influence to perform improperly or dishonestly. AND that the said accused persons have violated Section 8 by inducing public servants to perform improperly a public duty by giving undue advantage to another person.""The Governor, on being satisfied, is pleased hereby, under Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, to accord sanction for prosecution of the said accused persons for committing the offence punishable under sections 7 and 7A and 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Sanction is further accorded for prosecution for any other law that requires the sanction of the Government," the order added.

Lions, leopards, and now a 'groom' tiger: Inside Gujarat's plan to become the only home to 4 big cats

GNS News Agency,May 14

From being one of the biggest and last natural homes of the Asiatic lions to preparing a habitat for cheetahs in Kutch and witnessing tiger movement after 33 years, Gujarat may be inching towards an unprecedented wildlife milestone – of becoming home to four of the world's iconic big cats.The possibility was prominently discussed on Thursday at the first pre-event of the International Big Cat (IBC) Alliance Summit 2026, where Gujarat leaders and Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav spoke about expanding habitats for lions, tiger dispersal into Gujarat, and the state's readiness for future cheetah conservation efforts.

Addressing the gathering, Gujarat forest and environment minister Arjun Modhwadia said the state already hosts two of the big cats – lions and leopards – and has developed strong ambitions to increase the tiger population following the arrival of a lone tiger into the Ratanmahal forest range in Central Gujarat from the Tigers Outside Reserve Territory (TOTR). Modhwadia also urged Yadav to "bring the cheetahs" to Gujarat.Speaking at the event, Modhwadia said, "Gujarat is fortunate to have two of the big cats, the leopard and the lion. The lion is found only here… The third big cat is the tiger." Modhwadia, in a lighter vein, also urged the Union minister to expedite the process of bringing in a mate for the lone male tiger – for which the state has made requests through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Modhwadia said, "As the groom (tiger) is ready, we are waiting for the bride (mate). And we definitely have to bring her here. For that too, we have already prepared her home here…"The remarks come amid the state government's ongoing efforts to improve tiger habitats after Gujarat was officially recognised as a "Tiger State" after over three decades of waiting, and the recent declaration announcing the Chhari-Dhand Conservation Reserve, located at the edge of the vast, arid Banni grasslands, as a 'Ramsar Site' in January.In March, while speaking in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Modhwadia had announced that work on a "Cheetah Conservation Breeding Center" in Kutch's Banni grasslands had been accelerated following approval from the Union government, for which Rs 14.70 crore has been allocated so far.

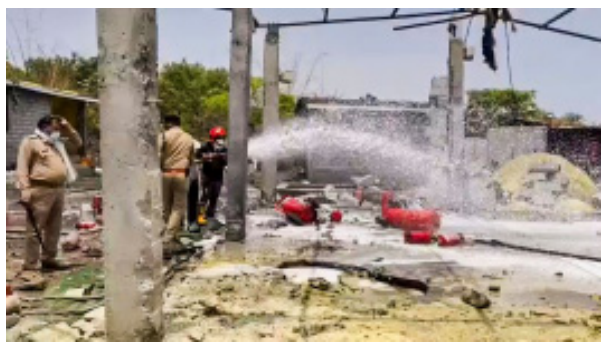
Yadav, who also addressed the gathering in Gir on Thursday, underlined Gujarat's growing importance in global wildlife conservation, particularly for Asiatic lions, which he described as a "successful conservation model before the world".Yadav said, "While on one hand, the number of lions across Africa is declining, on the other hand, the population of Asiatic lions in Gujarat and Gir is continuously increasing," Yadav said, calling Gujarat "a state providing leadership to the world in lion conservation."The Union minister said India's latest 2025 estimation for the greater Gir landscape had placed the Asiatic lion population at 891, which would mean a rise of around 32 per cent compared to 2020.Yadav added, "Today, even in the International Union for Conservation of Nature list, the lion has been placed in the 'vulnerable' category because of habitat and quality degradation. While the world has witnessed a 30 per cent decline in lion populations globally, only in Gir are we witness-

ing nearly a 30 per cent increase in their numbers… Their natural dispersal has happened towards Barda… their number has reached 24."

He said the species also continues to receive the highest level of legal protection under India's wildlife laws and under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.The Union minister also confirmed that construction work for a National Research Centre for Wildlife had begun in Junagadh and described it as an ambitious national project that could emerge among the world's leading wildlife research centres.Yadav acknowledged the tiger movement into Gujarat outside conventional tiger territories. "Tigers are already moving outside traditional tiger territories… Gujarat has lions, leopards, and now even tigers have arrived here," he said. The comment comes in the backdrop of the decision to undertake a census to confirm the presence of the tiger in Gujarat by the forest department.The census to be held in mid-June, forest officials said, will help determine if more tigers have strayed into the Gujarat forest corridor adjoining Madhya Pradesh – especially, Ratanmahal and Shoolpaneshwar, where the department has made active efforts to increase prey base for the big cats.Yadav also linked Gujarat's future wildlife ambitions to the Banni grasslands of Kutch, which are being ecologically restored to combat desertification. Referring to India's ongoing cheetah and Great Indian Bustard (GIB) conservation experiments, Yadav said he believed "the successful groundwork of that experiment will also take shape in the Kutch region of Gujarat."

The statements were made ahead of the International Big Cats Conference scheduled in Delhi on June 1 under the umbrella of the International Big Cat Alliance, a global conservation initiative launched by India after 50 years of Project Tiger. Yadav said more than 400 global delegates, policymakers, conservation specialists, financial institutions, corporates, and scientists would participate in the summit.Describing big cats as "silent architects of nature", Yadav said apex predators were essential to maintaining ecological balance and argued that climate change had intensified because humanity had "lost balance with nature".Yadav further stressed that Gir's success lay not only in species protection but also in community participation. "Today, the lion of Gir is not only Gir's lion – it is a symbol of pride and emotional attachment for every resident of Saurashtra and Gujarat," he said.

3 killed, 15 injured in fire after blast at firecracker unit in MP's Dewas; CM orders probe



At least three workers were killed, and 15 people were injured after a fire broke out following an explosion at a firecracker factory in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district on Thursday, an official said.

GNS News Agency,May 14

At least three workers were killed and 15 persons injured after a fire broke out following an explosion at a firecracker factoryDewas: Police and administration personnel carry out a relief and rescue operation after an explosion at an alleged illegal firecracker factory in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district, Thursday, May 14, 2026. Multiple casualties feared in the incident. At least three workers were killed, and 15 people were injured after a fire broke out following an explosion at a firecracker factory in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district on Thursday, an official said.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the incident and ordered an investigation. The state government will provide an assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased, and the injured will receive free treatment, he said in a post on X.Three people were killed in the fire at the firecracker unit located in Tonk Kalan area, and around 15 injured persons were sent to hospitals in Indore and Dewas, Collector Rituraj Singh told reporters after inspecting the site.Videos of the aftermath surfaced on social media, showing thick white smoke billowing from the factory along the Agraa-Mumbai national highway. The clips also showed people rushing the injured for treatment amid cries for help, with body parts seen scattered at the site.The collector said the fire has been brought under control. The administration has taken possession of explosives stored at another location within the unit, he said.The work to manufacture small firecrackers at the factory of a person named Anil Malviya had begun only 15 days ago, and a licence has been issued for the unit, the collector said.A detailed investigation is underway into the incident, he added.CM Yadav said, "I have directed Deputy Chief Minister and Dewas district guardian minister Jagdish Devda, the home secretary, and senior officials to visit the spot. An inquiry has also been ordered into the incident."Residents said there was a massive explosion at the factory, and the victims' body parts were found scattered far away from the site.They said construction work was underway at the site and different sheds were being built there.

This Gujarat woman has an Aadhaar and voter ID. Why she is not getting a passport

Dolly Vadalia was just 18 days old when she and her parents had to flee their home in the Xai Xai province of Mozambique due to a devastating flood in 2000. Her parents, eager to rush to safety, could not submit her birth certificate at the Indian consulate there. Little did they know that this would leave their daughter stateless.On April 30, the Gujarat High Court turned down Dolly's plea for an Indian passport, stating that she had "failed to prove her Indian citizenship" by way of birth or descent. Mozambique authorities have refused to grant her a passport because she did not return to the country before the emergency certificate, which enabled the family to leave during the flood, expired.

Now 26, Dolly is a trained dietician and wants to join her husband in Canada. But she cannot do so without a passport. The government of India has twice rejected her application for an Indian passport.Section 4(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 says, "Birth of every child born abroad should be registered with the Consulate, within one year from the date of birth of the child. Only after registration of birth as an Indian citizen, the child becomes citizen of India and eligible for passport or any other services rendered to Indian citizens." Since Dolly's birth was not registered with the Consulate within the deadline, she does not qualify for a passport under the law.A narrow escape

Dolly's father Ketan Baria went to Xai Xai in Mozambique with his wife Aarti in 1995. There, he managed a wholesale grocery business with his cousin. Dolly was born on February 18, 2000. "The very next day, the flood began. It was so sudden and destructive that our house and the shop were inundated. We took refuge with our neighbours on a higher floor of the building," Baria told Xai-Xai, located in Gaza Province, is about 210 km from Mozambique capital Maputo. Ketan Barai said, "As the flooding continued, the Indian population in Xai-Xai were beginning to return home because of the fear of diseases. Because it was a small town, emergency services like medical aid were not always available and we had a newborn child. So we got an emergency certificate from the government and flew to Maputo city by helicopter. From there, we boarded a flight to India. But her birth could not be registered there at that time due to the situation."

A World Bank report dating April 7, 2000 captured the scale of the flood. "From February 4 to 7, 2000, due to the effects of cyclone Connie, Maputo city received 455 mm of rainfall, or nearly half the average annual total. Similar exceptionally heavy rains across southern Mozambique exacerbated normal seasonal flooding, inundating low-lying areas. From February 20 to 22, Zimbabwe and Swaziland, filling reservoirs on river basins draining through southern Mozambique and triggering more extensive flooding, particularly along the Limpopo, Incomati and Umbeluzi rivers. It was the first time in recorded memory that all three river systems flooded at the same time in Mozambique," it said. Later, the Baria family decided not to return to Mozambique.Dolly did not face trouble in getting any other identity proof over the past two-and-a-half decades. She has an Aadhar card, a voter ID, a PAN card and a Master's Degree from an Indian University.

"Back then, there was no passport office in Rajkot and the closest ones were in Ahmedabad and Mumbai. When I asked someone in the Ahmedabad office regarding my daughter's citizenship status, I was told she could choose citizenship at the age of 18 and claim it by descent. So we did not think it necessary to do anything at that point," Baria said.Dolly then married her Canadian-based husband at a ceremony in India. When she applied for a passport, a rude shock was waiting."When we first approached the Regional Passport Office to get the passport, they asked us for a citizenship certificate. So we approached the Rajkot Collectorate to apply for citizenship. We had all documents except a valid foreign passport. Dolly was brought to India on an emergency certificate, the validity of which was 3 months. We wrote to the Mozambique High Commission in Delhi to give us a letter. But they said that once the emergency certificate expired, they could not do anything about it," said Dolly's brother-in-law Ronak Vadalia.

The family then approached the Gujarat High Court. The court, however, declined to accept her as an Indian citizen by descent, and asked her to apply for citizenship. The family approached the collectorate again on May 9, but was told that the system did not permit Dolly to apply for citizenship in the absence of a valid foreign passport.In 2025, the Vadalia family approached a Rajkot court, seeking directions that Dolly's birth be "deemed" to have taken place in India.In an order dated October 16, 2025, KR Gagnani, Judicial Magistrate First Class of the Municipal Court in Rajkot, ordered the Registrar of Births and Deaths at the Rajkot Municipal Corporation to do so. "The RMC then issued the birth certificate with Rajkot Municipal Corporation as the place of birth," said Ronak Vadalia. This was challenged in court as the government said it recorded "incorrect place of birth".There are seven categories under which a person can apply for Indian citizenship. But the very first requirement in the applications for all these categories is "copy of a valid foreign passport".

For the past two years, Dolly and her family members have been running from office to office and writing to various ministries, the Mozambique High Commission in Delhi and the Indian Commission in Maputo to find a way out of this Catch-22-like situation.At this point, Dolly is 'stateless' – not a citizen of any country. She does not have a valid foreign passport, needed to apply for Indian citizenship."Without this requirement being fulfilled in the online registration system, the system doesn't allow the user to proceed to the next step, effectively ending the process before it even begins," said her 55-year-old father.Dolly Vadalia told The Indian Express that she now plans to appeal before a division bench of the high court. "Because the circumstances of our return from Mozambique were such that there was a massive flood in which we could have died. My parents waded through floodwaters and reached the airport before flying out of there to India. In that situation, they could only arrange an emergency certificate that would enable me to leave the country," she said.

2 days WFH, 'Metro Monday' for Delhi government amid PM Modi's austerity push

GNS News Agency,May 14

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced a two-day mandatory work-from-home directive for government sector employees. Private sector has also been urged to follow. Overall the measures place remote work at the centre of a broader fuel-saving and traffic reduction push that will roll out from Friday.The move comes as part of a broader set of energy conservation measures announced by the government, including a 20% reduction in monthly fuel allowances for government officials, encouragement for ministers and staff to use the Metro every Monday under a "Metro Monday" initiative, and an appeal to citizens to observe one "No Vehicle Day" each week to curb fuel use and traffic congestion.

The government has also decided to suspend the purchase of new official vehicles for six months and reduce the size of official motorcades, alongside a push for greater use of public transport and reduced reliance on personal and departmental vehicles for routine travel.To further stagger peak-hour traffic, Delhi government offices will now operate from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm, while Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) offices will function from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The administration has also proposed shifting 50 per cent of official meetings online to reduce routine inter-office travel.In government offices, additional energy efficiency measures will be enforced, including mandatory air conditioning settings between 24–26°C and installation of sensor-based master switches to curb unnecessary electricity consumption.All official foreign visits by ministers and government officials have been suspended for one year as part of the administrative cost-cutting and fuel-reduction drive, while departments have also been asked to minimise travel by adopting virtual modes of communication wherever possible.Traders have also been advised to shift freight movement from road transport to rail wherever feasible, in an effort to reduce diesel consumption and ease pressure on city roads, particularly during peak traffic hours.The government will also launch a 90-day "Made in India" awareness campaign from May 15, aimed at promoting indigenous products in malls and supermarkets. The initiative will include the preparation of an official list of Indian electronic goods and involve outreach in schools, colleges, and public institutions, alongside citizen pledges on individual responsibility for energy conservation, Gupta said.

SIR drive to cover 36.73 Crore voters across 16 States, 3 UTs

GNS News Agency,May 14

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Thursday announced the rollout of phase 3 of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 16 states and three Union Territories involving 36.73 crore voters in a phased manner beginning May 30.The states and UTs where the SIR will be carried out are Delhi, Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Punjab, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Telangana are opposition-ruled among the states where the SIR exercise will be held.

Over 3.94 lakh booth level officers (BLOs) will go house-to-house of 36.73 crore electors during the latest poll roll revision exercise. They will be assisted by 3.42 lakh booth level agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties during the enumeration phase. The schedule for the SIR in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh will be announced later keeping in view weather conditions in snow-bound areas, the EC said in a statement.

Once phase 3 is completed, the entire country will be covered except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The schedule of SIR phase 3 has been fixed keeping in view the common field machinery with the ongoing house listing of the ongoing Census exercise.The final electoral rolls of the 16 states and three UTs will be published on different dates this year, beginning with Odisha, Sikkim, Mizoram and Manipur on September 6 and ending with Tripura on December 23. The final poll roll of Delhi, along with those of Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, will be out on October 7.

The SIR has already been conducted in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. A "special revision" was conducted in Assam.In his message on the latest phase of SIR, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said, "I appeal to all electors to enthusiastically participate in phase 3 of the SIR and fill their enumeration forms. SIR is being conducted with the objective to ensure that only eligible voters to be included in the electoral roll and no ineligible names to be included." The combined voters' list of nine states and three UTs in phase 2 of SIR was pruned by 10.2 per cent, with over 60 lakh dead voters removed.

The voter base across the 12 states and UTs stood at more than 50.99 crore when phase 2 of the SIR was announced by the EC on October 27 last. Post the exercise, the voters' list stands at 45.81 crore – a decline of over 5.18 crore. In percentage terms, the electoral rolls have been reduced by 10.2 per cent.

‘He died saving others ‘: Op Sindoor aircraft crash victim’s family in Bathinda awaits job one year after death

GNS News Agency,May 14

Raj Kumar Singh, a daily wage labourer who died from injuries sustained in the explosion in Operation SindoorRaj Kumar Singh, a daily wage labourer who died from injuries sustained in the explosion in Operation Sindoor A year after a military aircraft crashed in fields near Akalia Kalan village in Bathinda during Operation Sindoor, the family of Raj Kumar Singh — a daily wage labourer who died from injuries sustained in the explosion — is still waiting for a government job that could give them a stable footing.The Punjab Government provided only Rs 2 lakh compensation to the victim’s family, against Rs 10 lakh given for a similar death in Ferozpur.

Raj Kumar Singh, a resident of Kothe Natha Singh Wale in Mehma Sawai, was injured on May 7 last year when the aircraft came down in nearby fields.He had rushed to the site along with other villagers and was helping to extinguish the fire when the aircraft exploded. He died later at AIIMS, Bathinda, from severe head injuries.In the months that followed, his wife Paramjit Kaur formally applied for government compensation. The family eventually received Rs 2 lakh, divided equally among four members — Kaur, their two children, and Singh’s mother.However, in a similar case, the state government has given Rs 10 lakh in compensation to the family of an individual who died in a drone attack in the border district of Ferozepur on May 9, 2025.Paramjit Kaur, afflicted with a chronic knee condition, cannot work. Their elder child, Jagmeet Singh, now in Class 11, leaves for school each morning and heads to work in the evening to keep the household going. Their younger child, Gagandeep Kaur, is still in school. The family survives on the widow’s pension that Kaur and the children receive.

The family had demanded a government job for one family member. That demand has not been met.“He died helping others. We are not asking for charity, we are asking for a chance to stand on our feet,” said Paramjit Kaur.A General Diary Detail police report of May 11, 2025, corroborates the incident. According to a statement recorded in the report by the victim’s younger brother Virval, the deceased had stayed overnight at the fields where he worked and was among the villagers who rushed to assist after the aircraft crashed and caught fire. He was reportedly helping others extinguish the flames when the aircraft exploded, injuring several people, including Singh and his son Jagmeet.The Diary Detail further notes that the explosion occurred accidentally. No foul play has been reported, and the family has declined to pursue legal action against anyone involved. Based on a statement from the deceased’s brother, officers had initiated proceedings under Section 194 (investigating death) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Raj Kumar Singh’s death was one of two civilian fatalities recorded in the Bathinda district linked to the aircraft crash. Govind Kumar, 32, a farm labourer from Haryana who had come to Bathinda for seasonal work, died at the crash site. He is survived by his wife, Mamta, and two young children.“We are not aware if Govind’s family received any compensation. The government must give a job to my brother’s family. We are daily wagers. We had to do legwork to get Rs 2 lakh compensation. The government itself should have provided the compensation and a job, as it was not a mistake of my brother that he was killed on that day,” said Virval, brother of the victim.

‘Denied house for being SC/ST’: Karnataka Police orders urgent housing for officers facing caste bias

GNS News Agency,May 14

Several lower-rank Karnataka police personnel belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Bengaluru and other parts of the state have alleged caste-based discrimination in the rental housing market, claiming that landlords often refuse accommodation after learning about their caste identity.The issue has now prompted the state police headquarters to direct authorities to prioritise allotment of police quarters for personnel facing such difficulties.

In a circular issued on Monday, Additional Director General of Police (Grievances and Human Rights) Devajyoti Ray, on behalf of the director general and inspector general of police (DGP and IGP), said concerns over caste-based discrimination in rental housing were raised during a government assurance committee meeting held at the Vidhana Soudha on April 28.The committee noted that several SC/ST personnel were allegedly denied rental accommodation on caste grounds, leaving them with limited housing options. This, the circular said, was affecting punctuality and causing hardship, particularly for lower-rank personnel posted across the state. These personnel were reportedly forced to stay on the outskirts, making it difficult for them to report for duty on time.“In this regard, if police officers/staff working in the respective units submit representations stating that they are being denied rental accommodation on the basis of caste, such applications shall be examined/reviewed and action shall be taken on priority to allot vacant government quarters,” the circular stated.

Sources said the issue is also linked to mutual distrust between landlords and tenants. Some landlords reportedly fear legal action under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the event of disputes related to rent or eviction, leading to reluctance in renting out houses to SC/ST tenants.“As a result, many SC/ST tenants face difficulties in securing rental accommodation and resolving tenancy disputes, while landlords remain apprehensive about possible legal consequences if conflicts escalate,” a senior official from the State Human Rights Commission said.A senior police official, however, clarified that suggesting SC/ST police personnel are confined only to lower ranks would be incorrect. The official noted that officers from these communities are represented across all levels in the department in line with constitutional provisions and reservation policies.At the same time, he acknowledged that personnel in lower ranks are more likely to face practical difficulties securing rented accommodation due to social constraints. He said allotment of police quarters has so far been carried out on a seniority and first-come, first-served basis, and the same system will continue even after the recent circular.

However, he added that if genuine cases of housing discrimination are brought to the department’s notice, they will examine them case-by-case and extend support, including efforts to provide police quarters wherever feasible.Officers also said that such cases had not been reported or formally noticed so far, but following the issuance of the circular, the issue has now been brought to the department’s attention.Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Home Minister G Parameshwara said nearly 40 per cent of the department’s staff had already been allotted quarters and that the remaining personnel would be accommodated in a phased manner under the Police Gruha scheme.“We are allocating funds every year for the construction of new buildings, and once the proposal comes from the department, we will take it up on priority. Many police quarters still exist in buildings constructed during the British era, and several of them are now in a dilapidated condition in Bengaluru. We are gradually vacating such old structures and will begin constructing new buildings in their place,” he said.“At present, around 40 per cent of our police personnel are getting quarters, and we will continue to increase that number through various police housing programmes. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that nearly 90 per cent of police personnel get housing facilities. Once the proposal is submitted, we will consider it on priority and take it forward accordingly,” the minister added.

Amit Shah ‘call’ to AAP’s Raj Kumar Chabbewal sparks police probe in Punjab

GNS News Agency,May 14

A phone call allegedly made by a person impersonating Union Home Minister Amit Shah to AAP MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal on his birthday Friday sparked political buzz in Punjab, with the first-time parliamentarian saying he was “surprised” and that he had informed the Hoshiarpur police.According to Hoshiarpur police, Chabbewal lodged a complaint, stating that he received a phone call from an unknown number, during which a person said that Amit Shah wanted to speak to him. Later, someone spoke to him and claimed to be Amit Shah, the MP said in his complaint.Chabbewal, who represents Hoshairpur in Lok Sabha, said he received the call around 8.45 am. “A person first asked if I was Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal. When I said yes, he said the ‘Home Minister’ wanted to speak to me. Another person then came on the line, wished me a happy birthday and asked where I was. I said Hoshiarpur. He then told me to meet him in Delhi whenever I come. I said okay,” he said.He added that while the voice did not match Amit Shah’s, he suspected it was a fake call. “It came from a mobile number, not a hidden or official line. I immediately informed the SSP, and the matter is being investigated,” he said.

Chabbewal said it was unclear whether it was a prank or had another motive, but stressed that it should be probed.Speaking to The Indian Express, Sandeep Kumar Malik, SSP, Hoshiarpur, said they received a complaint from the MP in the morning regarding the phone call he received. “We are examining the complaint and will get technical inputs regarding the phone number which has been mentioned by the MP. Further action on the complaint will be taken as per the results of the investigation,” said Malik.The incident has sparked discussion in political circles, especially amid ongoing political churn and speculation about shifting loyalties ahead of the Punjab Assembly election due next year.

Soon after the defection of six Rajya Sabha MPs of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, there has been widespread speculation on whether its three Lok Sabha members — Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal (Hoshiarpur), Malwinder Singh Kang (Anandpur Sahib), and Gurmeet Singh ‘Meet’ Hayer (Sangrur) — will also jump ship.Dr Chabbewal is a former two-time MLA of the Congress party and a radiologist. He joined the Congress in 2009, quit the party in 2024 ahead of the general elections and joined the AAP. He was appointed chairperson of the Congress party’s Scheduled Caste (SC) Department in Punjab in 2015 and served until 2024. He was also a member of the All India Congress Committee.In the 2012 Punjab Assembly elections, he contested from Chabbewal Assembly constituency but lost. He won his first term as MLA from the Chabbewal (Reserved) constituency in 2017. In the 2019 general elections, Congress fielded him from the Hoshiarpur (Reserved) constituency, but he lost to the BJP’s Som Parkash by about 48,530 votes.In the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls, he secured re-election from Chabbewal, emerging as the only Congress winner in Hoshiarpur district, which has seven assembly segments.

On April 10, 2022, he was appointed Deputy Leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in the Punjab Assembly. As an Opposition leader, he was known for his vocal criticism of the AAP government, particularly on issues like law and order, education, healthcare, drug abuse, and state debt. He made symbolic protests in the Assembly, such as carrying a chain to highlight governance failures.On March 15, 2024, Chabbewal resigned from the Congress party, the Punjab Assembly, and his position as Deputy CLP Leader. He joined the Aam Aadmi Party the same day, inducted by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.The AAP fielded him from the Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha seat, which he won with 303,859 votes, defeating Congress candidate Yamini Gomar by a margin of 44,111 votes.His son, Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbewal, was fielded by the AAP in the bypoll for the Assembly seat vacated by his father and won it by a margin of 28,690 votes.

ED action against close aides of AAP top guns: 2 Mohali FIRs, multiple police inquiries form basis of raids

Two FIRs registered by the Punjab Police in Mohali after a series of inquiries between 2020 and 2024 have become the basis for Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids conducted across 12 locations on Thursday, including the residences of close aides of AAP’s Punjab president Aman Arora. The raids relate to alleged real-estate fraud, forged Change of Land Use (CLU) approvals, cheating of landowners and homebuyers, and suspected money laundering linked to the ‘Suntec City’ project of the Indian Cooperative Housing Building Society and Altus Space Builders Pvt Ltd.In a statement issued after the raids, the ED said it had conducted “search and seizure operations on two real-estate groups involved in fraudulent Change of Land Use and duping of customers and land owners.” The agency’s action was based on two FIRs registered in Mohali – FIR No. 123 dated November 19, 2022, at Police Station Mullanpur, SAS Nagar, and FIR No. 7 dated February 1, 2024, at Police Station Phase-11, SAS Nagar.

According to the ED, raids led to the seizure of around Rs 1 crore in cash along with incriminating documents and digital devices. The agency also alleged that at the start of the raids, Rs 21 lakh in cash was thrown from a balcony before being recovered by officials. The probe concerns alleged forgery of landowner documents, illegal procurement of CLU approvals, unauthorized sale of plots, diversion of funds, and generation of proceeds of crime.

The first FIR originated from complaints filed in 2020 by Karamjit Singh of village Palheri, SAS Nagar, against office-bearers of the Indian Cooperative Housing Building Society and notary public Manvinder Singh. Complaint No. 709/P/SSP dated February 26, 2020, was followed by another complaint dated November 24, 2020, jointly filed by other landowners.The complainants alleged that the society prepared forged consent letters and fabricated documents related to their land to secure CLU approvals for the ‘Suntec City’ mega project. They claimed forged signatures and thumb impressions were used.The first inquiry was conducted by IPS officer Harmandeep Hans, then SP (Investigation), SAS Nagar. In Report No. 180/5S/SP (Investigation) dated November 25, 2020, Hans found that 53 kanals and 18 marlas of land belonging to Karamjit Singh had allegedly been included in forged consent documents.

The report stated that forged consent letters carrying fake signatures of the complainant and forged signatures and thumb impressions of 14 others were allegedly prepared in 2014 as part of a conspiracy to obtain CLU approvals without genuine consent. The inquiry noted that the accused failed to produce supporting records or witnesses, and discrepancies in witness details appeared deliberate.Hans recommended registration of a criminal case under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B IPC against society office-bearers Suresh Kumar Bajaj (President), Ashish Kamra (Vice President), Ajay Sehgal (Secretary), and Rajesh Girdhar (Treasurer).

However, the DDA Legal branch, in a letter dated January 9, 2021, advised further investigation before registration of an FIR. It directed the police to verify the authority before whom the forged documents were allegedly used, obtain copies of the disputed documents, conduct an FSL examination of signatures, and examine witnesses.A fresh inquiry was then assigned to PPS officer Vikram Brar, then DSP Kharar-2, Mullanpur. During this inquiry, neither the complainants nor the accused could produce the original consent letters allegedly used to obtain CLU approvals. Police records also noted that GMADA lacked original copies of the documents, making forensic comparison impossible.The matter was again referred for legal opinion. District Attorney (Prosecution) Sanjeev Batra, in his opinion dated December 15, 2021, observed that no prima facie dishonest intention to usurp land or cheat had surfaced against the society and its office-bearers. He also noted the society was willing to pay market value for the land. Based on this opinion, the complaints were closed on December 23, 2021.The matter resurfaced in 2022 after proceedings in CRWP No. 9767 of 2022 titled ‘Bahadur Singh and another versus State of Punjab and another’. Following directions from the Director, Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, a fresh review was conducted. SP (Investigation) Amandeep, in a report dated November 19, 2022, noted that original consent letters allegedly submitted before GMADA and RERA remained unavailable, and even society office-bearers failed to produce them. The disappearance of the documents was described as suspicious.The inquiry concluded that office-bearers had prima facie prepared forged consent letters in conspiracy to obtain CLU approvals and allegedly usurp complainants’ land. It recommended registration of a case under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 472, and 120-B of IPC against Suresh Kumar Bajaj, Ashish Kamra, Ajay Sehgal, and Rajesh Girdhar. Citing the Supreme Court judgment in ‘Lalita Kumari vs Government of Uttar Pradesh’ (2013), the report recommended mandatory FIR registration. FIR No. 123 was subsequently registered on November 19, 2022.

In its May 2026 statement, the ED alleged that Suresh Kumar Bajaj and Ajay Sehgal prepared fake consent letters relating to 30.5 acres belonging to 15 landowners. The agency claimed forged signatures and thumb impressions were used to secure CLU approval for the Suntec City project, after which more than Rs 150 crore was collected by admitting members without executing sale deeds.The ED further alleged that Ajay Sehgal developed the ‘La Canela’ residential complex and ‘District 7’ commercial complex using CLU permissions obtained through forged consent letters. According to the agency, all units in these projects were sold, generating proceeds of crime. The ED also said GMADA later cancelled the society’s licence following litigation before the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The second FIR stemmed from complaints filed on October 5, 2023, by Gurpreet Kaur of Chandigarh, Sukhpreet Singh of Ludhiana, and Harbans Kaur of Chandigarh.The complainants alleged that Altus Space Builders Pvt Ltd sold residential plots in its ‘Millennium Court’ project at village Nagiari, Mohali, falsely claiming final CLU approval from GMADA had already been obtained, while concealing that the approval was conditional and later cancelled.The inquiry, conducted by SP (Rural), SAS Nagar, found that the company planned the project in 2011 and applied for CLU approval only on December 12, 2011, despite plots allegedly being sold before approval. Investigators concluded the company lacked sufficient land required for CLU approval and that the project was never developed.Police records showed Gurpreet Kaur allegedly paid Rs 5 lakh through bank transfer and Rs 7.5 lakh in cash on June 4, 2011. Amarjit Kaur, mother of Sukhpreet Singh, allegedly paid Rs 34 lakh, including Rs 32 lakh in cash, while Harbans Kaur allegedly paid Rs 14 lakh, including Rs 12 lakh in cash. Receipts allegedly issued by CEO Harpreet Singh acknowledging cash payments were also examined.Investigators found that despite receiving money, the company neither executed sale deeds nor handed over possession, even after nearly 13 years. The inquiry concluded that company directors and officials had prima facie committed criminal breach of trust and cheating.Following approval by SSP SAS Nagar on January 27, 2024, FIR No. 7 was registered on February 1, 2024, under Sections 406, 420, and 120-B of IPC against Mohinder Singh, Harpreet Singh, Gurtej Singh Saran, Jaswinder Singh, Hardev Kaur Saran, and Narinder Singh Sidhu.The ED further alleged that Gaurav Dhir of Dhir Constructions, through M/s Suncity Projects, purchased the Altus project for Rs 130 crore by undervaluing it by more than Rs 170 crore. The agency claimed Dhir is a close associate of senior AAP leader Aman Arora. It also alleged that middlemen Nitin Gohal and Pritpal Singh Dhindsa facilitated political patronage and protection. According to the ED, documents seized during the raids indicate interference by private individuals in Punjab government functioning.AAP Punjab President Aman Arora rejected the allegations, accusing the BJP of using central agencies to target Opposition leaders. He said AAP leaders were not afraid of the ED or CBI and described the action as political intimidation aimed at silencing Opposition voices. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, too, had denied any association with any of those under ED’s ongoing investigation.

AIMIM corporator Mateen Patel named accused in Nashik TCS conversion case

GNS News Agency,May 14

TCS Nashik case: Cops allege accused Nida Khan gave victim burqa, religious books, planned to send her to MalaysiaNida Khan, who is one of the eight accused in the alleged TCS sexual harassment and conversion case, was arrested by the Nashik City police. A day after arresting Nida Khan, an accused in the alleged TCS sexual harassment and conversion case, the Nashik City police Friday named AIMIM corporator Mateen Patel as an accused. Sources said he will be charged for allegedly harbouring an offender.Nashik City Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik said, “Naregao (located in Sambhaji Nagar) Corporator Mateen Patel has also been made an accused in the case. We will investigate and identify all who have harboured them and hindered legal process.”

He added that Patel was not arrested, but a notice was issued to him, following which he was allowed to go. The officer said that Nida Khan will be produced before a Nashik court, where they will seek her custody for custodial interrogation.Earlier, the prosecution, while opposing Nida Khan’s bail plea, had said that she had played a role in the ‘religious conversion’ of a victim by giving her a burqa, religious books, and installing religious apps on her phone.Khan, who worked at TCS’s BPO office in Nashik, is one of eight accused named across nine FIRs registered by the Nashik City police between March 26 and April 3 in connection with the alleged sexual harassment and conversion case.Seven others – Danish Sheikh, Shafi Shaikh, Asif Ansari, Tausif Attar, Shahrukh Qureshi, Raza Memon, and Ashwini Chainani – have already been arrested.The case came to light in February when a local political party worker approached the Nashik police, alleging that a Hindu woman working at the BPO had been influenced to follow Islamic practices at her workplace.The police deployed constables as undercover housekeeping staff inside the 147-employee BPO for several days, which, the police claimed, provided the grounds for action.TCS had stated that it has a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and coercion of any form, and that the employees allegedly involved in sexual harassment have been suspended.

Hantavirus-stricken cruise ship arrives at Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands

Tenerife: A hantavirus-stricken cruise ship with more than 140 people on board has arrived at Tenerife, the largest of Spain's Canary Islands, off the coast of West Africa, where the passengers and some of the crew are to disembark.The World Health Organisation, Spanish authorities and cruise company Oceanwide Expeditions have said that nobody on board the MV Hondius is currently showing symptoms of the virus.

Three people have died since the outbreak, and five passengers who left the ship are infected with hantavirus, which can cause life-threatening illness.The ship will not dock but will remain at anchor, with people ferried off in small boats. Everyone disembarking will be checked for symptoms, and will only be taken off the ship once evacuation flights are ready to fly them to their destinations.There are currently people of more than 20 different nationalities on board.WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, along with Spain's health and interior ministers, were to be supervising the evacuation of the ship. Authorities have said the passengers and crew members who will disembark will have no contact with the local population.Hantavirus usually spreads when people inhale contaminated residue of rodent droppings and isn't easily transmitted between people. But the Andes virus detected in the cruise ship outbreak may be able to spread between people in rare cases. Symptoms usually show between one and eight weeks after exposure.Authorities are aiming to complete the evacuation flights on Sunday and Monday, the director of the WHO's Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Management, Maria Van Kerkhove, said in a briefing Saturday.Both the US and the UK have agreed to send planes to evacuate their citizens. Americans are to be quarantined at a medical centre in Nebraska.All Spanish passengers will be transferred to a medical facility and quarantined. Oceanwide has listed 13 Spanish passengers and one Spanish crew member on board.

Those disembarking will leave behind their luggage, and will be allowed to take only a small bag with essential items, a cellphone, charger and documentation.Some crew, as well as the body of a passenger who died on board, will remain on the ship, which will sail on to the Netherlands where it will undergo disinfection, Spanish authorities said.

British military says ship caught fire after being hit off coast of Qatar

Dubai: The British military said a ship caught fire after being hit by an unknoGNS News Agency,May 14***wn projectile off the coast of Qatar.***The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre said the attack caused a small fire on the bulk carrier, which was extinguished.The attack happened 23 nautical miles (43 km) northeast of Qatar's capital, Doha, the UKMTO said.It was the latest attack on vessels in the Persian Gulf since a shaky ceasefire stopped fighting between the United States and Iran.There have been several attacks against ships in the Persian Gulf over the past week. On Friday, the US struck two Iranian oil tankers after it said the tankers were trying to breach its blockade of Iran's ports.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard navy has warned that any attack on Iranian oil tankers or commercial vessels would be met with a "heavy assault" on one of the US bases in the region and enemy ships.US President Donald Trump has reiterated threats to resume full-scale bombing if Iran doesn't accept an agreement to reopen the strait and roll back its nuclear programme.Iran has mostly blocked the critical waterway for global energy since the US and Israel launched the war on Feb 28, causing a global spike in fuel prices and rattling world markets.

Tanker crosses Strait of Hormuz as US waits for Iran's response to peace proposal

WASHINGTON/CAIRO,GNS News Agency,May 14 A Qatari natural gas tanker ?crossed the Strait of Hormuz on for the first time since the start of the Iran war, heading for Pakistan, while Washington continued to ?wait for Tehran's response to its latest proposals to begin peace talks.After some 48 hours of relative calm following sporadic clashes last week that have shaken a month-old ceasefire, Kuwait detected several hostile drones in its airspace early on Sunday, authorities said.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

But the QatarEnergy-operated carrier Al Kharaitiyat passed safely through the strait and was heading for Pakistan's Port Qasim, according to data from shipping analytics firm Kpler, the first Qatari vessel ?carrying liquefied natural gas to cross the strait since the U.S. and Israel started the war on Feb 28.Sources said earlier the transfer, which offered a modicum ?of relief to Pakistan after a wave of power blackouts caused by a halt to vital gas imports, had been approved by ?Iran to build confidence with Qatar and Pakistan, both mediators in the war.But Iranian authorities said vessels from countries that follow U.S. sanctions against Iran would face problems crossing the Strait, the semi-official Tasnim news agency said The United States is still waiting for a response from Tehran to a proposal that would formally end the war before the start ?of talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

A reporter for French broadcaster LCI, Margot Haddad, said on Saturday that Trump had told her in a brief interview that he still expected to find out Iran's answer "very soon".A map showing the inbound and outbound shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to the the maritime boundary between Oman and Iran.TRUMP IS UNDER PRESSURE TO END WAR AHEAD OF CHINA VISITWith U.S. President Donald Trump due to visit China this week, there has been mounting pressure to draw a line under the war, which ?has ignited a global energy crisis and poses a growing threat to the world economy.Tehran has largely blocked non-Iranian shipping through the narrow Strait of Hormuz, which before the ?war carried one-fifth of the world's oil supply and which has emerged as one of the central pressure points in the war.Iranian lawmakers have said they are drafting a bill to formalise Iran's management ?of the ?strait, with clauses including forbidden passage to vessels of "hostile states".U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani in Miami on Saturday and discussed the need to continue working together "to deter threats and promote stability and security across the Middle East," the State Department said in a statement, which did not mention Iran.

Recent days have seen the biggest flare-ups in fighting in and around the strait since a ceasefire began a month ago: the United Arab Emirates came under renewed attack on Friday and sporadic clashes were reported ?between Iranian forces and U.S. vessels in ?the strait.US BERATES ALLIES FOR NOT HELPING ?TO REOPEN STRAITWashington imposed a blockade on Iranian vessels last month but Tehran has so far taken its time before responding to calls to end a war that surveys show is unpopular with U.S. voters facing ever-higher gasoline prices.A CIA assessment indicated Iran would not suffer severe ?economic pressure from a U.S. blockade for about another four months, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter.A senior ?intelligence official characterised as ?false the "claims" about the CIA analysis, which was first reported by the Washington Post.

The U.S. has also found little international support in the conflict, with NATO allies refusing calls to send ships to open the Strait of Hormuz without a full peace deal and an internationally mandated mission.After meeting Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Friday, Rubio questioned why Italy and other allies were not ?backing Washington's ?efforts to reopen the strait, warning of a dangerous precedent if Tehran were allowed to control an international ?waterway.Britain, which has been working with France on a proposal to ensure safe transit through the strait once the situation stabilises, said on Saturday it was deploying a warship to the Middle East in preparation for such a ?multinational mission.National security correspondent focusing on the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Reports on U.S. military activity and operations throughout the world and the impact that they have. Has reported from over two dozen countries to include Iraq, Afghanistan, and much of the Middle East, Asia and Europe. From Karachi, Pakistan.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill three, medics say, testing fragile ceasefire

CAIRO,GNS News Agency,May 14 - Israeli strikes killed at least three Palestinians in Gaza , including two ?members of the Hamas-run police force, health officials said, in violence that underscored the fragility of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire.Medics said an air strike killed one person in the Maghazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, while another killed the head of the criminal police force in Khan Younis, Wessam Abdel-Hadi, and his aide, according to Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Reuters has previously reported that Israel has heightened its attacks on Gaza's Hamas-run police ?force that the militants have used to re-establish

governance in areas under their control.The Israeli military didn't immediately ?comment on either incident.Violence in Gaza has persisted despite an October 2025 ceasefire, with Israel conducting almost daily attacks.At least 850 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire took effect.

Trump's feuds, tensions with allies likely to outlast Iran war

WASHINGTON,- With his decision to pull some U.S. troops from Germany, his threats to draw down forces elsewhere in Europe and his downplaying of Iran's recent attacks on an important Gulf partner, President Donald Trump's latest moves foreshadow what could be the war's enduring legacy: the fraying of ties with key allies.Even as the U.S. and Iran inch toward a potential off-ramp from their 10-week war, Trump's words and deeds have revived fears among Washington's long-standing friends - from Europe to the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific - that the United States might be unreliable in a future crisis.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.In response, some traditional U.S. partners are starting to hedge their bets in ways ?that may bring long-lasting changes in relations with Washington, while adversaries such as China and Russia are looking to exploit strategic openings.It is not yet clear whether Trump's war with Iran will mark a permanent turning point in U.S. relations with the world.But most analysts believe his erratic conduct ?since returning to office, essentially upending the rules-based global order, will further erode U.S. alliances, especially with NATO continuing to feel his ire for largely resisting his wartime demands."Trump's recklessness with respect to Iran is resulting in some dramatic shifts," said Brett Bruen, a former adviser in the Obama administration who now heads the Situation Room strategic consultancy. "U.S. credibility is at stake."

Tensions are especially high between Trump and the Europeans since he joined Israel in striking Iran on February 28, claiming without evidence that Tehran was close to developing a nuclear weapon. Iran's retaliatory closure of the Strait of Hormuz unleashed an unprecedented global energy shock that has made European countries some of the biggest economic losers from a war they never asked for.Even before that, Trump had rattled allies by imposing sweeping tariffs, pushing to take over Greenland from Denmark and cutting military aid to Ukraine.

The rift widened when Trump announced this week he was withdrawing 5,000 of the 36,400 troops the U.S. has stationed in Germany after Chancellor Friedrich Merz angered him by saying publicly that the Iranians were humiliating the U.S. The Pentagon then scrapped a planned deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles to ?Germany.Trump - who has long questioned whether the U.S. should remain in the NATO alliance it helped create after World War Two - said he was also considering reducing U.S. forces in Italy and Spain, whose leaders have been at odds with him over the war.The move followed Trump's accusations that allies have not been doing enough to back the U.S. in the war and his suggestions that this meant Washington might no longer need to honor the alliance's Article 5 mutual defense clause.

"President Trump has made his disappointment with NATO and other allies clear," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said, noting that some requests to use military bases in Europe for the Iran war had been denied by host governments.While insisting that Trump had "restored America's standing on the world stage and strengthened relationships abroad," she said he "will never allow the United States to be treated unfairly and taken advantage of by so-called 'allies.'"Trump had earlier taken aim at British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, deriding him ?in March as "not Winston Churchill" and threatening to impose a "big tariff" on imports from the UK.

And Trump's Pentagon has floated the prospect of punishing NATO allies it believes have failed to support U.S. operations against Iran, including suspending Spain as a member and reviewing U.S. recognition of Britain's claim to the Falkland Islands.European governments have responded by stepping up efforts to increase cooperation among themselves, shoulder more of their own defense burden and jointly develop weapons systems to reduce reliance on the U.S., while trying to convince Trump of the value of maintaining transatlantic allies.

One European diplomat called Trump's threats a clear signal for Europe to invest more in its own security but said leaders were resigned to having to roll with the punches for now.As "middle powers," the Europeans have limited options, especially given their dependence on their superpower ally for strategic ?deterrence against any possible attack from Russia, and analysts say the transition to greater self-reliance will take years.In their efforts to mollify Trump, meanwhile, European officials have quietly stressed that many of their countries are allowing U.S. forces to use bases on their soil and their airspace during the Iran campaign.But European leaders, some of whom had used flattery with ?Trump to defuse earlier crises, are also becoming wise to his negotiating tactics and more emboldened in standing up to him, analysts say.Jeff Rathke, president of the American-German Institute at Johns Hopkins University, said that while Merz had seemed to charm Trump during earlier meetings, now he "is not trying to hide the critical assessment of what the United States has gotten itself into."

But the Europeans are also mindful that ?Trump, barred by law from running again, could feel unrestrained "to do whatever he thinks" on the world stage before he leaves office in January 2029, the European diplomat said.As some European leaders sound the alarm about NATO's future, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told a conference in Warsaw there is no need to panic so long as Europe delivers on promised higher military spending, which Trump has long demanded.Even so, the strains on U.S. alliances extend well beyond Europe.When Iran this week launched missile and drone attacks against the United Arab Emirates, a close U.S. ally, Trump and his aides seemed to turn a blind eye, causing further unease among Gulf Arab states already hard hit by the war.

Trump was quick to dismiss a strike on Monday as minor, though it set fire to the important Fujairah oil port and prompted the government to close schools, and even after further attacks later in the week he insisted that a month-old ceasefire was still holding.Trump went to war against the advice of some Gulf partners, and though they soon lined up in solidarity some now worry he ?could strike a deal that leaves them facing a still-dangerous neighbor.

The war has also ?stirred anxiety among Asian partners, many heavily dependent on oil that flowed freely through the strait before the conflict.Countries like Japan and South Korea have already been unsettled by Trump's high tariffs and disparagement of traditional alliances. Some may now wonder whether the vulnerability he has shown to economic pressure at home, including high gasoline prices, could mean Trump might hesitate when asked to help in a conflict with China, such as an invasion of Taiwan.

"What worries us most is that trust in, respect for, and expectations toward the United States - the core partner in the alliance Japan values most - have been shrinking," Takeshi Iwaya, ?who served as Japan's foreign minister at the start of Trump's second term, told Reuters. "It could cast a long shadow over the entire region."Yasutoshi Nishimura, a former Japanese trade minister, said it has become increasingly important for Tokyo to respond to the ?shifting global power dynamic by forging closer ties with "like-minded ?middle powers" such as Britain, Canada, Australia and European nations.

Since the start of the war, Russia and China, long-time allies of Iran, have mostly steered clear, but analysts say they are watching closely.Experts warn that Trump's use of raw power in a war of choice against Iran, coming just weeks after a U.S. raid in Caracas that captured Venezuela's president, could embolden China and Russia to intensify coercive moves against their neighbors.

Russia, a leading energy producer, has benefited from higher oil and natural gas prices driven up by the Iran war as well as the U.S. and Europe being distracted from the war in Ukraine.Though the Iran crisis has crimped China's energy supplies, Beijing may have learned lessons seeing the U.S. having to shift military assets from the Indo-Pacific ?to the Middle East and ?how the world's most powerful armed forces have at times been outmaneuvered by asymmetric tactics such as cheap drones, analysts say.

China has also seized the opportunity to try to promote itself as a more reliable ?global partner than the unpredictable Trump, who is due to visit Beijing next week.But Victoria Coates, Trump's deputy national security adviser in his first term, said Beijing would have a difficult time using the U.S. war against Iran as "carte blanche to run around the world saying that we're a destabilizing force.""They haven't exactly been a strong partner to their ally Iran throughout all this," said Coates, now a vice president at the conservative Heritage Foundation ?think tank in Washington.

Spanish passengers start disembarkation from ship hit by hantavirus

TENERIFE/MADRID, Spain said it had begun bringing Spanish passengers ashore from the cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak which anchored near Tenerife on Sunday, with groups of nationals from other countries to follow.Spanish nationals were the first to disembark on small boats in groups of five and be taken to shore where they were transferred onto buses and taken to the local airport.Keep up with the latest medical breakthroughs and healthcare trends with the Reuters Health Rounds newsletter. Sign up here.

The passengers, who are not ?showing any symptoms of the virus, will board a flight back to Madrid on a Spanish military plane and taken to hospital to be quarantined, government officials said, emphasising that they will have no contact with members of the public.The luxury cruise ship left for Spain on Wednesday from the coast of Cape Verde after the World Health Organization and European Union asked the country to manage ?the evacuation of passengers after the hantavirus outbreak was detected.NO RODENTS DETECTED ON THE SHIP

Countries including Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the U.S., UK and the Netherlands ?confirmed on Saturday they had sent planes to evacuate their citizens aboard, though local government officials in the Canaries said not all planes had arrived by Sunday morning.The World Health Organization (WHO) said in an update on Friday that eight people no longer on the ship had fallen ill, including three who died - a Dutch couple and a German ?national; of the eight, six are confirmed to have contracted the virus, with another two suspected cases.All passengers on the MV Hondius are considered ?high-risk contacts as a precautionary measure, Europe's public health agency said late on Saturday as part of its rapid scientific advice, adding that the risk to the general population remains low.

The WHO has recommended a 42-day quarantine period for passengers aboard the ship starting from Sunday.Spain's health ministry added in a report saying the ship had passed the appropriate health checks: "There are more than 500 cruise ships a year that come from Argentina and Chile, which is home to the virus, and yet an outbreak of this illness has never happened in European territory so the possibility it happens in relation to this ship is remote."Hantavirus is ?usually spread by rodents but can in ?rare cases be transmitted person-to-person.

"According to the information provided by the experts who boarded the ship, the hygiene and environmental conditions are appropriate and they have not detected rodents so transmission by exposure to rodents on board is not likely," the report read.Passengers ?will not leave the boat until their allocated evacuation plane has arrived, Spanish officials said.Passengers from the Netherlands will be the next ?group to leave the vessel, and their plane will also transport passengers from Germany, Belgium and Greece, Spanish Health Minister Monica Garcia said on Sunday.After that, passengers from Turkey, France, the UK and U.S. will be evacuated, the minister added, speaking to reporters at the port of Tenerife."The final flight of the operation is ?departing from ?Australia... It is the most complex flight and is scheduled to arrive tomorrow afternoon," Garcia ?said, adding that the final flight would pick up six people from Australia, New Zealand and other Asian countries.Thirty crew members will remain on board and sail to the Netherlands where ?the ship will be disinfected.

A capacity-led bet on the GLP-1 gold rush

GNS News Agency,May 14That implies nearly 3x growth in three years, alongside an 800-basis-point margin expansion. And all of it is tied to what may be the single biggest pharmaceutical patent cliff of this decade.Yet for most of the 15 months since its demerger from Strides Pharma, almost nobody was paying attention.

The reason OneSource Specialty Pharma is suddenly impossible to ignore is not because the business transformed overnight. It is because three powerful trends are converging simultaneously: the explosive growth of the GLP-1 market, the patent cliff for semaglutide, and the global shift toward high-complexity contract manufacturing.Demand is no longer the question. The only real variable is the timing of regulatory approvals. And on April 21, 2026, that variable moved sharply in the company's favour.Understanding what OneSource buildsOneSource Specialty Pharma was demerged from Strides Pharma in 2024 and listed separately in January 2025. The company officially reports revenue under a single segment: CDMO (Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation).

Within CDMO, however, the business operates across three key sub-segments, though the exact revenue split is not disclosed in investor presentations or the FY25 annual report. These sub-segments include:Drug-Device Combinations (DDC) and Biologics: Growth Engine

Drug-Device Combinations is the company's primary growth engine. The segment is already scaling rapidly, driven by strong demand for GLP-1 therapies.Ongoing capex will expand cartridge capacity from roughly 40 million units in FY25 to 220 million units by the end of FY27. This expansion is backed by long-term supply agreements, many of which include upfront capacity reservation fees from more than 20 GLP-1 customers, including four of the top five global generic players.Under the DDC segment, OneSource manufactures GLP-1 injection pens, not generic injectable drugs or tablets. These are sophisticated delivery systems that require years of comparability studies, device validation, and human-factor testing before regulatory approval.Once regulators validate a manufacturing site for a specific process, switching suppliers becomes operationally complex and commercially unattractive.

The company's Bengaluru flagship facility is already USFDA-approved for biologics fill-finish and device assembly*, a capability very few Indian plants possess.The company's flagship Bengaluru facility is already USFDA-approved for biologics fill-finish and device assembly, capabilities that very few Indian facilities possess.Fill-finish refers to the final stage of sterile manufacturing, where purified biologic drugs are filled into vials or syringes and assembled into ready-to-use injection devices.

Sterile injectables, including complex formulations, prefilled syringes, and lyophilized vials, form a substantial and stable part of the business. The company serves customers across the US, Europe, and Australia.High regulatory barriers protect the segment from commodity-style pricing pressure, enabling relatively stable growth. It is expected to deliver steady growth supported by capacity expansions (e.g., scaling pre-filled syringes) and new product introductions.Softgel manufacturing remains the company's steady foundation.With an annual capacity of 2.4 billion capsules, OneSource ranks among the top five global softgel CDMO players. While the segment's relative contribution may decline as faster-growing businesses such as DDC scale up, the underlying business remains strong and continues to benefit from consistent demand and operational efficiencies.As noted earlier, the company does not disclose revenue contribution by sub-segment.Revenue declined 26% YoY to Rs 290 crore, EBITDA margins fell sharply from 36% to 6%, and adjusted PAT turned negative.

FY25 benefited from milestone-linked CDMO income, creating a high base for comparison. Management also indicated that capacity allocation remained focused on upcoming GLP-1 commercial opportunities, while regulatory delays in Canada for a key semaglutide programme pushed back planned deliveries.Importantly, management maintained that underlying demand trends remain intact: 9MFY26 revenue stood at 993 crore versus 1,019 crore in 9MFY2PBIT margins normalised to 21.4% from an elevated 27.9% percent last yeaSo while quarterly numbers were weak, management commentary suggests the issue was primarily one of timing and utilisation rather than a collapse in demand.What is even more encouraging is that RFPs (Request for Proposal) continue to trend upwards, and the company has onboarded another global biosimilar player in the biologics segment. The inherent demand remains intact.GLP-1 receptor agonists such as semaglutide and tirzepatide generated more than $67 billion in global sales during calendar year 2025. What makes the opportunity even larger is the approaching patent expiry cycle. Semaglutide patents begin expiring from 2026 onward across Canada, Brazil, China, India, and eventually broader global markets.

GLP-1 receptor agonists mimic the body's natural "fullness hormone," helping lower blood sugar, suppress appetite, and drive significant weight loss.This creates a manufacturing opportunity estimated at 500 million to 1 billion additional pen devices annually, equivalent to a $1-2 billion addressable market for CDMOs.OneSource has already secured multiple regulatory and commercial milestones across key semaglutide markets.Tentative FDA approval is particularly significant. It means the product has already cleared quality, safety, and efficacy requirements. The remaining hurdle is patent and exclusivity clearance before commercial launch.At this stage, the bottleneck appears less about demand and more about how quickly approvals translate into commercial supply volumes.Capex and operating leverage: The inflection is here

Management's FY28 guidance remains firm: $500 million in revenue, 40 percent EBITDA margins in steady state, and net debt to EBITDA below 1.5x.The math behind that target is straightforward.More than $100 million in capex is being deployed over four years to expand DDC cartridge capacity from 40 million to 220 million units, scale pre-filled syringe lines, and build supporting infrastructure. Most of this investment is already committed, with the expanded capacity expected to become fully operational by FY27.

This is the classic setup for operating leverage. Fixed costs are being locked in today. If multiple high-margin GLP-1 programmes fire simultaneously across MENA, Canada, and the US, the same cost base spreads across a materially larger revenue base.The result is non-linear margin expansion, The next 24 months will revolve around two parallel developments: completing the capacity build-out and converting regulatory approvals into commercial supply. Both are already underway. The question is purely one of timing.No investment case is complete without an honest accounting of what could go wrong. Customer concentration: It is the most immediate pressure point. A significant portion of near-term revenue is tied toa small number of large GLP-1 programmes. If even one partnership faces delays or setbacks, quarterly financials could become volatile.Regulatory timing: Every CDMO depends on approval timelines it cannot control. The Canadian delay already demonstrated how quickly deferred approvals can impact revenue recognition. Demand may remain intact, but timing still matters.

Execution: The FY28 target of $500 million revenue assumes expanded capacity gets utilised on schedule. Given the current pipeline, that assumption appears reasonable, but it remains an assumption nonetheless.

Competition: Chinese and European CDMOs are pursuing the same opportunity. However, very few combine India's cost structure with a USFDA-approved biologics facility and a proven commercial track record across multiple regulated markets. That is not easy to replicate quickly.Technology shifts: Drug delivery of GLP-1 drugs could shift from injectable pens to orals, which would directly impact the company's business adversely.Trailing valuations appear expensive at first glance. With a market capitalisation of roughly Rs 20,000 crore and a current revenue run rate of Rs 1,400 crore, the trailing EV/EBITDA sits above 50x. That number alone will likely deter many investors.But trailing multiples may be the wrong lens for a business poised for growth.Under FY28 guidance, the picture changes dramatically.Rs 4,200 crore revenue at 40% EBITDA margins would imply roughly Rs 1,680 crore EBITDA, equivalent to nearly 12x forward EV/EBITDA for a business capable of generating high-teen to 20%+ ROCE once utilisation normalises.

The asymmetry is simple. Most investors chasing the GLP-1 wave are buying Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly at peak valuations, with the best already priced in. OneSource sits one step behind in the value chain, manufacturing the generic version of the same drugs at a fraction of the cost, with the approval catalysts still ahead of it.

The growth in the next 3-5 years may well be in the companies that actually make the affordable versions at scale.OneSource has built the plant, secured the approvals, and locked in the partners. The next 24 months are pure execution and operating leverage, exactly the kind of setup that creates asymmetric returns in specialty pharma. The hard part is already done. The other part, scaling into a multi-billion-dollar tailwind, is just beginning.The moat appears durable, the demand is secular, and the timing just got a whole lot better.In the GLP-1 gold rush, the quiet manufacturers who own the pens may end up with more durable alpha than the brands themselves. OneSource is positioning itself squarely in that camp.

Note: We have relied on data from http://www.Screener.in and http://www.tijorifinance.com throughout this article. Only in cases where the data was not available, have we used an alternate, but widely used and accepted source of information.Rahul Rao has helped conduct financial literacy programmes for over 1,50,000 investors. He has also worked at an AIF, focusing on small and mid-cap opportunities.

'I'm Game' to be Dulquer Salmaan's most stylish film!

Chennai: If sources in the industry are to be believed, actor Dulquer Salmaan has now said that his upcoming film 'I'm Game', which is being directed by Nahas Hidhayath, will be the most stylish in his career so far.Sources say that the film, which has been shot across a 100 locations in South India, is currently in its post-production stage. The shooting of the film was wrapped up in April this year.Taking to his X timeline to share pictures of the unit on the last day of shooting, Dulquer Salmaan, in April this year, had said, "Wrap day smiles say it all. #ImGame shoot done & dusted, couldn't be happier! Grateful for this journey… see you all on August 20."According to sources close to the actor, both the character and the world of the film had been designed in a highly modern and stylish manner. He had also stated that director Nahas Hidayath had specifically wanted to present him in a stylish new avatar, which has become one of the defining aspects of the project.In February this year, the makers of the film had marked Dulquer Salmaan's completion of 14 years as an actor by releasing a poster of his from the film. Dulquer Salmaan had then taken to his Instagram page to pen a post of gratitude.He had said, "Today marks 14 years of my journey as an actor. Thank you, each and every one of you ! For the endless love. For the encouragement. For a place in your hearts. To mark this milestone sharing a poster from my next ! #ImGame.

Coming to Cinemas near you this Onam." It may be recalled that the makers of the film had only in December last year welcomed actress Kayadu Lohar onboard the unit of the film. Kayadu Lohar is best known for her performance in director Ashwath Marimuthu's Tamil film 'Dragon', in which she played one of the female leads.Taking to his Instagram page, director Nahas Hidhayath had then said, "Adding sparkle to #ImGame – thrilled to welcome the gorgeous #KayaduLohar!." The film has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs ever since the makers released the first look poster of Dulquer Salmaan in the film. The first look poster had Dulquer striking a stylish pose with a pistol in his hand."I'm Game" marks director Nahas Hidayath's next venture after the blockbuster hit 'RDX'. Posters featuring the other lead actors too have been released by the makers. TheIt may be recalled that the film officially went on floors on May 3 last year. Actors Antony Varghese, Mysskin, Kathir, Parth Thiwari, and Tamil actress Samyuktha Viswanathan play pivotal roles in the project.

Mumbai to Ahmedabad @ 300kmph: The making of the bullet train

STANDING 23 metres above the ground, Anantha Guru, the site inspector at an under-construction viaduct of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor in Vaktana village near Surat, discusses a "mystery" with a group of engineers. The material that lies sandwiched between the track bed and the track slabs that hold the rails has a "secret ingredient" that allows trains to run at blinding speeds of 320 km per hour. Only the Japanese know what it is, they say.Guru walks towards the Cement Asphalt Mortar (CAM) injection car, a machine brought from Japan that's being used for the first time on Indian soil. Its task is precise. Before the rails can be laid on the track slab, it creates a 40-100 mm cushioning layer of mortar that absorbs the vibrations generated when trains run at such high speeds.

"With this machine, we inject CAM, a mixture of nine ingredients such as cement, asphalt, polymer emulsion, sand, water, and other materials. Three of the ingredients in CAM — cement, sand and water – are available in India; the rest comes from Japan," Guru explains.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs The 48-km Surat-Bilimora stretch of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail link is scheduled to be completed by August 2027. (Express Photo by Sankhadeep Banerjee)That's the missing link. "They (Japanese) mix something into the asphalt emulsion. They have not told us what it is," says another engineer, adding that researchers at IIT Kharagpur are now studying the material to decode it.Almost a decade after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the bullet train project in September 2017, the country's high-speed dreams are finally taking shape in the form of the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor.

The Rs 1.98-lakh-crore Mumbai-Ahmedabad line is the first of eight high-speed rail projects. The government hopes to build seven other lines, spanning 4,000 km, at a cost of Rs 16 lakh crore. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad project has Japan as the primary partner, with loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japanese technical experts training Indian engineers. As part of the initial deal signed in 2017, Japan was to supply its famed Shinkansens. However, amid growing "uncertainties", sources said, India has already started building its own bullet trains at a BEML plant in Bengaluru.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs At a track slab manufacturing facility in Kim, Surat. Over 36,000 slabs have been made here since September 2023.

After multiple delays, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor is expected to be operational by 2029. The first of the stretches, the 48 km from Surat to Bilimora, is scheduled to be completed by August 2027.

Overlooking the quiet flow of the Sabarmati is a 480-metre-long viaduct (bridges on which elevated railway lines or roads run). Over 90%, or 465.38 km, of the high-speed network's 508-km-long tracks will run on viaducts such as these, at heights of over 20 metres from the ground, making a journey in the bullet train a ride through the skies.A senior officer of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), the government organisation responsible for building and managing the high-speed rail corridors, said that unlike in European countries, the bullet train's tracks had to be elevated for safety reasons. "We could not have run the bullet train on the surface. People and animals cross the railway line. Even on the railway's broad gauge lines, where trains can go up to 160 kmph, barricades are installed on either side of the tracks. Here, in the case of the bullet train, we are talking of speeds of 300 kmph and upwards," the officer said.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs A track slab at the Kim facility. The track slab is the bed on which the high-speed rails run. Each slab weighs 4.5 tonnes.

The under-construction viaduct at Sabarmati river, which leads to one of the terminal points of the railway line, overlooks three other bridges. The closest is an old railway bridge, its tightly spaced piers (the vertical columns or pillars that support a viaduct) reminiscent of an earlier era of rail construction.Vijay Behera, Deputy Chief Project Manager, at the site, said that before the seven piers of the viaduct were built, engineers had to build piles (deep foundations to support heavy bridge loads) underwater. "For every pier, we have to cast 16 piles under the Sabarmati. This is one of the most difficult projects I have ever worked on. The bullet train itself will be light, but since it will have to travel at such high speeds, other dynamic forces such as air resistance, vibrations, and centrifugal forces will come into play. So the bridge has to be really strong," he says.

A few kilometers from the Sabarmati viaduct is a steel bridge that's being built over a road bridge. The structure, 80 metres long, is one of 28 steel bridges planned along the corridor. The bridge, weighing 1,004 metric tonnes, has seismic stoppers installed at its piers to help it withstand earthquakes. More than 36,000 bolts hold the structure together.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs The bullet train station at Ahmedabad.

While Japan moved directly from metre gauge (a narrow gauge in Japanese standard) to high-speed networks, India took the longer route, moving from narrow and metre gauge to broad gauge (maximum speeds of 160 kmph) that now form over 97% of the rail network. The next step, high-speed, took years to take off.At Ahmedabad, a slice of that journey is visible at an elevated level. Two lines of the Ahmedabad railway station, which were under conversion from metre gauge to broad, were taken over by NHSRCL. The Ahmedabad station for the high-speed rail is coming up here, above the older lines.A slab manufacturing facility at Kim, SuratAt a 14-acre factory in Kim, Surat, Arjun Yadav, a site worker from Uttar Pradesh, fixes his digital depth caliper to one side of a 4.5-tonne track slab to measure its thickness. The track slab is the bed on which the high-speed rails will rest. The machine reads 191 mm. Perfect, so he marks "OK" on its surface.

Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs Overlooking the quiet flow of the Sabarmati is a 480-metre-long bridges on which the bullet train will run. Over 90% of the high-speed network's 508-km-long tracks will run on elevated tracks. Even a minor variation would have made it redundant. The factory was set up in September 2023 to manufacture track slabs, one of two such facilities in Gujarat, for the Vapi-Vadodara stretch of the bullet train. At peak capacity, the facility can cast 120 track slabs a day.

The slab Yadav measured is the 36,112th track slab manufactured at the Kim factory. The Vapi-Vadodara stretch will need 96,000 track slabs, of which 36,000 have been supplied so far.Ravindra Singhal, a senior track expert at Kim, says three types of machinery have been deployed at the site — Japanese, Italian and Indian. "In Japan, a factory of this nature casts 20-30 slabs a day. Ours is much larger. The Japanese have a factory every 20-30 km. For this project, we have two factories so far. Around 1,000 people have been trained for this work by JARTS (Japan Railway Technical Service)," says Singhal.Sanchit Garg, overall incharge and joint general manager of IRCON, said 16 engineers had arrived from Japan to train engineers at the Kim facility.

Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs A straddle carrier, one of the many machines involved in building the nearly 500-km-long viaduct. (Express Photo by Sankhadeep Banerjee)It's a partnership that's evident at the HSR Depot in Surat-Niyol, nearly 30 km away. The depot is where the high-speed coaches will come for routine inspections once the project takes off.

Two engineers from Japan, Hokutu and Nake Mura, are at the facility to train Indian engineers to operate a wheel lathe machine.Hokutu, who has previously worked on Joetsu Shinkansen, later explains that the bullet train's steel wheels wear out from repeated contact with the tracks at high speeds. The wheel lathe machine restores the wheel's shape by shaving off a very thin outer layer of metal, a process called reprofiling. "A new wheel starts with a diameter of 860 mm. Every reprofiling makes it smaller, but once it reaches 790 mm, the wheel can no longer be used," he says."The machine was originally designed by the Germans, then the Japanese learned from them. Now we are passing the knowledge on to India," he says.

In the making of the bullet train are technological advances of the kind India has rarely witnessed before. Over a century after the British laid railway lines across India, using hard labour to lay thousands of kilometres of tracks, these high-speed lines are being put together by machines that tower over the landscape and the workers, steered by switches and engineers.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs At Shilphata in Mumbai, the tunnel passes beneath critical urban infrastructure – two major water pipelines and a 610-mm gas pipeline. An Ethylene Vinyl Acetate membrane brought in from South Korea has been installed as waterproofing. As the project enters Maharashtra, the landscape changes. In Basantwadi village, an Adivasi belt near Dahanu in Palghar district, the high-speed line cuts through the foothills of the Sahyadris. Tunnels replace viaducts and engineering becomes more complex.

Around 26.22 km (5.16%) of the 508-km high-speed line runs through tunnels. Of this, 21 km is in Mumbai and includes India's first 7-km undersea tunnel that runs beneath the Thane creek.Engineers of L&T working at Tunnel No. 6, a 380-metre-long mountain tunnel at Basantwadi, say the geological composition of the area – young basalt rock, mixed with layers of soil – makes excavation difficult and unpredictable. Work on the tunnel started in January 2025 and breakthrough was achieved in 350 days.

"The maximum overburden — the thickness of rock above the tunnel — is just 20 meters. For nearly 250 meters of the stretch, it drops to less than 14 metres, making the excavation very difficult. For the first time, we have an automatic, real-time monitoring system that tells us in advance if there is any possibility of tunnel collapse," he says.Deen Dayal Mathuria, project director of L&T at the site, said the tunnel, with a horseshoe shaped opening, will have a hood at the entrance. "At high speeds, a train entering a tunnel creates a powerful pressure wave and generates a loud, explosive sound. The entrance hood helps release this pressure gradually and reduce the noise," he says.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs From everywhere in Gowana, a village of around 6,000 in Palghar district, people can see the bullet train viaduct coming up.

Nearly 20 kilometers from the tunnel, in Gowana village, Palghar district, a massive launching gantry is at work, picking 980-tonne girders, each 40 meters long, and placing them into position. One after another, these segments come together to form the viaduct or bridge, the spine on which the train will run.At the centre of this operation is the girder transporter — a 400-tonne, 216-wheel carrier that has been designed and manufactured by L&T for the project. It moves slowly, much like the Hunter Killer machines in the Terminator, but with far gentler intent, as it carries girders from the casting yard, 2 km away, and shifts it to the launching gantry. The launching of a single girder takes about an hour.From his house in Gowana, a village of around 6,000, Sachin Pardi can see the blue arms of the launching gantry. "Mar jaayenge, lekin kabhi iss train mein nahi baith paayenge (We will die, but may never get to ride this train). I have to be born again to sit in the train," smiles Pardi, a paddy farmer.

Work on the viaduct continues through the night. With it, the constant hum of machinery and a siren that goes out loud intermittently before every new activity. "There is a lot of noise. It is very difficult for us to sleep," he says.Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, Mumbai Ahmedabad bullet train, Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car, cam injection car, Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, Bullet Train project, Express Premium, Indian express news, current affairs The project ends at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), the only underground station of the project. At Shilphata in Mumbai, the tunnel passes beneath critical urban infrastructure – two major water pipelines and a 610-mm gas pipeline.The tunnel cuts through the Parsik hills. In some sections, the thickness of the rocks above the tunnel was 160 metres, but elsewhere, it would drop to as little as 20 metres. At one particularly sensitive point, officials said, only 4 metres separated the tunnel from the pipelines above.

In Trump's ceasefire extension, there could be off-ramps for both sides

US President Donald Trump has once again stepped back from his earlier rhetoric of destroying Iran's power plants and bridges, unilaterally extending the two-week ceasefire that was due to expire on April 22. He stated that the decision was taken at the request of Islamabad, claiming that Iran's government was "seriously fractured".Trump has consistently asserted that he is winning the war. This is true to the extent that the United States and Israel have conducted a vast number of air strikes on thousands of Iranian strategic and tactical targets, significantly degrading its naval capabilities and missile-launching assets, and inflicting direct economic damage estimated to be between $145 billion and $300 billion. But he has not succeeded in compelling Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or accept his demands over uranium enrichment.

Trump has been seeking an honourable way out of the war since March 21, when he issued a 48-hour ultimatum to Tehran, threatening to destroy its civilian infrastructure. Since then, he has extended that ultimatum by 10 days, and followed it up with a two-week ceasefire, and now an indefinite ceasefire. However, Iran continues to be defiant.Washington has made several concessions to keep talks with Tehran alive, including pressuring Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire in Lebanon, and, most notably, moving away from his insistence on zero uranium enrichment to a 20-year suspension of enrichment.

Notwithstanding the continuous barrage of threatening rhetoric, he is aware of the damage the war would have on his presidency if it were to continue. A majority of the American people oppose the war, making this a politically fragile conflict for the US leadership. The two principal pillars on which Trump won his second term were his commitment to avoid further wars and his promise to bring down inflation. The continuation of the war and the rising price of gasoline mean that Trump is being forced to look for an off-ramp. Current indications suggest that the Republicans risk losing their majority in Congress — and possibly even in the Senate — if there is no resolution soon.Trump has stated that the ceasefire will continue to give Tehran time until "discussions are concluded". While Iran is currently playing hardball, insisting that the United States lift the blockade on the movement of its ships as a precondition for a second round of talks, Trump is unlikely to do so as it represents the most effective strategy to curtail Iran's oil revenues without needing to occupy Kharg Island.After Trump secured a ceasefire in Lebanon, Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, stated that the Strait of Hormuz was open for free movement. However, when Trump insisted on maintaining the blockade, the hardline factions within the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps prevailed and linked any subsequent discussions with the United States to its lifting. Thus, while direct talks may not resume immediately, mediation is expected to continue in an effort to reach some common ground.Is there a solution to this impasse?

It would also be in Iran's interest to end the war, provided its basic demands are met — namely, a guarantee that the United States and/or Israel will not attack it again, relief from sanctions , and control over the Strait of Hormuz, including the ability to generate revenue by charging a transit fee. While Trump has previously indicated that he might consider sharing revenue from the strait, such a proposal would face opposition not only from the Gulf states but also from most other countries that use it for trade purposes.What Iran seeks, however, is a mechanism for revenue generation to support its post-war reconstruction. This could be achieved through innovative arrangements, such as allowing it to levy a transit fee for a fixed period of time or establishing a reconstruction fund in which Gulf countries could participate, provided peace and security are restored in the region.

From Iran's perspective, it is crucial that its right to enrich uranium is recognised even if this is operationalised through a temporary suspension for a stipulated period. Iran is seeking to limit this to five years. It may also be willing to down-blend its 60 per cent enriched uranium, as it did with its 20 per cent enriched uranium after signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015 with the Obama administration. Unlike the JCPOA, which had a duration of 15 years, Iran may be willing to agree to a framework but without a fixed timeframe. It may also be prepared to commit to not developing very long-range missiles. Trump, on the other hand, could claim success by saying that Hezbollah has been decimated in Lebanon. These could be the off-ramps both seek.It is hoped that a framework agreement can be reached between the two sides, with the details to be worked out by technical teams. It is worth remembering that the JCPOA took more than two years to be finalised. While any such agreement may be opposed by Israel, it would enable Trump to claim victory and focus on the visit of King Charles III at the end of this month and his own visit to China in mid-May.

From high BP of 160/100 mmHg to 124/82 mmHg: How yoga, diet and simple strength training helped 58-year-old who had never exercised

When Lalitbhai Shah, 58, first came to us, he was not only carrying a medical report, he was carrying stress, tiredness and worry. He had high blood pressure (160/100 mmHg), cholesterol and warning signs of poor heart health. He had spent years working hard, handling responsibilities, eating at odd times, sleeping late and not finding enough time for exercise.Along with this came headaches, poor sleep, acidity, neck stiffness, occasional chest heaviness and constant tiredness. Instead of only focusing on symptoms, we worked on Lalitbhai's complete health.

Practice began with restorative postures that required very little effort. In Shavasana, he lay still on his back, consciously releasing tension from each part of the body, allowing the breath to settle into a natural rhythm. Vajrasana, a simple kneeling posture, encouraged an upright spine and steady breathing after meals, aiding digestion and grounding the mind. Sukhasana, the cross-legged seated pose, became a daily anchor for quiet sitting and breath awareness. Alongside these, gentle joint movements — small rotations and stretches — helped improve circulation without placing strain on the system.As his body adapted, forward bends such as Janu Sirsasana and a mild form of Paschimottanasana encouraged a gradual release along the spine. Janu Sirsasana, commonly translated as the "head-to-knee pose," is a seated forward bend that combines gentle stretching with inward focus. The posture begins with one leg extended straight in front while the other is bent, the sole of the foot resting against the inner thigh of the extended leg. From this asymmetrical base, the torso folds forward over the straight leg, with the hands reaching toward the foot, ankle or shin depending on flexibility.

Paschimottanasana, the seated forward bend, is done with the legs extended straight ahead. The practitioner folds forward from the hips, reaching toward the feet while keeping the spine long rather than collapsed. The abdomen gently rests over the thighs as the head moves toward the knees. The emphasis is not on how far one can reach, but on the gradual lengthening of the back body — the spine, hamstrings and calves —paired with slow, even breathing.Setu Bandhasana, performed as a supported bridge, lifted the pelvis gently, easing pressure in the lower back while improving blood flow through the chest. Ustrasana and Bhujangasana, both back-opening postures, worked to expand the chest and lungs, countering years of slumped posture and shallow breathing while also releasing stored emotional tension. Even Tadasana, the mountain pose that involves standing tall with weight evenly distributed, aligning the body and reducing accumulated strain from poor posture.We eliminated processed foods, fried snacks, sweets, excess tea and late-night meals to fresh fruits, vegetable juices, soaked nuts and seeds, balanced home-cooked meals, salads, herbs and micronutrient-rich foods. We maintained a cycle of hydration and meal timings with lighter and earlier dinners.

Within three months, Lalitbhai lost six kilos. His bloating reduced, digestion improved, sleep deepened and his blood pressure came down to around 138/88 mmHg. His stamina improved and chest discomfort reduced significantly.With improved energy came the introduction of structured movement. Walking evolved into a more deliberate routine that included mobility work, light resistance training and functional exercises designed to rebuild strength without overwhelming the system. Gentle squats and supported lunges helped restore lower body strength and stability. Wall push-ups and modified floor push-ups gradually strengthened the upper body while protecting the joints. Light resistance bands were used to improve muscle tone and joint integrity, particularly around the shoulders and back.Core stability exercises, including controlled leg raises and basic planks performed for short durations, helped support posture and reduce strain on the spine. The emphasis throughout remained on controlled movement, proper breathing and consistency rather than intensity.Within a year of consistent effort, Lalitbhai's blood pressure stabilised around 124/82 mmHg. He slept better, felt more energetic and became mentally lighter. His medications were also reviewed and adjusted. This was not magic. It was the result of regular effort, right guidance and a holistic approach.

27 years after gangster Sadiq Kalia was killed in a police encounter, his nephew is arrested for avenging his death

gangster Sadiq Kalia, Sadiq Kalia police encounter, gangster Sadiq Kalia nephew arrested for avenging his death, Sadiq Kalia nephew arrested, gangster nephew arrested for avenging his death, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairsAt 6.45 pm on April 20, when Seliya's wife and son were out, police said Javar and Mithani allegedly entered the residence and carried out the attack. CCTV cameras in the area captured their movements before and after, police said.When Mumbai gangster Sadiq Kalia was shot dead in a police encounter at Dadar in 1999, his nephew, Sadiq Javar, was barely two years old. And yet, 27 years later, according to Mumbai Police, Javar allegedly went looking for the man he blamed for it — an "informant" whose tip-off had allegedly led to Kalia's killing by a team led by "encounter specialist" Daya Nayak.

On the evening of April 20, the alleged informant Iqbal Ibrahim Seliya, 78, was alone at his home in Nagpada when two men walked in and attacked him with a chopper. They struck him more than 20 times and left only after making sure he was dead. When Seliya's wife and son returned home, police said, they found him lying in a pool of blood.Four days later, on Friday, the Mumbai Crime Branch said it had tracked down and arrested the alleged killers, Javar and an associate Naushad Mithani (22), in Nagpur.

According to police, Javar's uncle Sadiq Kalia grew up in Kalachowki under difficult circumstances, selling shoes on the footpath to get by in the 1990s. When members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang came around collecting hafta (protection money), Kalia refused to pay. That "fearlessness" caught the attention of gangster Chhota Shakeel who recruited him into the gang, a police officer said.Through the mid-to-late 1990s, Kalia and sharpshooter Munna Jhingada, who is now believed to be in Pakistan, allegedly carried out multiple killings across Mumbai. In late 1999, Nayak and his police team were waiting for Kalia in Dadar, where he had allegedly come to kill a prominent political leader.Police say Javar, then a toddler, grew up in the shadow of that encounter and came to believe that Seliya, a Nagpada resident, had been the informant who sealed his uncle's fate. Javar, a resident of Mira Road, is also related to the deceased.At 6.45 pm on April 20, when Seliya's wife and son were out, police said Javar and Mithani allegedly entered the residence and carried out the attack. CCTV cameras in the area captured their movements before and after, police said.

After the murder, according to police, the two made their way to Antop Hill, then to Vidyavihar, where they boarded a train to Kalyan before hiring a vehicle to drive through the night to Nagpur, over 700 km away.Acting on technical surveillance, officers said, a Crime Branch team followed the trail and caught up with them within four days. The accused allegedly confessed and described their escape route in detail, the police said.Speaking to The Indian Express, Senior Inspector Pradeep Kale of Nagpada police station confirmed the murder, the victim's identity and said the investigation was "ongoing". Sources in the Crime Branch confirmed that the arrest was made on Friday and that the accused are currently being brought to Mumbai for further legal process.

Is skipping dinner the secret to beating a slowing metabolism after 40? Here's what science really says about your 'internal clock'

A 40-year-old patient recently asked whether he should stop eating dinner altogether. He had come across social media advice suggesting that metabolism slows down at night and skipping dinner could help prevent blood sugar spikes. The question is common, but the answer is not as simple as it appears.Age alone does not determine whether someone should eat dinner. What matters more is how the body's metabolism changes over time and how meal timing interacts with those changes.

After 40, the body gradually becomes less efficient at handling blood sugar, particularly later in the day. At the same time, there is a natural tendency towards increased fat accumulation and a decline in muscle mass. These shifts make the body more sensitive to when and how food is consumed, rather than just how much is eaten.The body's internal clockThe human body runs on an internal clock that regulates not only sleep but also metabolism. Hormones that control hunger, insulin activity and energy use follow a daily rhythm. During daylight hours, the body is better prepared to process food. As night approaches, it begins to wind down in preparation for rest. Eating late in the evening can create a mismatch between the body's readiness to process food and the actual intake of calories.Why timing matters

An emerging area of research known as chrononutrition focuses on the relationship between meal timing and metabolism. Evidence suggests that consuming more calories earlier in the day and keeping dinner lighter is associated with better blood sugar control and weight regulation. This pattern becomes particularly relevant after 40, when the body's metabolic flexibility declines.The impact of late mealsLate, heavy dinners are linked to higher rises in blood sugar after eating and a slower return to normal levels. This reflects the body's reduced ability to handle glucose at night. Over time, such patterns may contribute to weight gain and increase the risk of metabolic conditions.

Food and sleepMeal timing and sleep are closely connected. Heavy evening meals can disrupt sleep quality, while poor sleep can in turn worsen blood sugar control and increase appetite. This two-way relationship highlights the importance of aligning eating habits with the body's natural rhythms.

While early, lighter dinners may be ideal from a metabolic perspective, real-life routines are often more complex. Much of the research on meal timing comes from settings where early dinners and structured schedules are common. In many parts of the world, including India, later evening meals are part of daily life, shaped by work schedules, family routines and cultural practices.Strict eating schedules may therefore be difficult to maintain and may not always deliver meaningful benefits if they do not fit into a person's lifestyle.Is dinner necessary?There is no biological requirement to have dinner as a fixed meal. However, eliminating it without ensuring adequate nutrition across the day can be counterproductive. Protein intake is especially important after 40 to help preserve muscle mass. Skipping dinner in a way that reduces overall protein consumption may accelerate muscle loss and negatively affect metabolic health.A practical approachFor most individuals, an earlier and lighter dinner is a sensible approach. Distributing food intake earlier in the day, while keeping the evening meal moderate and balanced, can support better blood sugar control, weight management and sleep. In contrast, regularly consuming large, late-night meals is associated with less favourable outcomes.When skipping dinner may workSome individuals adopt time-restricted eating patterns, where food intake is limited to certain hours of the day. In such cases, dinner may be reduced or omitted. While this approach can be beneficial for some people, particularly those with excess weight or early blood sugar disturbances, it is not suitable for everyone and should be tailored to individual needs.

Who should be cautiousCertain groups need to be careful with prolonged fasting or skipping meals. Individuals taking medications that lower blood sugar, as well as those who are underweight or frail, may be at risk of low blood sugar levels or inadequate nutrition.Dinner is not essential as a fixed daily ritual, even after 40. However, meal timing does matter. The focus should remain on supporting overall metabolic health while respecting individual routines and cultural habits, rather than following rigid rules.

Google plans 40 billion dollar investment in Anthropic as AI race intensifies

New Delhi: US tech giant Google plans to invest up to $40 billion in the artificial intelligence (AI) firm Anthropic, as global technology giants accelerate their push into advanced AI models and infrastructure.The proposed investment includes an initial $10 billion infusion at Anthropic's latest valuation of $380 billion, with the remaining $30 billion tied to performance-based milestones, the companies confirmed, according to multiple reports.The move has built on a multi-year partnership between the two firms, under which Google provides cloud infrastructure and access to Anthropic's AI models, including its Claude suite.Moreover, Anthropic also leverages Google's custom tensor processing units (TPUs) as an alternative to widely used graphics processing units.

The latest agreement between the tech firms came amid surging demand for generative AI tools across enterprises, developers and consumers, which has placed increasing pressure on computing infrastructure.Notably, Anthropic recently secured 5 gigawatts of compute capacity through collaborations involving Google and Broadcom, with additional expansion planned.

However, despite their collaboration, the companies remain competitors in the AI space, with Google's Gemini models vying against Anthropic's offerings in the rapidly evolving market.Additionally, Google has been steadily increasing its stake in Anthropic since 2023, when it first invested $300 million for roughly a 10 per cent holding. Subsequent funding rounds pushed its total investment beyond $3 billion, with reports suggesting a stake of about 14 per cent prior to the latest deal.The investment has underscored intensifying competition among major technology firms, which are committing tens of billions of dollars to leading AI labs such as Anthropic and rivals, including OpenAI.Anthropic was founded in 2021 by former OpenAI researchers and has seen rapid growth in adoption of its AI products, particularly its Claude models, with annualised revenue crossing $30 billion.The deal has followed a similar arrangement with Amazon, which recently invested $5 billion in Anthropic and committed up to $20 billion more, linked to specific commercial milestones.

Elon Musk drops key fraud claims in OpenAI lawsuit ahead of trial

New Delhi: Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, has reportedly withdrawn fraud claims against OpenAI and its co-founders Sam Altman and Greg Brockman, narrowing the scope of his lawsuit on the eve of trial.As per reports, Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, a US court judge, has allowed Musk to streamline the case, leaving just two claims, unjust enrichment and breach of charitable trust, out of the 26 included in his November 2024 complaint.Jury selection is scheduled to begin on Monday in a federal court in Oakland, California.Musk has alleged that OpenAI deviated from its founding mission as a non-profit aimed at benefiting humanity after securing billions of dollars in funding from Microsoft and transitioning towards a for-profit structure.He is seeking damages of up to $134 billion, which he said should be directed to OpenAI's charitable arm if he succeeds.Musk has also requested the court to restore the organisation's nonprofit status and remove Altman and Brockman from their leadership roles.

However, OpenAI, along with Altman, Brockman and Microsoft, has denied the allegations, calling them baseless and accusing Musk of introducing last-minute demands ahead of the trial.In the first phase, a jury will hear arguments related to the remaining claims and issue a non-binding advisory verdict.In the second phase

No layoffs planned but pay hikes deferred by a quarter, focus 'relentlessly' on costs: Air India top brass to staff

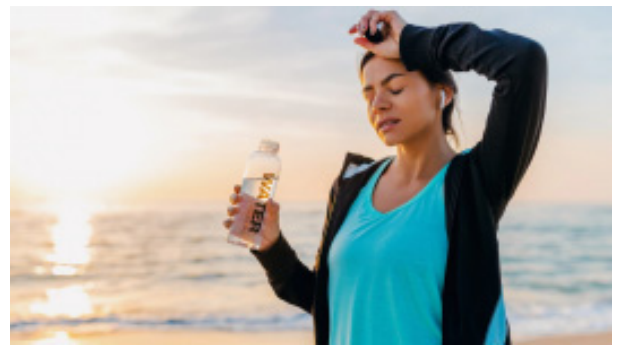
Amid severe headwinds due to the West Asia conflict, the Air India top brass assured the airline's workforce that it is not anticipating any layoffs, but calling for a relentless focus on saving costs, according to sources. The Tata group airline also announced that the annual increments will be deferred by at least one one quarter due to the uncertain and volatile economic and operating environment although it will proceed with bonuses for the last financial year and implement the planned staff promotions, it is learnt.Following the Air India board meeting on Thursday, in which cost-optimisation measures were deliberated upon, the airline's chief executive officer Campbell Wilson, chief human resources officer Ravindra Kumar GP, and chief financial officer Sanjay Sharma addressed employees in a town hall meeting on Friday. For the time being, more drastic cost rationalisation measures like furloughs and layoffs have not been taken, it is learnt. Air India has an employee strength of about 24,000.

The Tata group took control of Air India from the government in January 2022. For FY26, the airline's losses are estimated at a record Rs 22,000 crore—more than double the loss in FY25—primarily due to the extremely challenging cost and operating environment, it is learnt.According to sources with direct knowledge of the matter, Wilson spoke about the significant external challenges that the airline industry is grappling with, and the impact of those challenges on Air India. "We need to focus relentlessly on our costs in these tough times…There must be a laser sharp focus on eliminating wastage and leakages," Wilson is learnt to have told the Air India staff on Friday. He also asked them to suspend discretionary spending, renegotiate rates where feasible, and defer non-critical expenditures.

The West Asia war, which began on February 28, has led to major airspace disruptions in the Gulf region, which accounts for a significant chunk of international air traffic to and from India. The region also serves as a critical corridor for Air India's flights to Europe and North America, which means that apart from disrupting operations to destinations in West Asia, the war has forced the airline to take longer, circuitous routes to Europe and beyond.This is leading to higher operating costs, particularly due to additional fuel burn at a time when jet fuel prices are also surging due to war-related supply disruptions. The West Asian airspace closures have added to complications for Indian airlines, which had already been grappling with the continued closure of Pakistan's airspace since late April of last year. In the face of these challenges and mounting costs, Air India has already partly curtailed its international flight schedule.

Wilson told employees that apart from the Pakistani airspace closure and the West Asian airspace disruptions, a sharp depreciation of the rupee against the dollar and two-and-a-half to three times jump in jet fuel fuel prices have adversely impacted demand as well as consumer confidence, per sources. The surge in ATF prices for international flights have forced Air India and other Indian airlines to significantly hike fuel surcharges on international flight tickets.Even before the West Asia war, jet fuel accounted for about 40% of Indian airlines' operating costs. The conflict and its impact on fuel prices has led to a jump in the fuel's share in the carriers' cost structure.Sharma is learnt to have told employees that while strong revenue growth and fleet expansion drove financial momentum through 2024-25 (FY25), FY26 saw a softening in revenue amid heightened external uncertainties. This follows a period of robust performance, with Air India's revenue growing by a compounded annual growth rate of about 40% between 2022 and 2025.

Why you don't need 45°C temperatures to suffer a heatstroke



When people think of heatstroke, they often imagine extreme temperatures crossing 45°C. But according to Dr Ajay Chauhan from Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, dangerous heat-related illness can begin much earlier, even at 38°C, especially when dehydration, physical exertion, and poor ventilation come into play.Speaking to PTI, Dr Chauhan explained: "There is a real risk of developing heatstroke even at 38°C, particularly when there is humidity, dehydration, and continuous physical activity." This is especially true for people working outdoors, those travelling long hours in poorly ventilated spaces, and individuals involved in physically demanding jobs.One of the biggest challenges with heatstroke is that people often miss the warning signs. Dr Pranjit Bhowmik, Chairman of Internal Medicine at Asian Hospital, says the body usually gives clear signals before the condition becomes dangerous."The earliest warning signs include profuse sweating, unusual fatigue, lightheadedness, headache, nausea, and muscle cramps. Many people dismiss these as normal summer discomfort, but these are actually signs that the body is struggling to regulate its core temperature," he says.Dr Chauhan echoes the same concern, stressing that these symptoms should never be ignored. Immediate cooling, rest, and rehydration are necessary before the condition worsens into heat exhaustion or heatstroke."Rehydration is not just about water, it is also about replacing the salts and electrolytes lost through sweating," says Dr Bhowmik.This is where drinks like buttermilk, lemon water, and aam panna become especially useful. Dr Chauhan recommends salt-infused drinks like chaas and panna because they help restore electrolytes, improve water retention, and provide a natural cooling effect. "These are often more effective than plain water during prolonged exposure to heat or outdoor work," he says.Dr Chauhan explains that when air circulation is poor, sweat cannot evaporate properly, and that is one of the body's main cooling mechanisms.Dr Bhowmik adds, "Physical activity increases internal body heat. If you combine that with poor ventilation, even moderate temperatures can overwhelm the body's cooling system. That is why heatstroke can happen without people realising the danger."'Not drinking enough fluids, wearing tight or dark clothing, skipping head cover outdoors, and overworking during peak afternoon hours are some of the most common mistakes," says Dr Bhowmik.

Dr Chauhan advises wearing light, breathable cotton clothes, covering the head while stepping out, and taking regular breaks during physical activity.He also points out that many people rely too heavily on air conditioning and forget the basics of hydration. "Even if you are indoors, your body still loses fluids. Hydration must remain constant," he says.According to Dr Bhowmik, "Simple habits like drinking electrolyte-rich fluids, avoiding direct sun during peak hours, choosing loose cotton clothing, improving ventilation, and recognising early warning signs can make a major difference."

Trainer shares video of Kareena Kapoor working out, says she knows 'exactly what's needed to achieve lasting fitness'

Kareena Kapoor Khan's long-time trainer, Mahesh Ghanekar, recently hailed her sustainable fitness levels, sharing how she has prioritised performance and health. "Sustainable fitness is built on strength and endurance, not weight loss alone. When performance and health are prioritised, results follow naturally. @kareenakapoorkhan demonstrates exactly what's needed to achieve lasting fitness," he noted in an Instagram post.In the video post, the actor can be seen performing a mix of weight-training exercises and endurance activities.What sets Kareena apart is not a single drastic diet or punishing routine, but a thoughtful combination of consistency, balanced nutrition, and training that works for her lifestyle. Taking a cue from this view, we asked an expert on the benefits of a wholesome fitness routine.

Consultant dietitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal affirmed that sustainable fitness starts with consistency. "Rather than oscillating between extreme restrictions and indulgence, eating a nutrient-dense and balanced diet which focuses on high-quality protein, plenty of vegetables, good fats and whole grains, is necessary to support muscle repair, immune function and steady energy levels," said Goyal.An approach like this helps one to train effectively without under-fueling or causing metabolic stress, which can happen when diets are overly restrictive or short-term, she added.Strength training, core conditioning, and mobility drills help protect joints, improve posture and maintain muscle mass — all foundational elements of fitness that become even more valuable with age. The trainer's emphasis on sustainable effort reflects a routine that can be maintained over years, not just weeks, noted Goyal.Hydration, sleep, and recovery are integral to Kareena's fitness philosophy. "Understanding that the body repairs and adapts during rest rather than in the gym itself is a key principle that supports metabolic health, reduces injury risk and improves performance. Prioritising restorative habits alongside disciplined movement creates a rhythm that promotes long-term wellness," shared Goyal.Another aspect of sustainable fitness is flexibility. Goyal said that instead of rigid rules, adaptability — adjusting intensity based on how one's body feels, allowing for rest when needed, and returning to movement with intention — is key to better flexibility, which also protects against burnout and encourages consistency without pressure.

Oil companies losing Rs 30,000 crore a month on petrol, diesel, LPG sales due to price freeze amid West Asia crisis

India's public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs)—Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum—are facing severe stress as they have kept retail prices of regular petrol, diesel, and household cooking gas unchanged despite the surge in global prices amid the West Asia crisis, a senior Petroleum Ministry official said Friday.According to Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Petroleum Ministry, the OMCs' combined under-recoveries on these three fuels is estimated at about Rs 30,000 crore a month. In addition to these three fuels, the OMCs are also losing money on sale of aviation turbine fuel, or jet fuel, for domestic flights. Estimated losses on jet fuel sales were not immediately available.

The comments come at a time when discussions on potential fuel price hikes have picked up pace within the government, according to sources in the know. The OMCs have also been pushing for a price hike, it is learnt. Moreover, the government has no plan at present to compensate the OMCs for their losses on sale of petrol, diesel, and jet fuel below market prices, which is being seen as an indication that a price hike could be imminent. In the case of LPG, the government has stepped in to cushion the impact on OMCs, and such an intervention can't be ruled out even this time around, sources indicated.

Sharma said that despite the unprecedented global energy crisis due to the West Asia war and the consequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz, fuels that directly impact the common Indian have not seen a price increase due to a conscious call taken by the government and the OMCs, although the same has hit the financials of these companies as well as the government. She didn't comment on whether a fuel price hike was imminent given that the crisis continues to persist with no end in sight.With the effective halt in vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz—from where one-fifth of global oil and natural gas flows usually transited—global energy supplies have been hit and prices have skyrocketed. India depends heavily on oil and gas imports to meet its energy needs, and fuel prices in the country are linked to global oil and fuel price benchmarks. The crisis has led to retail fuel price surges in a number of countries, with some EVEN forced to ration fuel supplies. There has been no rationing of petrol and diesel in India, although it was done for commercial and industrial LPG in order to prioritise cooking gas supplies to households.

While the government had slashed excise duty by Rs 10 per litre on petrol and diesel late March to blunt the impact of high international prices on the OMCs, the retailers continue to bleed heavily on fuel sales. The excise duty cut has resulted in the government foregoing revenue of about Rs 14,000 crore a month, Sharma said. Had the government not intervened with the excise duty reduction, this loss would also have been borne by the three OMCs. According to industry sources, the OMCs' under-recoveries in April

stood at about Rs 18 per litre on petrol and Rs 25 per litre on diesel.Petrol and diesel prices have not been hiked for over four years now in India. Moreover, the timing of the current global surge in prices, which clashed with assembly elections in some states, made it politically fraught for the prices to be hiked. With the elections now over, a hike in prices of fuels like petrol, diesel, and the domestic LPG could be in the offing in the coming days or weeks, according to highly placed sources in the government. Throughout March and April, the Petroleum Ministry assured consumers that there was no proposal to hike fuel prices."It is inevitable. It is only a matter of time before prices (of petrol, diesel, and domestic LPG) are hiked," a senior government official told The Indian Express last week.On the earlier assurances from the Petroleum Ministry that prices won't be hiked, the official had said that these were political announcements that came in the middle of the state elections, and are definitely a constraint in raising the prices. The effort has been to hold on to the prices for as long as possible, but with no end in sight to the Strait of Hormuz closure, the status quo on prices can't continue for long. The official didn't elaborate on the timeline for price revisions.

Petrol is currently priced at Rs 94.77 per litre in Delhi, and diesel at Rs 87.67 per litre. Domestic LPG is priced at Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the capital. Fuel prices vary across states due to differences in state levies.Oil prices have been extremely volatile since the West Asia war began, but the petrol and diesel prices have not been hiked to protect the domestic consumer from this volatility. The Indian crude oil basket, which averaged $70 per barrel last year, averaged over $113 in April. Furthermore, Indian refiners incurred high additional costs due to emergency crude sourcing and a surge in shipping and insurance rates, among others.While the retail prices of petrol and diesel are deregulated, in practice, the government-owned OMCs—with 90% market share in fuel retail—have kept prices stable in consultation with the government. They incur heavy losses when international oil prices surge, and earn hefty profits when the prices slump. Petrol and diesel prices have been more or less frozen since April 2022.

'Damn, my testing strips are over': Aishwarya Sakhuja on the hidden exhaustion of work with diabetes

In the caption to the post on Instagram, Sakhuja wrote, "Diabetes is exhausting in ways people don't always see. The calculations. The crashes. The fear of lows. The pretending you're okay when your body feels anything but. It's not just 'avoiding sugar.' It's managing a full-time job inside your own body."Taking a cue from her admission, let's understand how diabetics can manage their health at work.One of the biggest misconceptions is that diabetes only involves food restrictions. "In reality, it requires constant mental focus. Many people with diabetes are always thinking about medication schedules, blood sugar changes, meals, hydration, sleep, stress, and their physical activity throughout the day. This can be emotionally exhausting, especially during long work hours," said Dr Pranav Ghody, consultant endocrinologist and diabetologist, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central.In the workplace, diabetes can be particularly tough because symptoms are not always obvious. "Someone may appear completely fine while quietly managing fatigue, dizziness, brain fog, anxiety over low sugar episodes, or sudden energy drops. There is also pressure to 'push through' meetings, deadlines, or travel even when the body indicates otherwise," explained Dr Ghody.

Another issue is the lack of awareness about hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar. "It can occur suddenly and may lead to sweating, trembling, confusion, heart palpitations, irritability, or even fainting. Many employees are reluctant to talk about it because they worry about being viewed as weak or unfit. Some avoid taking insulin injections or checking glucose levels in public due to stigma or uncomfortable questions from coworkers," he described.Stress at work also directly affects blood sugar management. "Irregular meals, poor sleep, sitting for long periods, and high-pressure situations can complicate diabetes control. Among younger professionals, burnout and uncontrolled blood sugars are increasingly linked."What truly helps is a supportive and informed workplace culture. "Simple actions, such as allowing flexible meal times, short breaks, access to healthy food options, or understanding of medical appointments, can make a significant difference. Managing diabetes works best when individuals do not feel compelled to hide their condition," said Dr Ghody.The conversation around diabetes needs to go beyond 'don't eat sweets'. "It is a lifelong balancing act, physical, emotional, and mental. When workplaces recognise this, employees are more likely to manage their health effectively and stay productive without sacrificing their well-being."

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.

Sattu benefits explained: India's original protein drink

Way before the gym bros, new-age vegans, and people losing muscle because of their love for Ozempic had discovered protein powder and whey, most of rural India had a natural protein substitute – sattu powder. Sattu powder is made by grinding roasted chickpeas or Bengal gram and is part of the cuisine in many parts of India.All I hear around me is the cacophony of people adding 'protein' to their meals – they add it to their coffee, to shakes in the morning, even to their cakes. Processed protein powder, I have been told, is absolutely healthy, but for the life of me, I cannot understand how anything processed and made in a factory as a supplement can be good for your body. Why aren't at least the meat-eaters eating normal protein in their meals? And if they must eat a protein substitute, why not opt for a natural one like sattu?Sattu flour is loaded with plant-based protein. It's rich in fibre, calcium, iron, manganese, and magnesium. It's also a cooling agent that naturally brings down your body temperature. I remember my mother carrying a flask of sattu made into a shake when going to play golf in the afternoon, while also claiming it was delicious. It is not.Sattu is essentially roasted Bengal gram or chickpea flour, ground to a powder. It's also a staple in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh – and usually consumed by labourers and farmers given its cooling properties.For vegans and vegetarians who keep overplaying how healthy a vegetarian or vegan diet is, but keep consuming protein powder by the kilo, here's a small nugget of information: many people in India are protein-deficient, and this is because their meals are not balanced. Sattu's nutritional value is quite impressive – 100 grams of sattu contains about 20 grams of protein and 65 grams of carbohydrates.

Sports Ministry's special fund is for top athletes, bureaucrats dip into it to upgrade their own sports facilities

GNS News Agency,May 14

Tucked inside New Moti Bagh, an upscale residential complex in Lutyens' Delhi where many of India's top bureaucrats live, children slice through the water in a temperature-controlled pool beneath a transparent canopy. Nearby, a teenager drills forehands on a gleaming tennis court. The facilities look public, but guards at the gate decide who gets in. About 3 km away, a squash court at the Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI) sits empty on a mid-week afternoon. Scuff marks on the side walls hint at an evening rush. Outside, a signboard declares the rules of entry: No ID, no access.

An investigation by The Indian Express has found that the money used to build, or refurbish, these world-class facilities meant for some of the country's top bureaucrats came from the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) — a fund created to train athletes and build sporting infrastructure, and allotted by a committee of bureaucrats.The Indian Express investigated five years of official records and data obtained under the RTI Act, and interviewed current and former Government officials, to find that while a chunk of these funds was indeed allotted for sports facilities, a slice of the pie was also channelled into civil services institutions and the Delhi colony for bureaucrats.

Among the well-known sports missions funded by NSDF: the flagship Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for elite athletes. Among the not-so-well-known beneficiaries: facilities for senior bureaucrats, two RSS-linked institutions in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and even some lesser-known cricket boards in Asia and the Caribbean.National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs The badminton court at the New Moti Bagh clubhouseThe NSDF fund is governed by a 12-member Council under the Union Sports Minister. But the body that clears grant proposals is a six-member committee of officials under the Sports Ministry — from the same system that benefits from the grants. Between 2021 and 2025, over Rs 6.2 crore from the NSDF went to the Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI), the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) and for the New Moti Bagh Residential Complex from a sanctioned total of over Rs 6.7 crore, Sports Ministry records show.

During the same period, the records show that two RSS-affiliated organisations received approximately Rs 2.66 crore to conduct tournaments and build facilities from a sanctioned amount of Rs 5.07 crore. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), through the NSDF, also spent approximately Rs 1.08 crore on "procurement of gifting of cricket items" to cricket boards in the Maldives, Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.These expenditures are significant because they coincide with a sharp fall in contributions to the fund — from Rs 85.26 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 37.02 crore in 2025-26.

So much so that a Parliamentary Standing Committee raised the red flag. Calling for "greater regulations of the NSDF", its report tabled in the Lok Sabha in August 2025 said: "The Committee has been given to understand that in previous years' grants, these funds have been given to the residential colonies and civil services associations. The Committee recommends that this practice should be avoided."National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs General view of the New Moti Bagh clubhouseNothing illustrates the diversion more plainly than the swanky facilities in Delhi's New Moti Bagh.Records show that around mid-2024, the six-member committee that screens NSDF grant applications received a proposal from the residential colony for some of the country's most senior bureaucrats — centrally located, tightly guarded and spread over 100 acres.The request was not the first of its kind. Records show that on July 31, 2019, SAI had already sanctioned Rs 2.8 crore from the Khelo India scheme for the "creation of sports infrastructure at New Moti Bagh Complex, New Delhi".On June 7, 2024, another grant of Rs 2.2 crore — this time from NSDF — was approved for "Residents Welfare Association, Moti Bagh". The purpose: "For upgradation/ renovation of sports infrastructure at New Moti Bagh Residential Complex, New Delhi". Of this, Rs 1.1 crore was released in 2024-25 and Rs 88 lakh in 2025-26 — the second instalment arrived when contributions to the NSDF were at their lowest since 2021-22 (see chart).

The sports complex itself can rival any top facility in the country: badminton courts with wooden flooring, a squash cubicle, a temperature-controlled swimming pool with a transparent canopy, a gym, a billiards room and two tennis courts. According to SAI's project status report, the tennis courts had already been part of the 2019 Khelo India project. Five years later, the same hard courts were upgraded again.National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs The tennis court at New Moti Bagh clubhouseSudhanshu Pandey, president of the New Moti Bagh Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) and election commissioner for Union Territories, said he had not read the Parliamentary committee's report and did not offer any comments on its observations.He said the RWA appointed NBCC, the agency that developed the colony, to execute the project. "It prepared a DPR (Detailed Project Report), which got approved by SAI, then the Sports Ministry evaluated it and sanctioned the money. The capital expenditure came from there. Where the money comes from, that is for the Government to decide," Pandey told

On access to the complex's facilities, Pandey said they are available to "residents of the colony, other government officers staying outside and private citizens". "But we do proper screening, so that the right kind of people only join. We organise a lot of activities. Recently, we organised a sports competition. It was almost spread over a month, in all the sports. We also organised a marathon. So, our focus is basically to promote fitness, to promote sports. So, a lot of children of civil servants use the facilities, and naturally, they get attracted, and some of them also excel," he said.Asked about the propriety of drawing from a fund mainly meant for sportspersons, Pandey said, "Residential colonies are also developed by the Government and a part of that overall welfare activity." He said: "Otherwise, such huge Government colonies would not have been developed like Sarojini Nagar, New Moti Bagh, Netaji Nagar, and so many. And the sports facilities are one of the integral facilities that are required. Sports facility and creating that awareness about the emotional health, mental health, physical health, which essentially saves a lot of health expenditure indirectly also."National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs A TT table at CSOIAccording to the official website of the Sports Ministry, NSDF aims to mobilise "resources from Government as well as non-government organizations and individuals to provide required support for promotion of specific sports disciplines and improving performance of Indian sports in the major international events. Institutions, government and non-government organizations exclusively dealing with promotion of sports and individual sportspersons of outstanding ability will be eligible for getting financial assistance from NSDF for specific projects".It states that the fund was established in 1998, under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890. "The NSDF supports sportspersons to excel in the field by providing opportunities to train under coaches of international repute with technical, scientific and psychological support and also in getting exposure to international competitions," it states.

"Financial assistance is also provided to specific projects for promotion of sports and games sponsored by reputed Organizations/ Institutes, provided the facilities so created are made available to a sizeable population of the area/ region," it states, adding that the NSDF office is located in Shastri Bhavan in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.The Sports Ministry did not respond to an emailed questionnaire from The Indian Express, seeking its response to the key findings of the investigation. CSOI general manager, Col. Vijay Yadav (retd), declined to comment. CCSCSB did not respond to requests for comment.Speaking to The Indian Express, a former Sports Ministry official said it was "unethical" to dip into NSDF for projects serving bureaucrats that are not open to the public. On the "gifts" to cricket boards abroad, the official said the purpose was to "promote international cooperation, which is one of the key objectives of the NSDF". But, he said, "The argument would hold water if the NSDF money was used to promote indigenous sport in other countries. Why the taxpayers' money is used to support cricket in other countries, when the Government doesn't even fund cricket in India, remains a question."Their clubs and institutes benefitted, too

Records for the past five years show that for infrastructure, equipment and sports promotion, the NSDF released a total of Rs 34.18 crore (2021-22), Rs 16.97 crore (2022-23), Rs 73.18 crore (2023-24), Rs 22.29 crore (2024-25) and Rs 27.31 crore (2025-26). Consider where some of it went, according to Sports Ministry records: On March 10, 2021, the NSDF sanctioned Rs 3.01 crore for "construction/ renovation of the sports facilities at the campus with gym equipment, etc" at CSOI, an exclusive facility for bureaucrats in the heart of the capital. The institute received the first tranche of Rs 1.5 crore in 2021-22 and its second instalment of Rs 1.2 crore in 2024-25.

On December 20, 2021, Rs 1.55 crore was approved for the "construction/ renovation of sports facilities" at the CCSCSB campus, also in Lutyens' Delhi. The CCSCSB, which functions under the Directorate of Personnel and Training (DoPT), received Rs 77.65 lakh in 2021-22 and a second instalment of the same amount in 2023-24.Take the case of 2021-22, when total donations to the NSDF stood at Rs 15.13 crore — the lowest in five years. The Government contributed Rs 5 crore, taking the total corpus that year to Rs 20.13 crore. Records show that more than 10 per cent of this amount was used to upgrade facilities for civil servants.Records show it was not just facilities for bureaucrats:

I In 2024-25, RSS-affiliated Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad at Kotra in Udaipur received Rs 2.41 crore for the construction of a spectator's gallery with a utility building, resurfacing of an athletic track and a practice football ground. The sanctioned amount, in March 2024, was Rs 4.82 crore. The Parishad runs sports centres, hostels, and health care centres, among other things, for scheduled tribes across Rajasthan.Similarly, Sangh-linked Vanvasi Kalyan Samiti in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur, which 'works towards the upliftment of the tribal communities', according to its website, received Rs 18.75 lakh to conduct national-level competitions in Raipur. In 2025-26, the same organisation received Rs 6.25 lakh to organise a tournament.Not all the money went to organisations outside the national sporting ecosystem — even if it covered the then Sports Minister's home state. In 2021-22, with Kiren Rijiju as Sports Minister, Rs 5.93 crore was approved on June 4 for "civil work and installation of open-air gym at 26 District HQ" across Arunachal Pradesh — of this, Rs 2.96 crore was released that same year and Rs 2,37 crore in 2023-24. On March 16, 2022, a further Rs 2.25 crore was sanctioned for the "construction of two-court badminton hall at 15 locations" in the state In 2022-23, when contributions to the NSDF peaked at Rs 85.26 crore, the Government spent Rs 73.18 crore on infrastructure, equipment and sports promotion.Nearly half of this went towards constructing hostels at SAI's Bengaluru centre and Gwalior's Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education and Sports, and establishing a high-performance centre at SAI, Sonepat. That year, the cricket associations of Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines received "cricket items" worth Rs 46.23 lakh and Rs 8.79 lakh, respectively, as "gifts".

Hockey India appoints Frederic Soyez as junior men's team coach

New Delhi: Hockey India on Thursday announced the appointment of decorated Frenchman Frederic Soyez as the coach of the Indian junior men's hockey team. One of the most accomplished coaches in European hockey, Soyez brings over three decades of elite hockey experience, including 15 years as an international player for France and over 15 years as a head coach at the highest level of world hockey.Soyez, who enjoyed an illustrious playing career with France from 1995 to 2010, earning 196 international caps and scoring an impressive 195 goals for the team,

Madonna, Shakira, BTS to headline 1st-ever FIFA World Cup final halftime show

The first-ever FIFA World Cup final halftime show will feature artists like Shakira, Madonna and BTS, the global governing body of football announced on Thursday morning. The half-time show is a concept usually used in the National Football League's Super Bowl and is popular in the USA. Since the FIFA World Cup is being co-hosted by the US along with Canada and Mexico, the World Cup final will have a halftime show.The FIFA World Cup final will be played on July 19 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. At the last FIFA World Cup, which was hosted by Qatar, over 500 million viewers tuned in to watch the final between Argentina and France.

The FIFA World Cup will kick off on June 11 with Mexico taking on South Africa at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City. The event has run into plenty of controversy as costs have spiralled for fans travelling to the venues.A report from The Associated Press also noted how room bookings have been lighter than expected in most of the 11 U.S. cities hosting the world's most watched sporting event, according to an April survey by the American Hotel & Lodging Association.Popstar Madonna previously headlined the NFL's Super Bowl halftime show in 2012 while Latin American star Shakira shared the Super Bowl stage with Jennifer Lopez in 2020.FIFA made the announcement of the halftime performers by using another musical talent: Chris Martin, the lead singer of Coldplay. Martin shared the lineup of stars in a video on social media where he featured alongside characters from Sesame Street and the Muppets.Shakira gave the famous hit song Waka Waka during the 2010 FIFA World Cup and then performed in the opening ceremony of the World Cup in South Africa in 2010. Shakira recently released the current FIFA World Cup's official song, "Dai Dai". The Dai Dai anthem also features Afrobeats star Burna Boy.

Another day, another set of records fall to Kohli in IPL 2026 masterclass vs KKR

Virat Kohli came into Wednesday's Indian Premier League (IPL) match with two back-to-back ducks behind him. He ended up staying unbeaten on 105 off 60 balls and engineered Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). In the process, the 37-year-old put up a few firsts in the format.

This was Kohli's 10th T20 century. He is the first Indian to have scored as many tons in the shortest format, and just the fourth overall after Chris Gayle (22), Babar Azam (13) and David Warner (10). Over the course of the innings, Kohli also completed 14,000 runs in the format. He has got there in 409 innings, breaking Gayle's record for the fastest to 14,000 T20 runs. The West Indies great had got there in 423 innings.This was Kohli's 279th IPL match, making him the player with most appearances in the league. He was tied with Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni until Wednesday, with both players tied on 278 matches. Kohli also won player of the match for his efforts. It was the 21st time he won the award in the IPL, the joint-most by any Indian, alongside Rohit. Only AB de Villiers (25) and Gayle (22) have more overall.

Kohli said in the post-match presentation ceremony that he knows the end of his career is nearer than ever before and he just feels its an honour to still be competing at this level. "What an honour to be competing at this level and against the very best still," Kohli said."Just give my heart and soul out there because it is going to finish one day. Want to make the most of it, and look forward to pressure situations."Kohli admitted that the two previous ducks was on his mind when he walked out in Raipur on Wednesday. "The fact I did not score runs, it eats me up because I have been playing well. It bothers you because that has been the goal – to be the best version," Kohli added.RCB were chasing 193, and Kohli approached the innings with patience early on. He rotated strike, waited for loose deliveries and gradually settled into rhythm before accelerating through the second half of the chase. His hundred came off 58 balls in the 19th over.

Devdutt Padikkal on Virat Kohli's 105 vs KKR: 'He showed why he is who he is'

GNS News Agency,May 14

Padikkal joined Kohli in the fourth over, and the pair ensured there were no further setbacks during the middle overs, putting on 92 runs for the second wicket. Padikkal joined Kohli in the fourth over, and the pair ensured there were no further setbacks during the middle overs, putting on 92 runs for the second wicket. Virat Kohli's unbeaten 105 against Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday night left many impressed inside the Royal Challengers Bengaluru dressing room, but for Devdutt Padikkal, the innings stood out even more because of what had come before it.Kohli had entered the contest in Raipur after back-to-back ducks, an unfamiliar situation for a batsman who has built his career on consistency across formats for nearly two decades. Padikkal said bouncing back from that sort of scrutiny was never easy, especially for someone who carries Kohli's level of expectation every game."It was incredible to watch. I think I had the best seat in the house tonight," Padikkal said after RCB's six-wicket win over KKR.

"Some of the shots he played were simply remarkable. Obviously, coming into this game after two ducks is never easy, and he showed why he is who he is."Chasing 193, RCB lost Jacob Bethell early and once again found themselves needing a stabilising partnership at the top. Padikkal joined Kohli in the fourth over, and the pair ensured there were no further setbacks during the middle overs, putting on 92 runs for the second wicket.Padikkal said there was no detailed discussion about one batsman attacking while the other anchored the chase. Instead, the focus was on batting deep enough to leave the rest of the line-up with a manageable finish."I think we didn't really go into the specifics of anchoring. It was more about making sure that we took the game to a certain stage where we felt that the rest of our batting lineup would be in a comfortable position," the left-hander said.He explained that RCB had struggled in recent matches after losing early wickets and failing to rebuild through partnerships. That made the stand with Kohli even more important on Wednesday night."Both of us spoke about just elongating that partnership as long as possible and then taking it from there," Padikkal said.Kohli eventually finished unbeaten on 105 off 60 balls while Padikkal contributed 39 as RCB chased down the target with five balls remaining to move to the top of the IPL 2026 points table.Padikkal also dismissed any suggestion that Kohli's approach had changed because of the two ducks.

"Honestly, it doesn't really change anything," he said. "He has always bounced back, always got runs, and he showed why he is one of the best in the business today."The 25-year-old felt the Raipur pitch was much better for batting than the one used against Mumbai Indians on Sunday."It was definitely not up and down," Padikkal said. "After the new ball, it was pretty good to bat on."Padikkal added that modern T20 batting line-ups now viewed almost every target under 200 as chaseable, especially with the kind of depth RCB possess."I think anything these days under 200 feels like a chaseable target," he said."When you have a batting lineup like we do, it is important that we make sure these chases are done easily."Padikkal, who has been regularly used as an impact sub, also said fielding before batting helped him understand the pace of the wicket and settle into the game quicker. "You don't want to come in cold when you are coming into bat," he said. "It gives you an idea of the areas you can target and the pace of the game before batting starts."

CSK's Jamie Overton set to return to UK with thigh injury

Jamie Overton IPL CSKJamie Overton of Chennai Super Kings celebrates the wicket of Josh Inglis of Lucknow Super Giants during Match 53 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, India,)In a big blow for Chennai Super Kings' playoffs chances, the franchise on Wednesday announced that pacer Jamie Overton will be returning to the UK after sustaining a right thing injury. Overton has been in good form for the 5-time champions, snapping up 14 wickets in 10 matches this season."Official Announcement. Jamie Overton has a right thigh injury and will be returning to the UK for further assessment and management," CSK posted on X.CSK have been snake-bitten by injury this season, where had lost big hitter Ayush Mhatre due to injury after the youngster started the campaign on a high. They have also lost pacer Khaleel ahmed to another injury in the middle of the season as well.Notably, their former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is yet to play a single match to play for the franchise this season after he was initially ruled out of the first two weeks of the campaign due to an injury. We are in the business-end of the IPL 2026 and there's still no clarity on Dhoni's status.

Also on Wednesday, Chennai Super Kings selected Karnataka all-rounder Macneil Noronha as a replacement for injured all-rounder Ramakrishna Ghosh, an IPL media release stated on Wednesday."Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have picked a player replacement for Ramakrishna Ghosh, who injured his right foot during their game against Mumbai Indians on May 3rd. He has been ruled out for the season. Macneil Noronha will join CSK for Rs 30 lakh as a replacement for Ghosh," the release stated.

Vaibhav Raj Gupta replaced by Anant Joshi, fans say 'It won't feel the same'

Gullak has been winning hearts ever since its debut in 2019. After successfully running for four seasons, the beloved family drama is now gearing up for its fifth season. However, before announcing the release date, the makers surprised fans with a major revelation — actor Vaibhav Raj Gupta, who played Anand Mishra aka Annu Mishra, has been replaced. Stepping into the iconic role is Anant Joshi, who gained popularity through shows like Maamla Legal Hai and Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein as well as the 2023 film 12th Fail.

The makers recently dropped a new teaser entirely dedicated to introducing the newest member of the Mishra family. The teaser begins with Aman returning home from college. As he bends down to touch the feet of his father Santosh Mishra, played by Jameel Khan, Anant dressed in Annu Mishra's signature style — a checked shirt tucked into formal pants with a belt and a bag slung over his shoulder — walks out of the room and says, "Won't you touch my feet until I come walking towards you?"A voiceover then introduces the new character, saying: "Did you recognise him? Do you know who he is? Don't focus on his face, but on his name. His name is Annu Mishra. Yes, the same Annu Mishra — the eldest son of Shanti Mishra and Santosh Mishra."

The teaser further shows glimpses of the new Annu Mishra, highlighting his familiar mannerisms, attitude and accent. The voiceover reassures viewers: "The appearance is new but his nature is the same."Despite the makers trying to make the transition appear seamless, loyal fans of Gullak were far from convinced, even while acknowledging Anant Joshi's acting abilities.One user commented, "That dialogue 'aapko nahi pata?' is not feeling the same anymore." Another wrote, "Where is the real Annu Mishra?" A disappointed fan added, "I didn't expect this from TVF, OG Annu Mishra ko change nahi karna chahiye tha." Some viewers even claimed they would not watch the new season unless the original Annu Mishra returned.While Sony LIV shared the teaser featuring the new actor, Vaibhav Raj Gupta posted a cryptic Instagram Story on the same day. Calling it a "special day," he sang the famous lines, "Koi Deewana Kehta Hai, Koi Pagal Samajhta Hai."In another story, Vaibhav shared the news of him joining the cast of Jugaadu starring Ishaan Khatter. The actor was last seen in Mandala Murders.

Overseas fans get 'raw, undekha' cut from May 14, India has to wait

After a blockbuster theatrical run, Dhurandhar: The Revenge is finally heading to OTT — and international audiences are getting something extra. Netflix has announced that an extended "Raw and Undekha" version of the action thriller will begin streaming overseas from May 14, 2026, sparking major excitement among fans of the franchise.The overseas Netflix listing has grabbed attention because the film appears on the platform as Dhurandhar: The Revenge (Raw and Undekha), hinting at unseen footage and a slightly different viewing experience from the theatrical release.Interestingly, the OTT cut comes with a runtime of 3 hours and 52 minutes, making it nearly three minutes longer than the theatrical version, which ran for 3 hours, 49 minutes and 6 seconds. The extended edition is being promoted as a more "raw" and complete version of the film, though the makers have not officially disclosed what additional footage has been included.

For viewers who already watched the film in theatres, the extended runtime has become a major talking point online. Meanwhile, audiences outside India who missed the theatrical release will get to experience the film for the first time in what is being marketed as its most complete version yet.While Netflix will handle the international release, the film's India streaming rights are with JioHotstar. However, it remains unclear whether Indian audiences will also get access to the extended "Raw and Undekha" cut.

Dhurandhar 3 on the cards?

Adding to the growing buzz around the franchise, Jio Studios co-producer Jyoti Deshpande recently hinted that the makers may not be done with the Dhurandhar universe yet. Speaking to Bollywood Hungama, she teased an upcoming surprise for fans."We're not done with Dhurandhar yet. We'll hopefully have a surprise for the audience later this year. There's something up our sleeves," she said.Her statement has fuelled speculation about a possible third instalment in the franchise following the success of both Dhurandhar and Dhurandhar: The Revenge.However, Rakesh Bedi, who played Jameel Jamali in both films, had earlier shared a different opinion about the franchise's future.In an interview with Zoom, the actor addressed speculation around a third instalment and said, "I don't think a third part will happen. But Dhurandhar is a franchise, and it can be made with some other actors at any given point of time. The story ends with the spy going back to his nation."Directed by Aditya Dhar, the sequel follows Jaskirat Singh Rangi, played by Ranveer Singh, as he transforms into the feared Hamza Ali Mazari while operating deep inside Karachi's underworld. After eliminating gangster Rehman Dakait in the first film, Hamza rises through the ranks of Lyari's criminal network in an attempt to dismantle terror infrastructure from within.The film features an ensemble cast including R Madhavan, Sara Arjun, Sanjay Dutt, Rakesh Bedi and Danish Pandor. Dhurandhar: The Revenge recently completed 50 days in theatres after releasing on March 19, 2026.

'He's making Taj Mahal': Farah Khan stunned as cook Dilip says his house is bigger than TV star's

Filmmaker Farah Khan and her cook-turned-YouTube sensation Dilip have become one of the internet's most-loved duos, with their fun banter turning their vlog into a massive hit across the world. The success of the channel has not only brought them immense popularity but has also become a major source of income for both. Now, Farah, who has employed Dilip for over a decade, has admitted that her cook is "lucky" for her.The duo recently visited the house of 25-year-old Samarth Jurel, best known for his stint on Bigg Boss and Laughter Chefs. As she entered Samarth's new home, Farah called it a "beautiful abode." Looking around the house, Farah told Dilip, "One day, you too will have a house like this." To this, Dilip quickly replied, "Ma'am, my house is much bigger than this."His response left Farah stunned. Embarrassed, she reacted, "What are you saying?"Dilip's under construction house Dilip's under construction house. (Photo: Farah Khan/YouTube)Samarth then chimed in, saying, "I saw your house. It is definitely a huge house." Farah added, "It is still under construction. He is making Taj Mahal."

Samarth further asked Farah, "You have a two-floor house, right?" Farah corrected him and said, "No, I have a three-floor house. But Dilip is constructing a four-floor house."When Samarth remarked that Dilip had become very famous, Farah jokingly responded, "Don't praise him so much, please."Samarth then praised Dilip's inspiring journey and told Farah, "He is lucky for you. Do you agree with me?" Farah replied, "And I am lucky for him." Samarth quipped, "With that logic, you are lucky for a lot of people."Farah then admitted, "He is lucky for me." Samarth agreed, saying, "Yes, he is definitely lucky for you." Farah hilariously added, "Now you've revealed the secret. He'll ask me to increase his salary."Previously, during another vlog episode featuring Shruti Haasan, Farah had confirmed that Dilip earns extra through YouTube. When Shruti asked whether Dilip receives additional royalty or fees for the videos, Farah replied, "Yes, he gets a lot… more than everyone here put together."In another vlog, Farah had revealed that Dilip owns a three-storey bungalow in Bihar with six bedrooms. Thanks to the success of their YouTube channel, Farah has also shifted Dilip's children to an English-medium school.

'My mother was shot during the partition, the bullet was inside for 1-2 years': Parmeet Sethi

Parmeet Sethi grew up in Mumbai, but his mother was born before the partition and spent the early years of her life in now-Pakistan. Parmeet, in a new vlog, recalled that his mother was shot during the partition and the bullet stayed inside her body for a few years, as there wasn't much technology in those days to find out the location of the bullet.In a new video on Aary Vlogs, Parmeet remembered his late mother by making one of her recipes and while cooking with his son Aaryamann Sethi, Parmeet recalled this anecdote. Calling his mom Sushil Sethi "total filmy", he remembered that after the partition, her family moved to Ahmedabad and then eventually moved to Mumbai.

Parmeet Sethi's mother was shot during the partitionParmeet shared, "During the partition, she was shot. She got a bullet." While he did not specify which city she lived in, he shared that his mother was just 10-12 years old when the incident happened. "There was a tailor who used to come to their house to stitch clothes. My grandfather's house used to have a gun, so he had sneaked into the house to steal the gun. He wanted to use it during the riots," he said.Parmeet shared that as the tailor came in the house, his mother was alerted by the sound. "He asked her not to make any noise and she was about to scream and he just shot her," he said. Since there wasn't much technology in those days, the bullet couldn't be located and it was "lost inside her." "The bullet was roaming around in her body. No one knew where it was," he said.Sushil fell sick for 1-2 years and had to miss school for some time. By then, the family had moved to India. "One day, the nurse was giving her a massage and the bullet almost just poked out of her back. They immediately took her to the doctor. She had an operation and the bullet was taken out then. It was after 1-2 years," he said.

Parmeet, Archana's memories with his late motherIn an earlier video shared on Archana Puran Singh's channel, Parmeet and Archana shared that they addressed each other's parents as 'uncle' and 'aunty' because they kept their relationship under wraps for eight years. "We didn't want anyone to know that we were married," Archana said and added, "So that uncle and aunty is still going on. And everyone is happy with it."Parmeet's mother passed away a few years ago and in an earlier chat with Instant Bollywood, Archana had shared how she had to continue shooting for her comedy show even after she learnt of her mother-in-law's demise. "There was a comedy show, and I think we had shot half of the episode when I got the news that my mother-in-law had passed away. I told them that I had to go, but they asked me to just sit through the show. I laughed and imagined, in my head, what is going on now that my mother-in-law had just died. I don't know how I laughed. After spending 30–40 years in this industry, you know the producer's money is invested in this. You can't leave your work incomplete. My husband also understood. Everything went dark, I couldn't see anything; they just said 'action,' and I laughed and laughed.

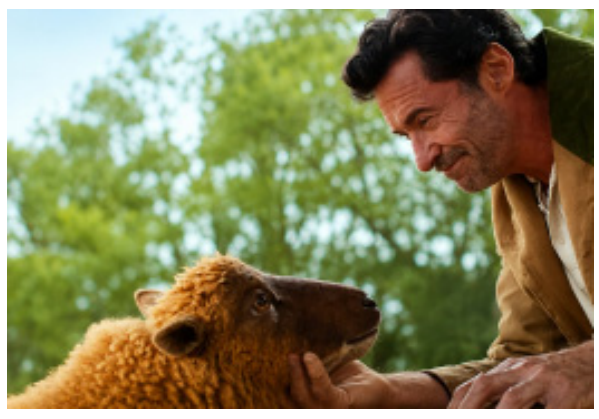
The Sheep Detectives review: Agatha Christie meets talking sheep in this charming mystery

The Sheep Detectives movie review: You can't pull the wool over these sheep's eyes, that's for sure. This adaptation of the bestseller novel Three Bags Full by author Leonie Swann, about a flock of them solving the murder of their shepherd, may sound meh. And cutesy talking animals are often a blah.However, it is surprising how meaty this story, set in a quaint English village called Denbrook, turns out to be in director Kyle Balda and scriptwriter Craig Mazin's hands, with all the charms and notes of an Agastha Christie mystery. Balda, incidentally, has Minions and Despicable Me 3 in his portfolio, while Mazin – surprise, surprise – was a writer on Chernobyl and The Last of Us. Follow the clues… as the best detective novels advise.

And the sheep do the same. They have a picture perfect (literally) life as the flock of shepherd George (Jackman), who has given all of them names and keeps them well-fed and looked after with a medical concoction he has himself devised. Every evening, George gathers his sheep around and tells them a night-time story, mostly a murder mystery. The moment he has his back turned, the sheep are discussing the tale and who could be the killer among themselves, making it clear that they understand the humans perfectly.One morning, after a stormy night, George is found dead. The bumbling local cop, Tim (a delightful Braun, whom you may know as Cousin Greg from Succession), is the most rattled at the possibility of having a bloody mystery to solve, in the sleepy Denbrook where even local tourists don't stumble by.

However, still waters run deep, and nowhere do they run deeper than in villages that are arranged around one church, one inn, one cop, one butcher, and so on. Denbrook's staples are inn owner Beth (a disappointingly underutilised Chou), Reverend Hillcoate, Tim, butcher Ham and another shepherd whom George's sheep like but not George too much, Caleb. Enter into the mix George's long-lost daughter Rebecca (Gordon), George's city-slicker lawyer Lydia Harbottle (Thompson), and a failed, nosy journalist Elliot (Galitzine).The sheep are there, listening and peeping in, as Harbottle reads the will, unknown millions of dollars are discovered, and a "motive" is quickly established. Lily (Louis-Dreyfus), one of George's favourites and the cleverest in the flock by far, leads the "investigation", ably supported by the solemn Mopple (O'Dowd), and occasionally the street-savvy loner Sebastian (Cranston). They must lead the sheep through doubts and several wrong turns, with Hall as the sheep Cloud, among others, perfectly delightful. Cloud's astonishment at the shape of a bracelet, "The Thing With No End!", is a joy to watch.

But, The Sheep Detectives is not going for delight alone, though there is that. It handles some particularly heavy topics, including courage, death, the choice to forget vs the power to remember, and rejection of the "other." Like Lily, Sebastian (who has a particularly heroic arc) and the gang, Tim's transformation is equally warm and unforced, even if the sheep have to nudge him towards a mystery novel to get his detective juices flowing.



The Sheep Detectives is slow getting off the ground, and some of its lines are not either funny or engaging when George is having his heart-to-hearts, setting the stage for his demise.Don't count sheep yet, though. Wait for Braun, with his English accent, tapping into the non-plussed quality he brought to Greg's role in Succession to entirely opposite effect here. His long, gesticulating fingers alone are an expression, encompassing his incredulity as to why the same three sheep are always turning up around him.And then there is Dame Emma Thompson. Has she ever turned her acerbic tongue and sharp eyes onto someone and not drawn blood? She swishes in on her expensive car into Denbrook, and immediately lifts The Sheep Detectives to another level.

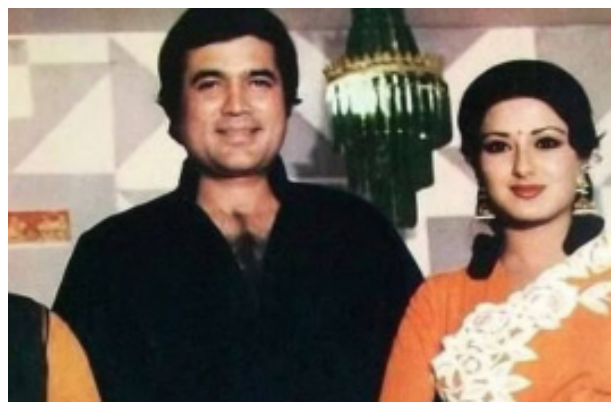
'I'm Game' to be Dulquer Salmaan's most stylish film!

Chennai: If sources in the industry are to be believed, actor Dulquer Salmaan has now said that his upcoming film 'I'm Game', which is being directed by Nahas Hidhayath, will be the most stylish in his career so far.Sources say that the film, which has been shot across a 100 locations in South India, is currently in its post-production stage. The shooting of the film was wrapped up in April this year.Taking to his X timeline to share pictures of the unit on the last day of shooting, Dulquer Salmaan, in April this year, had said, "Wrap day smiles say it all. #ImGame shoot done & dusted, couldn't be happier! Grateful for this journey… see you all on August 20."According to sources close to the actor, both the character and the world of the film had been designed in a highly modern and stylish manner. He had also stated that director Nahas Hidayath had specifically wanted to present him in a stylish new avatar, which has become one of the defining aspects of the project.

'Karma': Moushumi Chatterjee calls Rajesh Khanna 'a spoilt brat', blames his attitude for loneliness

Veteran actor Moushumi Chatterjee, who worked with Rajesh Khanna in films such as Anuraag, Prem Bandhan and Bhola Bhala, recently opened up about her experience of working with Hindi cinema's first superstar.In a conversation with NDTV, Moushumi revisited her memories of the late actor and described him as "a spoilt brat"."He was a spoilt brat. His success was always in his head," she said while speaking about Rajesh Khanna's larger-than-life stardom during his peak years.As Rajesh Khanna's stardom began fading during the rise of Amitabh Bachchan, the actor was often linked with loneliness, frustration and struggles with alcohol.When Moushumi Chatterjee was asked if she noticed that loneliness in him during those years, she said, "No, it is all karma. The way you design your life, and the way you pretend to be what you are not, and the way you respond to all relationships."

She added, "If you say everybody is alone, you should know how to enjoy your alone time. Don't feel lonely. I enjoy being alone. And I see that kind of vacuum; everybody goes through it in life. Take Kishore Kumar, Madhubala — they all went through it. Whatever is happening, it's all part of your life. It is not your entire life."Speaking about hierarchy and power equations in Bollywood at the time, Moushumi said, "Whoever was at the top felt whatever they said had to be obeyed. It was always there. Everybody who rules feels they can rule everything."In an earlier interview with Lehren Retro, Moushumi had also shared some lesser-known anecdotes about Rajesh Khanna and their equation over the years. Recalling one particular incident, she revealed that Rajesh Khanna once asked her whether the father of her daughter was her husband Jayanta Mukherjee or actor Vinod Mehra"Rajesh Khanna played dirty many times. Today, he is no more. I went to see him also in his last stage. He was praising me in front of my younger daughter. He said to her, 'Your maa was mad but we were all scared of her. She doesn't believe in any nonsense'," Moushumi said.Talking about Rajesh Khanna's remark, Moushumi said, "Yes, I gave him back. I asked him, 'Is it Rishi Kapoor's child or yours?" Moushumi was referring to Rajesh Khanna and Dimple Kapadia's daughters and said that her response left him speechless.In another interview with Filmfare, Moushumi compared Rajesh Khanna's personality with Amitabh Bachchan's behaviour on film sets. "Amitabh Bachchan ko maine kabhi nahi dekha chamcha chamchi ke saath (I never saw Amitabh Bachchan surrounded by yes men). I have never seen any buddies around him that don't need to be, but I used to see them with Rajesh Khanna. He needed that pampering and attention," she shared.The actor also recalled how Rajesh Khanna would jokingly teach her Hindi abuses during shoots. "He used to teach me abuses. He used to laugh because I used to just say it. I was innocent, I didn't know what was the meaning," she said.Rajesh Khanna was married to Dimple Kapadia and they were parents to daughters Twinkle Khanna and Rinke Khanna.



Sonam Kapoor celebrates a decade with Anand Ahuja

Mumbai: Bollywood fashionista Sonam Kapoor is celebrating a decade of togetherness with her husband Anand Ahuja and said that ten years later, she loves him more gently, intentionally, and completely than she knew was possible when they "first began".The actress shared a video montage featuring all the memorable moments with her then beau and now husband, Anand. The clip also covered their journey from their dating days, to getting married and having children.She wrote in the caption section on Instagram: "A decade with you. Eight years married Three cities. Three homes. Two beautiful boys. Countless dreams built from scratch. So many risks taken, lessons learnt, businesses created, failures survived, victories celebrated and moments where we held each other a little tighter through the uncertainty of it all."

Printed and Published by V. Srinivas Reddy, on behalf of M/s Sai Krishna Publications, Owned by M/s Sai Krishna Publications, Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.98/1, Co-operative Industrial Estate, IDA, Gandhinagar, Quthbullapur Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana. Published at Plot No. 3, Flat No.13, Surya Saroj Apartments, Huda Complex, Saroor Nagar, Ranga Reddy Dist. T.S. 500 035.
Editor: V Srinivas Reddy RNI No. APENG/2013/49469, Cell No. 9440231967.