

Indian Chronicle

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Aviation ambitions face test of sustainability

AFTER decades of waiting, missed deadlines and political promises, the sight of the first commercial flight landing at Halwara airport carries emotional and economic significance for Punjab. For Ludhiana, the Delhi-Halwara connection is a gateway to national and global markets. The launch has been greeted with excitement across central Punjab. Administrative authorities arranged transport for passengers, political leaders rushed to claim credit and tickets reportedly saw brisk demand even before operations formally began. That enthusiasm is understandable. Ludhiana's exporters, industrialists and entrepreneurs have long complained that dependence on Chandigarh and Amritsar slowed business mobility and increased logistics costs.

Halwara also arrives at an important moment. The Centre recently expanded the UDAN regional connectivity scheme with an outlay of nearly Rs 28,840 crore, compared to the original Rs 4,500 crore allocation. The programme seeks to develop 100 new airports and airstrips. However, regional connectivity remains uneven. North India accounts for nearly 30% of the country's passenger traffic, but many smaller airports continue to struggle with weak demand and irregular flights.

That is why Halwara's success cannot be taken for granted. Many airports inaugurated with fanfare have become underutilised later. Infrastructure without sustained airline operations quickly turns into an expensive symbol rather than an economic asset. Still, Halwara possesses some advantages. The airport's terminal, developed by expanding the Air Force base, can handle 300 passengers at a time, while Air India has begun operations with two daily flights to Delhi.

Press Release by N V Subhash, BJP Chief Spokesperson & Media Incharge Telangana in Hyd on 16/05/2026

"BJP compares Revanth's 2034 dream to 'Mungerilal Ke Haseen Sapne'" Hyderabad, May 16 : The Telangana BJP on Saturday took a sharp dig at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for his "grand political fantasies" of remaining in power till 2034 and then marching into national politics to find a berth in the Union Cabinet led by Congress prince Rahul Gandhi. "Calling the claims a classic case of 'daydreaming detached from political reality,'" BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N. V. Subash said there was "nothing wrong in dreaming," but added that dreams should at least have some connection with public mood and electoral arithmetic. "Politics is not a sequel to Mungerilal Ke Haseen Sapne. One cannot simply close eyes, imagine Delhi durbars, Cabinet berths and decade-long rule while people on the ground are still waiting for poll promises to be fulfilled," Subash remarked sarcastically. "He said Telangana had already witnessed similar political over-confidence in the past from towering regional leaders like N. T. Rama Rao and K. Chandrashekar Rao. "Both leaders once believed they were politically invincible. "History, however, has a cruel habit of humbling arrogance. "The people of Telangana have repeatedly shown that no leader is bigger than public sentiment," he said. This applies even to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. "Subash mocked the Congress leadership's national ambitions, stating that the party itself was struggling for survival across the country and had been reduced to "clinging desperately to a handful of states. "Before dreaming of 2034 and Delhi ministries, Mr Revanth Reddy should first ensure that Congress survives politically till then. At the current pace, the Congress may well become a case study in political archaeology," he quipped. "In a veiled reference to Congress ally Indian Union Muslim League, the BJP leader also said even allies of the Congress had started issuing subtle warnings to the Gandhi family after electoral setbacks in traditional strongholds. "Why talk about 2034? Let Mr Revanth first guarantee a Congress victory in the 2028 Assembly elections. Even that appears more difficult than finding snow in Hyderabad in May," he remarked. "Subash further asserted that Telangana had now become a key political target for the BJP under the leadership of State BJP President N. Ramchander Rao and the party's central leadership. "The BJP's next mission is Telangana, and public anger against the Congress government is steadily growing over unfulfilled promises, governance failures and blatant appeasement politics," he alleged. "He claimed that even sections of minority communities were becoming disillusioned with the Congress. "The Congress believes communities can be treated as permanent vote banks through endless political baiting. But voters are far more intelligent than what the Congress assumes. The coming GHMC elections may deliver the first reality check," he said. "Drawing a comparison with the previous BRS regime, Subash said that despite K. Chandrashekar Rao extending several welfare measures towards minorities, voters still chose to reject him decisively. "That itself should serve as a warning to Revanth Reddy that theatrics, speeches and political fantasies cannot substitute for governance," he added.

No complaint has been lodged against SI Shiva Teja at Suryapet town police station

"Recently, a woman complained that she was harassed by a man at the police station and immediately withdrew the case. "During our interrogation, the victim said that the SI told her to come to the station and tell her if she sent a voice message to the SI. "We are definitely conducting an internal inquiry into any allegations against the police. "If you are found guilty of wrongdoing in the investigation, you will be punished "SP Narasimha said that unnecessary allegations against the police are inevitable.



"That was a memorable moment during the shooting of 'Thimmarajupalli TV'" – Actor Pradeep Kotte



"The film 'Thimmarajupalli TV', produced by hero Kiran Abbavaram under his KA Productions banner in association with Sumaira Studios while encouraging new talent, became a successful village-based period drama. Teja Velpucharla worked as co-producer, and V. Muniraju made his debut as director with this movie. The film is set to stream on the OTT platform Aha from the 15th of this month. On this occasion, actor Pradeep Kotte shared details about his cinematic journey. "Background... "I am from Palamaneru in Chittoor district. I worked in Chennai and later shifted to Hyderabad. After coming here, I entered acting through short films. I performed in stage plays under Bashir Master at B Studio. Our director V. Muniraju watched those plays and auditioned me for the role of Rajappa. Later, when I learned that Kiran Abbavaram was producing the film, I became very confident. "First Opportunity... "The character Rajappa in 'Thimmarajupalli TV' received great appreciation. It had

many variations, and I got a very good response through that role. I can truly call this my first real opportunity in cinema. Though I acted in short films and independent movies before, this was my first feature film and my first appearance on the big screen. "Balancing Two Careers... "I continued my job while trying for film opportunities. Through work-from-home and leaves, I managed this movie too. I feel the delay in my career happened because I couldn't dedicate myself fully. For the last ten years, I've been balancing both careers. My family supported me a lot, especially my wife. Since she took care of family responsibilities, I was able to focus on both my job and films. "Kiran Abbavaram Was Popular Even Then... "I've loved cinema since childhood, though I didn't realize it was my passion. During engineering, I acted in a short film and understood my interest in acting. Back when we were making short films, I already knew Kiran Abbavaram. He also knew me as an artist. Even at that time, he had a fan following. He mastered every craft and reached this stage through hard work. "No Fear Anymore... "In these ten years of experience, I lost my fear of the camera. I learned how to perform in front of it. Theatre drama taught me dialogue delivery and diction. In one play, I performed five different roles continuously for one and a half hours. Director Muniraju used to explain every scene in great detail. The workshop helped us immensely. "Every Character Creates an Impact... "I liked many performances in the movie, including those by Sai Tej and Latheesh. Most of the actors performed in single takes. Every character in the film creates an impact. "A Memorable Moment... "No one in my family knew that I was involved in acting. Only my sister knew a little about it. Without informing my parents, my sister brought them to the shooting location. Seeing my parents there, and them seeing me acting like that, was truly a memorable moment. "Next Movies... "Right now, I'm listening to a few stories. I want to wait for roles that have importance and substance. Just because opportunities are coming, I don't want to do random projects.

The socio-fantasy film "Gaali", which has been successfully running for 25 days, recently celebrated its success with a press meet organized by the film unit.



"Produced under the Sandhya Films banner by Chanda Lakshminarayana, the film stars Ramprasad Gurajada, Anjali Ramavathu, Srikanth Perumandla, S. Chandrakala, Chanda Roja Rani, and B.V. Subba Reddy. The movie is directed by T. Ramu, a recipient of Wonder Book of Records, Wonder Book of World Records honors, and awards such as the Nandi and Garuda awards for his contributions to theatre arts. "The success meet was attended by chief guests including renowned director Relangi Narasimha Rao and producer Sai Venkat, along with Ballem Venumadhav, writer Jandhyala Subbalakshmi, Dr. Anil Kumar, and others. "Director Relangi Narasimha Rao said: "The role of the Goddess in 'Gaali' deeply touched my heart. It reminded me of my friend Kodi Ramakrishna's film 'Ammoru.' Roja Rani performed wonderfully in the role, and all the actors did an excellent job. In the past, many films used to run for 100 days, and seeing this film successfully complete 25 days is truly admirable. I hope the film also celebrates a 50-day function. Congratulations to the director and producer for making such a meaningful film. "Producer-director Sai Venkat stated: "Ramu garu used to entertain audiences through stage dramas till midnight. It's a great achievement that he not only made a film but also made it run successfully for 25 days. Nowadays, most films survive only for a week. 'Gaali' achieving this milestone deserves appreciation. I feel that new producers can now learn from Ramu garu's journey. In recent times, 'Gaali' is the only film to complete 25 days successfully. "Producer Chanda Lakshminarayana said: "Though I am new to the film industry, I liked the socio-fantasy story written by Ramu garu and decided to produce the film. We have received an amazing response from audiences everywhere the movie was released. Even though most of the cast members are newcomers, they performed very well. Ramu garu worked day and night for this movie, and his hard work has paid off. I thank the audience for supporting our film for 25 days. "Director T. Ramu said: "The film 'Gaali' revolves around the fierce battle between Kali Purusha and the Goddess. With the support of the cast, technicians, and especially producer Chanda Lakshminarayana, we made this film. I am very happy that the movie has been successfully running for 25 days with audience appreciation. "Actress Roja Rani, who played the role of the Goddess, said: "I never expected this film to reach such heights. I am very happy. I always wanted to act in films, and Ramu garu gave me this opportunity. I worked hard to do justice to the role given to me. I thank director Ramu garu for the appreciation my role is receiving from audiences and hope viewers continue to support and bless me. "Editor Venuvugal Chowdary said: "In the old days, films like 'Bhookailas' were taken from village to village for screenings. In the same way, Ramu garu promoted 'Gaali' around Hyderabad and made it successful. Thanks to the support of our entire team, the film turned out well and is receiving a positive response from audiences. "Actor Subba Reddy said: "I am very happy to celebrate the success meet of 'Gaali.' I am passionate about cinema. Ramu garu gave me the opportunity to play the role of Kali Purusha in this film, and I thank him for that. I wish him success in making many more films. "Writer Jandhyala Subbalakshmi said: "After watching this film, I witnessed Ramu garu's creative brilliance. The title 'Gaali' is excellent. The movie carries a strong message that faith in divinity can help overcome difficulties. I wish Ramu garu more success and many more films. "Dr. Anil Kumar said: "I am very happy t...

Telugu Pageant UK 2026 Set to Make History as the First-Ever Non-Conventional Telugu Pageant in the United Kingdom



"Hyderabad, May 2026: "Telugu Pageant UK 2026 is all set to create history as the first-ever non-conventional Telugu pageant in the United Kingdom, exclusively designed for people of Telugu origin residing across the UK. The official press meet for the prestigious event will be held in Hyderabad, while the much-awaited Grand Finale is scheduled to take place in London on 11th & 12th July 2026. "Breaking away from the norms of traditional beauty pageants, Telugu Pageant UK 2026 is built on the values of inclusivity, individuality, confidence, talent, culture, and self-expression. The pageant proudly removes conventional restrictions such as age limits, height criteria, and size limitations, making it a truly unique and empowering platform for everyone. "The event features multiple categories including Mr, Miss, Mrs, Teens, and Kids, encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds and age groups to come forward and showcase

their personality, talent, and Telugu cultural pride on an international stage. "In one of the most heartwarming highlights of the event, the youngest registered participant for Telugu Pageant UK 2026 is just 1.5 years old, symbolizing the pageant's vision of embracing talent and confidence without boundaries. "The event aims to empower the Telugu diaspora in the UK by providing a prestigious global platform that celebrates identity, diversity, talent, and Telugu culture while redefining the concept of pageantry beyond stereotypes and conventional beauty standards. "The Hyderabad press meet will feature distinguished personalities and special guests from the fields of fashion, pageantry, entrepreneurship, and image consulting, including: "Mrs Preti – Founder of Desi Events & Telugu Pageant UK, Mrs Asia Great Britain, and Host of Preti Talk Show. "Dr. Preethi Adusumalli – Former Mrs India, Former Mrs Telangana, and Founder of Sisiroos Academy & Dessange India. "Mrs Anugna Reddy – Internationally Certified Image Consultant & Personal Stylist, Founder of StyleCues by Anugna. "Miss Kashvi – Miss Universe Telangana. "Mr. Jayanth Ram, Tollywood Actor and Model. "Registrations for Telugu Pageant UK 2026 are currently open and will close on 30 May 2026. "Interested participants can register through: "[www.telugukingsqueens.co.uk](https://www.telugukingsqueens.co.uk?utm_source=chatgpt.com)" "For enquiries and registrations, participants may contact telugukingsqueens@gmail.com or telugukingsqueens@gmail.com. Further details regarding auditions, schedules, venues, and event announcements will be officially revealed during the Hyderabad press meet.



Nakirekal Constituency "Today, senior Congress party worker Kallepalli Chinna Venkulu of Palem village of Nakirekal Mandal died and the Congress party flag was draped over his body and paid Rs 5000/- (five thousand rupees) for their cremation. "Daida Ravinder garu "General Secretary of Telangana State Congress Party" "Chinta Punnamayya "Palem village Congress president Elijalla Nagaraju, Kove Yadagiri, Chinta Srikanth, Kallepalli Ramakrishna, Pedda Yadagiri, Ishtari, Srinu, Pramod, Chintamalla Venkanna, Parashuramalu, Govardhan and others participated.



PRESS NOTE "The continuous hike in the prices of Petrol, Diesel, CNG and Commercial LPG Gas has once again exposed the anti-people policies of the BJP-led Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The common people of India are being crushed under unbearable financial burden, while the Central Government is treating citizens only as tax-paying machines. "The sudden increase in petroleum product prices is not accidental. The Central leadership was fully aware of the proposed hikes much before the completion of elections in five states. To avoid political damage during elections, the BJP Government deliberately held back the price revision and cheated the people of India. This is nothing but a political conspiracy against the common man and a betrayal of public trust. "The increase in Petrol, Diesel, CNG and Commercial LPG prices will badly affect middle-class families, small traders, transport workers, farmers and daily wage labourers. Every essential commodity price will automatically rise due to transportation costs, pushing inflation further and making life miserable for crores of Indians. "Instead of searching for alternative solutions to reduce the burden on citizens, the Central Government has chosen the easiest route – imposing higher fuel prices and collecting more taxes from the public. Prime Minister Modi's statements about reducing petroleum consumption are nothing but crocodile tears. The reality is that the BJP Government is focused only on revenue collections and election management, not on protecting the interests of ordinary citizens. "During the Modi Government's rule, petrol prices have reportedly been increased hundreds of times, showing the complete failure of the Centre in controlling petroleum prices. The government is functioning for corporate houses and big business interests rather than for the welfare of common

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI Or District Collector (LA), Mahabubabad (See Sub-Rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013) PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION									
Mahabubabad District Gazette No. A3/08/Mahabubabad/2026, Rc.No. G1/801/0003/2024					Date: 15-04-2026 Date: 13-04-2026				
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total to an extent of Ac.13.00Gts. land is required in the Damaravancha Village of Gudur mandal Mahabubabad District for public purpose, namely for desilting of the Oravacheruvu Tank.									
Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in the Damaravancha Village of Gudur mandal Mahabubabad District and a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.13.00Gts. of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition:									
SCHEDULE									
Village : Damaravancha			Mandal : Gudur			District : Mahabubabad			
S. No.	Sur vey No.	Area under Acquisition (in Ac. Gts.)	Type of Title	Type of Land	Name of the Interested Person as per records (asper directions of the Hon'ble High Court, Telangana in WP No. 29566/2010)	Extent Gts. /Sq. Yds	Struct ures/ Trees etc., if any	Bound aries	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1	8	6.09	Patta	Agri	Epuru Rama Krishna Reddy S/o. Ramachandra Reddy	6.09	Nil	E:Sy.No.5 W:Sy.No.11/1 N: Sy.No.687 S: Sy.No.9	
2	11/1	6.31	Patta	Agri	Epuru Rama Krishna Reddy S/o. Ramachandra Reddy	6.31	Nil	E:Sy.No.8,9&10 W:Sy.No.22,23, 24,25 & 26 N: Sy.No.75/76&7 S: Sy.No.11/12, 11/2 & 11/13,224	
Total::						13.00			
Grand Total :: Acs 13.00gts									
This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern.									
A Plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Mahabubabad & Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer, Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section-12 of the said Act.									
Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.									
Objections to the acquisition if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section-15 of the Act before the District Collector, Mahabubabad/Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubabad.									
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Mahabubabad.			Sd/- Additional Collector, Mahabubabad.			Sd/- District Collector, Mahabubabad.			
DIPR RO.NO.:196/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2026-27									

Police warn against vigilantism during Bakrid period

Commissioner holds meeting with Hindu religious organisations in Karimnagar.



KARIMNAGAR May 16 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar Commissionerate police have stepped up surveillance measures ahead of Bakrid and warned against any attempts to disturb law and order under the guise of preventing illegal cattle transportation. Addressing a review meeting with repre-

sentatives of Hindu religious organisations, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal and cow protection groups, at the Police Commissionerate headquarters on Saturday, Police Commissioner Gaush Alam said strict action would be taken against those taking the law into their own hands. He urged the public to share information with the police regarding suspected cases of illegal cattle transportation or cow slaughter instead of resorting to unlawful acts. Cases would be registered under the Telangana Prohibition of Cow Slaughter and Animal Preservation Act, 1977, against violators, he said.

The Commissioner said the police would strictly enforce rules governing transportation of cattle and verify mandatory "Fit for Transport" certificates issued by veterinary authorities. As part of preventive measures, six special checkpoints have been established at Mugdhampur, Chintakunta, Arnakonda, Turkasinagar, Renikunta and Parkal Cross Road in Huzurabad within the Commissionerate limits.

Mr. Alam said adequate police personnel had been deployed at the checkpoints and intensified security arrangements would continue over the next two weeks. Surprise inspections would also be carried out to prevent violations, he added. He warned that vehicles involved in illegal cattle transportation would be seized and criminal cases registered against the offenders. Town ACP Venkataswamy, Inspectors Ramachandra Rao and Srujan Reddy, along with representatives of Hindu religious organisations, participated in the meeting.

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister reviews Congress organisational activities in Karimnagar Parliament segment

Leaders told to focus on voter list revision, paddy procurement and strengthening party structure.

HYDERABAD/KARIMNAGAR May 16 (Correspondent): State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Friday held a meeting with Congress constituency in-charges and observers from the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency at the Minister Quarters in Hyderabad. The meeting reviewed organisational strengthening programmes to be taken up across the Karimnagar Parliament segment and discussed measures for effectively taking government welfare schemes and development initiatives to the people.

Among those who attended were Karimnagar Parliament coordinator Koonna Srisailem Goud, Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas, Karimnagar DCC president and MLA Medipalli Satyam, MLA Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, Sircilla DCC president Sangeetham Srinivas, Karimnagar Corporation Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, K.K. Mahendar Reddy, Odithala Pranav and constituency coordinators Gaddam Chandrasekhar Reddy, Dudham Venkata Ramana, Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy, Komatireddy Narendra Reddy, Mohammed Khaja Fakhruddin, Adem Raj Dekhapathi and Soujanya Goud.

The leaders discussed conducting mandal-level party meetings across the parliamentary constituency and asked constituency in-charges and coordinators to remain vigilant regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The meeting also stressed the need for party leaders to work actively to ensure smooth procurement of paddy in their respective constituencies. Participants emphasised that long-serving and active party workers should be given due recognition while filling nominated posts and that the party's three-year norms should be considered during appointments. Later, senior



leaders from the Karimnagar Parliament segment participated in a Zoom meeting with AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC secretary Sachin Sawant. During the interaction, the AICC and PCC leadership directed local leaders to closely monitor the SIR voter list revision process in all Assembly constituencies under the Karimnagar Parliament segment. Instructions were also issued to complete the appointment of booth-level agents in all villages and expedite the appointment of new mandal presidents and Karimnagar Corporation division presidents to complete the formation of mandal committees.

Telangana Congress Party PCC President Palakurti Constituency Congress Party Ajwarwar Potnak Pramod Kumar met



"(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 16):- On the occasion of Telangana PCC President MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud leaving for a five-day foreign tour along with his family members tomorrow for personal work, TPCC President MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud was cordially met at his residence in Hyderabad by Palakurti Constituency Congress Party Ajwarwar Potnak Pramod Kumar, who felicitated him with a shawl and presented him with a bouquet of fruits. On

this occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that we will protect those who have worked hard for the Congress party like the blink of an eye and will recognize and give positions to everyone who has worked hard for the Congress party. Leaders and activists should not be discouraged. The Congress party leaders and activists should work with the aim of making Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister. After the people's government comes, the schemes introduced by the people, such as Indiramma Houses, 200 units of free electricity, Rs 10 lakh Arogya Sri, 500 K gas, Sanna Biyyam scheme, free bus travel for women, should be taken to the people. He said that the schemes should be solved from close quarters so that the people do not face any problem. Pramod Kumar said that Telangana Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy, after you became the PCC President in Telangana state, you are running the government and the party properly. Special thanks to you for giving 90% to those who worked hard for the party even in corporation positions. Similarly, under the leadership of our Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and our local Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, we will work with the aim of making Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister of the country and once again raising the Congress flag in the state of Telangana, said Pramod Kumar.

Hyderabad Sailing Annex Hosts Wellness Program for Employees

"Hyderabad, May 16 (Indian Chronicle): Tempest Advertising organized the closing ceremony of its prestigious 21-day health challenge, 'Catathon' at the Sailing Annex in Hyderabad to promote employee health and fitness, the company's Managing Director, Turab Lakdawala, said in a statement on Saturday. "Launched in the spirit of World Health Day, the 'Catathon' challenge saw participation from employees of Tempest's branches in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Pune. Telangana Government Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan attended the event as the chief guest, while Dr. Kishore Gopinathan was the guest of honor. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries emphasized the importance of prioritizing health and fitness as an integral part of modern office culture. As part of the challenge, employees



competed to achieve the highest number of walking steps over a three-week period. Awards were presented to the top performers, including Rekha Oswal, Prasad B. Pawar, and Anant Kundojwar, who secured the top three positions.

Coolers Distributed to Uppal Primary Health Centre "Distribution by Kaleru Yamuna Bai Trust and Uppal Press Club (Print & Electronic) Through the Hands of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



Uppal, May 16 (Indian Chronicle): A cooler distribution programme was organized at the Uppal Primary Health Centre on Saturday at 2:30 PM under the joint auspices of the Kaleru Yamuna Bai Trust and Uppal Press Club (Print & Electronic). Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and distributed the coolers. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the coolers would provide relief to patients and medical staff during the summer season. He specially appreciated the representatives of the Kaleru Yamuna Bai Trust for their service-minded activities in society and also lauded the members of the Uppal Press Club (Print & Electronic) for continuously highlighting public issues while actively participating in social service programmes. "He stated that organizing service activities during times of public need is commendable and said organizations that come forward with social responsibility become role models for society. He expressed hope that many more public welfare programmes would be conducted in the future. "Kaleru Yamuna Bai Trust Chairman Kaleru Jai Naveen said that the trust has been carrying out several service activities for the past ten years. "Uppal Press Club (Print & Electronic Media) President Vaddepalli Kishore said the club is moving forward with the objective of not only bringing public issues to light but also serving society. He added that an insurance programme for all club members would soon be launched and that preparations are underway for con-



ducting a mega health camp. "Among those who participated in the programme were Uppal Primary Health Centre Medical Officer Dr. Sushilya Rani, Pharmacist Nagesh, Uppal Press Club (Print & Electronic) General Secretary Ananda Narasimha Reddy, Chief Advisors Kanchukatla Srinivas, Working President Payyavula Santosh, Vice Presidents Edapaka Suresh, Boda Praveen, Oruganti Narendra, Executive Secretary K. Karunakar Goud, Joint Secretary D. Devakumar, Cultural Secretary Shaik Yakub Pasha, Treasurer Reddy Malla Yadagiri, G. Soni Sri, BRS leaders Anya Balakrishna, Jetta Kishore Narendra Raju, Sanjay Jain, Sooram Shankar, Masa Shekhar, Niranjana Chary, Kaiser Khadeer, Ravi Prasad, Ganesh Netha, Gnaneshwar and others.

Karimnagar steps up Census groundwork

Municipal Commissioner reviews house-list mapping and numbering process.

KARIMNAGAR May 16 (Correspondent): Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai on Saturday directed officials engaged in the ongoing Census exercise to ensure accurate collection of data without any lapses during the first phase of enumeration in the city. As part of the field inspection, the Commissioner visited several divisions under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits and reviewed the house-list block mapping and Census house numbering process in Ramnagar, Sriharinagar and adjoining localities.

Mr. Desai personally inspected the boundaries of the identified house-list blocks and interacted with enumerators and supervisors to assess the progress of the exercise. He issued instructions to field staff to complete the mapping and numbering process in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Stressing the importance of accuracy in population enumeration, the Commissioner directed enumerators to conduct door-to-door surveys covering every residential household and ensure that the details collected are error-free. He cautioned officials against negligence in Census duties and asked supervisors to closely monitor the process. Mr. Desai said the Census survey would play a key role in urban planning and implementation of wel-



fare schemes. He appealed to residents to cooperate with enumerators visiting households for data collection as part of the 2027 Census process and provide correct information. He also urged citizens who had already completed self-enumeration to show their identification details to enumerators during verification visits to facilitate smooth completion of the exercise. Enumerators and supervisors participated in the inspection programme.

On the occasion of Shani Jayanti, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated in special poojas



Uppal, May 16 (Indian Chronicle): Special Tailabhishekam and pooja programs were conducted with great devotion on the occasion of Shani Jayanti at Sri Balanjaneeya Swamy Temple near Uppal Ring Road. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the event, offered special prayers, and had darshan of the

deity. "Temple organizers welcomed the MLA with Purna Kumbha honors and conveyed their blessings. Later, along with devotees, he participated in the special abhishekam rituals performed for Lord Shani and prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being for all the people of the state. Temple committee members, local leaders, and a large number of devotees participated in the program.

Khammam Cyber Crime Police Arrest Cyber Fraudster Student

"Khammam, May 16 (Indian Chronicle): Khammam Cyber Crime Police arrested two persons in Tadepalligudem, West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, in connection with online trading and investment fraud cases in which victims were cheated of nearly ₹18 lakh. This was stated by Khammam Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt. "According to the case details, a private employee from Khammam district was contacted through WhatsApp and was lured with promises of huge profits through online trading and investments. The fraudsters convinced the victim to invest around ₹18 lakh through WhatsApp and trading links, ultimately cheating him. "In connection with this case and several other cases, the police arrested the accused account holder, Singamsetti Suresh, aged 32 years, from Tadepalligudem in West Godavari district. He was produced before the Khammam Cyber Crime Court and remanded to judicial custody. "Khammam CP Shri Sunil Dutt, IPS, appreciated Cyber Crime DSP CH.R.V. Phaninder, Inspector of Police Bhukya Ravi Kumar, SIs Ranjith Kumar and Vijay



Kumar, Head Constable Srinivasa Rao, Constables Bhanu Murthy, Krishna Prasad, Nageswara Rao, and the entire Cyber Crime Police Station staff for playing a key role in the investigation and successful arrest."

Farmers Suffering Due to State Government Failure: BJP Kisan Morcha



“Government’s complete failure in procurement of paddy and maize.“Massive exploitation in the name of moisture deduction and wastage; what happened to the bonus promise?“BJP Kisan Morcha warns of large-scale protests if procurement is not completed within a week.”“Khammam,Wyra, May 16(Indian Chronicle):““Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kisan Morcha National Executive Member Goli Madhusudhan Reddy, BJP State Treasurer Devaki Vasthava Rao, and BJP District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao strongly criticized the Congress government for its complete failure in procuring paddy and maize cultivated by farmers across the state.“On Saturday, they personally inspected paddy and maize procurement centers at the Wyra Agricultural Market Yard in Khammam district. They interacted with farmers who have reportedly been waiting at procurement centers for over a month and listened to their grievances. Speaking to the media later, they lashed out at the state government and ministers for their negligence. They expressed concern that despite the Central Government extending all possible support to farmers, the incompetence of the state government has pushed farmers into severe distress.““Transportation System Collapsed – Preference Given to Contractors““The BJP leaders alleged that the transportation system at procurement centers has completely broken down. They said farmers, after working tirelessly for months, are facing immense hardship in getting their produce transported.“They alleged that the situation worsened because transport contracts for the united Khammam district were handed over to a single contractor. They questioned how contracts were awarded to contractors who do not even possess three or four lorries. If there is a shortage of vehicles, the authorities should immediately arrange hundreds of lorries from neighboring Andhra Pradesh, especially from areas like Jaggayyapeta, they said.“The leaders accused the state

government of failing in basic monitoring despite the Central Government providing funds for gunny bags, hamali charges, transport expenses, and warehouse rentals.”“Open Loot in the Name of Deductions – Nexus with Millers““The BJP leaders alleged that farmers are being blatantly exploited at procurement centers. They said while the Central Government is ready to pay the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 2,389 per quintal, the state government is imposing deductions of 7 to 10 kilograms per bag under the pretext of moisture content and wastage.“They accused millers, local ministers, and officials of colluding in this exploitation. They alleged that if 100 bags are sent to a rice mill, receipts are issued only for 90 bags, questioning who would bear the loss for the remaining 10 bags.“The leaders also questioned the status of the promised Rs. 500 bonus announced before the elections, alleging that the government is burdening farmers because it is unable to fulfill that promise.”“Lack of Planning – Helicopter Reviews““Madhusudhan Reddy and Koteswara Rao mocked state ministers, alleging they arrive in helicopters, conduct superficial review meetings, and leave without addressing farmers’ problems.“They stated that the government machinery failed miserably in estimating crop yields in advance and making necessary arrangements for transportation, gunny bags, and warehouses from February itself. They alleged that even 30% of the paddy in the state has not yet been procured.“They also cited a recent farmer suicide attempt as evidence of the government’s failure. They questioned why authorities acted swiftly to move rain-soaked maize in Chintakani and Bonakal mandals using private tractors while neglecting other farmers facing similar issues.“The leaders demanded the immediate resignation of the concerned minister, holding him responsible for the entire failure.”“Complete Procurement Within One Week – Ultimatum““Citing warnings from the Meteorological Department about possible heavy rains and strong winds in the coming days, BJP leaders issued a deadline to the government.“They demanded that all paddy and maize lying at procurement centers be purchased and shifted to safe locations on a war footing within one week.“They warned that if the government fails to respond, the BJP would launch massive protests in support of farmers and obstruct ministers and government programs at every step.“The leaders urged farmers not to lose hope, assuring them that the BJP would stand firmly by their side and ensure procurement of every grain at the support price.“Others who participated in the program included Kisan Morcha State Vice President Chilukuri Ramesh, State Treasurer Kanathala Ashok Reddy, Nunna Ravi Kumar, senior leader Mandadapu Subba Rao, District Secretary Thondapu Saideeswara Rao, Wyra Mandal President M. Mahabolu Venkata Kishore, Apadi Rama Rao, and several others.

Licensed Surveyors Will Be Provided Broad Employment Opportunities in the Future District Collector Divakar TS

“Surveyors likely to earn income through Bhubharati portal mapping and registrations“Licensed surveyors to be utilized in re-survey programs as per requirement“District Collector reviews issues with licensed surveyors”“Khammam, May 16(Indian Chronicle):““District Collector Divakar TS stated that the government is positively inclined toward creating wide employment opportunities for licensed surveyors in the future.“On Saturday, the Collector, along with Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, held a review meeting with licensed surveyors at the Collectorate meeting hall regarding several issues.“During the meeting, licensed surveyors brought their concerns to the Collector’s attention and explained that licenses were issued to them only after completing training and apprenticeship programs.“Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the Bhubharati portal mapping process has now been implemented and that re-survey work is currently underway in Tirumalayapalem Mandal. He stated that some licensed surveyors are already being engaged in this process. He further explained that, in the future, a mapping system will be implemented during land purchases and registrations, and that a pilot project has already begun in Kusumanchi village. He added that this system will gradually be expanded to all villages, creating work and income opportunities for licensed surveyors.“The Collector said the government is committed to generating employment opportunities, though it may take some time. He noted that licensed surveyors would be engaged during re-survey operations as needed, and that there would also be opportunities to earn income through registration-related activities. He added that surveyors could also earn through private survey work. Once the system is



fully implemented, employment opportunities for licensed surveyors are expected to increase steadily.“Regarding survey fee hikes, the Collector clarified that this is not a decision that can be taken at the district level and must be decided by the government. He stated that the services of licensed surveyors are requirement-based. At present, around 500 to 600 registrations are taking place daily, and there is potential for regular work opportunities in the future. He also noted that each mandal records an average of 200 to 250 transactions per month, and that licensed surveyors would earn income according to the amount of work they undertake.“The Collector assured that the representations submitted by licensed surveyors would be forwarded to the government, adding that certain policy decisions need to be taken at the state government level. He also warned that if any mistakes are committed in the field, the concerned surveyor’s license would be cancelled and action would be taken.“Licensed surveyors and concerned officials participated in the meeting.”— Issued by the Office of the District Public Relations Officer, Khammam

Activists Neglected During KCR Regime



“— Telangana movement leader and Congress district leader Dandem Rathana Kumar, former Munsipal Floor Leader Vemula Sambayya Goud”“Narsampet/Warangal, May 16 (Indian Chronicle) : Telangana movement leader and Congress district leader Dandem Rathana Kumar, along with former Congress Floor Leader Vemula Sambayya Goud, stated that GO No. 679 has laid a strong foundation for restoring the self-respect of Telangana movement activists and that the Congress government has instilled renewed confidence in their lives.“They expressed happiness over the issuance of GO No. 679 by the Telangana State Government to officially recognize the services of Telangana movement activists and the constitution of a special committee under the leadership of K. Keshava Rao. On this occasion, they conveyed their special gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.“In

a press statement released on Saturday, they said that the credit for realizing the long-cherished dream of a separate Telangana state, achieved after decades of struggle by the people, belongs to the Congress party. They criticized the previous government for failing to accord due respect and recognition to movement activists, contrary to the aspirations of the martyrs.“They alleged that during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, the ideals of Telangana martyrs were neglected. Despite the sacrifices made by numerous students and youth for the formation of Telangana, they opined that their families did not receive adequate support or recognition.“They further stated that as part of people-centric governance, the Congress government appointed Government Advisor Dr. K. Keshava Rao as Chairman of the committee to recognize movement activists, along with Minister Ponnann Prabhakar, MLC M. Kodandaram, MLC and Government Whip Addanki Dayakar, former MLC S. Ramulu Naik, Mothe Shobhan Reddy, and others as members, which reflects the party’s commitment.“They noted that while some individuals sacrificed their lives for the formation of Telangana, others suffered physical disabilities, faced legal cases, and endured imprisonment. In this context, they said that the issuance of GO No. 769 to formally recognize their services would help restore the dignity of movement activists.“They added that the committee would take into consideration the suggestions of officials, public representatives, and various sections of society to frame clear criteria for recognizing activists. This, they said, demonstrates the government’s emphasis on transparency and its commitment to safeguarding public interest and the self-respect of Telangana movement activists under Congress rule.

Move Ahead with a Comprehensive Action Plan for Implementation of Indira Mahila Dairy Programme: District Collector TS Divakara



Officials must ensure continuous monitoring so that funds are not wasted“Infrastructure development works at village and mandal levels should be taken up simultaneously“Administrative approvals for infrastructure works under MGNREGS should be obtained immediately“District Collector Reviews Indira Mahila Dairy Programme”“Khammam, May 16 (Indian Chronicle):““District Collector TS Divakara directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan and ensure effective implementation of the Indira Mahila Dairy Programme.“On Saturday, the District Collector, along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Srija, reviewed the implementation of the programme with concerned officials at the Collectorate.“Speaking on the occasion, the Collector instructed officials to identify eligible beneficiaries according to departmental targets and prepare an action plan for grounding livestock units in a phased manner based on available funds after budget release.“The Collector also spoke over the phone with senior officials of the SC, ST Development and Minority Welfare Departments, requesting them to expedite the release of funds related to the programme. He directed officials to ensure proper utilization of released funds through continuous monitoring and to complete the grounding of units within the stipulated time. He emphasized that funds should not be wasted under any circumstances.“He instructed officials to simultaneously take up infrastructure development works required at village and mandal levels for the programme and proceed with a detailed implementation plan. Administrative approvals for infrastructure works to be undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) should be obtained immediately, he added.“The Collector directed officials to prepare an action plan to complete cattle shed construction works within the stipulated timeframe by including eligible beneficiaries under MGNREGS. He further instructed that DMFTE funds currently being utilized for shed construction should be reimbursed once MGNREGS funds



are sanctioned.“MPDOs were instructed to identify proactive beneficiaries willing to take up construction works immediately. Officials were asked to prepare estimates without delay for beneficiaries who had already commenced work at the field level. The Collector directed officials to transparently monitor the process of providing advance amounts to progressive beneficiaries for initiating works and subsequently adjusting the amounts after receipt of MGNREGS funds.“The Collector stressed that cattle sheds should be constructed with quality and durability. He also instructed officials to provide solar systems to eligible beneficiaries. Coordination with REDCO officials was advised to verify eligibility and assess technically feasible areas for solar installations before execution.“He instructed officials to prepare a strategy to ensure that Indira Mahila Dairy achieves full self-sufficiency within the next two years. He directed them to estimate the quantity of milk required to be collected daily at each Bulk Milk Cooling (BMC) center to achieve break-even and formulate plans to attain those targets.

A detailed action plan covering milk collection targets, marketing strategies, and sales arrangements should be submitted by next Tuesday, he said.“The Collector also advised officials to prepare a financial plan considering a maximum of 10 days’ operational expenditure and ensure a clear financial management mechanism under which funds are generated through business operations every 10 days. He instructed officials to formulate a comprehensive operational strategy covering income, expenditure, milk procurement, marketing, and other management aspects of the dairy programme.“Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija stated that officials should work proactively to ensure timely release and proper utilization of the allocated budget.“The review meeting was attended by DRDO Sriram, CPO Srinivas, BC Development Officer G. Jyothi, In-charge SC Corporation ED, District Minority Development Officer Mujahid, Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. B. Purandhar, Panchayat Raj EE Mahesh, Vijaya Dairy DD K. Ravi Kumar, DRDO APD Jayashree, Agriculture Department ADA S. Vijay Chandra, APMs, MPDOs, and other concerned officials. District Public Relations Officer’s Office, Khammam.

11th Graduation Day Celebrations Held at Little Flower Degree College, Uppal



“UPPAL , MAY 16(INDIAN CHRONICA): The 11th Graduation Day celebrations were held grandly at the Montfort Hall of Little Flower Degree College, Uppal. The event was attended by the college Correspondent Reverend Brother Arun Prakash, Director Reverend Brother John, and Principal Jayanthi Reddy, who congratulated the graduating students on their achievements.“Dr. Anil Kumar, Associate Director of the Advanced Systems Laboratory (DRDO), attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Retired Professor J.L.N. Rao from the Department of Political Science, Osmania University, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Both dignitaries delivered



ered motivational speeches encouraging students to pursue higher goals and achieve success in life.“The programme witnessed the participation of the college IQAC Coordinator, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and a large number of students, making the event a grand success. The graduating students, dressed in white attire, added special charm to the celebrations.“The programme, which commenced in the morning, continued in a joyful atmosphere. The college management presented degrees to the students and congratulated them on their accomplishments. The Graduation Day ceremony held at Montfort Hall became a memorable milestone in the lives of the students.

Sharada Ashokavardhan's Demise is an Irreparable Loss to Telugu Literature

-Balachelimi(a children’s development magazine) Chief Editor and Publisher Manikonda Vedakumar



Hyderabad, May 16 (Indian Chronicle): Manikonda Vedakumar, Chief Editor and Publisher of Balachelimi(a children’s development magazine), expressed profound grief over the demise of noted writer Sharada

Ashokavardhan, stating that her passing is an irreparable loss to the Telugu literary world. In a statement issued on Friday, he described her as a distinguished and widely respected figure in literary circles. He recalled her remarkable contribution to literature through radio and television, particularly for All India Radio listeners and Doordarshan audiences, with her plays, skits, musical features, songs, novels, and short stories. Vedakumar praised her invaluable service to the growth of children’s literature and noted that she had shared a close association with Balachelimi for more than three and a half decades. He said many of her writings were published in the magazine and remembered her memorable guidance and support during children’s literary workshops organized on several occasions. He fondly recalled her dedicated service to children’s literature and prayed for eternal peace for her soul. He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to her family members.

Sunil Dutt was courteously met by Puvvalla Durga Prasad.

“Khammam,May 16 (Indian Chronicle):““Police Commissionerate office, newly appointed SUDA Chairman Puvvalla Durga Prasad paid a courtesy visit to Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt. During the meeting, he felicitated the Commissioner with a shawl and presented a plant sapling as a token of respect.“Also present on the occasion were Rayala Nageswara Rao, OBC Cell President Puchalakayala Veerabhadram, Abdul Rasheed, and others.



A match, an isolated spot, and a fake cop: Anatomy of a Delhi honey trap



GNS News Agency, May 16

“This was a well-organised racket where each member had a defined role — from creating fake profiles and luring targets to staging raids and collecting extorted money,” Kumar said.“This was a well-organised racket where each member had a defined role — from creating fake profiles and luring targets to staging raids and collecting extorted money,” police said.A ‘right swipe’ and casual chats on dating apps like Tinder and QuackQuack are usually meant to spark new connections, often leading to plans for a coffee date and more. But for some users in Delhi, these meetings have turned into carefully planned traps.

Recently, the Delhi Police Crime Branch busted an organised honey-trap and extortion racket that preyed on users of dating applications by impersonating police officials. Four accused have been arrested in connection with the case.According to investigators, the gang operated with a calculated modus operandi. Police said first, fake female profiles were created on dating platforms to lure victims. Once contact was established, conversations quickly moved offline. Victims were persuaded to

meet in person, often at public places, before being taken to more isolated locations.

“One of the accused would impersonate a police official by wearing a uniform to create fear and legitimacy, after which victims were threatened with false criminal cases and forced to pay large sums as ‘settlement’,” said Pankaj Kumar, DCP, Crime Branch.In one such case, police said, the complainant alleged that he was called to meet a woman at a popular outlet in Janakpuri after connecting on Tinder. He was then taken to a flat along with another associate. At the location, multiple men entered, including one in a police uniform, and threatened to implicate him in a false rape case unless he paid Rs 15 lakh.

The ordeal was not over as yet. Police said the victim was allegedly forced into his own car and driven around for hours, while being pressured to arrange cash and withdraw money from ATMs.“This was a well-organised racket where each member had a defined role — from creating fake profiles and luring targets to staging raids and collecting extorted money,” Kumar said.Acting on specific intelligence, a Crime Branch team laid a trap near Rajouri Garden on May 12. One of the accused, Sushil Kumar, was apprehended on the spot while wearing a fake police uniform, even as three others initially managed to escape.Police said they were later tracked down and arrested. The accused have been identified as Deepak, Vinod and Neeraj, while efforts are underway to apprehend other members of the gang.Police said the accused were not first-time offenders. Three of them had been previously involved in a similar case registered at Bindapur, while another had faced arrest in 2017 in a case involving a similar modus operandi.Advising caution, Kumar said, “Citizens must remain careful while interacting with unknown persons through social media and dating platforms, avoid visiting isolated places with strangers, and report any suspicious activity or extortion attempts to the police immediately.”

West Bengal government orders re-verification of 1.69 crore caste certificates, hints at SIR deletions

GNS News Agency, May 16

West Bengal caste certificate reverificationThe order directing the re-verification of 1.69 crore caste certificates was issued by the Backward Classes Welfare department secretary to all district magistrates on May 14. (Image generated using AI)In a major decision, the West Bengal government has ordered the re-verification of 1.69 crore caste certificates in the state, which were issued since 2011 when the Trinamool Congress came to power. The order also states that caste certificates issued to people whose names have been deleted in the recent Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls will be examined and “may be cancelled”.The development comes in the backdrop of allegations of fake caste certificates being issued to people.

“There were complaints from different quarters that fake SC, ST and OBC certificates have been issued to a large number of people since 2011. There is a need for scrutiny. That is why we have asked the authorities to re-verify all the caste certificates. If any officer is found guilty of issuing fake certificates, strict action will be taken against him or her,” Kshudiram Tudu, Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, said.The order was issued by the Backward Classes Welfare department secretary to all district magistrates on May 14.“You are aware that around 1.69 crore caste certificates have been issued since 2011 (SC: 1.00 crore, ST: 21 lakh and OBC: 48 lakh). Of these, around 47.80 lakh caste certificates (SC: 32.51 lakh, ST: 6.65 lakh & OBC: 8.64 lakh) have been issued by the respective certificate issuing authorities against applications received through the Duare Sarkar camps (in 10 phases) within the stipulated time frame,” the order read.The Duare Sarkar (government at your doorstep) programme was a flagship initiative by the former TMC government, where neighbourhood camps were organised to facilitate access to schemes and receive applications for caste and other certificates.“Now, it has been observed that the authenticity and genuineness of some caste certificates issued since 2011 have been challenged by different quarters,” the order stated. It also highlighted that certain two-generation caste certificates may also have been issued on the basis of such certi-



cates during this period.

The order noted that the issuance of caste certificates is a statutory responsibility of the sub-divisional officers (SDOs) and district welfare officer, Kolkata, and required detailed scrutiny and verification before any certificate can be granted.“Considering the importance and sensitivity of the matter, re-verification of such caste certificates at the level of the respective issuing authorities will be done in accordance with the prevailing norms and statutory provisions,” it added.The order directs district magistrates to ask all SDOs to re-verify all caste certificates issued since 2011 “along with the related 2d generation caste certificates issued on the basis thereof, in terms of prevailing norms and statutory provisions, to ensure the authenticity and genuineness of the issued caste certificates and maintain transparency in the caste certificate issuing process,” the order stated.It also said that strict action would be taken if it was found that the certificates had been issued improperly.The order also referred to the controversial SIR exercise in the state. “Moreover, caste certificates issued to the persons and dependents whose names have been deleted from the electoral roll of the state in the recently conducted SIR exercises, shall be examined and may be cancelled following the due process as per extant Act & Rules mentioned above. Any laxity in this regard will be viewed accordingly and personal liability of the issuing authority shall be fixed,” the order read.In its first Cabinet meeting, the new BJP government had made it clear that those whose names had been deleted after the SIR would not be able to avail caste certificates.

Telangana cops issue Look Out Circular against Union Minister Bandi Sanjay’s son in POCSO case



GNS News Agency, May 16

Telangana Police issued a Look Out Circular (LoC) on Saturday against Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar’s son, Bandi Sai Bhageerath, in connection with a POCSO case registered against him, Special Investigating Officer in the case and Kukatapally DCP Ritiraj told The LoC is meant to prevent the accused from leaving the country. “Efforts are on to trace him. We are on the job,” Ritiraj said.

Telangana police, meanwhile, conducted searches for the 23-year-old accused at his father’s home in Karimnagar, his relative’s home in Hyderabad’s Banjara Hills, and his friends’ homes in Yousufguda, among other locations. The searches were conducted a day after Telangana High Court refused to give interim relief from arrest to Bhageerath.Bhageerath is accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old between October and December 2025. The two had allegedly met through mutual friends earlier in June 2025.In a complaint lodged at the Petbasheerabad police station on May 8, the girl’s mother alleged that Bhageerath subjected her to repeated sexual abuse and emotional blackmail. According to the complaint, Bhageerath allegedly isolated her and controlled her educational career decisions.Police initially booked Bhageerath under charges of assault or using criminal

force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty and sexual harassment, along with provisions of the POCSO Act. Later, once the girl’s statement was recorded, the police added the charge of aggravated sexual assault under the POCSO Act.

BharathCloud launches first Cloud Centre at CtrlS Hyderabad facility

Hyderabad: BharathCloud, an Indian AI-ready cloud services provider, launched BharathCloud’s first Cloud Centre at CtrlS Datacenters’ Hyderabad DC1 facility, marking an important step in strengthening India’s sovereign and AI-ready digital infrastructure ecosystem.The launch reflects the growing need for secure, scalable, and sovereign digital infrastructure as AI workloads, data localisation, and digital transformation continue to accelerate across industries, a press release said. It also marks the beginning of BharathCloud’s infrastructure expansion journey in India. Supported by JLL’s global infrastructure advisory capabilities and hosted within CtrlS AI-ready, Rated-4 datacenter ecosystem, the initiative highlights the increasing demand for resilient and high-performance digital infrastructure environments.Sridhar Pinnapurreddy, Founder & CEO, CtrlS Datacenters, said India’s AI and digital growth story will require resilient, secure, and sovereign digital infrastructure at scale. Rahul Takkallapally & Padma Reddy Sama, Co-Founders, BharathCloud, said the collaboration provided them the scale, strength, and confidence to expand infrastructure footprint nationally and globally.The initiative is part of BharathCloud’s \$100 million (approximately Rs 950 crore) investment plan over the next five years to build AI-ready sovereign cloud infrastructure across India.

Mumbai’s 35-year-old flyover dream is finally moving, but it’ll cost over 200 trees during a heatwave



GNS News Agency, May 16

At a time when Mumbai is reeling under multiple heatwave alerts amid the El Niño climatic phase, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has proposed cutting down and transplanting of 162 trees, to make way for a vehicular arm of the Vidyavihar east-west. The civic officials said that in return the BMC will carry out compensatory afforestation at Panvel in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.The Vidyavihar east-west link is one of the long pending infrastructure projects in Mumbai. The project was first envisioned 35 years ago and has been under construction for nearly a decade.

The 650-metre-long flyover will connect Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Marg in the east with Ramkrishna Chemburkar Marg in the west by passing above the railway tracks. The proposal for the flyover was first included in the BMC’s Development Plan (DP) regulations in 1991. Tenders for the project were floated in 2016 and construction work began thereafter. However, the project ran into several hurdles, resulting in repeated delays over the years.Mumbai A view of the under-construction Vidyavihar east-west link bridge is seen, in Mumbai on 16 May 2026. Currently, Vidyavihar does not have direct east-west road connectivity. Motorists are forced to cross railway tracks using road overbridges at Ghatkopar or Kurla, a commute that takes at least 30 to 45 minutes depending on traffic conditions. Once operational, the

new flyover is expected to reduce travel time to less than 10 minutes.

The project will comprise a 100 meter steel girder, on which the vehicular arms will be erected. Civic officials said that the alignment of this arm requires cutting down of the trees and according to the civic body’s proposal a total of 213 are falling in the way of the project of which, 77 of them will be entirely felled, while 85 of them will be transplanted, while 51 trees at the spot will be retained in their position.Meanwhile, to make way for the lost green cover, the BMC has also proposed compensatory plantation of 2,278 trees. The civic authorities have earmarked a 2.05 hectares plot in Panvel for the said purpose. Earlier this month, the civic administration submitted a proposal to the civic body’s standing committee to appoint the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) for executing the compensatory afforestation work. The civic authorities said that the overall drive of environment mitigation, which included transplantation of affected trees and maintaining them for a seven year period is set to cost Rs 1.99 crore to the BMC including land acquisition at Panvel.

Mumbai BMC has proposed to cut 213 more trees in order to make way for these approach roads. (Express photo by Sankhadeep Banerjee)“The reason why compensatory plantation is being done at Panvel is because it is nearly impossible to get such a large parcel of land within Mumbai to carry out compensatory afforestation,” a civic official said.Meanwhile, environmentalists have raised concerns about cutting down so many trees at a time when Mumbai is reeling under a heatwave-like situation, while the El Niño phase is underway. El Niño is a climatic pattern that weakens the southwest monsoon winds and leads to below average monsoon in India resulting in extended summers.“On one hand the BMC is damaging the base of existing trees by concreting the roads which prevents percolation of ground water and withers the root of the tree. On the other hand a large number of trees are also being cut to make way for infrastructure projects. This is damaging the ecosystem substantially as we can see how the land and surface temperature are rising over the decades pushing Mumbai to reel under a heatwave-like situation,” Stalin Dayanand environmentalist and director of NGO Vanashakti said.The flyover is being constructed at a cost of Rs 178 crore and is set to become operational by August, 2026.

‘Anger at former MLA, disappointment with the system’: How Pune Porsche crash victim’s parents are living out their days

GNS News Agency, May 16

It will be two years since Om and Savita Awadhiya, who live in Umaria, Madhya Pradesh, received the news that would shatter their lives. Their son, Aneesh Awadhiya, 24, an IT engineer in Pune, and his friend Ashwini Koshta were killed after his motorbike was allegedly hit by a Porsche driven by a drunk 17-year-old.“As we approach May 18-19, I begin to relive the memories of all that had happened in the days before the tragedy. I remember the times I had talked to him. Phir wahi din, wahi samay bas nikalta ja raha hai (That day, that moment keeps passing by). What compounds our sorrow is that we have lost everything, but nothing has happened to the accused. It seems everybody has forgotten about the Porsche case,” says Savita Awadhiya.

At present, all the family members of the accused are out on bail. The minor, who is now an adult, was granted bail within 15 hours of the incident. His mother, who was accused of tampering with evidence and misleading investigators, was granted bail around April 2025. In March this year, the Supreme Court granted bail to the father. The Awadhiya family watched these developments on TV. They wonder when the hearing on the court case will begin.“The lawyers are working but we don’t know what is happening. Hamari kuch samajh mein hi nahin aa raha ki hum aage kya karen. (We don’t know how to go ahead),” says Savita Awadhiya. She adds that the family has been living each day with grief.

When there is anger, it comes cloaked in sorrow and disappointment with the system. “What does one say about Sunil Tingre ji, the then-MLA, who reached the Yerwada police station at 3 am to protect the minor? He got doctors and others also involved. We believe that



Tingre should have been added to the list of the accused. It was such a tragic accident and, yet, powerful people were busy subverting the probe,” says Om Awadhiya. He alleges that the police had tried to stop Aneesh Awadhiya’s friend from filing an FIR. Incidentally, Tingre, from the Nationalist Congress Party, lost the Assembly election in 2024.“Our children will not come back but we were pleased to learn that a board had been put up at the spot of the accident in their memory. Now, that board has been removed. We would feel some relief if the board or a memorial were erected so that other wealthy parents would hesitate before giving their cars to minors,” says Om Awadhiya.He says it is imperative that Pune – and the rest of the country – does not forget the Porsche case. “It should serve as a reminder that even powerful people can go to jail,” says Om Awadhiya. Memories are important to them, not just as a confetti of pictures from the past but as a source of strength for the future. “It is our appeal that the people of Pune visit the site and conduct a small memorial event. We are in Madhya Pradesh and will mourn at home. But, will the local MLA and a few people of Pune come out and grieve with us?” asks Om Awadhiya.

How a Rs 1 lakh complaint exposed a Rs 152-crore cyber scam

Around noon on January 11, 2025, a 32-year-old man walked into IV Town police station in Nizamabad. He looked athen. “Everyone in the police station noticed him,” a police officer remembered.Three days earlier, on January 8, the man had invested Rs 1.04 lakh — money he carefully saved after working in a company for a year — in an investment app that promised attractive returns. By the time he realised the app was fraudulent and told the police, the money was gone — it was all he had.This fraud wasn’t very big, an investigator recalled, but once the police officers learnt that this meagre amount was all his savings, they were sympathetic. “He had put together this money from the salary he earned at his new job at a private company in a small town, about 200 km from Hyderabad,” a police officer said.

As police officers began digging deeper, the case took an unexpected turn. This didn’t seem to be a run-of-the-mill cyber fraud.First, they found a phone number linked to the fraudulent investment app. Then, they unearthed a current account at a private bank’s Nizamabad branch, used as a mule account.This first mule account that was busted led to another mule account 56820000100031001. This mule account sat at the heart of a web of illicit transactions and was a money mule hub. Soon police found out that this mule account was linked to proceeds of cybercrimes in four states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Telangana. However, the initial revelations were just the tip of the iceberg. Telangana Police, subsequently, busted a country-wide cybercrime racket involving 46 such mule accounts with links to crimes in 14 states and transactions worth Rs 152.18 crore.

The story of the mule account, 56820000100031001, however, didn’t begin in Nizamabad. Two years earlier, on June 14, 2024, a complaint had been filed against this current account number on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP). It

was used in fraudulently transacting close to Rs 4 lakh — proceeds of investment fraud — from a victim based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. A probe was initiated and then abandoned. “The account couldn’t be traced by Uttar Pradesh Police because it wasn’t registered in the state,” a UP police officer said.

“There were a lot of accounts to which the proceeds were sent. We weren’t able to locate all the accounts as they were registered in different states,” said the officer, posted at Noida Sector 49 station.It was Citizen L’s complaint in Nizamabad that finally led to the expose.

Like everyone else, Citizen L wanted to make the most out of his meagre salary and kept parking his money in fixed deposits. But seeing others his age were investing, he decided to give it a shot. He found an investment broker online and called him up.

Police said the broker, who was a scamster, added him to a WhatsApp group and encouraged him to make payments. Citizen L transferred Rs 5,000 at first and was shown handsome returns. This encouraged him to invest more — Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 in different instalments. He was already down Rs 1.04 lakh when he realised he was not able to withdraw the money.By then, the money had been transferred to the account number of a private bank in Nizamabad. Police traced this account and requisitioned for an immediate freeze.The account, police said, was registered in the name of Mohammad Abdul Jawad from Bodhan in Nizamabad district. They retrieved almost all of the money, close to Rs 1 lakh, which Citizen L had lost. Police nabbed Jawad. Once questioned, he spilled the beans, leading to the arrest of his handler Gudumala Nithish. Nithish too hailed from Nizamabad. They were named accused 1 and 2 and remanded to judicial custody.

Once the police cracked the case, the investigation went dormant. “We thought this was the end of it,” Station House Officer of IV Town Police Station, Sadula Satheesh, who led the investigation in the case,. “But this was only the beginning”.

‘Now, I can grow my hair’: With Mamata gone, BJP MLA Kaustav Bagchi ends his vow



GNS News Agency, May 16

A 35-year-old newly elected BJP MLA, Kaustav Bagchi, is once again drawing attention in West Bengal not only for defeating filmmaker-turned-TMC candidate Raj Chakraborty from the Barrackpore constituency in North 24 Parganas, but also for breaking a political vow he upheld for three years.Elected as the MLA from Barrackpore, Bagchi said he will finally let his hair grow back while continuing to focus on public service and the political commitment that has shaped his journey.In 2023, Bagchi was arrested by the Kolkata police after he allegedly criticised then chief minister Mamata Banerjee for her “personal attack” on state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. After being granted bail, Bagchi shaved his head and vowed to stay bald till the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government was in power in the

state.What began as a symbolic gesture gradually became his public identity.

“Now, I can grow back my hair. I had taken a vow that until the TMC was defeated and the BJP came to power, I would keep my head shaved. For that, I faced humiliation, criticism and a lot of trolling. Many people made cartoons about me. But I personally praised them every time because I respect talent and like to encourage talented people,” he said after his electoral victory.“My family and I never took these things negatively. We were happy. People mocked me, but we understood why I was doing it,” said Bagchi, a former Congress leader who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2024.

Speaking about his priorities after the Bengal election, Bagchi said he intends to focus on people’s concerns and public welfare. “After winning, I want to work for people’s dignity and solve their problems,” he said.Bagchi said his victory reflected the trust and support of the people in the Barrackpore constituency. “I won because I had, and still have, the blessings of the people here,” he said.Bagchi, who is also a lawyer, said his interest in politics began at a young age. “I have been interested in politics since Class 6. Even though I became a lawyer, I always wanted to work for the people,” he added.He also made sharp remarks about his defeated opponent, Raj Chakraborty. “At the end of the day, the people here will choose their own son.”Throughout the campaign, Bagchi’s shaved head remained closely linked to his political image and public vow. Over the past three years, the look was widely recognised at rallies, public appearances, and political discussions.

Pimpri-Chinchwad civic body cuts drinking water supply to 24 housing societies without functional sewage plants



GNS News Agency, May 16

As many as 24 residential housing societies in Pimpri-Chinchwad have lost their drinking water connections as they have failed to make their sewage treatment plants (STPs) operational.Officials of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), which cut the water connections last week, said they had warned the societies in advance.

“Despite reminders, 24 societies failed to make their STPs operational. Our officials went to the spot and came across several non-operational STPs,” PCMC Executive Engineer Yogesh Alhat told The Indian Express on Monday.The PCMC administration said the STP mandate currently applies to 494 residential societies.“The norm is not applicable to all societies. It is applicable only to those constructed on 2 lakh square feet of land,” said Alhat.Of the 494 such housing societies, Alhat said 62 had repeatedly been told to get their STPs up and running.

“But they have failed to do so. Therefore, we have started taking action. So far, we have taken action only on those STPs that were non-functional for several days. Action against the remaining ones will be taken soon,” Alhat said.Alhat said some societies had internal problems that kept their STPs non-functional.“For instance, some societies told us their chairman has changed, others said their new committees are being formed. We told

such societies to give us a guarantee letter stating they would make their STPs operational in the next 15 days,” he said.PCMC officials said that builders set up STPs before handing over newly constructed buildings to residents.

Every society, based on either 20,000 square metres or 2 lakh square feet of land, must set up STPs. Once the STPs are set up, they can treat their sewage water and recycle it for gardening or toilet use. This way, they need not use the drinking water supplied to them. This leads to less consumption of the drinking water,” an official said.Meanwhile, residents of the housing societies had grievances to share.“Firstly, the PCMC has not given us any notice before severing our water connections. It is asking us to give in writing that we had been served the notice. This is not appropriate. Besides, the PCMC had given completion certificates to the builders without verifying whether the STP was in a condition to be operated or without ensuring that society members have been trained for the purpose,” said Amol Joshi, chairman of Palaash Housing Society, whose water connections have been severed.

Joshi added, “In our case, the watchman who was operating had quit. We were in the process of appointing a new watchman and training him in operating the STP. Before that, PCMC teams arrived and severed our connection. This is a gross injustice to the residents. Now we have to depend on water tanks and spend extra money on them.”Another society resident said running STPs is easier said than done and criticised the timing of the PCMC action.“The PCMC talks big about setting up STPs. Who will pay the huge electricity bill for running the STP? Besides, we have no technical knowledge about it. Neither has the builder provided us with any technical insight. There is also the issue of maintenance of the STPs. The PCMC should not take such crass action, especially at a time of scorching summer.”The 24 housing societies that lost their water connectionsAishwaryam Society B Ventures, Advani Orlikon Road, AkurdiAanandban Cop Housing Society, Survey No-154/2, Iskcon Temple, Ganesh Nagar, RavetSai Saroj, Sr. No. 154/1 180/1A, Ganesh Nagar, Pipeline Rd Shinde Vasti, RavetAaditya Nagar Society, Gendgaon Shinde Wasti, Ravet

Opposition slams PM Modi’s call to cut fuel use and foreign travel, alleges ‘policy failure’ and ‘election-focused governance’



GNS News Agency, May 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeal to people to use less fuel, avoid buying gold, and reduce foreign travel to help ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves amid the West Asia crisis sparked a political row on Monday, with the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi accusing the Centre of making common people pay for its economic and policy failures.Leaders from the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP) said the BJP-led government was now asking citizens to cut spending and consumption instead of taking responsibility for rising prices, fuel costs and economic stress.Maharashtra Congress president Harshvardhan Sapkal hit out at Modi in a post on X, saying the country was already struggling with inflation, rising fuel prices, and economic slowdown while the prime minister remained busy with “events, photoshoots and election campaigns”.

Sapkal said the government had weakened the economy for electoral gains and was now advising people to avoid buying petrol, diesel, gold, fertilisers, and edible oil.“Will only ordinary people make sacrifices while Modi continues giving speeches before cameras?” he asked.Sapkal also said that while several countries were preparing for a possible global crisis, the BJP government remained focused on elections and publicity.Referring to the Covid pandemic, Sapkal said people died due to a lack of oxygen while the govern-

ment focused on symbolic campaigns.Calling Modi an “event manager”, Sapkal said the country needed leadership with long-term planning but instead got a government focused on image-building.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi also criticised the Centre, calling the situation a “policy failure” in handling the conflict in West Asia.“Election-related decisions cannot now be pushed onto citizens by asking them to save oil, reduce travel and cut spending,” Chaturvedi said.She added that people were already paying the price for what she called “election-focused governance and award-collecting foreign relations”.Taking a swipe at the government, Chaturvedi suggested banning long ministerial convoys, stopping large political rallies for a year, and avoiding grand swearing-in ceremonies.Referring to the Assam Chief Minister’s oath-taking ceremony on May 12, she wrote, “WFFH should mean Watch From Home”.

100 kg banned cotton seeds seized near Shamirpet; one arrested

Hyderabad: The Special Operations Team (Cantonment) along with the local police and Agriculture Department officials seized 100 kg of banned BT-3 cotton seeds and arrested a man involved in their illegal transport and sale near Shamirpet on Saturday.

The suspect, identified as Srinivasa Rao from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, was caught while allegedly attempting to sell the prohibited BG-III HP variety cotton seeds to farmers and fertilizer shops on the suburbs.Police said the seeds were procured at a low price from a supplier in Andhra Pradesh and were being transported for illegal sale to earn higher profits. He was previously involved in similar cases in Vikarabad district last year.

Why a court sentenced a man to life for raping his minor daughter even after her mother turned hostile



GNS News Agency, May 16

A special court in Pune recently awarded rigorous life imprisonment to a man for the sexual assault of his 8-year-old daughter. The conviction is notable as the court relied on “definitive” medical evidence and the girl’s own testimony, even after her mother turned hostile to protect the accused.The crime occurred on the afternoon of December 19, 2020, in a village within the Pune district. According to the prosecution, the girl had returned home from school for lunch when her father locked the door from the inside. He allegedly thrashed the child before forcibly undressing and sexually assaulting her.The girls escaped when her cousin arrived at the house to retrieve a mobile phone charger, momentarily distracting the accused. She fled the house and immediately narrated the ordeal to her aunt and mother. Based on her mother’s statement in the initial FIR, the Pune Rural police arrested the then-33-year-old man under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.Mother’s ‘dilemma’Despite lodging the original FIR, the mother turned hostile during the trial. While she identified her signature on the FIR, she resiled from her earlier statements regarding the assault.

During her initial testimony, the 8-year-old was also declared hostile after failing to provide a complete account of the incident. However, during a rigorous cross-examination by the Assistant Public Prosecutor, she admitted to the assault, detailed the specific nature of the abuse, and correctly identified the clothing worn by both herself and her father during the crime.The defence lawyer argued that the girl had been declared hostile and, during her cross-examination, testified about the incident, making her an unreliable witness. The defence also pointed out that the girl’s mother had turned hostile, which

undermines the evidence against the accused. Additionally, the lawyer claimed that the accused was falsely implicated due to his addiction to alcohol.The court noted that the mother was caught in a “dilemma” between her husband and her child. “She appears to have chosen her husband... Evidence of such a hostile witness will be of no assistance to the prosecution, but at the same time, it will not efface the positive evidence which the victim has tendered,” the court stated.The defence lawyer argued that the panch (independent) witness was illiterate, which called her credibility into question. During cross-examination, the panch witness confirmed in court that she could not read or write. She stated that the seizure panchnama, which documented the seizure of clothing belonging to both the girl and the accused, was handwritten by the police, after which she signed it.

Court slams police for ‘lackadaisical’ probeThe court criticised the Pune Rural police for their investigation methods, particularly the use of an illiterate independent witness to seize evidence. The court said it was surprising that in such a serious offence, the investigation officers adopted a “lackadaisical approach”.“At the very least, it was expected from the investigation officer to secure a panch witness who is literate and sufficiently educated to understand the nature and implications of the proceedings that may subsequently be scrutinised during the trial. In the present case, such basic precautions appear to have been overlooked,” the court stated.But the court further stated that, despite the “rustic background of the witness, her admissions regarding illiteracy and inability to sign her full name by themselves do not materially affect the evidentiary value of her testimony”.Meanwhile, the medical examination of the girl confirmed vaginal penetration and physical injuries on her body. Considering the girl’s testimony and the medical evidence in this case as “definitive”, the court found the offence proved beyond a reasonable doubt.In the order dated May 7, the court sentenced the accused to rigorous imprisonment for life, holding him guilty under sections of the Pocso Act and also under IPC sections 376 (2)(j) [rape] and 323 (voluntary causing hurt).“The accused has subjected the victim to the most dastardly offence which has not only violated her body, but also her spirit. Children who have undergone such offences at the hands of their own parents seldom rise again in life. Such vicious acts of the accused, according to me, deserve no leniency whatsoever,” the court stated.

Mumbai local trains get advanced signal announcement system for error-free operations



GNS News Agency, May 16

Mumbai local train network has adopted a GPS-based signalling system to improve operational efficiency and minimise errors. (Image generated using AI)Mumbai local train network has adopted a GPS-based signalling system to improve operational efficiency and minimise errors.Mumbai suburban rail network: Mumbai suburban railway network is one of the busiest rail networks in the country, with more than 2,300 trains operating daily. In a bid to ensure smooth and error-free train operations, the Central Railway (CR) zone has upgraded the SILAS (Signal Location Announcement System) in Mumbai local trains to improve operational safety.In a statement, Dr Swapnil Nila, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), CR said: “With most signals spaced just 400-500 meters apart and around 400 signals located on Right Hand side / Extreme Right Hand / Left Hand / Extreme Left Hand sides, Motormen work under tremendous pressure, making the system prone to human error.In a major safety initiative the Signal Location Announcement System (SILAS) is being upgraded in the driving cabs of all EMU trains to assist Motormen in error-free train operations.”

What is SILAS? How does it work on Mumbai local trains?

The SILAS is a GPS-based system that assists Motormen by announcing the signal number of the upcoming

ing signal along with its position — Left/Extreme Left/ Right/Extreme Right. It is based on the train’s live location. Currently, this advanced system is under upgradation across the Mumbai Division.The new system will provide signal alerts by announcing the signal number and its position at 350 metres and 250 metres before the train approaches the signal. According to Railways, audio alert is given on passing a “Yellow” signal. “It repeatedly announces “Be careful, next signal is Red” until the next Green/Double Yellow signal aspect,” it said.

It further said that Audio recordings, GPS coordinates and locations of all signals for each route are pre-loaded in SILAS. “The Train Manager selects the appropriate line — Down Local Line(slow line), UP Local Line, Down Through line (fast line), UP Through line , etc. — before starting the trip.Based on the journey selected by the Train Manager, it announces the next halt station 500 meters and 250 meters before arrival, e.g., “Next halt: Thane,” reads the statement. The official said that the feature is currently under development and can be modified based on observations and reports during trial runs. Assistance to Motorman: Provides real-time audio alerts for signals and halt stations, aiding safe train operation. Driving Behavior Analysis: Monitors instantaneous speed at critical points like yellow signals, platform entry, PSRs, and neutral sections. This data is used for counseling Motormen to improve safety and driving skills. Real-time Train Tracking: Enables live location and speed monitoring of EMU trains for operational control. Mumbai suburban Motormen perform a ‘Single-man job’ under extremely challenging conditions. SILAS is being upgraded to act as an electronic co-pilot, reducing stress and enhancing safety by ensuring no signal is missed.Anish Mondal is a journalist with over nine years of experience covering the railways and roadways. Currently a member of the Indianexpress.com editorial team, Anish specializes in high-impact sectors. Professional Journey Anish began his career at the public broadcaster Rajya Sabha Television (now Sansad TV), where he developed a foundational understanding of legislative processes and national governance. In 2018, he transitioned to digital financial

Pune records season’s highest minimum temperature at 24.8° Celsius

Pune recorded its highest minimum temperature of the season Monday, with the Shivajinagar weather station registering 24.8° Celsius in the morning, which was 2.5°C higher than Sunday’s reading.

On Sunday evening, Shivajinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 41.4°C, making it the hottest May day there since 2015. The previous decade-high for May was 41.3°C in 2019, while last year’s highest May temperature was 41.2°C. This year, however, Lohegaon was even hotter on May 10, recording 42.7°C — the highest temperature in Pune.The sharp rise in minimum temperatures was felt across Pune Monday. Hadapsar recorded 28.7°C, up from 26.3°C on Sunday, while Magarpatta saw a 2°C increase to 28.2°C. Wadgaonsheri registered 27.9°C, compared to 25.8°C the previous day, making for a more uncomfortable morning. In Chinchwad, the minimum temperature rose from 24.8°C to 27°C. Pashan, however, bucked the trend, recording a cooler 17.2°C compared to 20.4°C Sunday morning.

Shivajinagar was the warmest place in Pune on Sunday. Koregaon Park and Wadgaonsheri were almost as warm, at 41° C, and Chinchwad, Lavale and Magarpatta touched 40° C. Pashan, where the mornings are cooler, saw the heat develop rapidly during the day to 40° C.“The temperatures are rising and crossing 40° C in large parts of Pune. We are expecting similar conditions for the next



four to five days,” said S D Sanap, Scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune.Sanap said the relatively lower temperatures last week were due to a trough over the region, which brought moisture from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.“The trough has weakened and moved away, so we see the Northerly winds blowing into the region. These winds are carrying heat from the warm regions of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, contributing to the rise in temperatures here. Among the other reasons are the clear skies that allow the sun’s rays to hit the earth directly, and the lack of moisture in the atmosphere,” he added.Meanwhile, IMD has announced a heat wave in Central Maharashtra and Marathwada on May 12 and 13. There is a heatwave alert on May 14 and 15 in Vidarbha, the hottest region of Maharashtra.

Guidelines for incentives worth Rs 2,000 crore for EV charging stations to be out soon: Official



The final guidelines for disbursing Rs 2,000 crore in incentives under the new PM E-DRIVE scheme to support the installation of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will be issued within a month, Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Heavy Industries, said Tuesday. The ministry will also release detailed guidelines for implementing the scheme to boost domestic production of electric cars, which it had notified in March earlier this year to attract investments from global EV manufacturers, Qureshi said at a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) event. The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme, which was notified in September with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over two years, sets aside Rs 2,000 crore for charging infrastructure, twice that of its predecessor the FAME-2 scheme. Qureshi said the ministry has done a number of stakeholder consultations and framed draft guidelines on the disbursement of the total quantum of incentives. At the moment, the draft guidelines have been shared with state governments and the ministry is awaiting their feedback. "Basically, there will be committees formed in each state at the level of the Chief Secretary where the demand for chargers in the state will be aggregated. Each state will also be sending a proposal to the Ministry of Heavy Industries, and then both will be sanctioned," he said.

He added that incentives will be disbursed depending on parameters like the number of EVs in a city and the vehicular traffic that passes through the highways. "We will be prioritising on the basis of whether a state has an EV policy or not, whether they have some of their own incentives or not. Because we may receive proposals that are in excess of Rs 2,000 crore," Qureshi said. The final guidelines will also allocate incentives for upstream infrastructure that will be developed by electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), as many of them are facing financial challenges. Qureshi added that the detailed guidelines for the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI), which was notified in March, will also be out within 3-4 weeks. The

scheme essentially lowers import duties to 15 per cent from 100 per cent on car models costing over \$35,000 if its manufacturer promises to invest \$500 million in setting up a local factory. According to the Ministry of Commerce, the scheme "is designed to attract investments in the e-vehicle space by reputed global EV manufacturers" and seeks to "provide Indian consumers with access to latest technology, boosting the Make in India initiative, strengthening the EV ecosystem by promoting healthy competition among EV players, reducing imports of crude oil and reduce air pollution". More charging infra will reduce anxiety.

The PM E-DRIVE scheme aims to support approximately 25 lakh electric two-wheelers, 3 lakh electric three-wheelers, and 14,000 electric buses through demand incentives. However, compared to its predecessor the FAME-2 scheme, incentives in the latest subsidy are significantly lesser. They also make a significant omission—electric cars.

"One school of thought believes that no incentive should be given to electric vehicles in the shape of upfront demand subsidy. Rather, there should be taxation benefits and there should be adequate charging infrastructure. If adequate charging is there and people do not have any anxiety, it will make life easier for them and they will buy EVs on their own. And partly, that is what we have adopted in the PM E-DRIVE scheme," Qureshi said. "The charging infrastructure outlay was Rs 1,000 crore in the FAME-2 scheme, which was a 5-year scheme. Now, the outlay is Rs 2,000 crore in the PM E-DRIVE scheme, which is only a 2-year scheme. There will be 22,100 chargers for electric four-wheelers. There is a tentative list of top 40 cities and top 50 highways with high-density traffic. Chargers for two- and three-wheelers will be around 48,000 and for buses and trucks, there are about 1,800 chargers, all for high-density corridors," he added. At the event, Sulajja Firodia Motwani, CEO of Kinetic Green Energy & Power Solutions Ltd and chairperson of the Electric Vehicle Committee at FICCI, said that GST on replacement batteries and charging services needs to be reduced to 5 per cent from the current 18 per cent. "This will make charging more affordable for our consumers and it will make batteries more affordable for replacement. It will also help the OEMs to reduce the fund blockage due to the inverted duty structure," Motwani said. She also highlighted that incentives under the PM E-DRIVE scheme are beginning to run out. "We do believe that the allocations under the scheme are already beginning to exhaust themselves. (For) three-wheelers, we have already run out of money and that just means that the scheme has been very well received. We would like to urge MHI to look at an extension of the scheme and to allocate higher budgets towards this green dream," Motwani said. In response, Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to Prime Minister, said, "(For) three wheelers, we've run out of subsidies, so that I think is a success, it's not a failure. But the PM E-DRIVE scheme has a lot of money. It's not that we've run out of money, it's just that the sanction was for a particular number in the first year and we did that in a few months".

Intensified TB elimination campaign will be expanded to all districts, says Health Minister Nadda

Under the 100-day TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, which started on December 7, 2024, 12.97 crore people were screened for tuberculosis (TB) with over 7.19 lakh TB patients notified across India. Approximately 2.85 lakh of the notified patients were asymptomatic, who might have otherwise gone undetected without the stratified screening strategy of the campaign, said Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda on Monday (March 24, 2025), while speaking at the World TB Day, 2025 summit.

"TB treatment coverage in India has now increased from 59% to 85%. More than 5,000 MLAs and 10,000 Gram Panchayats participated in the campaign. We now plan to scale up the campaign nationwide to cover all districts in India because TB is not yet over," said the Minister. He said the Central government's TB elimination strategy is based on 'whole of the society' and 'whole of the government' approach. Lauding the 100-day Intensified TB Elimination campaign's strategy to deploy cutting-edge technologies, including handheld X-ray units and upfront Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) some of which were deployed using mobile vans (Nikshay Vahans), the Minister said this intensified use of technology had helped the campaign shatter geographical barriers and brought vital screening and diagnostic services to remote and underserved areas. The theme for this year's World TB Day summit is "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver".

Under the 100-day intensified campaign, over 13.46 lakh Nikshay Shivirs, or community screening and awareness camps were organised in the districts, bringing essential TB services directly to the doorsteps of crores of people. During this time, over 1,05,181 new Nikshay Mitras have registered and distributed over 3,06,368 food baskets among TB patients and their family members. The Minister, in his address, noted that during the recently concluded 100-day Intensified TB Elimination Campaign, there was enforced screening of the vulnerable popula-



tions, including asymptomatic individuals, household contacts of TB patients, those with a history of TB, undernourished individuals, and those with chronic comorbidities such as diabetes and HIV.

"India is one of the top global funders of TB research and RT-PCR machines used during the COVID pandemic are adapted for use in TB screening. Similarly, indigenous diagnostic kits developed by the ICMR not only reduce the cost for TB detection but also improve efficiency by conducting 32 tests in one go. Hand-held X-ray machines with AI support have also played a huge role in detecting asymptomatic TB," said the Minister.

A digital Coffee Table Book on TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, capturing and showcasing the implementation of the Abhiyaan, was unveiled on the occasion. The Minister also launched a 'Guidance Document on Differentiated TB Care' to ensure timely and effective care for high-risk patients. This document provides guidelines for triaging high-risk patients (for instance, those suffering from severe undernutrition or respiratory insufficiency) at diagnosis and refers to a comprehensive treatment plan for them. Also States and union territories were awarded for the exemplary performance during the 100-day intensified TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and also for their performance in the TB-Mukt Gram Panchayat Initiative.



to provide some relief from the heat. "There is a slight vibration when the air-conditioning is on. At present, only 50 of the 334 traffic police personnel in the Avadi City Police have been provided with these helmets," he said. After analysing the pilot project's results, efforts will be taken to procure more helmets for traffic police personnel, Mr. Shankar said. Spending extended periods outside in the summer heat poses the risk of dehydration and sunstroke. Traffic officers, in particular, face a higher chance of developing respiratory issues due to the increased dust in the air during this season. Previous initiatives by the Chennai police to help personnel manage the intense heat have included providing free buttermilk, distributing sunglasses, supplying pith helmets for sun protection, and setting up shaded areas at traffic signals, among others.

Breaking Down Diabetes: Awareness, Prevention, and Sustainable Management



Diabetes is an increasingly common condition worldwide, more so in India, but one that remains poorly understood by many. While the prevalence of diabetes has risen sharply in adults over recent decades, what's more alarming is that this is no longer considered just an adult disease. More children and adolescents are now being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes than ever before, primarily due to lifestyle changes and unhealthy dietary habits.

Diabetes rates are climbing globally, with millions unaware they may have the condition. A lack of awareness means many people don't get screened early, missing the chance to detect diabetes in its initial stages. Routine screenings are critical, especially for those with risk factors like obesity, family history, or sedentary lifestyle. Early detection can lead to better management, fewer complications, and healthier lives. **Physical Activity:** Physical activity is essential in managing diabetes, but it needs to go beyond just cardio. Strength training, which helps build and maintain muscle, is crucial. Muscle tissue is highly effective at using glucose, and stronger muscles can improve blood sugar regulation. For people with diabetes, adding strength training to their routine can be highly effective in controlling blood sugar levels, improving insulin sensitivity, and promoting overall metabolic health. **Complex Carbohydrates:** Choose whole grains, legumes, and fiber-rich foods, which are digested more slowly and have a lower impact on blood sugar levels. **Lean Proteins:** These help in stabilizing blood sugar and promote muscle health, which is essential for managing blood glucose levels. **Healthy Fats:** Incorporating sources like olive oil, ground nut oil, gingelly oil, nuts, and seeds is beneficial for heart health, which is often at risk in people with diabetes. However, deep frying should be avoided. **Fiber:** A high-fiber diet aids in slowing down glucose absorption, helping to maintain steady blood sugar levels throughout the day.

Instead of obsessing over individual foods, it's vital to balance these macronutrients on the plate, practice portion control, and focus on overall dietary patterns that support glycemic stability. **Changing Attitudes and Misconceptions About Food Choices:** Many people focus on individual foods that might lower blood sugar, like chapati or certain millets, expecting that adding them will solve their problems. But without proper portion control and balanced macronutrients, even these foods won't be ef-

Delhi pollution crisis: This is when you should take your pet for a walk

As Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) continues to be in the 'severe' category Wednesday, it's not only humans but also our four-legged friends who are bearing the brunt of the rising pollution levels. While it is ideal to keep them inside as much as possible, it is also important to take them out for a walk. To understand the ideal time to do so and help pet parents navigate the effects of deteriorating air quality, we reached out to experts.

When is the best time to take pets for a walk?

Dr Gautam Anand, senior veterinary consultant at Dr Anand's Pet Clinic, Delhi, said that the best time to take your pet out in severe air quality is early in the morning. "There is less traffic, almost no factory pollution, and considerably less noise pollution to discomfort the animals at that hour," he told indianexpress.com. Dr Vinod Sharma, veterinarian at DCC Animal Hospital, Noida, advised pet owners to keep their pets mostly inside and take them out when the smog is less. "Use air purifiers with safety, and exercise caution, especially when it comes to small and brachycephalic breeds," he added.

How does air pollution affect animals?

Dr Sharma said that air pollution can cause respiratory illnesses, allergies, and, in extreme cases, even lung cancer in pets, which can shorten their lifespan. "Dogs are especially susceptible to poor air quality. They can contract temporary respiratory issues, and it can also lead to life-long diseases like asthma or bronchial congestion." Nishma Singhal, Founder of Zoivane Pets, added that exposure to harmful pollutants can cause respiratory issues, skin irritation, weakened immunity, and overall discomfort in furry friends.

Here's how many calories astronauts need in space to stay energetic, fit

Just like on Earth, where a reduction in calorie intake affects body weight, the same happens in space. Experts say the effect is compounded with microgravity or very little gravity. "Microgravity can affect bone and muscle turnover. There is rapid caloric loss and protein deficiency coupled with nutritional deficiency, which can lead to a shift in fluid and electrolyte balance in prolonged stay in space," said Dr Rajiv Kovil, head of diabetology, Zandra Healthcare and co-founder of Rang De Neela Initiative. He added that being in space causes astronauts to burn calories quickly and lose some critical nutrients with prolonged stay. "On Earth, we don't usually think about gravity helping our muscles and bones stay healthy, but it's always there, gently pulling us down and giving our bodies a natural workout. Without this constant pull, the body has to work harder in space, which uses more energy and nutrients," elaborated Dr Kovil. Without strong gravity, Dr Kovil explained that astronauts' bones and muscles don't get as much exercise as they do on Earth, so they start to weaken. "To keep them strong, astronauts need to exercise a lot—around 2 to 3 hours every day," said Dr Kovil. This is why astronauts can have less protein, vitamins, and minerals in their bodies, which are crucial for staying healthy. "Also, because of these changes, astronauts' bodies might lose balance in important fluids and electrolytes. Hence, they need to follow a strict diet and exercise routine to stay as healthy as possible during long trips in space," said Dr Kovil. So,

fective on their own. Managing diabetes requires a comprehensive approach to eating that considers the right mix of carbs, proteins, fats, and fiber rather than isolated foods. Instead of focusing on individual foods, like switching to chapati or adding millets, the focus should be on a well-rounded plate that balances all macronutrients.

The rise of diabetes in children and adolescents signals a pressing need to change lifestyle habits early in life. With the increase in processed foods, sugary snacks, and excessive screen time, children are now at risk for a disease once largely seen only in adults. Families should prioritize reducing junk food, opting for balanced homemade meals, and encouraging children to participate in physical activities instead of prolonged screen time. Encouraging children to develop healthy eating and exercise habits from a young age is essential. They should learn to enjoy fruits, vegetables, and whole foods rather than fast foods and sugary snacks, which are high in calories and low in nutrients. Screen time should also be limited, as excessive sedentary behavior can lead to obesity, which increases the risk of diabetes.

Diabetes is a manageable condition, but prevention and early management require a multifaceted approach. Awareness, regular screening, balanced nutrition, exercise (including strength training), and portion control are all vital components of effective diabetes management. For children, starting these habits early can make a world of difference in preventing diabetes and promoting lifelong health. We must work together to educate, support, and encourage our communities toward healthier choices—because with knowledge and action, diabetes can be controlled, if not prevented. Dr. R. Shanmugasundaram MD Consultant physician and diabetologist, Kauvery Hospital, Salem. Dr. R. Shanmugasundaram MD Consultant physician and diabetologist, Kauvery Hospital, Salem. Dr. R. Shanmugasundaram is an experienced Consultant in General Medicine and Diabetology, currently practicing at Kauvery Hospital, Salem. With a strong focus on diabetes and related metabolic disorders, he brings a wealth of expertise in managing these conditions through a patient-centric approach. Dr. Shanmugasundaram emphasizes the importance of personalized care, combining evidence-based treatments with lifestyle modifications to help patients effectively manage their health and improve their quality of life. At Kauvery Hospital, Salem, patients benefit from a healthcare institution known for its commitment to excellence. Equipped with advanced medical technologies and a team of dedicated healthcare professionals, the hospital offers comprehensive diabetes care. From diagnostics to treatment and preventive services, Kauvery Hospital ensures that patients receive holistic and individualized care to meet their unique health needs. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the content that appears in sponsored articles and the consequences thereof, directly, indirectly or in any manner. View discretion is advised.



What can you do to keep them safe during and after walks?

Singhal recommended the following tips: 1) Ensure that your pet's water intake is adequate. Add a drop of lemon or give them orange-infused water to ensure their vitamin C intake and hydration needs. Pet parents can also give fruit juices rich in vitamin C to soothe and protect their throats from irritants caused by pollutants. 2) Make sure your pets wear masks when you take them for walks, and if feasible, bring them in a closed vehicle. Pet owners are likewise encouraged to take their animals out while fully clothed. Light clothing can protect their skin from dust and grime. 3) After outdoor activities, clean their paws with wet wipes and apply paw butter to keep them moisturised and infection-free.



how many calories does an astronaut need? Dr Kovil shared that astronauts need around 4,000 calories to meet their daily needs. "It's usually double what you require on Earth," said Dr Kovil. Typically, a male astronaut requires around 2,700-3,700 calories daily, while female astronauts may need about 2,000-2,700 calories, said Dr Dirati Swetha, chief dietician, Glen Eagles Aware Hospital, LB Nagar, Hyderabad. "

International Court of Justice climate change news greenhouse gas emissions



The story so far: In a landmark announcement, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Wednesday (July 23, 2025) said countries and territories are obligated to combat climate change through efforts to the best of their capabilities. In a unanimous advisory opinion, the ICJ said rising temperatures and extreme weather events, caused because of human-induced climate change, lead to biodiversity loss and while risking human life and health.According to the ICJ, it is the responsibility of the states to protect the earth's climate systems and environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and limit global warming.

What is an advisory opinion?

An advisory opinion of the ICJ is non-binding legal advice delivered by the international court, requested by the United Nations or its specialised agencies on specific matters.The ICJ advisory opinion is usually a reflection of what is required to be done under international law.Despite being non-binding, these opinions carry "legal weight and moral authority", according to the UN.

What are the particulars of the opinion?

The ICJ opined that it is the duty of states to prevent environmental harm under customary international law and that states must reduce GHG emissions and protect the rights of present and future generations.Climate change poses an "urgent and existential threat," the court said. Its opinion relies heavily on observations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international scientific body under the UN that collects and organises evidence of climate change.The Court emphasised that based on due diligence, countries are required to reduce their GHG emissions and support vulnerable nations. The due diligence does not end at adoption of measures but also includes "a certain level of vigilance in their enforcement and the exercise of administrative control".It also noted that the Nationally Determined Contributions, which are country-level en route to attaining net-zero emissions, fall under the principle of due diligence and that member states should ensure these goals represent their "highest possible ambition".The parties also have an obligation to do their best to achieve these targets.According to the ICJ, climate action is not based on any one law but is rather a mix of international law provisions like the UN charter, and international treaties like the Kyoto Protocol, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Paris Agreement, among others, and that they should influence the actions that member states take to protect the environment. These three international agreements are legally binding.Although the opinion noted that it's not the court's responsibility to establish individual responsibility for damage to climate systems, it added the legal consequences arising from a breach of international agreements can lead to assurances and guarantees that such acts will be stopped and not repeated, as well as full reparations to affected states.

Countries and territories are also obligated, under international human rights law, to protect climate systems and other parts of the environment, the court said.The ICJ also recognised the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in its opinion."UN climate negotiations have struggled over the last three decades to decisively address climate change, but the ICJ's opinion will empower courts to hold states accountable for weak climate action, and support vulnerable countries in pushing for climate justice through lawsuits and negotiations," Lavanya Rajamani, professor of environmental law at the

University of Oxford, said.

How did the ICJ deliver this opinion?The UN General Assembly formally requested the ICJ's opinion on March 29, 2023, including on the obligations of states under international law to protect the environment mainly from GHG emissions, and the legal consequences of failing to do so.The seeds of this discussion were however sown years ago, when a group of law students from the University of the South Pacific launched a campaign in 2019 for climate justice advisory opinion from the ICJ.This led to the formation of Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change, a grassroots youth movement. The World's Youth for Climate Justice joined forces with the movement in 2020.In 2021, Vanuatu – a small island developing state in the South Pacific Ocean – said it would lead a diplomatic process to build support among nations for a UNGA resolution seeking an ICJ climate justice advisory opinion.Vanuatu has been disproportionately threatened by climate change and has led multiple global efforts to address the effects.In 2022, more than 1,500 civil society organisations joined Vanuatu's diplomacy efforts for an ICJ advisory opinion.

What's the opinion's legality?

While an advisory opinion is legally non-binding, it can still influence judicial decisions and executive action."The advisory opinion can help in the development of international environmental law, especially when it comes to obligations of states and consequences of breach of law," environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta said."At present, international environmental conventions are weak on legal consequences of harm and violation. Further, the advisory opinion, by highlighting the interconnection between climate change treaties and other environmental convention such as Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Convention on Law of the Sea, might force the U.S. to finally ratify these treaties which they have evaded for years."

What does the opinion mean for India?

The opinion talks extensively about protecting climate systems rather than only focusing on carbon emissions."This move beyond 'carbon obsession' would mean that measures to deal with climate change must be in consonance with protection of climate systems – river, grasslands, forest, oceans well as rights of both human and nature," Mr. Dutta said."The narrow focus on climate led to judicial decisions in India such as the one on the great Indian bustard, where the Supreme Court highlighted the need to promote renewable energy to meet climate goals but undermined biodiversity conservation."As I see it, the fight against climate change will be now on holding the state and private entities liable for breach of its obligation to prevent harm to humans as well as the environment in totality."Although historically India hasn't contributed significantly to GHG emissions, it is currently the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. It also continues to use coal as its primary source of energy but has ambitious plans to transition away. India is committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2070."India's official position is that it will move away from coal to cleaner modes of generating electricity. Therefore, the ICJ's opinion is not contrary to the stand of India in coal," according to Mr. Dutta."In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India, the Ministries of Power, Environment, and New and Renewable Energy had categorically taken the stand the dependence of coal is against both the economic interest of the nation as well as adverse impact on health of the citizens."

The opinion doesn't imply that the use of fossil fuels should stop but that its use should be rationalised by focusing on energy efficiency and by cutting subsidies, "especially when it comes to those who are not poor," Mr. Dutta added."Despite its low per capita emissions and substantial energy access challenges, as a major carbon emitter with growing energy demands, India will undoubtedly face intensified pressure to ramp up its ambition and accelerate its transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy," Harjeet Singh, a climate activist and founding director of the Satat Sampada Climate Foundation, said."The ICJ's nuanced approach to differentiated responsibilities, which may question the static nature of 'developed' or 'developing' status based on current circumstances, directly challenges India's traditional standpoint of limiting its climate responsibilities based solely on historical classifications.""This demands a careful recalibration of India's global climate diplomacy. However, it is important to note that the primary and overriding responsibility in the climate crisis, including the obligation for significant emissions reductions and financial support, unequivocally remains with developed nations that have contributed the most to global emissions and climate disparities. Moreover, India's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2070, its leadership in the G20, and its active role in the Paris Agreement demonstrate its dedication to global climate action."

Province (IS-K) and combating drug trafficking.Additionally, in a balance act between the Afghan government and the Taliban, Russia stepped up its diplomatic efforts to position itself as a venue for resolving the Afghan crisis. Despite being blacklisted by the UN and outlawed in Russia, the Taliban representatives were invited to participate in the Moscow Format and intra-Afghan conferences, as Russia attempted to increase its own regional influence and edge the U.S. out from Afghanistan.With the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, even as many other countries evacuated diplomatic personnel amid the lingering turmoil, the Russian Embassy in Kabul remained in operation – Moscow remained confident that the Taliban are capable of putting things in good order. Despite Russia's good rapport with the Taliban's dispensation, the persistent instability in Afghanistan has severely compromised its security interests, with terrorist attacks against the Russian Embassy in Kabul in September 2022 and the Crocus City Hall in Moscow in March 2024, purportedly carried out by the IS-K. There has been no meaningful progress in the economic projects either, though the Russian authorities continue to harbour hopes that Afghanistan will emerge as a conduit for Russian exports to South and Southeast Asia.The basisRussia's official recognition of the IEA government reflects Moscow's conviction that the Taliban are "an objective reality" and the only political force capable of controlling power in Afghanistan. This is further reinforced by the perception of the Taliban as Russia's "allies in countering terrorism", which seemingly laid the foundation for their de-listing in April 2025. It should be noted though that the Russian Supreme Court only suspended the ban on the Taliban activities, and the grouping is still on the Russian unified federal list of terrorist organisations. This suggests that the Russian security apparatus is not fully convinced by the Taliban's track record in combating terrorism, leaving scope to reverse the decision if the alliance with the Taliban proves to be a false dawn.The IEA's recognition is a symbolic gesture that does not bring Russia any immediate benefits and does not guarantee any upgrade to Moscow's position in Afghanistan or the wider region. While some Russian officials are insisting on supporting the Taliban, including "arming them", it remains to

Should India relax its adoption procedures?



By analysing data from the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), The Hindu data team recently found that for every child free for adoption in India, 13 parents wait in line. The Supreme Court has directed CARA to take measures to streamline and expedite the adoption process. Should India relax its adoption procedure? Aloma Lobo and Smriti Gupta discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Priscilla Jebaraj. Edited excerpts:

Many people believe that CARA's strict requirements and lengthy procedures for adoptive parents are responsible for the long waiting period for a child. Is this true?

Smriti Gupta: No, procedures are not the reason for these delays. The delays stem mostly from the fact that the number of people waiting to adopt a child is higher than the number of children who are legally free for adoption. There are children with special needs and older children who could be adopted immediately. But a majority of people wait to adopt a young child in the 'normal health' category. Most of the delay is the waiting time to be matched (with a child), so changing procedures is not going to do anything to solve the problem of delays.Aloma Lobo: In the past, we could place children (up for adoption) almost immediately because there were very few parents (willing to adopt). The procedures are necessary. The checks and balances ensure that we don't have trafficking and improper placements. There have been cases filed in several parts of the world by children who were placed illegally, and we don't want that to happen here.

Apart from the procedures that parents must follow, there are also procedures involved in bringing children into the adoption pool. Are there ways to speed up this process?

Smriti Gupta: Only children in adoption agencies get evaluated for potential adoptability. I think children in child shelters should also be evaluated. Many children in these shelters, who were abandoned and orphaned, have been there for years and they could be brought into the legal adoption pool. Or at least, their cases should be looked at. This is not being done – because of apathy, lack of training, or lack of resources. That is where our focus needs to be – to bring eligible children into the legal adoption pool at each district level.

Our NGO works with the approval of the State Women and Child Development Department. When we approach these shelters, our first step is to digitise the data of all the children. Using our own open-source software, we have 22 categories, so we can analyse whether a child should continue to be in the shelter or should be brought into the legal adoption pool. We collect data on whether the child was abandoned. On whether the child has parents – and if yes, why the child is there. There are six reasons why a child could be in a shelter. So, we digitise all the data and then the system flags, let's say, 30 out of 100 children. Then our social workers work on those cases on a case-by-case basis, study the files, complete due diligence, and do the paperwork for those identified as potentially adoptable. Then the child is presented to the Child Welfare Committee of the district, which decides whether the child should be declared legally free for adoption or not.

The 2020 World Orphan Report estimated that there are 3.1 crore children in India who are orphans. We all see children on the streets. Should all these children be available for adoption? Why are there only 2,000-odd children in CARA's pool?

Aloma Lobo: The word 'orphan' is often loosely used. Many of these children have families. Or if they don't have parents, but may have extended families. Most of the children who come into the adoption stream as babies are those who were relinquished by unwed mothers or because they are girl children; they were not

abandoned.There are children everywhere on the streets. But are they all orphans? Or are they just children with families roaming the streets? Are they truly free for adoption? We need to evaluate that. There are also cases coming to light in several countries of children illegally taken away from their mothers or parents. The parents were told the children had disappeared or died whereas in reality they were given for adoption.Smriti Gupta: To put it crudely, there cannot be that many parents who have passed away, to say there are millions of orphans. So what we are essentially saying is that there are that many parents who are not raising their children on a day-to-day basis. They have abandoned their children, or they have put their children in shelters, or they have relinquished them. And those children do need a second family, a permanent home. We need to examine the status of all these children. Are they being raised in a safe environment where they are wanted? And if not, what is the next step for them?

There have been multiple exposés of international adoption abuse. There is an acknowledgement that such abuse arose partly due to high 'demand' by adoptive parents, leading to the trafficking of children to ensure adequate 'supply'. What safeguards do we need to ensure that children are not treated as commodities in a 'demand-supply' situation, leading to trafficking?

Smriti Gupta: That is where the procedures come into play, and should not be relaxed. The checks and balances are needed for parents to make sure that people who are adopting children are prepared for it; that they are doing it for the right reasons. And they are needed for children so that only truly eligible children are brought into the legal adoption pool. There has been a lot of improvement over the last few years.On the demand-supply concept: we work with shelters where children tend to be more than 6 years old. The age group you are talking about comprises babies and very young children. And in that case, we do hear of a grey area or black market. Children are not coming into adoption agencies and are not being placed for adoption. They are just being given away. So I would say the bigger risk is, they are not coming into the legal adoption system. I think that is where the trouble is. What you want to do for them – whether they are babies, 10 years old, or 15 years old – is to route them through the legal adoption pool. That is how you avoid all this.Aloma Lobo: An important factor to remember is that we are finding a family for a child, not a child for a family. We need to go through these checks and balances in the best interest of the child, for the child's safety and secure placement. The fact is that children can be trafficked easily from nursing homes and hospitals; it happens quite a bit.

This idea that there are very few adoptable children in the CARA system also largely comes down to need for babies. There are many children waiting for families who are over the age of six, as well as children who have special needs. What needs to be done to increase their adoption rates?

Aloma Lobo: I think the worst repercussions come for children who have special needs. I've done many placements of children with special needs. I have a child with special needs. And I find that the quicker a child with special needs is placed, the better the child is. But there is a list called the immediate placement list, which I frown upon. There are parents who say, we can't wait 3-5 years for a baby, so we will take a child from the immediate placement list. And they take a child with special needs and they are not prepared for it. They don't understand that a child with special needs is a long-term commitment. And they simply return these children. So we must just stop and pause over here and think, should we really place them as "fast" as possible or should we really be child-centric here and be a little careful?

Smriti Gupta: From the time that I adopted a decade ago, I see a change in parents. I do see more children with special needs being adopted, more older children being adopted. But parents need more training and counseling. In international adoption, the agencies conduct a formal training that the prospective parents have to go through. We don't have an equivalent mandatory training for domestic adoptions here.Aloma Lobo: The most important thing is to find out is the motivation to adopt. In the past, we did have several sessions of group counseling and individual counseling. But that is gone. Many of the home studies are like intake forms, which are not really adequate. If you compare them to foreign home studies, they are quite different.Listen to the conversation in The Hindu Parley podcastAloma Lobo, Adoptive parent, a former chairperson of CARA, and an adoption counselor; Smriti Gupta, Adoptive parent, Smriti Gupta NGO called 'Where Are India's Children?', which supports efforts to bring eligible children into the adoption pool

The scientist who made 'mangroves' a buzzword

Until the late 1980s, the value of mangroves was primarily understood by the communities that lived around them and relied on them for fishery resources and their livelihoods. But today, the word "mangroves" has become a buzzword, whether in the area of disaster risk reduction in coastal areas, climate adaptation through carbon sequestration, enhancement of coastal fishery resources, or the conservation of shoreline bird sanctuaries, to name a few.The turning pointAlthough the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO initiated a regional project on mangrove research in 1988, it was in 1989 that M.S. Swaminathan proposed a leading role for mangroves in managing the impact of climate change in coastal areas. At the Climate Change and Human Responses conference in Tokyo in 1989, he explained that rising sea levels due to climate change would cause a salinisation of land and water resources in coastal areas, leading to the loss of food production and employment. A rise in the frequency of cyclones due to rising sea surface temperatures causes the loss of life, livelihoods, and natural resources. As a response, M.S. Swaminathan suggested immediate action for the sustainable management of mangrove wetlands. This was based on the principles of ecology, economics, and equity as well as research on the utilisation of mangrove genetic resources to develop new saline-tolerant crops (by transferring genes for salinity tolerance from mangroves to rice and other crops). A series of important developments found M.S. Swaminathan playing a pivotal role in mangrove restoration, conservation and management.

Thanks to M.S. Swaminathan's initiatives, the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) was established in 1990 in Okinawa, Japan – M.S. Swaminathan served as its Founding President till 1993.He co-created the Charter for Mangroves and included it in the World Charter for Nature, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

oment in 1992. To this day, this charter serves as a basis for mangrove conservation efforts at the global level.The ISME conducted an assessment of the economic and environmental values of mangrove forests, including those in India, as well as the current state of their conservation. The ISME also organised a series of workshops on mangrove conservation and sustainable utilisation, published a manual of mangrove ecosystem restoration, and produced a World Mangrove Atlas. These activities, slowly but surely, transformed the common perception of what mangroves are: from an idea of them being marshy land waiting for conversion to other uses to their being central to a multiple-use coastal ecosystem. The ISME is promoting applied research, providing training to various stakeholders, and acting as a centre of knowledge products on mangroves.Global infrastructure for conservation

Another vital contribution of M.S. Swaminathan was the development of the GLObal Mangrove database and Information System (GLOMIS), a searchable database on mangrove experts, research, and species, including the Mangrove Ecosystem Information Services, which focused on documenting genetic resources. In 1992, a team of scientists surveyed and evaluated 23 mangrove sites in South, Southeast Asia, and Oceania over nine countries, with scientific inputs from M.S. Swaminathan, to establish a global network of Mangrove Genetic Resource Centres. These centres are now conserved, monitored and managed as 'Protected Areas' by the respective governments.At the national level, M.S. Swaminathan was instrumental in revolutionising India's management of mangroves. India has a long history of mangrove management, dating back to 1783. However, this period was marked by extensive clearance and reclamation of the Sundarbans mangrove forests, primarily for agriculture and settlements. The practice of clear-felling as a system of mangrove management was widespread in India from the British colonial period until 1980, when the Ind

Inside Adani Green’s high-leverage bet on India’s 500 GW energy transition



In FY26, Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) added 5,051 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy capacity, the largest greenfield renewable addition by any company outside China. During the same period, India added 55 gigawatts (GW), or 55,000 MW, of non-fossil fuel capacity, marking the country’s best year on record. This includes solar, wind, biomass, and both small and large hydro projects.

That means AGEL alone accounted for roughly 9% of India’s total renewable capacity additions and nearly 14% of the country’s solar and wind additions. With India’s installed non-fossil base now at 283 GW and the official target set at 500 GW by 2030, the country must add another 50-55 GW annually over the next five years. AGEL is currently the single largest contributor to that expansion. This explains why the stock has been rallying. To understand AGEL’s long-term outlook, three questions matter: How AGEL is delivering at this scale and at this pace. Why did the company voluntarily give up Rs 1,200–1,500 crore of EBITDA in FY26? Can the balance sheet sustain this pace after absorbing Rs 27,000 crore of fresh debt in just 12 months? AGEL ended FY26 with 19.3 GW of operating renewable capacity, up from 14.2 GW a year earlier. The 35% year-on-year growth extends a five-year capacity CAGR of 42%. In terms of units of power sold, energy sales reached 37.6 billion units (BU), up 34% YoY, roughly equivalent, according to AGEL, to Denmark’s annual electricity consumption.

Of the 5,051 MW added in FY26, 4,613 MW came from a single site — Khavda. Another 438 MW came from Rajasthan, while Andhra Pradesh contributed the remainder. In effect, one mega-project is driving the company’s growth trajectory, with every other site playing a supporting role. Khavda, a 538-square-kilometre stretch of wasteland in the Rann of Kutch, had no operating capacity just two years ago. Today, it hosts 9.4 GW of solar, wind, and hybrid projects, along with 1,376 megawatt-hours (MWh) of battery storage capacity. In FY26 alone, Khavda contributed 5.3 GW of AGEL’s total capacity addition. The target is 30GW by FY29. A localised supply chain anchored on the Adani Group’s solar module manufacturing

The Energy Network Operations Centre (ENOC), an AI-driven platform that lets a small team monitor hundreds of plants. Shared substation, transmission and water infrastructure across technologies, which compounds the per-MW economics

One detail often overlooked is that AGEL’s internal capability is 7-8 GW of capacity addition per year. Management is throttling delivery to 4.5-5 GW because the transmission grid downstream cannot evacuate any faster. In FY27, another 14-15 GW of evacuation capacity is expected to come online at Khavda. If that lands on schedule, AGEL’s pace of execution could accelerate significantly. But scaling this quickly has unintended consequences. In FY26, those consequences showed up as roughly Rs 1,500 crore of foregone EBITDA. Why AGEL left Rs 1,500 crore voluntarily on the table? During its Q4 FY26 earnings call, AGEL disclosed that it sacrificed between Rs 1,200 crore and Rs 1,500 crore of EBITDA during the year. First, around Rs 500 crore was lost due to grid curtailment. Capacity additions at Khavda outpaced

the transmission infrastructure needed to evacuate electricity. When generation exceeds evacuation capacity, surplus power is effectively wasted. The second component — Rs 800-1,000 crore — came from selling power below contracted Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) rates.

In FY26, the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) waiver, which exempted renewable projects commissioned before June 2025 from transmission charges for 25 years, was nearing expiry. To lock in this long-term benefit, AGEL rushed to commission a disproportionate amount of capacity before the deadline. However, some of these projects became operational before their PPAs were activated. As a result, AGEL sold the electricity as “infirm power” in the merchant market, where prices were below contracted PPA tariffs. In effect, AGEL gave up roughly 14% of FY26 EBITDA to capture 25 years of ISTS benefit on those plants. Management described the impact as “anomalous” and unlikely to recur. By Q4 FY26, additional transmission lines at Khavda had already become operational, while merchant pricing was higher than Q3. The cost was borne upfront. The benefit compounds over decades.

AGEL’s net debt rose from Rs 64,462 crore in March 2025 to Rs 91,252 crore in March 2026, an increase of Rs 26,790 crore in one year. The number appears alarming, given that consolidated equity capital stands at Rs 19,965 crore. But the leverage ratio tells a more nuanced story.

Net debt to run rate EBITDA declined steadily from 6.66x in FY20 to 4.45x in FY24, then reversed in FY25 to 5.13x as capital expenditure outpaced cash generation. In FY26, it stabilised near 5x. Meanwhile, the Japanese Credit Rating Agency assigned AGEL an inaugural BBB+ rating, equivalent to India’s sovereign credit rating. The cost of debt fell to 8.9% with downward pressure expected.

However, India Ratings has placed AGEL’s working capital facilities on Rating Watch with negative implications. The bigger question is whether AGEL can fund the Rs 40,000–45,000 crore capex planned for FY27 without equity dilution. Internal accruals supported by a 91% EBITDA margin help, but they are unlikely to fully finance the scale of expansion AGEL is pursuing. AGEL added 1,376 MWh of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity at Khavda in FY26. Management says the site already represents roughly 50% of India’s installed BESS capacity. Second, they bridge the gap when transmission lags generation by absorbing daytime solar output and dispatching it during the evening peak. Third, they offer EBITDA economics broadly equivalent to or slightly better than core renewables.

AGEL currently trades at Rs 1,290 per share, valuing the equity at Rs 2,12,000 crore. Trailing Price-to-Earnings (P/E) is 117x, and Enterprise Value to EBITDA (EV/EBITDA) is 27x. AGEL trades at a discount to NTPC Green on EV/EBITDA, but at a significant premium to JSW Energy. Part of that premium is justified by 100% renewable mix, scale, and a 91% EBITDA margin that JSW Energy cannot match. At the same time, investors must account for several risks: Rising absolute debt, even with stable leverage ratios. Group-level governance overhang, including the unresolved US Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission matter raised in the Adani Group’s FY25 Chairman’s letter. Regulatory volatility on tariffs and ISTS policy. Execution risk on a 10 GWh battery rollout in 12 months. For investors, three variables matter most in FY27:

BESS commissioning at or above the targeted 10 GWh. Successful commissioning of the promised 14-15 GW evacuation infrastructure at Khavda. A stable or declining net debt-to-EBITDA ratio despite Rs 40,000+ crore of planned capex. If AGEL delivers on all three, the market may begin valuing it as the central builder of India’s energy transition. 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 covered the Indian stock market for over 15 years and has 650,000+ investors. He has also worked at an AI, focusing on small and mid-cap opportunities.

EMDEs, Gupta said. “Thus, the analytical arguments, suggestions received and international experiences seem to favour 4% target as optimal for India,” Gupta said. Gupta said renewal of India’s inflation targeting framework through March 2031, has come at a moment of considerable global uncertainty. “Geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, energy price volatility, and an uneven global growth outlook have made the macroeconomic environment more complex and less predictable,” she said. In this context, the decision to preserve the framework’s core architecture including the headline CPI inflation target of 4% and the ±2% tolerance band is a policy choice of consequence, she said. “The review strengthens the framework precisely when it is most needed,” she said.

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

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

Amid concerns over sluggish private capex growth, its managing director and chief executive Debadatta Chand said nearly two-thirds of the proposals continue to be for term loans and the rest for working capital, suggesting strong demand for investment purposes. On telecom sector loans, where there is intense speculation over Vodafone Idea’s next moves as part of the revival process, Chand said the right policy measures and coordination among banks and other stakeholders could result in fresh loans.

“Our overall pipeline is Rs 50,000 crore at present. Half of it is sanctioned and yet to be disbursed, while the remaining consists of loan proposals under discussion,” Chand told PTI. He said there is strong demand from the renewable power sector as well as core sectors like steel and cement for capacity expansion. In order to ensure that net interest margins remain in the 2.75-2.95 per cent range, the bank will take measures such as realigning the corporate portfolio towards the external benchmark-based lending rate, where it hopes the hardening of yields in the g-sec market will help it secure better spreads.

Chand said the bank will have to work on the yield on advances as it does not expect any relief in the cost of deposits under the current situation.

‘Married only for half the time’: Neetu Kapoor reveals how 6-month ‘cold wars’ and silence defined her life with Rishi Kapoor; an expert weighs in



Veteran actor Neetu Kapoor recently reflected on her marriage with late actor Rishi Kapoor, sharing candid details about how disagreements between them often led to long periods of silence. Speaking during a podcast conversation with Soha Ali Khan, Neetu revealed that arguments with Rishi Kapoor frequently turned into what she described as “cold wars,” sometimes lasting for months. Explaining why this pattern developed, she said, “I used to fight with him for months. My husband was very strong-minded. Whenever we had a fight, I couldn’t put myself across to him because he wouldn’t listen to me. So I would go on this cold war with him, and it could go for a month or six months. I wouldn’t bend till the time he asked me okay what’s your problem?”

She also shared how these long silences became such a regular part of their relationship that family members would joke about it. According to Neetu, even her mother-in-law would tease the couple by saying they were “married only for half the time” because they spent so many months not speaking to each other. Despite the tension, she recalled that Rishi Kapoor would eventually try to reconnect. “He would message kids, spoken to mom? Is she okay? What’s happening? And then he would come to me accha kya problem hai bata yaar (tell me what’s the problem). Then he would do anything I would say. Go on a diet, lose 5-10 kgs, start exercising, he would do everything,” she said. Neetu Kapoor — trending on Google for the past 24 hours — also admitted that she often felt intimidated by Rishi Kapoor in the early years of their relationship because of his strong personality and the larger world he introduced her to.

But what impact can this pattern have on emotional intimacy and trust over time?

After Hantavirus scare, Norovirus outbreak on another cruise ship sparks concern: How they differ from Covid-19, symptoms to know



Even as the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius docked in the Canary Islands and passengers disembarked, more than 100 travellers on a separate vessel in the Caribbean have fallen ill with norovirus. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the norovirus outbreak has affected 102 of the ship’s 3,116 passengers and 13 of its crew members. Norovirus is a highly contagious illness, also known as the winter vomiting bug, with key symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea. Once it arrives in the US, the ship is set to undergo “comprehensive cleaning and disinfection before departing for her next voyage”. The cruise — Caribbean Princess — set sail on April 28. The cruise line stated that it implemented enhanced sanitation procedures, while the CDC noted that sick passengers and crew members were isolated and that stool samples were collected for testing. So, we reached out to experts to understand the differences among Hantavirus, norovirus, and Covid-19.

Dr Amit Saraf, director, internal medicine, Jupiter Hospital, Thane, said while all three are viral infections, they affect the body in different ways and spread through various means. “Covid-19 mainly targets the respiratory system and spreads through droplets and close contact. Norovirus is a stomach infection that spreads quickly through contaminated food, water, or surfaces. It often causes outbreaks in schools, offices, and on cruises. Hantavirus is much rarer and is linked to contact with infected rodents or their droppings, usually in poorly ventilated areas,” said Dr Saraf. The key differences lie in the symptoms and methods of transmission. According to Dr Saraf, Covid-19 often causes fever, cough, sore throat, and fatigue. “Norovirus typically presents with sudden vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, and dehydration. Hantavirus may start like the flu with fever and muscle pain, but severe cases can affect the lungs and become life-threatening.”

Which symptoms should people not ignore?

One American tested positive for Hantavirus

Washington: An American passenger from a hantavirus-hit Dutch cruise ship has tested positive for the virus, and another has mild symptoms, the US Department of Health and Human Services have announced. All 17 American citizens from the MV Hondius cruise ship are currently en route via an airlift to the United States, with the two travelling in the plane’s biocontainment units out of an abundance of caution, the department wrote in a post on the social platform X. The airlift will first take passengers to the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, before transferring the passenger with mild symptoms to a second RESPTC at their final destination, it said.

“Upon arrival at each facility, each individual will undergo clinical assessment and receive appropriate care and support based on their condition,” the department said in the post. As of Saturday, there were eight

Dr Sakshi Mandhyan, psychologist and founder of Mandhyan Care, tells indianexpress.com, “Long periods of silence may reduce immediate conflict, but they usually increase emotional distance. I see that when couples stop communicating after disagreements, the nervous system does not actually settle. In effect, the stress simply becomes quieter.” From a psychological perspective, she adds that repeated emotional withdrawal affects attachment security. One partner may begin feeling emotionally unsafe or unseen. The other may believe silence protects the relationship from escalation. Over time, both people stop feeling emotionally reachable to each other. “Cold wars also create interpretation gaps. In the absence of communication, the mind fills silence with assumptions, resentment, insecurity or hurt. Emotional intimacy weakens because repair never fully happens,” mentions the expert.

Why do some people emotionally shut down or withdraw during conflict?

“I regularly notice in my practice that people shut down when they no longer feel emotionally heard,” says Dr Mandhyan, adding that after repeated experiences of interruption, dismissal, overpowering responses or emotional invalidation, our nervous system begins to protect itself through withdrawal.

She explains that this is not always intentional avoidance. In psychology terminology, it can reflect a freeze response. The person feels that expression will not change anything, so silence begins to feel safer than vulnerability.

Healthier conflict-resolution habits First and foremost, Dr Mandhyan stresses, it needs to be acknowledged that conflict becomes healthier when couples stop seeing disagreements as threats to the relationship, or as battles to win. She adds that difficult conversations usually go better when both people are emotionally regulated rather than reacting in the heat of anger. “I encourage couples to pause, settle, and finally return to the conversation instead of disappearing into silence or avoidance.” It also helps when partners learn to listen without preparing a defence immediately. Feeling heard reduces emotional escalation and emotional insecurity. Small repair attempts matter too. “A calm check-in, an apology, or acknowledging the other person’s hurt can prevent distance from building for long periods. Strong relationships are not conflict-free. They are repair-oriented.”

Any persistent high fever, difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, severe dehydration, or extreme weakness should not be ignored. “In Norovirus, frequent vomiting or an inability to keep fluids down can quickly lead to dehydration, especially in children and older adults. In Covid-19, breathlessness or declining oxygen levels are serious signs. With Hantavirus, a worsening cough or shortness of breath after flu-like symptoms needs immediate medical attention,” said Dr Saraf. Dr Saraf emphasised that one common mistake people make is assuming every viral illness is just seasonal. “If symptoms are intense, unusual, or last more than a few days, it’s important to seek medical advice instead of self-medicating.”

What are the best ways to stay protected?

Basic hygiene remains the strongest defense. “Wash hands thoroughly, especially before eating and after using public spaces. Avoid contaminated or uncovered food. Ensure good indoor ventilation and keep storage areas clean to reduce rodent exposure.” People should also focus on rest, hydration, and habits that support immunity, like getting enough sleep and eating a balanced diet. “If feeling unwell, avoid close contact with others instead of pushing through work or travel. Simple precautions can often stop infections from spreading within families and communities,” said Dr Saraf. Dr Manjusha Agarwal, consultant, internal medicine, Gleneagles Hospital Mumbai, those with weak immunity, elderly individuals, children, and people with existing medical conditions should be especially careful. “Early medical attention and timely diagnosis can help prevent serious complications and support faster recovery. So, don’t neglect the symptoms; follow the doctor’s guidelines,” said Dr Agarwal.

What to note?

The recent discussions around Hantavirus and Norovirus should remind us of one of the biggest lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic — misinformation can spread faster than any virus and can become equally dangerous, emphasised Sudipta Sengupta, founder and CEO, The Healthy Indian Project (THIP). “During the pandemic, we witnessed fear, panic, stigma, and unscientific remedies causing immense confusion among people. Unfortunately, many lives were lost not only because of the disease itself, but also because basic medical advisories were ignored or delayed. Public health protection is a shared responsibility. Calmness, scientific awareness, hygiene discipline, and trust in medical professionals are far more powerful than fear and misinformation. Let us not let the next crisis be made,” he urged.

suspected cases associated with the outbreak and three deaths, it said. The incubation period for hantavirus, from first exposure to symptoms, is estimated at one to eight weeks, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, reports Xinhua news agency. The disease is usually spread by rodents but can, in rare cases, move from person to person, and kills more than a third of people infected. Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, 20 nationals evacuated from the hantavirus-affected cruise ship MV Hondius were isolated in a northwest England hospital upon their return on Sunday, as authorities stepped up outbreak containment and monitoring. The passengers landed in Manchester earlier in the day before being transferred by bus to Arrowe Park Hospital on the Wirral, Merseyside, where they will remain under medical observation for 72 hours. In a joint statement, local National Health Service (NHS) authorities said the group would stay in a “managed setting for clinical assessment and testing.” If they remain symptom-free, they will later be

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



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

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

“On an ongoing basis, RBI too, on its part, can consider some further refinements, particularly with regard to more engagement on its core inflation measures. More, better, and timely communication has been a work in progress and will continue to remain so,” she said. Emerging markets and developed economies (EMDEs) are placed at a higher range between 2.5 % and 4%. India’s 4% target places it at the upper end of the

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was on May 9 given a show-cause notice by the Wrestling federation of India (WFI) put out a statement on her X account, adding that her detailed response will come after consultation with her legal team. In the show-cause notice, the WFI had levied charges of anti-doping rule violations and disciplinary breaches, barring her from competition till June 26.¹ I acknowledge receipt of the show cause notice dated 09.05.2026 issued by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to me. I will be providing detailed responses to each claim made in the notice, after consultation with my legal team and my advisors. However, I would like to clear up a few matters pertaining to the notice to the public. The WFI has misinterpreted the timelines of my sabbatical from sport and subsequent return to training and competitions. As opposed to the date stated by the WFI in their notice, i.e., June 26, 2026, I have been deemed eligible to return to official training and competition on January 1, 2026. I have official confirmation from the International Testing Agency (ITA) the agency hired by the international federation UWW, the relevant international federation governing doping control for wrestling, per-

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's star all-rounder Krunal Pandya turned emotional after guiding his team to a memorable last-ball thriller win against his former side, Mumbai Indians, in the Indian Premier League 2026 match at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur on Sunday. After playing a brilliant hand – 46-ball 73 – on a tricky surface against his brother Hardik Pandya and close friend Kieron Pollard's MI, memories of his old days at the Mumbai franchise came flooding back for the elder Pandya. Fighting cramps, Krunal ensured RCB stayed in the hunt during the 167-run chase and was seen hugging Pollard, Mumbai's batting coach, after the game. Asked about that emotional moment the two shared after the enthralling contest, which RCB won on the final ball to go top of the points table, Krunal said, "Polly (Kieron) is my big brother. I had my best six years at MI. I remember the Pandya brothers and Kieron Pollard were the engine room. We won a lot of games with bat, ball and fielding." Speaking after the match, Krunal reflected on his years at Mumbai Indians and the collective role played by him, Pollard and Hardik in shaping that successful core group. "I still remember in 2021 when

Out-of-favour India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has rolled back the years this IPL season, leading the wicket-taking charts with remarkable consistency with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. On Sunday night, Bhuvneshwar single-handedly ripped apart the Mumbai Indians with the ball and even allowed himself a superb cameo with the bat as RCB sneaked in a last-ball victory that put them at the top of the standings. The 36-year-old snapped up MI opener Ryan Rickelton before casting Rohit Sharma with a knuckle-ball delivery. He proceeded to dismiss skipper Suryakumar Yadav for a golden duck before returning later to dismiss a well-set Tilak Varma, walking away with figures of four for 23. Former India opener Aakash Chopra lauded Bhuvneshwar's consistency and backed him for a national team comeback on the back of his performances this season for the defending champions.

“Bhuvneshwar Kumar, you have been absolutely outstanding. I am saying a place should be made for him again in the Indian T20I team. He picked up four wickets. He has taken three or more wickets six times this season. Before this, in the 19-year history, only one bowler had taken three wickets six times. That was Harshal Patel in the 2021 season. Bhuvni has already done that here. He

Former India all-rounder R Ashwin heaped praise on Urvil Patel's scintillating fifty that helped Chennai Super Kings break a long-standing duck in the IPL in their 204-run chase against the Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday evening. The five-time champions CSK were set with the daunting target at the MA Chidambaram Stadium at a crucial point in their campaign, particularly stiffened by their poor chasing record. Since 2019, CSK had never successfully chased down a 180-plus target in the IPL. While the contest against Lucknow stretched nervously to a last-over win, Urvil's stunning 13-ball half-century had catapulted Chennai to a blistering start. The Gujarat batter smashed five sixes in succession as he romped to the joint-fastest fifty in IPL history, sharing the record with Yashasvi Jaiswal. Ashwin went onto label Urvil's knock as the most important knock of the season so far.

“Urvil Patel – It was the most important innings of this IPL 2026 campaign. It’s because CSK haven’t chased 180 in the last 7 years, with his knock, they easily chased down the target [have chased 180 only two times since 2019, including 204 vs LSG]. The way he batted, he didn’t even think for a minute whether he should take a single.

aining to the same. Therefore, I am eligible to participate in the 2026 Senior Open Ranking Tournament at Nandini Nagar, Gonda scheduled for May 10-12, 2026. Having completed my registration for the same, I do intend to participate in the Tournament and mark my return to the mat in a competitive event," Vinesh's statement read. "With respect to the whereabouts failure from September 2024, and the Missed Test from December 2025, I confirm that I have co-operated with the relevant result management authorities promptly, and that both events do not amount to anti-doping rule violations per the National Anti-Doping Rules, 2021 or the WADA Code, 2021. The allegation that I violated various rules by participating in two separate weight categories at the 2024 Selection Trials at NIS Patiala is also false, as the Ad-Hoc Committee governing the WFI at that point of time was well aware of my participation and made no objection at such stage while allowing me to participate. Beyond the same, I am reviewing the contents of the Notice and will provide a detailed response with supporting evidence to the WFI within the prescribed time limit of fourteen days. I will establish my innocence and will continue my preparations as I approach my return to competition, and I look forward to the chance at representing India in the 2026 Asian Games and upcoming international events," she added. On Saturday, in a 15-page show-cause notice issued to Vinesh, the WFI said that she had failed to fulfill the mandatory six-month notice period applicable to a wrestler who wants to make a return to competition after retirement. The WFI wrote in the notice that Vinesh, in a letter to United World Wrestling (UWW) in December 2024, had said that she would be on a sabbatical till August 2025. She missed a dope test on December 18, days after informing the WFI, UWW and the Sports Authority of India that she was resuming training, it added. Vinesh was also in violation of UWW competition rules after participating in two weight categories in the Asian and World Olympics Qualifier trials held by the ad-hoc committee in March 2024 when the WFI was suspended from the WFI status. She had been



we were playing our last game, the three of us held each other's hand and felt like, okay, this is the last time we'll be able to play together. It was obviously an emotional moment again, but I love Kieron Pollard," said Krunal, his voice cracking as he grew emotional. "He is a terrific human being, the GOAT of this format. He has won so many trophies and games." Krunal also revealed one particular line from Pollard that stayed with him through difficult moments in his career they say, you are right. Kieron always used to tell me that you can't keep a good man down," he added.



is bowling at an economy of less than eight," Chopra said on his YouTube channel. With the chase going down to the wire, Bhuvneshwar walked in at No. 8 and smashed a first-ball six against MI seamer Raj Angad Bawa, his first maximum in 10 years in the IPL. "He even hit a six over cover in the end, and reminds one of Mukul Choudhary. If the selection happens based on performances, and the number of T20Is we are going to play, and it's being said that you will have to play multiple teams at the same time, then play Bhuvi as well. What's the point otherwise? There should be some gain from performances, and that can be the only benefit," Chopra added.



I thought he would break the record. The way he batted, he should stick to it. If we get power play like that, who knows, it can be six wins in a row," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. Ashwin, however, cautioned against CSK's sluggishness in the middle-overs that partly reduced the effect of Urvil's knock that eventually ended on 65 off 23 balls and said that the team could benefit from promoting up top in the order.

"If someone plays in that fashion, they would win the match in the power play. Ruturaj Gaikwad can change his tempo and play. What Kartik Sharma is doing, he can do. Why not? **Promote Unvill** at the top."

Two days after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) issued a show-cause notice to wrestler Vinesh Phogat levelling charges of anti-doping rule violations and disciplinary breaches, barring her from competition till June 26, she reached Gonda for the National Open Ranking tournament, an event for which she had registered before the April-end deadline. Vinesh, making a comeback after giving birth to a son in July, was aiming to qualify for the Asian Games trials to be held on May 30 in Delhi, but winners at the tournament in Gonda are not eligible for selection, as per WFI's selection policy.

“Vinesh reached Gonda on Monday, a day before the women’s freestyle competition. She has registered

Competing in the Asian Continental Olympic qualification regatta in South Korea's Chungju, Lakshmi had finished fourth in the single sculls semi-final. Had she finished just one better, she would have been on the flight to the British capital, a historic first for an Indian female rower. Fourteen years from that near-miss, India has still not had a female rower making the cut for the Olympics. Lakshmi, now working as an assistant coach with the women's team under national coach Ratheesh DB, is trying her best to change that.

As she stands at a vantage point overlooking the 18 girls testing their will and endurance against the serene blue waters of the RWP-3 water body at Bellary, she can see them going where she couldn't. "When our female rowers qualify for the 2028 or 2032 Olympics, only then will our goal be achieved," she says with a smile.

The sport in India has forever been the preserve of male rowers, all of them polished at the Army Rowing Node. Female rowers, meanwhile, trained at centres like Alleppey or Hyderabad and came together only during national camps for a few months before dispersing to the training centres of their home states. That made finalising a team combination in boats and getting the camaraderie right tough. But a couple of months back, the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) joined hands with the Rowing Federation of India to train the national group at Bellary all year round with the goal of breaking into the Olympics. Lakshmi Devi overseeing a session in the gym at the IIS Vijaynagar Centre. (Photo: IIS) Lakshmi Devi overseeing a session in the gym at the IIS Vijaynagar Centre. Big things are already expected of the women's group at this year's Asian Games, especially after they won two medals last year at the Asian Rowing Championship after 12 years – a silver in the lightweight women's pair and a bronze in the women's eight. Currently, two women's boats have already made the cut for the Aichi-Nagoya Games, with the coach confident that one more will make it. Lakshmi, the daughter of a fisherman, sheepishly admits that when she started rowing in 2009, it was only to get a government job. But soon, she found herself breaking into the national camp. "I didn't have a coach back in Manipur even when I broke into the national set-up. Instead, I had a physical education teacher who taught me," she says.

The early days in the national camp was a steep learning curve: she learnt about all the rookie errors she was making, including the fact that she was gripping her

With both legs cramping, every run becoming a struggle, and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) looking to end a two-game losing run, Krunal Pandya refused to walk off. The all-rounder scored 73 off 46 balls, rescuing RCB from 39/3 and taking them to the doorstep of victory against Mumbai Indians before falling late in the 167-run chase in Raipur on Sunday. But after the match, Krunal revealed the physical toll the innings had taken as RCB edged closer to the IPL 2026 playoffs with a tense two-wicket win. "Obviously, later on, cramps were very, very painful. I mean, it started from calf, hamstring, glutes and both legs. I was cramping," Krunal said after the game.

"But again, I was very clear that I'm not going to go out. I'll fight through that pain, and I'll make sure that whatever I can contribute for the team, I'll do it."Krunal said the importance of the fixture at the business end of the season pushed him to continue despite physical discomfort."Plus, this was a very, very crucial game for us. Especially at the fag end of the tournament, every game matters," he said."So it was very clear that I'll fight through that pain and make sure that whatever and whichever way I can contribute, I'll contribute in that."Asked how he managed to continue despite severe cramps, Krunal said it came down to mentality and his comfort in pressure situations."I mean, sheer willpower, I'll say," he said.

"Again, if you see over a period of time how I've played my cricket, I've always played without giving up, and I always cherish those tough situations. It was sheer willpower and courage that I did not want to give up," he added.

This is not the first time Krunal has rescued RCB from a precarious position. He had previously taken them to a win against Delhi Capitals from 25/3, but rated Sunday's innings higher. "I mean, yes, last year, a similar situation at 25/3, and I went batting. Both situations were the same. Obviously, it becomes easier when Virat Kohli is at the other end, which always helps you. But that too was a tough wicket and situation. But this is a little more

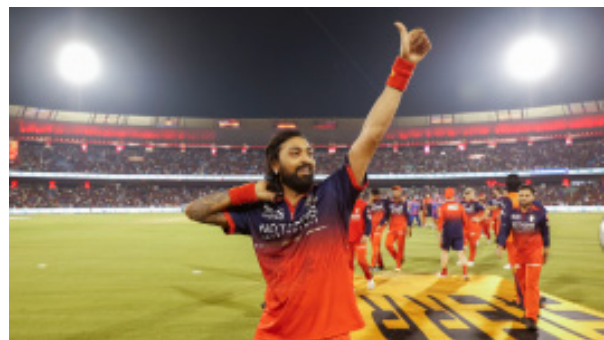
for the tournament and is hoping the WFI allows her to participate," a source close to the wrestler told The Indian Express. Verification for women's freestyle will take place between 5 pm and 7 pm on Monday while the weigh-in is from 7 am on Tuesday. Gonda is the home turf of former BJP Member of Parliament Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by six women wrestlers in 2023. On May 3, Vinesh had said that she was one of the complainants.

On Saturday, in a 14-page show-cause notice issued to Vinesh, the WFI said that she had failed to fulfil the mandatory six-month notice period applicable to a wrestler who wants to make a return to competition after retirement. The WFI wrote in the notice that Vinesh, in a letter to United World Wrestling (UWW) in December 2024, had said that she would be on a sabbatical till August 2025. She missed a dope test on December 18, days after informing the WFI, UWW and the Sports Authority of India that she was resuming training, it added. Vinesh was also in violation of UWW competition rules after participating in two weight categories in the Asian and World Olympics Qualifier trials held by the ad-hoc committee in March 2024 when the WFI was suspended, the show-cause notice claimed. Vinesh not making the weight on the morning of the 50 kg final at the 2024 Paris Olympics, had 'resulted in the loss of an Olympic medal for India' and 'damage to the reputation of Indian wrestling', it went on.



oars wrong. Soon after her near-miss at making it to the Olympics, Lakshmi pivoted to coaching, getting a diploma from the National Institute of Sports. She was determined that the next-gen's rookie mistakes should be fixed a lot earlier than hers were. At the Loktak Lake, a freshwater body in Moirang in Manipur, she started shaping the next generation of female rowers in her home state with a tiny club. Those early days, when she would try to scout girls to get them into rowing, Lakshmi would face some hard practical questions from parents: 'What will you give them? Will they get hostels to stay in? Will they be given a stipend to train and compete?'

"I didn't have the courage after a while (to approach parents!) They would ask about facilities. We didn't have any," she recalls. Despite that, at the tiny club she ran on Loktak Lake, over 40 girls have trained under Lakshmi over the years. She also unearthed talents like Priya Devi Tendenthoi and Bharati Oinam Devi, who are all national campers today. In fact, the trio is among the four Manipuri girls in the 18-strong female rowing programme at IIS's Bellary facility. Manipur isn't the first place that comes to mind when one thinks of rowing. But over the last few years, the tiny northeastern state is quietly becoming a force. The early indicator of this came at the National Games in Gujarat four years ago when rowers from Manipur ended with a surprise haul of a gold and a bronze. It was surprising because rowers from the state had just one boat available per category to train on, and those were at least 15 years old. Moreover, the state's rowers had just six pairs of oars available in total. Lakshmi and the other female rowers are now counting the days for the Asian Games. If medals come there, she is certain that the scenario for women's rowers will change. And maybe when she goes scouting for the next generation of rowers, the questions she gets from parents will change too. Instead of "kya facilities hain?" they will probably ask "Olympics ja sakti hain kya?"



special because we were consistently losing wickets. And there was more pressure. And the timing, we were playing the 11th game, it was a crucial match to win, and if you contribute anything in a winning cause, it's special," he said. Krunal added that the surface in Raipur was far from straightforward. "Obviously, the wicket was slightly tricky. It was slightly two-paced," he said. "As you saw, for all 40 overs, it was slightly more challenging for batters." RCB had lost three early wickets before Krunal rebuilt the innings and retained the middle order. "When I went in, obviously, I was under pressure. I lost one quick wicket," he said.

Dubai: India has continued to hold the No. 1 position in the latest ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings following the annual update released on Monday. However, their advantage at the summit has narrowed. India's rating slipped by one point, from 119 to 118, while New Zealand gained two points, moving up to 113, reducing the gap between the top two sides from eight to five.

Despite the marginal decline, India remains the leading ODI side in world cricket and continues to dominate the white-ball rankings after also retaining the No. 1 spot in the men's T20I rankings following last week's update.

Padmakumar says he was ‘tortured’ on Mammooty set: ‘Worked for 35 days, wasn’t paid’

GNS News Agency, May 16

Aside from being revered as one of the greatest actors in Indian cinema and one of the biggest superstars in Malayalam film history, Mammooty is also lauded by many for the support and encouragement he gives to new talent. In addition to introducing several aspiring filmmakers — such as Blessy (Kaazhcha), Anwar Rasheed (Rajamanikyam), Amal Neerad (Big B), Aashiq Abu (Daddy Cool), Martin Prakkat (Best Actor), and Lal Jose (Oru Maravathoor Kanavu), among others — by headlining their directorial debuts, Mammooty has also often recommended budding actors to various filmmakers, helping them land substantial roles.

Recently, actor-director MB Padmakumar spoke about an instance in which the Malayalam megastar fetched an acting role for him after noticing his work. While the opportunity was significant, Padmakumar shared that the film’s director, however, was unhappy about casting him, feeling the role wasn’t right for him. Nonetheless, since Mammooty recommended him, the makers couldn’t refuse. However, they ensured that Padmakumar was aware of their dissatisfaction with his casting. He alleged that he was even humiliated on set, causing him to break down in tears. Only in Screen | From onscreen messiah to Tamil Nadu CM: The cinematic blueprint behind Vijay’s political ascent

After his appearances in movies like Ashwaroodan, Rakshakan, Nivedyam, and Daveed, Padmakumar received the chance to share the screen with Mammooty in Kutty Srank. It was legendary filmmaker AK Lohithadas who provided him with the megastar’s phone number. After gathering courage, he contacted Mammooty and requested an opportunity to work with him, which led to his role in Kutty Srank. “When I arrived on set, I had no confidence at all. I was terrified to act alongside a man I admired so much. As I stood there, shaking, Mammooty took my hand and said, ‘The camera doesn’t know Mammooty or Padmakumar; it only knows the characters. If you fail here, it is your career that will be destroyed.’ I was subsequently able to finish all my scenes in that movie in a single take,” he shared during a conversation with Movie World Media.

About ten days later, Mammooty’s personal assistant called Padmakumar and asked him to meet with Johnny Antony (director). He thus went to Aluva, to the location of Ee Pattanathil Bhootham. “But Johnny Antony refused to meet me. He kept me waiting from 10 in the morning until evening. When Mammooty sir arrived, he was the one who introduced me to Johnny sir. I was cast in that film solely because Mammooty sir recommended me.” He further opened up about the mistreatment he faced on set, where he was extensively humiliated. “I wasn’t



given any dialogue in the entire film. I spent 35 days going to the location. I wasn’t paid even a single penny. Moreover, I was terribly tortured by many people on set. I even cried once.”

He continued, “Two days after the shoot ended, I called the director and asked, ‘Sir, what did I do wrong to you? You didn’t give me even a single line. I felt I could have acted reasonably well. Many people insulted me on set. I want to know why.’ He told me, ‘I don’t like you; you weren’t right for the character.’ He had wanted a model from Bombay. He said, ‘Teja (the role Padmakumar played) is not someone like you.’ What he said was 100 per cent correct. I was miscast.” He vented that frustration throughout the entire shoot. Mammooty sir had strongly recommended me because of the trust he had in me. Though I faced all that, this incident brought me, ironically, incredibly close to Mammooty sir. I feel as though he is someone truly my own,” Padmakumar added. Also starring Kavya Madhavan, Innocent, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Salim Kumar, and Rajan P Dev in key roles, Ee Pattanathil Bhootham was a fantasy-action comedy in which Mammooty appeared in dual roles as Jimmy, a circus bike jumper, and Bhootham, a friendly genie. It marked Johnny Antony’s second film with the megastar after Thuruppu Gulan. Disclaimer: This article reflects on personal experiences within the entertainment industry and is intended for informational and storytelling purposes only. The views and anecdotes shared are those of the individual and do not constitute professional opinion and advice regarding workplace conduct or industry standards.

Dhurandhar actor Gaurav Gera and his career as Farah Khan says, ‘Give him 5 more vanity vans’



Ranveer Singh recently made headlines for his alleged demands of multiple vanity vans, sometimes cited as 3 to 5, especially during the shoot of Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar. However, his action spy-thriller’s co-star Gaurav Gera has now debunked the rumours about the actor’s lavish on-set requirements. Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan and her cook Dilip visited Gaurav’s house in Mumbai. Before cooking ‘aloo-baingan (potato and brinjals)’ for his guests, the actor gave a house tour and opened up about his stint in Dhurandhar, comedy and acting career, and more.

After welcoming his guests with a bright smile, both Gaurav and Farah sat down for a conversation. While talking about his career trajectory (TV shows and films), the Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin actor revealed he featured in less episodes of Kapil Sharma’s show purposely. “I appeared in very few episodes in Kapil’s show, because I have always had a wish to go there as a guest. I don’t want to entertain.”

Gaurav Gera gained a lot of popularity for his funny videos as ‘Chutki’ and ‘Shopkeeper’, introduced much before the advent of YouTube and Instagram reels. When asked about the BTS of his character sketch Chutki, he shared, “I had designed Chutki shopkeeper in around 15 seconds. That is Sharmila Tagore’s voice, a little bit.” The actor, who stays with his flatmate, actor Rohit, opened up about how the boom of television helped him have a smooth ride in his early industry days. The filmmaker asked him about the interesting anecdote of Ranveer’s teasing during Dhurandhar’s reading. Ranveer and Gaurav had earlier done a ‘Chutki’ video together and the star remembered that. Gaurav instantly laughed and shared, “We were sitting for Dhurandhar’s reading, it went on for a long time. In the middle, Ranveer took a break to go to the loo. I had my beard at that time. He followed me and teased in that voice saying, ‘Chutki, washroom jaayegi?’ He is super fun, quite a brat. He is wonderful.”

Farah also praised the actor and said that all his demands should be met after this performance. “What a talent. 5 van aur dedo usko, Dhurandhar ke baad (give him 5 more vanity vans after Dhurandhar).” “I didn’t see these many vans,” Gaurav clarified. After which, she smiled and replied, “Give it to him if he wants it.” Last year, there were reports about Ranveer Singh requiring three vanity vans during shoots, with many fans pointing out Dhurandhar credits mentioned the actor having three vans. His team had later denied the claim. Inside Gaurav Gera’s house Inside Gaurav Gera’s minimalist house Inside Gaurav Gera’s house Inside Gaurav Gera’s house where simplicity reigns supreme! In fact, director Sanjay Gupta had once opened up about Bollywood’s escalating entourage costs issue, in a podcast with Cyrus Broacha. He said, “I know certain actors who have six

Daniel Weber says without wife Sunny Leone ‘everything falls apart’ for him and their kids

Mumbai: On the occasion of Mother’s Day, actress Sunny Leone’s husband Daniel Weber penned a heartfelt note for her, stating how ‘everything falls apart’ in his life without her.

He wrote, “Happy mothers @sunnyleone . I might not always say it and the kids might not understand it but without you, it all falls apart !! Thank you for being the greatest mama to @nishakweber @ashersweber11 @noahsinghweber11 and thank you for being you !!! We love you soooo much.”

The pictures shared by Daniel captured many of their intimate family moments. In one picture, Sunny is seen sitting with all three children, holding them close. Another adorable click shows one of their sons taking tiny steps around the house while his siblings play in the background.

In another touching picture, Sunny is seen holding one of her twin son’s in her arms while planting a gentle kiss on his cheek. Daniel and Sunny have often spoken about the importance of family in their lives. The couple, who got married in 2011, are parents to three children, daughter Nisha Kaur Weber and twin sons Asher Singh Weber and Noah Singh Weber. Sunny and her husband Daniel Weber adopted Nisha in 2017 when she was just over a year old. In 2018, the couple welcomed their twin boys, Asher and Noah, through surrogacy.

Chand Mera Dil trailer: Ananya Panday, Lakshya lead a ‘legendary’ toxic love story

Chand Mera Dil trailer and release date: The Ananya Panday-Lakshya starrer appears determined to explore the grey areas in relationships. Chand Mera Dil trailer: The romantic thriller marks the first collaboration between Ananya Panday and Lakshya. Chand Mera Dil trailer and release date: “I apologised for my mistake, and I will keep apologising,” Aarav (Lakshya) says, to which Chandni (Ananya Panday) retorts, “But how long will you keep committing (such) mistakes?” The trailer for director Vivek Soni’s Chand Mera Dil poses several significant questions, among them the most important: Can an apology heal the pain? At the same time, it doesn’t shy away from emphasising that self-respect is more important than love, either.

Unlike typical romance movies bankrolled by Dharma Productions, which are marked by picturesque love stories and light-hearted drama, Chand Mera Dil appears determined to explore the grey areas in relationships. Without glossing over possessiveness, toxicity, and entitlement — or passing them off as signs of “true love” — the film presents these aspects in Chandni and Aarav’s relationship in an unfiltered manner.

What’s in Chand Mera Dil’s trailer?

The 171-second promo cleverly intercuts between the different phases of their romance, sometimes even contrasting how the same emotions and reactions can mean different things in different scenarios. At one point, we see both of them in desi attire. Chandni asks him, “How do I look?” as Aarav replies, “...like you’re mine.” However, the possessiveness that’s presented as endearing here takes another form as issues arise between them. From assuming they can’t live without each other to



slowly realising there’s no way they can be together, Chand Mera Dil maps the tumultuous growth of Chandni and Aarav’s relationship, depicting its various shades in a raw manner. “Our love story has become legendary,” Chandni says, while he notes, “Legendary love stories always have a tragic ending.” The trailer further sheds light on how male dominance and manipulation play out in relationships, with women being burdened by both trauma and love bombing. Scripted by Tushar Paranjape and Vivek Soni based on a story by the latter, Chand Mera Dil features music by Sachin Jigar, cinematography by Debojeet Ray, and editing by Prashanth Ramachandran. Marking the first collaboration between Ananya Panday and Lakshya, the movie will hit screens worldwide on May 22. While Ananya was last seen in Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, where she shared the screen with Kartik Aaryan, Lakshya’s most recent appearance was in Aryan Khan’s satirical action comedy streaming series The Ba***ds of Bollywood.

‘Made Abhishek Sharma mop gym’: Yuvraj Singh rejects dad Yograj Singh’s ‘pushy’ coaching for his kids

Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh has often slammed his father Yograj Singh for his parenting style. He has always described his relationship with his dad as ‘highly strained’ because of his intense and abusive training methods as his coach, leading to prolonged resentment in him as a child. And now, Yuvraj, who is a father of two himself, has opened up about fatherhood and his own parenting approach.

During an interview with My FM India, he spoke about how his life changed after becoming a father and said, “Oh, life’s been amazing. I think meri maa mujhe bolti hoti thi, ya dad mujhe bolte the, ‘Jab tera bachcha hoga na tab tujhe pata lagega kya hota hai woh pyaar.’ I think woh pyaar ek aisa hai jo aapko experience karna chahiye (My parents would say you will understand us once you have kids. The love for your kids is something only you can understand). It is an amazing feeling to be a dad.”

The former cricketer further added, “Jaise-jaise mere bachche bade ho rahe hain, interactions, aapke khud ke genetics, usi tarah harkatein thoda usi tarah dikhna (As my kids are growing up, our interactions and I am seeing a mini-me in them). I think it’s the best feeling in the world to be a parent. It’s hard for all parents, but it’s just amazing to be a dad.” Yuvraj Singh has two children — son Orion and daughter Aura, with wife Hazel Keech.

Yuvraj Singh, the son of former cricketer-actor Yograj Singh and Shabnam Singh, also shared how he would have a different parenting style from the previous generation. When asked about his reaction to his kids not following the cricket footsteps and choosing a different career line, he said, “In my experience, bachchon ko sab kuch karna chahiye. Sport ho, padhai ho, they should experience all sports. Jo bhi mann hai khelne ka (Children should experience everything. Whatever they are good at, they should pick it and work hard in it),” he expressed. He further added, “I feel force utna hi karna chahiye jitne ki zarurat hai. That is a very thin line — kitna you can push your kid. In our generation, dads who were players would push a lot, including mine.”

During the same conversation, he revealed that he even coaches young players using lessons from his own childhood. While talking about mentoring cricketer Abhishek Sharma, he said, “Jo mere dad ne mujhe sikhaya hai aur jo mujhe lagta hai ki yeh cheez nahi karni chahiye, toh I can do better things around to get the same skill out (What my dad taught me and there were things I felt were wrong. I felt I could do different things and get the same skill out).” Sharing a humorous anecdote, Yuvraj said, “For example, agar koi late hota hai ya discipline nahi hai toh matlab usse 50 rounds aur bhaga diye, 40 minute aur marwa di. Waise abhi Abhishek Sharma ko gym mein pocha marwaya tha. Uske baad woh late nahi hua (For example, if someone is perennially late and refusing to change their behaviour, it is not important that I make them do 50 rounds. I made Abhishek Sharma mop the gym, after that he was never late).”

Yograj Singh said he will show grandkids ‘no

Shahid Kapoor’s mom Neelima Azeem slams ‘toxic’ narratives over 3 failed marriages: ‘I don’t even drink’

Actor Shahid Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter’s mother, and actress Neelima Azeem, has always been very vocal about her personal life. Recently, in an interview with Zoom TV, Neelima also spoke about facing judgments for her failed marriages. Neelima has been married thrice — first with Pankaj Kapur, then with Rajesh Khatter, and her third marriage was with Ustaad Raza Ali Khan. While Neelima has moved on with her life, accepting that of late she has learnt to accept herself, the social media scrutiny still bothers her. In her latest interview, she opened up about the statements she sees about her personal life on social media. Neelima Azeem on judgments about her failed marriages

In a recent interview, Neelima Azeem spoke about the toxicity on social media and said, “Just the other day, someone commented that ‘sharaab pee kar kya haal ho gaya hai (see what condition she is in due to drinking)’. I don’t even drink. Social media makes statements without any truth.” Reacting to being blamed for her failed marriages, Neelima added, “I married very simple men who had no money, but who I thought were great people and

very talented. I never married for material or riches. I never sought a relationship in my life where they would build my career for me or invest money into my businesses; this is not my way of life. I did whatever I could in my capacity, I did theater, TV, I have hosted, danced, as an actress, I have 27 best actress awards, I have worked with the finest actors, I never talked about it or blew my own trumpet.” She, however, believes that if she doesn’t tell her side of the story, she will be defamed. “But now I feel I have come to a place where I must speak because if you don’t tell your truth, people suppress your voice, change your facts. As time passes, you realize that you are being defamed. What’s sad is that another woman is doing it. How do women do this to each other? I didn’t want to end my marriage, but when things happen, there is a reason. It’s very easy to blame the person,” Neelima Azeem added. In December last year, Neelima Azeem spoke about her marriage with Pankaj Kapur in an interview with Vickey Lalwani. She had said, “I separated from Pankaj Kapur when Shahid was three, when I was a very young girl.