

INDIAN CHRONICLE

20 May 2026| Wednesday | Volume No:14 | Issue No: 93

Pages: 12+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana) ₹ 1/-

Couple crushed to death in Adilabad

Adilabad: A couple was killed when they came under the wheels of a bus after their motorcycle hit a car at Uttoor crossroads on Tuesday.

Police said that Pendur Laxman (50) from Thoyaguda village died on the spot, while his wife Shakubai sustained critical injuries when they came under the bus. Shakubai was immediately shifted to a hospital in Uttoor where she died while being treated.

PM Discusses Trade, Green Energy With Nordic Counterparts

Oslo, May 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties in areas such as clean energy, trade, sustainability and digitalisation during separate meetings with his counterparts from Iceland, Finland and Denmark. The prime minister held the meetings ahead of the 3rd India-Nordic Summit.

During his talks with Iceland Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir, Finland Prime Minister Petteri Orpo and Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, PM Modi discussed the overall trajectory of bilateral relations between India and the three Nordic nations.

"Had a wonderful meeting with Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir of Iceland. India deeply values the friendship with Iceland," Modi said in a social media post after the meeting with the Icelandic premier.

He said the two sides discussed ways to improve ties in areas such as clean energy, fisheries, sustainability, geothermal energy and carbon capture and storage.

"Iceland's prowess in sectors relating to the Blue Economy is admirable. We are hopeful that the historic India-EFTA TEPA will give an impetus to trade and investment linkages as well," Modi said.

According to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, the discussions held on the sidelines of the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo between Modi and Frostadottir also covered



renewable energy, innovation, digital technologies, creative economy, Arctic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

"The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern," he said in a social media post.

In a separate meeting with Finnish Prime Minister Orpo, Modi discussed enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, 5G and 6G, quantum technologies, sustainability, renewable energy and circular economy.

They also discussed innovation, education, mobility and people-to-people ties, Jaiswal said.

The two leaders "underlined the importance of the early entry into force of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement" and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, he said.

"This year has witnessed extensive engagements as far as India and Finland are concerned. PM Orpo himself had come to India for the AI Impact Summit. Our meeting today is aimed at giving new energy to bilateral relations," Modi said in a post on X after the meeting.

The prime minister also held a "fruitful" meeting with his Danish counterpart. "The India-Denmark friendship has been making remarkable progress over the recent years," Modi said in a separate post on X.

The two leaders discussed areas of cooperation including renewable energy, climate action, water management, green shipping, digitalisation and food processing.

"The coming years can see similar synergy in FinTech, industries, defence, innovation and more. Invited Danish pension funds to expand their investments in India. We

are very confident that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement will have a major impact on both our economies," Modi said.

MEA spokesperson Jaiswal said that during the meeting, both sides affirmed their "strong support for bilateral relations under the Green Strategic Partnership".

"They noted that Danish investments and technologies can be scaled up in India for the mutual benefit of both countries. The leaders also exchanged perspectives on key regional and global issues," he said in a social media post. The Nordic countries refer to a geopolitical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic. It comprises Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The five Nordic nations have a combined GDP exceeding USD 1.9 trillion and lead global benchmarks in renewable energy and sustainable ocean governance.

Palamuru irrigation projects top priority, says Uttam

Hyderabad: Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the State government had accorded top priority to irrigation projects in erstwhile Palamuru to address the backwardness and chronic drought conditions prevailing in the region. The Minister on Monday conducted an extensive review meeting on the status of irrigation projects in the erstwhile Palamuru with MLAs and Ministers from the region. He assured the elected representatives that the progress of the Palamuru irrigation projects was being closely monitored. Sustained efforts were underway to resolve bottlenecks affecting execution, he stated.

ACB conducts searches at Water Board GM's properties

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conducted simultaneous raids at the properties of Hyderabad Water Board General Manager S.L. Kumar and his relatives. Officials seized ₹1.10 crore in cash, gold, silver, and documents for multiple properties in an alleged disproportionate assets case



Hyderabad, May 19

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Tuesday conducted simultaneous searches at the residence of Water Board General Manager S.L. Kumar and properties linked to his relatives in an alleged disproportionate assets case.

The searches were carried out at eight locations across Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy district and Nizamabad district.

As per information available, during searches at Kumar's house in Mallapur, ACB officials reportedly seized cash worth Rs 1.10 crore, around 1.5 kg of gold

ornaments and 2.5 kg of silver articles.

ACB officials also identified assets allegedly linked to Kumar, including three acres of agricultural land in Nizamabad, six open plots in Hyderabad and three flats in a gated community in the city.

Property documents were taken into custody for verification.

ACB officials said a detailed report will be released after the searches were completed.

The seized documents are being examined, and officials are collecting further details from S.L. Kumar as part of the ongoing investigation.

Fishing Ban Period Relief: Naidu Disburses Rs.262 Crore

Nellore: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday said the coastline, fishing boats and fishing rights "belong to our fishermen," and that "we will not allow any intrusion into our waters."

He said alert systems were in place to immediately notify district authorities whenever unauthorised boats entered state waters.

Addressing the 'Matsyakarula Sevalo' programme in Kavali of SPSR Nellore district, Naidu declared that



the government would not compromise on the rights of Andhra Pradesh fishermen. "The boats from neighbouring states would not be allowed to illegally enter the Andhra coastal waters."

He announced that the government would provide 200 mechanised fishing boats to fishermen with a 60 per cent subsidy, while the remaining amount could be repaid in easy installments.

The Chief Minister said the government was committed to improving the livelihoods of fishermen through welfare schemes, infrastructure development and alternative income opportunities.

Fishermen's families, he said, are being provided a ₹20,000 financial assistance during the annual fishing ban period. This year, the government deposited ₹262 crore into the accounts of 1.30 lakh fishermen families, compared to ₹243 crore given to 1.21 lakh families last year.

Highlighting the importance of the fisheries sector, Naidu said AP contributes nearly 80 per cent of the country's shrimp exports and that fisheries remained one of the largest employment sectors after agriculture and construction.

Encouraging diversification of livelihoods, he urged fishermen's families, particularly women, to take up seaweed cultivation to generate additional income. He also announced skill development programmes for fishers to help increase earnings.

During the visit, the CM inspected the joint action task force for sea patrolling centre set up along the Nellore coast by the Marine Police, the fisheries and forest departments and local fishermen to prevent intrusion of boats from neighbouring states.

Officials demonstrated the use of drones, satellite surveillance and multilingual warning systems to monitor coastal waters.

Naidu also reviewed GPS tracking systems designed to alert fishermen when nearing international maritime boundaries.

The Chief Minister announced a fund of ₹6.27 crore for laying metal roads connecting 25 fishermen villages in the region and ₹6.19 crore for desilting the North Buckingham Canal, which would also be developed into an inland waterway.

Connectivity, he said, would be improved between Thummalapenta village and the Ramayapatnam and Juvvaladinne fishing harbours.

Referring to the impact of the West Asia conflict on fuel and gas supplies, Naidu urged the people to reduce unnecessary travel, use public transport, cut down cooking oil consumption and promote domestic tourism in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advisory.

Madhav welcomes funds to fisher folk

Visakhapatnam: BJP state president P.V.N. Madhav has welcomed the coalition government's decision to provide financial assistance of ₹20,000 to fishermen families across Andhra Pradesh under the Matsyakara Bharosa scheme.

He said the government is directly depositing ₹20,000 into the bank accounts of fishermen's families affected during the annual fishing ban period. Madhav said the assistance amount had been increased from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000.

According to him, the annual fishing ban observed from April 15 to June 14 benefits more than 1.30 lakh fishermen families in the state through the scheme.

Madhav said insurance coverage of up to ₹10 lakh is also being provided to fishermen in case of accidental death under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

He said the coalition government, led by N. Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, is giving priority to the welfare of fishermen. He added that the government is extending 60 per cent subsidy for the construction of 230 fishing boats to improve livelihoods.

Madhav said the Central and the state governments are working in coordination for the development of fishermen communities. He said focus is also being laid on coastal development, expansion of fishing harbours, modernisation of jetties and enhancement of cold storage facilities.

Rahul Gandhi claims Modi's 'remote control' is with Donald Trump

Raebareli (UP), May 19 Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that his "remote control" is with US President Donald Trump. He was on a visit to his Lok Sabha constituency Raebareli and party bastion Amethi.

Addressing Congress workers at Khiron in Harchandpur assembly constituency of Raebareli, Gandhi alleged that the Central government asks the country's farmers, labourers and small traders to buy electric vehicles when people do not even get enough food or jobs.

"I don't know what the prime minister is dreaming about when he asks the country to buy electric vehicles. We can't even get cooking gas to prepare meals at home. The prime minister is asking people not to go abroad or buy gold. I have no idea in what world this man is living in," the former Congress president said. He said the "remote control" of the prime minister lies in America's hands.

"You must have heard Donald Trump's speech. He says, 'Look here, I could finish his career in two minutes'. Meanwhile, the Epstein files remain closed. Modi goes abroad 24 hours (a day) in an attempt to save himself — sometimes to save (himself) from America, sometimes to visit Norway. He folds his hands and tells them, 'Please forgive me, do not open the Epstein files. Or, there is a case against Adani ji, please close it', Gandhi said. He claimed that a deal had been struck with the US, under which the prime minister snatched everything from India and handed it over to America.

"Take it in writing. In the near future, the Adani case currently pending in the US will be dismissed. Why? Because Narendra Modi has sold out India, along with its poor, its farmers, labourers, unemployed youth, our data and everything to America, all to get Adani's case closed. Modi has handed over our entire agricultural system to America. Very shortly, the Adani case will be dismissed by Donald Trump," he said. Gandhi claimed that Modi has "surrendered our data" and offered to purchase goods



worth Rs 9.5 lakh crore from the US.

"The prime minister has compromised our energy security. Why? Only to save himself from the Adani case," he said. The LoP said that electricity, petrol and gas will become more expensive, as there is a war going on between the US and Iran.

"Iran has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, saying that the US has attacked the country and dropped bombs over it. As a result, the price of oil (stock) in the world has increased so quickly," he said. The LoP pointed out that the suffering caused by the Centre's policies over the last 12 years would not be borne by industrialists but by farmers, labourers, small traders and the youth.

"I say this every day. Narendra Modi ji, start taking action. Begin helping and protecting the farmers, small traders and youth. Otherwise, the country will face an immense loss. Narendra Modi ji looks this way and that way, but takes no action," Gandhi said.

Addressing Congress workers, Gandhi said it was now their responsibility to take this "truth" to the people and tell them that the BJP leadership had "sold the country" to save itself. "When BJP workers stand before you, tell them that they and their leaders are traitors. Tell them they made a deal with America to save their leader and sold Hindustan," he said.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Captagon seizure shows enormity of the menace

INDIA's first-ever seizure of Captagon — the notorious synthetic stimulant widely dubbed the "jihadi drug" — is both a major law enforcement success and a stark warning about the audacity of transnational narcotics networks. The Narcotics Control Bureau's seizure of 227.7-kg Captagon worth Rs 182 crore under Operation RAGEPILL shows that India is no longer merely battling domestic drug abuse; it is increasingly confronting sophisticated international syndicates attempting to exploit its territory as a transit corridor.

The involvement of an overstaying Syrian national and the intended movement of the consignment to Gulf markets provide a glimpse of the modus operandi employed by global trafficking cartels. Captagon trafficking is deeply intertwined with organised crime, hawala networks, forged trade documentation and terror financing. Also, there is growing evidence of narco-trafficking from Myanmar to the North East and cocaine consignments entering Indian shores through maritime trade routes. India cannot afford to be complacent.

However, seizures alone will not resolve the crisis. The experience of states such as Himachal Pradesh and Punjab suggests that anti-drug campaigns succeed when policing is combined with rehabilitation, community participation and a financial crackdown on criminal enterprises. Property confiscation, preventive detention, awareness drives and local-level monitoring must become integral parts of a nationwide strategy. Global cooperation is a must. Home Minister Amit Shah has called for uniform international laws, intelligence-sharing and extradition mechanisms. Drug cartels thrive on legal loopholes, fragmented enforcement and geopolitical divisions.

Hemalatha Reddy Virupaksha Appointed as South India General Secretary of Head World Human Rights Council



“HYDERABAD , MAY 19 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Virupaksha Hemalatha has been appointed as the South India General Secretary of the Head World Human Rights Council, an organization actively working across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The appointment orders were issued by the organization's Chairman Madhav. “Speaking on the occasion of her appointment, Hemalatha expressed her gratitude to Chairman Madhav for entrusting her with the responsibility and also thanked National General Secretary Satish Devarakonda for his support in her appointment. “She stated that she would work tirelessly for the protection of human rights and stand by victims to ensure justice is served. She emphasized that the organization would strongly respond whenever human rights are violated and undertake necessary initiatives on behalf of the Head World Human Rights Council. “Hemalatha said that the new role has increased her sense of responsibility and assured that she would strive for the development of the organization while actively working for the protection of human rights. “Several dignitaries, organization representatives, and members felicitated Hemalatha and extended their congratulations on her appointment as General Secretary.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Takes Special Initiative on Constituency Development Works

““UPPAL , MAY 19 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Taking serious note of complaints from residents regarding drinking water supply and poor drainage systems in the Uppal Assembly Constituency, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy met Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Managing Director Pankaja on Tuesday at the MLA's office in Uppal Bhagayath. “During the meeting, the MLA urged the officials to immediately approve proposals related to urgent develop-



ment works in the constituency and sanction funds on a priority basis. He emphasized the need to provide better drinking water supply and proper sewage drainage facilities to the people of Uppal. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that these initiatives are being undertaken with the objective of improving basic civic amenities in the constituency. He also affirmed that he remains committed to the development of Uppal and will continue striving for the resolution of public issues. BRS leaders from Uppal constituency also participated in the programme.

Former Minister and BRS Working President KTR Congratulates Malladi Rushi for Securing State First Rank in EAMCET-2026



““UPPAL , MAY 19 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Former Minister and BRS Working President K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) congratulated Malladi Rushi, daughter of Kondal Reddy from Chiluka Nagar Division, for securing the State First Rank in EAMCET-2026 with an outstanding score of 156.63 marks. “Under the leadership of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, KTR personally presented a cheque of Rs.1 lakh to Rushi at his residence in Nanakramguda. MLA

Bandari Lakshma Reddy took Rushi to meet KTR and conveyed his congratulations on her remarkable achievement. “Speaking on the occasion, KTR said that it was a matter of great pride that a student from an ordinary family background had achieved the top rank in the state through hard work and dedication. He stated that Malladi Rushi's success was a proud moment not only for Chiluka Nagar Division but also for the entire Uppal constituency. “KTR praised Rushi for proving that with determination and focus, today's youth can achieve any goal. He further said that students can attain excellent results through discipline, time management, and continuous hard work. He emphasized that the encouragement of parents and teachers, along with the dedication of students, forms the foundation for success. “MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy expressed happiness over Rushi's achievement and said that Telangana students are proving their talent at the national level. He wished that Rushi would continue to scale greater heights in the future and become an inspiration to society. “Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, former Meerpet Housing Board Division Corporator Prabhudas, BRS state leaders Soma Shekhar Reddy, Jalli Mohan, Maasa Shekar party leaders, and activists also participated in the programme.

Gallivant Entertainments Launches Its 3rd Luxury Bowling & Gaming Center at Suncity, Hyd



“Hyderabad, May 2026: “Gallivant Entertainments, a rapidly growing chain of premium bowling and gaming destinations in Telangana, proudly announced the grand inauguration of its 3rd luxury bowling and gaming center at Suncity, Bandlaguda Jagir, Hyderabad. “Known for delivering world-class family entertainment experiences with a strong focus on safety, hygiene, and premium hospitality, Gallivant continues to redefine urban leisure and recreation across Telangana. The brand currently operates successful centers near Peddamma Temple – Jubilee Hills, Preston Prime Mall – Gachibowli, and now its newest flagship destination above Ratnadeep Select, Suncity. “The grand inauguration ceremony was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble B. Gnaneshwar Mudhiraj, Chairman, Telangana State Mudiraj Cooperative Societies Corporation. The event commenced with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, followed by an exclusive tour of the state-of-the-art entertainment facility. “The dignitaries appreciated Gallivant's vision and commitment towards bringing premium recreational infrastructure and quality family entertainment to the rapidly developing Suncity–Bandlaguda Jagir region. “Event Highlights “Hon'ble B. Gnaneshwar Mudhiraj bowled the



ceremonial first ball to officially mark the launch. “Guests explored the premium bowling lanes, arcade gaming zones, and celebration areas. “More than 200 guests, including local leaders, families, business representatives, and media personnel attended the inauguration ceremony. “Quote from the Chief Guest “Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble B. Gnaneshwar Mudhiraj said: “> “Facilities like Gallivant are essential for balanced community growth. They provide families with safe, high-quality spaces to spend meaningful time together. I congratulate the Gallivant team for investing in Suncity and wish them continued success. “Gallivant Bowling & Gaming, Suncity is now officially open to the public with special inaugural offers available until 31st May 2026. The venue features premium bowling lanes, latest-generation arcade games, and dedicated party spaces designed for birthdays, celebrations, and corporate events. “Gallivant invites families, youngsters, and entertainment enthusiasts to experience a new destination for bowling, gaming, celebrations, and memorable moments. “Venue Address: “Gallivant Bowling & Gaming “3rd Floor, Above Ratnadeep Select, “Suncity, Bandlaguda Jagir, “Aaramaaisamma Temple Road.

Karimnagar police issue security guidelines for hotels and lodges

Managements asked to verify guest identities thoroughly and preserve CCTV footage for 90 days.

KARIMNAGAR May 19 (Correspondent): Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam on Tuesday warned hotel and lodge managements against accommodating guests without proper identity verification and said strict legal action would be taken against establishments violating security norms. Addressing an awareness meeting with hotel and lodge owners at the Astra Convention Hall, Mr. Alam said investigations into the recent robbery at PMJ Jewellery had revealed that an inter-State gang allegedly stayed in various hotels in the city for nearly two months using fake Aadhaar cards, false phone numbers and fabricated addresses while conducting reconnaissance.

He said a special police team headed by an ACP-rank officer had been constituted to inspect hotels and lodges and review compliance with security standards. Extensive surveillance and enforcement measures were being intensified across the Commissionerate limits to curb the movement of inter-State criminal gangs, he added. The Commissioner instructed hotel operators to thoroughly verify government-issued identity cards instead of relying solely on Aadhaar cards. Managements were also asked to cross-check the mobile phone numbers furnished by guests and ensure that records such as guest registers, vehicle details and check-in and check-out timings were maintained digitally.

Mr. Alam directed establishments to install high-resolution CCTV cameras and preserve footage for at least 90 days. Hotel staff were asked to maintain vigilance over suspicious movements, including guests arriving without luggage, persons carrying suspicious bags or attempting to evade CCTV surveillance, and individuals involved in large cash transactions. Warning of stringent action against violators, he said criminal cases would be booked against hotel managements found sheltering accused persons or failing to cooperate with police inspections. Meanwhile, the



police intensified roadblock operations at major junctions and inter-State border points besides conducting cordon-and-search operations in sensitive localities and suburban colonies. Continuous patrolling has also been stepped up at railway stations, bus stands, market areas, jewellery shops and finance institutions with the deployment of Blue Colts, Task Force and special police teams. The police appealed to citizens to alert Dial 100 or the nearest police station if they noticed suspicious persons, abandoned vehicles or unusual activity in their neighbourhoods. Town ACP Venkataswamy and Inspectors Ramchander Rao, Sruljan Reddy and Tirumal participated in the meeting along with hotel and lodge owners.

Farmers Educated on Modern Cultivation Practices

“Experts Guide on Soil Health and Crop Management “Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, May 19:

“An awareness programme on scientific cultivation practices was organised on Tuesday at the Jambuga Rythu Vedita in Kagaznagar mandal. “Scientists Dr. CH Bharat Bhushan Rao and Dr. D. Sirisha, along with Agriculture Department official Ramakrishna, educated farmers on the proper use of urea, soil health protection methods, need-based usage of chemicals, and cultivation of paddy varieties with high market demand.



Uppal Congress In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy Consoles Bereaved Families



“UPPAL , MAY 19 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Memdumula Parameshwar Reddy on Tuesday visited several bereaved families in Uppal and expressed his deep condolences. “He visited the residence of Aratikayala Venkatesh after the recent demise of his mother, Aratikayala Veeramani, and consoled the grieving family members. He prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace. “Parameshwar Reddy also visited the family of senior Congress leader from Uppal Gandhi Nagar, Nagaram Venkatesh, following the death of his father, Nagaram Komurayya. He conveyed his sympathies to the family and assured them of his support during the difficult time. “Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said, “The passing away of Veeramani and Komurayya is an irreparable loss. I pray that their souls rest in peace and that God gives strength to their families to overcome this grief. We will stand by the families in this difficult time,” he said.

Awareness programme on TMREIS institutions held in Karimnagar



Speakers stress need for community participation to improve enrolment and prevent dropouts.

KARIMNAGAR May 19 (Correspondent): The need to create greater awareness among minority communities about the facilities and educational opportunities available in Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) institutions was highlighted at an orientation and awareness programme organised in Karimnagar on Tuesday. The programme was organised by NGOs led by ASEEM and Adalah (Access to Justice Network) and attended by representatives of social organisations, educational institutions and community groups. Shaik Jameel Ahmed, Jagdishwar, Shoeb Lateefi, Mufti Abdul Aleemuddin, Ali Asghar and representatives of SIO, besides principals of TMREIS schools and colleges, participated in the programme. A district-level report on student performance in SSC and Intermediate examinations was presented by Ramesh Lal Hatkar. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Jameel Ahmed urged NGOs and social organisations to educate parents about TMREIS institutions and encourage them to visit nearby campuses to understand the facilities and academic opportunities available to students. Mufti Abdul Aleemuddin stressed the importance of education and called for efforts to identify and enrol dropout students so that they could continue their studies. Mohammad Jameel Ahmed spoke about the vision of TMREIS and assured support in encouraging community participation in the enrolment campaign. The programme began with a welcome address by M. A. Mujeeb Ayyub, while the session was moderated by S. Q. Masood. Participants emphasised the need for coordinated efforts by educational institutions, social organisations and community members to ensure that more students benefit from quality education and support systems.

Dubai Emerges as a Global Growth Platform for Indian Businesses

Hyderabad, May 19 (Indian Chronicle): Dubai Chamber of Commerce, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, announced that 3,995 new Indian companies joined the chamber during Q1 2026. In a statement released in the city on Tuesday, the President and CEO of Dubai Chambers, Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, said that the growing number of Indian companies reflects the strengthening economic and trade ties between India and Dubai despite challenging global business conditions. Speaking alongside Joy Alukkas, Chairman and MD of Joyalukkas Group, Siddharth Balachandran, and Nilesh Ved, Lootah stated that the total number of active Indian companies registered with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce reached 84,088 by the end of March 2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as “KOYYALA BABU (Old name)” S/o Koyyala Ramulu, aged about 43 years, residing at H. No. 8-112/1/2, Drivers Colony, Adloor, Kamareddy, Kamareddy District, Telangana State, have changed my name to “KOYYALA BHASKAR (New name)” S/o Koyyala Ramulu for all purposes. Hereafter, I shall be known and called only as “KOYYALABHASKAR”.

“Will Resolve Padmashali Township Drinking Water Problem

— Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy****-Parameshwar Reddy Meets HMWSSB ED Pankaja Along With Residents of Padmashali Township in AS Rao Nagar Division“



****UPPAL , MAY 19 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, along with representatives of the Padmashali Township Residential Welfare Association, met HMWSSB Executive Director Pankaja at Uppal Bhagayat on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum regarding the severe drinking water problem in the colony.“Speaking to

the Executive Director, Parameshwar Reddy explained that Padmashali Township, spread across 132 acres, is home to nearly 2,400 families. Since the colony is located close to a dumping yard, the groundwater has become heavily contaminated, leading to an acute drinking water crisis for residents. He stated that children and elderly people are falling ill after consuming polluted water.“He urged the authorities to provide immediate drinking water facilities in Padmashali Township, prepare proposals for a new reservoir if necessary, and lay new pipelines on a war footing.“Protecting public health is our first responsibility. I will bring the Padmashali Township water issue to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and seek special funds for its resolution,” Parameshwar Reddy assured.“He further said, “Under the Congress public governance, we are giving top priority to providing basic infrastructure to the people of the state.

The blessings of the people are our strength, and public health is our mission.“Executive Director Pankaja responded positively and assured that immediate steps would be taken to resolve the issue. Following this assurance, representatives of the Padmashali Township Senior Citizens Residential Welfare Association thanked Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy for taking up the matter.“Among those who participated in the programme were AS Rao Nagar Division Congress President Keshetti Prasad, Medchal-Malkajigiri District Agricultural Market Committee Vice Chairman Vitthal Naik, and colony representatives Muppu Rama Rao, Pandala Anuradha, Yadagiri Goud, Mamatha Vijay, Nara Janardhan, Vanam Vijay Kumar, Oval Das Chakrapani, Dontha Srinivas, Mekala Surekha Venu, Deepa Aravind, Karunakar, Yemula Madhusudhan, Punna Navaneetha, Sheshu, Bingi Uday Bhaskar, Sukanya Rajinikanth, Pallavi Srinivas, Srinivas Varma, Jayakar, Sunta Peddabomma Archana, Nagamani, Kavitha Swathi, Priyanka, Subhash and others.

Measures to Prevent Traffic Problems in Uppal

Clear Sign Boards for Motorists“Speed Up Flyover Construction Works“ MMCC Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy



****UPPAL , MAY 19 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):“Malkajigiri Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy directed officials to take necessary precautions to ensure that the ongoing flyover construction works at Uppal do not cause inconvenience to the public or traffic disruptions.“On Tuesday, the Commissioner inspected the flyover construction works at Uppal X Roads along with officials. During the inspection, he instructed authorities to implement proper traffic management measures to avoid congestion and inconvenience to commuters due to the ongoing construction activities.“He emphasized the need to install clear diversion signboards to provide proper guidance to motorists

and ensure smooth traffic movement. Officials were also directed to take special measures to reduce traffic congestion and improve coordination in traffic management.“Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy further instructed officials to expedite the flyover pillar construction works and complete the project within the stipulated timeframe. He stated that the government's primary objective is to provide better transportation facilities to city residents, reduce traffic problems, and accelerate infrastructure development.“The programme was attended by Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, maintenance chief engineers, town planning officials, Uppal and LB Nagar Traffic DCPs, along with several other officials.

Grant Official Recognition to the Gangaputra CommunityGunti Sanjeeva



“Narsampet/Warangal, May 19 (Indian Chronicle) : Gunti Sanjeeva, President of the Urban Gangaputra Association, expressed concern over the fact that in the recently released comprehensive survey and demographic statistics, the Besta and Gangaputra communities were recorded merely as sub-castes rather than as distinct social groups.“On Tuesday, under his leadership, members of the Gangaputra community met with the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and submitted a memorandum addressing this issue.“Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeeva clarified that the Besta and Gangaputra people are not merely sub-castes, but distinct communities that have traditionally relied on fish-

ing as their primary means of livelihood. He described it as unjust to overlook a community possessing such a rich professional heritage, adding that it is impossible to even imagine society without the contributions of the Gangaputra people. He urged the government to immediately grant official recognition to the Besta and Gangaputra communities. He also expressed anguish that, despite having a population running into the lakhs across Telangana, accurate statistics regarding the Gangaputra community have not been properly recorded in official records.“Sanjeeva also strongly opposed reports suggesting that the Mudiraj community might be reclassified from the BC-D category to the BC-A category. He warned that such a decision would have an adverse impact on the representation of the many communities already existing within the BC-A category. Noting that BC-A communities are already facing neglect, he appealed to the government to resolve their long-standing issues.“He warned that if the government fails to reconsider this decision, BC-A communities will have no choice but to undertake large-scale protest programs.“Association Vice Presidents Erraboyina Kishan, Jijula ??Sagar, Chintala Tarzan, Ankala Mallikarjun, Ankala Suresh, Pusa Ekambaram, Medaraboyina Srinivas, Kaparaboyina Ramesh, Gunti Srinivas, Ambati Sanjeeva, and others participated in this event.

Private Schools in Nelakondapalli Mandal Under Scrutiny

“Khammam Nelakondapalli May19 Indian chronicle :““Nelakondapalli private school managements are allegedly functioning without proper regulation, acting as though “everything is at their own will,” according to parents and social activists.“Concerns are being raised over several irregularities, including collection of excessive fees, compulsory purchase of books and uniforms from schools, and charging admission fees in violation of government norms. Parents also alleged that nearly 20 students are being transported in a single auto-rickshaw, putting children’s safety at risk.“Many schools are reportedly operating without qualified teachers, proper playgrounds, or physical education (PET) instructors. Despite these issues, officials are accused of failing to conduct inspections or monitor the institutions effectively.“Critics say several educational institutions have turned into commercial centers rather than places of quality education. Students are allegedly being pushed through rote learning methods focused only on marks and pass percentages, resulting in poor subject understanding. As a result, many students face difficulties in higher educa-



tion due to lack of basic knowledge and inability to understand advanced syllabus.“Parents and social activists expressed concern that the future of students is becoming uncertain and demanded that authorities conduct inspections in all private schools and take strict action against institutions violating rules and regulations.

Congress and BRS Sharing a Comfortable Relationship



Misleading People: Former MLA NVSS Prabhakar“Hyderabad, May 19 (Indian Chronicle): Senior BJP leader and former MLA NVSS Prabhakar launched a sharp attack on the Congress and BRS parties, alleging that both are secretly cooperating with each other while pretending to fight in public. Speaking at a media conference held at the BJP state office, he claimed that the two parties are running a “comfortable relationship” behind the scenes and deceiving the people of Telangana.“Prabhakar alleged that the Congress party, which claims to be a national party, has lost its credibility and existence across the country. He pointed out that Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are both out on bail, and claimed that several Congress leaders have previously faced imprisonment.““Congress-BRS Drama Politics”“He alleged that both Congress and BRS are indulging in “drama politics” in Telangana. According to him, Congress earlier supported BRS during political defections, while now BRS is indirectly supporting Congress. He claimed that both parties are protecting each other while pretending to be political rivals in public.“Prabhakar further alleged that from the “vote-for-note” case to the present day, both parties have maintained close ties under the backing of Rahul Gandhi.“Allegations Against KCR Family”Targeting BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao, Prabhakar alleged that despite facing corruption allegations and notices, KCR avoided investigations by seeking legal protection through



courts.“He also accused K. T. Rama Rao of following a similar path in cases related to the Formula-E race issue, power purchase agreements, alleged irregularities in Jonnawada constructions, Miyapur lands, and the EAMCET paper leak controversy.“Referring to the liquor scam case, he stated that K. Kavitha had gone to jail and is still facing investigation. He further alleged that T. Harish Rao has been moving around courts after receiving notices in connection with phone tapping and the Kaleshwaram project issues.““No Moral Responsibility”

“Prabhakar criticized former BRS ministers for not resigning in incidents such as the LRS issue, deaths of children due to dog attacks, and building collapse cases, even after courts took suo motu notice and raised serious concerns.“He also alleged that reports had surfaced linking BRS leaders to incidents involving attacks on lawyers and harassment of women leaders and officials in different districts.““State Assets Shrunk, Family Assets Grew”“Questioning the rise in the wealth of KTR’s family, Prabhakar asked how assets declared in earlier affidavits had allegedly grown into hundreds of crores. He accused the BRS leadership of turning a financially strong Telangana into a debt-ridden state while increasing their personal wealth.“He concluded by warning that even if BRS acts as the “B-team” of Congress and continues its “comfortable relationship,” the BJP would expose their alleged corruption and secret political understanding before the people of Telangana.

Do Not Mislead Telangana Movement Activists: Mohammed Salam

****Khammam,May19 Indian chronicle:**** CPI leader Mohammed Salam has urged the government not to mislead Telangana movement activists in the name of welfare and recognition.“In a statement, Salam said that Telangana state was achieved through the sacrifices of nearly 1,200 martyrs during the Telangana movement, which was fought with the slogan of securing “our water and our jobs for ourselves.” He alleged that both the previous and the present governments had used Telangana sentiment and movement activists for political purposes.“He criticized the government for lacking sincerity in fulfilling promises made to activists and in recognizing genuine Telangana movement participants. Salam said the government’s decision to form a committee and divide activists into four categories lacked clarity.“He questioned what benefits would be provided under each category, what eligibility rules would be followed, and how activists would be selected. He urged the government to provide clear guidelines instead of treating the issue like an election promise.“Salam further stated that the families of Telangana martyrs and movement activists should not be insulted or disappointed. He warned the government against raising false hopes among activists and hurting their sentiments by making unclear promises and delaying implementation.



Telangana Activists Demand Immediate Resolution of Their Issues



“Khammam Nelakondapalli May19 Indian chronicle:****“Telangana movement activists have demanded the immediate resolution of their pending issues. Telangana Movement JAC district leader Madasu Srinivasa Rao made this demand during a program organized under the leadership of Telangana activists at Kotha Kothuru village in the mandal.“On the occasion, tributes were paid to the martyrs of the Telangana movement. Srinivasa Rao expressed grati-

tude to the state government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for constituting a committee for Telangana activists. He also thanked activists’ committee chairman K. Keshav and MLCs Kodandaram and Addanki Dayakar for supporting the cause of movement activists.“He stated that the sacrifices made during the Telangana movement ultimately led to the formation of the Telangana state and expressed confidence that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would ensure justice for the activists by recognizing their contributions.“

The activists demanded that the state government provide 250 square yards of land, a monthly pension of Rs. 25,000, health cards, bus passes, and official identity cards to recognized movement activists. They urged the government to extend these benefits to every individual who participated in the Telangana movement.“Srinivasa Rao expressed hope that the state government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would make a positive announcement in favor of Telangana activists.“Movement leaders including Mandati Venkateswara Rao, Theega Ramulu, Googu Lothu Anjaneyulu, Suragani Yakaiah, Mekala Venkateswarlu, and Karlapudi Kotaiah participated in the program.

New Road Construction Completed in Venkat Reddy Nagar Colony

Akarapu Arun Patel fulfills promise with support from Parameshwar Reddy****UPPAL , MAY 19(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“The long wait of residents of Venkat Reddy Nagar Colony under Venkat Reddy Nagar Division has finally come to an end with the completion of a new cement road in the locality. The road stretch from Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Temple to Gandhi High School was laid recently, bringing relief to local residents.“During the “Basti Bata” programme, local issues faced by the colony residents were brought to the attention of leaders, and a promise was made to construct the road. Later, residents personally met Congress leader Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and submitted a representation seeking immediate action. Responding promptly, Parameshwar Reddy spoke with the concerned officials and instructed them to expedite the road construction works.“As promised, funds were sanctioned within a short period and the road construction was successfully completed. Not only were instructions issued, but Akarapu Arun Patel also personally monitored the quality and progress of the works on-site during the construction phase.“Colony elders Ragi Venkata Reddy, Shiva Goud, Poojari Somaiah Goud, Harish Chari, Malliah, Yadagiri, Pottelu Paramesh, Sattaiah, Chota Rajesh,



Kishore, Bhanu, Krishna, Nagesh, along with local youth and women, participated in the programme in large numbers.“The residents expressed their gratitude for completing the road works swiftly and addressing a long-pending civic issue.“

Congress criticises Centre over fuel price hike, NEET paper leak

SUDA chairman seeks rollback of petrol and diesel price increase.



KARIMNAGAR May 19 (Correspondent): SUDA chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy on Tuesday criticised the Centre over the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices and alleged that the hike was placing an additional burden on common people. Addressing a press conference at the R&B Guest House along with Corporation Congress Committee president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, corporators and party leaders, he demanded immediate

rollback of the fuel price increase, stating that fuel prices had been raised by ₹4 per litre within four days.

Mr. Narendra Reddy alleged that the BJP government was favouring corporate interests while burdening the public through repeated fuel price hikes. He claimed that the phased increase in prices was aimed at avoiding public opposition. Referring to the alleged NEET examination paper leak, he termed it a failure of the Central government and said the incident had affected the future of lakhs of students across the country, including students from Telangana. He alleged that BJP leaders were attempting to divert public attention through rhetoric and demanded an apology from the party over the NEET issue. Mr. Narendra Reddy said that despite financial difficulties inherited from the previous BRS government, the Congress government in Telangana had continued implementing welfare schemes without increasing prices. He also stated that the State government had conducted recruitment examinations in a transparent manner and filled thousands of vacancies. Several corporators and Congress leaders were present at the press conference.

Cancer screening camp organised in Sadashivapalli

Health officials stress importance of early detection and preventive care.



KARIMNAGAR May 19 (Correspondent): District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Venkataramana inspected a cancer screening camp organised at Sadashivapalli vil-

lage under the Urban Primary Health Centre, Housing Board, along with PO DTT Dr. Umashree on Tuesday.

The officials reviewed the medical tests being conducted and the healthcare services being provided to villagers. Stressing the importance of early detection of life-threatening diseases such as cancer, they urged people to make use of the free health screening services being offered by the government. According to officials, two persons with symptoms of cancer, 27 persons with blood pressure-related ailments and 14 persons showing symptoms of diabetes were identified during the camp. Awareness was also created on preventive measures and the benefits of undergoing timely medical examinations. As part of the programme, HPV vaccination was administered to girls aged above 14 years. PO NCD Dr. Viplava Sri, Urban Primary Health Centre Medical Officer Dr. Rajkumar, NCD Coordinator Pochayya, HEO Jeevan Reddy, medical and health staff, and ASHA workers participated in the programme.

Tourism, heritage week celebrations launched in Karimnagar

Skill development awareness programme organised for youth.

KARIMNAGAR May 19 (Correspondent): The District Youth and Sports Department launched the "Youth & Sports" week celebrations as part of the 99-day Praja Palana Pragathi programme in Karimnagar on Monday. As part of the celebrations, an online awareness programme titled "Career & Skill Development – Empower Skills, Empower Future" was organised at the MYB Centre to educate youth on skill enhancement and employment opportunities.

The District Collector Chitra Mishra released the poster for the Tourism and Heritage Week celebrations during the programme. District Youth and Sports Officer Srinivas Goud said the initiative was aimed at empowering youth through skill development and encouraging them to make effective use of career-oriented training programmes. MYB Coordinator Tirupati Reddy, Assistant Director of the Heritage Department N. Sagar, TASK Officer Ramesh, students,



coaches, youth and office staff participated in the programme.

Development Works Are a Continuous Process : MLA 'Nayini'



“Hanumakonda, May 19 (Indian Chronicle) : Nayini Rajender Reddy, MLA of Warangal West, said that the development which did not take place over the past ten years has been achieved within just two and a half years, and assured that development activities would continue without interruption. “As part of the ongoing development initiatives in the constituency, the MLA on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for internal road construction to be undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹40 lakh under SDF funds on Road No. 2 in Vijaypal Colony of the 60th Division. “Speaking on the occasion, he clarified that his politics is not about making promises during elections and forgetting them later. He emphasized that he has been consistently working among the people with the firm intention of fulfilling every assur-



ance given to them. He noted that public representatives must remain accountable to the trust reposed in them by the people, and that he regularly tours at the grassroots level to identify and resolve public issues. “He further stated that every colony in the constituency is being developed in a phased manner and that several works which remained unattended for a decade were completed within a short span of two and a half years. Special priority, he said, is being given to roads, drainage systems, and drinking water facilities. “He added that development must rise above political considerations and continue as an ongoing process, for which public cooperation is equally essential. “Local public representatives, Congress party leaders, workers, and residents of the colony participated in the programme

Enumerators should perform their duties without any mistakes by recording the details of each house comprehensively:

- Bhaskar Rao, Additional Collector of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Local bodies” (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 19):-“Details of every house Bhaskar Rao, Additional Collector of local bodies, said that the enumerators should perform their duties without any mistakes after being registered comprehensively. On Tuesday, the census of houses in Aleru Municipality was examined.

The Additional Collector said that the supervisors should conduct continuous monitoring and review the progress of the house census on a daily basis. It has been suggested that the authorities should work in coordination to complete the census program by June 9 as per the deadline set by the government. The concerned officials participated in this program.



JAC Leaders Warn of Relay Hunger Strike at Paper Mill



Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, May 19: Leaders of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of trade unions demanded that workers' recognition union elections be conducted at Sirpur Paper Mills in Kagaznagar town of Komaram Bheem

Asifabad district. “Addressing a meeting held at the staff gate of the paper mill on Tuesday, JAC leaders questioned why the management had failed to conduct recognition union elections despite such elections being held in several factories across the state. “They urged the State Government to intervene immediately and direct Labour Department officials to hold discussions with the management and conduct the elections without delay. The leaders warned that if no action is taken, workers would launch relay hunger strikes after two days by setting up protest tents. “Later, the union leaders submitted a memorandum to Waheeduddin regarding the proposed protest. “Trade union leaders Golem Venkatesh, Kalikota Ramanaiah, C Venkatesh, Gogarla Ramulu, Rajesh Yadav and Munjam Srinivas, along with workers, participated in the programme.

Brick kiln workers should be given many rights including ID cards.. Quality education should be provided to their children

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Legal Service Authority, Secretary V Madhavilatha “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District



Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 19):- District Legal Service Authority, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri President and District Chief Justice A. Jayaraju, Secretary of the organization V Madhavilatha visited the brick kiln in Malkapuram in Turkapalli mandal and interviewed the workers with their family members. V Madhavilatha, secretary of the organization, said that in order to explain

their rights, they must get identity cards to get welfare schemes, and for the future of their children who have gone back to Orissa, they can approach legal service organizations for any legal aid or call 15100 to get legal help. Said. I in Mallyala village in the same mandal. K.P. met with the farmers and workers in the center and inquired about their wages and problems in the weighing, and said that the farm-



ers should be alerted about Nakhili seeds, and legal aid centers have been set up for farmers in Bhuvanagiri and Ramannapet farmers' platforms. He said that 15100 should be taken advantage of for help. In the next Bommallaramaram, he visited the G CM's children's and girls' care centers and reviewed the facilities and gave appropriate suggestions to the organizers and praised the talent of the girls by watching the various clothes sewn by the girls. Brick kiln workers, farmers, IKP center in-charges, CCI administrators, girls and children participated in these programs.

Indiramma Scheme Realizes the Dream of Home Ownership for the Poor – MLA K.R. Nagaraju

“Wardhannapet/Parvathagiri, May 19 (Indian Chronicle) : MLA K.R. Nagaraju stated that the Congress-led people's government has realized the long-cherished dream of home ownership held by the poor and marginalized sections of society. He severely criticized the previous government for neglecting the poor over the past decade. “On Tuesday, the MLA attended the housewarming ceremonies of beneficiaries of the Indiramma Housing Scheme at Torpu Thanda in Parvathagiri Mandal, Warangal District. He distributed new clothes to the beneficiary families and conveyed his best wishes, expressing his hope that peace and prosperity would abound in their new homes. “He affirmed that realizing the dream of home ownership for poor families is a primary objective of the Congress government. He further stated that, through the Indiramma Housing Scheme, the government is committed to providing dignified housing to every eligible poor family. “Emphasizing that public welfare is the government's top priority, he noted that development and welfare programs are being implemented with increased momentum, particularly in rural areas. “Public representatives, former public representatives, and leaders and activists of the Congress party participated in this event.



Doctors and staff should be available and better medical treatment should be provided to the patients coming to the government hospitals

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anuraga Jayanthi” (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 19):- Doctors and staff are available for patients coming to government hospitals District Collector Anuraga Jayanthi said that better medical treatment should be provided. On Tuesday, the District Collector inspected the primary health center at Tangedapalli under Chautuppal Municipality. The concerned officials were asked about the medical services provided in the hospital, the health check-ups provided to the pregnant women and the progress of the new building under construction. The medical staff was asked how many patients were coming to the OP every day. It is suggested to provide better medical services to the people and ensure that every patient who comes to the hospital gets proper treatment. The collector inspected the NCD camp being conducted in the hospital. The health tests conducted for the pregnant women who came to the camp were examined and the details of the services provided to them were learned. The medical officials were directed to conduct regular tests such as blood pressure, sugar etc. of pregnant women and to provide the necessary medicines on time. After checking the health records of the pregnant women, they asked if they were coming for regular checkup every month. They inquired whether all kinds of tests are available in the hospital and whether the necessary medicines are in sufficient storage. It is advised to pay special attention to the health of pregnant women, high risk cases should be identified early and appropriate treatment should be provided. The officials were asked how many births are taking place in the government hospital every month under



the PHC. It is mentioned that services should be provided in such a way as to encourage people to have more confidence in government hospitals by encouraging normal deliveries. Later, the new PHC building under construction was inspected. The concerned officials were directed to complete the construction work of the building expeditiously and to complete the pending works as soon as possible. Later, the collector inspected the IKP grain purchase center. Farmers want to buy grain without any problems. They inquired how much grain was stored and how much was bought. The Collector suggested to speed up the process of grain procurement. Revenue Divisional Officer Shekhar Reddy District Medical Officer Manohar, doctors, staff and others participated in this program.

100 days of Balajagruti movement from May 21

:- Prerna Balala Vedika State President, renowned social activist Dr. Akkenapalli Lakshmanachary “. (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 19):- Prerna Balala Vedika has embarked on an innovative program called “Bala Jagruti” to identify out-of-school children and enroll them in various schools. Dr. Akkenapalli Lakshmanachary, State President of Prerna Bala Vedika and prominent social activist, informed that this program, which will start from May 21 and continue for 100 days, will not only educate children and parents about child rights in slums and backward areas of Medchal Malkajgiri district and the border districts of Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, with the participation of school students and

local representatives, but will also bring out-of-school children to schools. The Balajagruti program is being organized with the aim of sending children from nomadic families to school through a specific plan prepared by “Prerna”, said the president of the platform, Lakshmana Chari, and Balajagruti Coordinator S. Raju. He hopes that educationists, public representatives, education officers, teachers, and voluntary organizations will participate wholeheartedly in this program, which is being voluntarily organized by “Prerna”, and cooperate in the liberation of child labor, said Dr. Akkenapalli Lakshmanachari, the state president of the Prerna Balajagruti platform and a prominent social activist.

‘I could not call myself an engineer’: How Maharashtra’s aborted Muslim quota left a Beed man without his degree for nine years



A beneficiary and later a casualty of Maharashtra’s brief and controversial 5 per cent Muslim reservation policy, the 33-year-old from Beed spent nearly a decade caught between changing governments, a lapsed ordinance and bureaucratic deadlock before the Bombay High Court finally directed the University of Mumbai to release his engineering degree earlier this month.Sayyad’s ordeal traces back to 2014, when the then Congress-NCP government announced 16 per cent reservation for Marathas and 5 per cent reservation for Muslims in government jobs and educational institutions ahead of the Assembly elections. To navigate constitutional restrictions against religion-based reservation, the quota was structured under a Special Backward Category-A (SBC-A), covering around 50 socially and educationally backward Muslim communities.It was under this category that Sayyad, then 21 years old and a resident of Jawalben village in Beed district, secured admission to Finolex Academy of Management and Technology in Ratnagiri for a degree course in electrical engineering.The youngest son of a daily wage worker in a family with little formal education, Sayyad completed Diploma in Electrical Engineering with 72.71 per cent marks, making him eligible for direct second-year admission to an engineering course.

“With the reservations announced, I was initially allotted a Pune-based college based on the marks. However, I opted out as the fees of Rs 1.13 lakh was too high. In the second round of selection, I was allotted a seat in the Finolex Academy of Management and Technology in Ratnagiri under the SBCA category and I accepted as the fee was Rs 63,000 per year and affordable,” Farukh Ilaahi Sayyad told The Indian Express from Dubai.“I could not call myself an engineer”: How Maharashtra’s aborted Muslim quota left a Beed man without his degree for nine years Farukh Ilaahi SayyadIn July 2014, he obtained a caste certificate confirming his SBC-A status. But when he applied for a caste validity certificate in February 2015, the political and legal landscape had changed.

The BJP-led government had come to power in Maharashtra in October 2014, and the reservation policy was challenged before the Bombay High Court. In November that year, the High Court struck down Maratha reservation but permitted 5 per cent reservation for Muslims in educational institutions, observing that denying such reservation would impede efforts to bring Muslim youth into the mainstream of secular education.However, the ordinance was never converted into a permanent law and lapsed in December 2014 after the new government chose not to

preserve the Muslim quota framework.Soon after, Sayyad said the state scrutiny committee informed him that it could not issue a caste validity certificate because the reservation itself was no longer in force.“I made various representations to authorities but to no avail. I was told that I would be able to continue my studies if I paid the fees that was being charged for open category students. I agreed, hoping that the issue would get resolved,” he said.

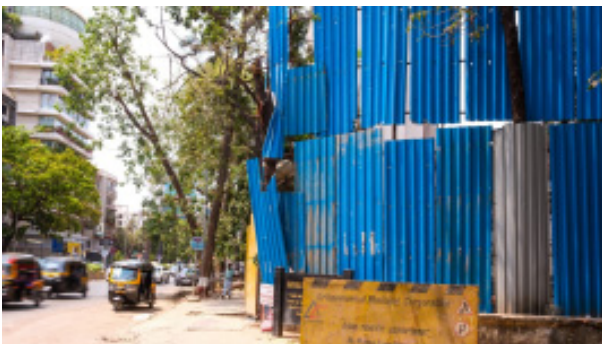
Although he completed the course in 2017, the college and the University of Mumbai withheld his final-year marksheet and engineering degree because he had not submitted the caste validity certificate.Unable to resolve the issue, Sayyad moved to Kuwait in 2018 on the basis of his diploma qualification before finding work in Dubai. He returned briefly during the Covid pandemic.“What pinched me is that in spite of being an engineer, I could not call myself one or get the desired jobs because I did not hold a physical copy of my degree,” Sayyad said. “With companies tightening norms on whom they hired for engineering jobs, I felt it was time that I took from the state what was rightfully mine.”Earlier this year, during a visit to India, Sayyad approached advocates Amol Ghuge and Gaurav Ugale and moved the Bombay High Court seeking release of his degree and results.

“Our contention before the court was that repeal of a law does not automatically extinguish rights, liabilities or proceedings that arose under it. We argued that withholding our client’s degree was preventing him from practising his profession and infringing upon his right to livelihood. We also submitted that the petitioner could not be penalised for a subsequent shift in the government’s legal position and that education already imparted ought to be protected,” advocate said.The state argued that since the 2014 ordinance had lapsed without becoming law, all related government resolutions and circulars automatically stood cancelled.

Earlier this year, the Maharashtra government formally scrapped a decade-old resolution linked to the Congress-NCP government’s 2014 Muslim reservation policy in education, triggering a political sparring match between the ruling BJP and the Opposition. While Opposition parties termed the move anti-minority, the BJP dismissed the quota as an unimplemented “appeasement” measure announced ahead of elections.In its May 6 verdict, the Bombay High Court directed the University of Mumbai to release Sayyad’s eighth semester results along with his original degree, passing and leaving certificates after recording his statement that he was not seeking the benefit of the 5 per cent reservation under the February 17, 2026 Government Resolution, and had already paid fees applicable to the open category. Sayyad also undertook to pay any additional fees, if required. Accepting the statement, the bench of Justices Advait M Sethna and R I Chagla disposed of the petition.

“It is a huge relief,” Sayyad said. “It has been a harrowing nine years trying to get hold of my degree. I do not know how many other Muslim students got admission during this four-month window and are facing similar problems. I feel strange fighting for a right that was granted by the state. In spite of not doing anything illegal, I had to suffer for nine years.”

Mumbai’s Khar tree collapse: Survivor had topped her class with perfect CGPA just days before accident



GNS News Agency, May 19

Days before a falling tree on Khar’s Linking Road left her unconscious in the ICU, Harshita Kumar had just received the best news of her academic life. The 21-year-old BSc Finance student had topped her class with a perfect CGPA of 10. Now, a day after her friend Aarika Srivastava died from injuries sustained in the same accident, Harshita is showing signs of recovery after undergoing cervical spine surgery over the weekend.Harshita, who remains in the ICU at Hinduja Hospital, is still unconscious. Her family says doctors have indicated she is responding positively after the surgery.

“We are in a lot of pain and praying to God for strength and for her speedy recovery. Her surgery was successful and doctors have told us that Harshita is showing positive signs. She is still unconscious. We have a long journey ahead and doctors have told us that the recovery will be slow as she has sustained head injuries,” said Harshita’s father, Harish Kumar.A student pursuing a BSc in Finance at the BSE Institute, Harshita topped her class in results announced just days before the accident. “She is pursuing a very unique course and is extremely intelligent,” her father added.Mumbai’s Khar tree collapse: Survivor had

topped her class with perfect CGPA just days before accident Accident site in Khar.Harshita and Aarika suffered critical injuries, including skull fractures, after a tree inside the compound of an under-construction site collapsed onto the autorickshaw they were travelling in.The accident occurred on May 10 when Harshita, Aarika and Aarika’s sister, Manasvi Srivastava, were heading out for lunch in Khar after spending time together at Harshita’s home. Manasvi escaped with a fractured leg. Harshita and Aarika lost consciousness and were rushed to hospital by their autorickshaw driver.The three were close family friends. The Kumar and Srivastava families have known each other for 30 years and regularly met on weekends. The Srivastavas are from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, the Kumars from Patna.Aarika died on Sunday morning at 6.05 am after a week in hospital.Her relatives say the family is still struggling to cope with the loss. Aarika’s father, Sumit Srivastava, was visiting a relative at Tata Memorial Hospital when he got a call from Manasvi about the accident. “When Manasvi called my brother, she said there had been a major accident. Aarika remained in the ICU for a week and even marked her fifteenth birthday on May 13 while admitted there. She passed away on Sunday morning,” said Aarika’s uncle, S K Srivastava.A resident of Malad East, Aarika had recently completed Class 9 and enrolled for IIT-JEE coaching at the Narayana centre as she prepared to enter Class 10.On Monday, Aarika’s family held a prayer meeting in Sahar. Having lost Aarika, the Srivastava family is now hoping for Harshita’s recovery.Following the incident, Khar police registered a case of alleged negligence against Bluestone Properties, the construction company managing the site, based on a complaint by Manasvi. Bluestone Properties expressed grief over the incident but said the project was executed in compliance with statutory norms, claiming the tree had internal decay and severe termite infestation despite no visible external signs of instability.

23-year-old stabbed to death on Surat road, search on for 3 accused: Police

GNS News Agency, May 19

23-year-old stabbed to death on Surat road, search on for 3 accused: PoliceThe hospital authorities informed the police about the incident, while Dalal’s parents were informed by two of his friends who were present at the spot around 12:30 am on Monday.A 23-YEAR-OLD restaurateur, who was also a ward leader in the BJP’s Surat city unit, was allegedly stabbed to death in a public place “after an altercation with friends” on Sunday night, police said on Monday. The reason behind the brawl is yet to be ascertained, police said.

Police identified the victim as Jay Dalal, who was vice president of the BJP’s youth wing in Dindoli ward. His mother, Jayshree Dalal, is a member of the party’s Mahila Morcha. She is also the complainant in the case at Udhna police station and the FIR has named three accused: Milan Koli, Pankaj Patil and Kishan Parmar, all residents of the Dindoli area in Surat, who are now facing murder charges under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita.Kishan Parmar, the po-

lice said, has multiple cases pending against him. He was recently released from PASA (Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act) detention, officers said.The incident took place in the Udhna area on road number 6, where Dalal was in a group of around five-six youths, of whom the three accused got into an altercation with him, the reason for which is under investigation, police said.23-year-old stabbed to death on Surat road, search on for 3 accused: Police Jay DalalThe men then took out knives and allegedly stabbed him repeatedly. After Dalal fell on the ground, the trio fled and the two remaining persons took Jay Dalal to Apple Hospital at Udhna Darwaja, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.The hospital authorities informed the police about the incident, while Dalal’s parents were informed by two of his friends who were present at the spot around 12:30 am on Monday.Udhna police inspector R M Thakore told The Indian Express, “Dalal ran a restaurant and hotel business in Dindoli and Vesu area, and he left home around 8:30 pm on Sunday, after he received a call from a friend. He reached Udhna Road No. 6, where he met his friends.

In UP, on average, 5 encounters every day under Yogi Adityanath’s rule



GNS News Agency, May 19

In UP, on an average, 5 encounters took place every day in Yogi ruleEighteen police personnel lost their lives in these encounters, and 1,852 were injured.17,043 – that is the number of encounters, the UP government on Monday said, have been carried out by the state police since Yogi Adityanath became the chief minister of the state in March 2017. This roughly accounts for five encounters every day in the state.In a press statement released by the UP government on Monday, it claimed that these encounters led to the killing of 289 “hardened criminals” and injured 11,834 others. “During the same period, 34,253 criminals were arrested in a sweeping crackdown aimed at tackling organized crime and serious offences across the state,” the government said.Eighteen police personnel lost their lives in these encounters, and 1,852 were injured, it added.Meerut Zone, according to the government, recorded the highest number of encounter deaths – 97 “notorious criminals” were killed, 3,513 were injured, and 8,921 arrested in 4,813 encounters, the government said. In these operations, 477 policemen were injured, and two policemen were killed, it added.Varanasi Zone came second with the killing of 29

criminals in 1,292 encounters, and Agra Zone third with 24 killings in 2,494 encounters.In UP, on an average, 5 encounters took place every day in Yogi ruleIn Varanasi Zone, the government said, 2,426 criminals were arrested, and 907 were injured. Also, 104 policemen were injured.In Agra Zone, 5,845 criminals were arrested, and 968 were injured. A total of 62 policemen were also injured in the encounters, the government said.This was followed by Bareilly Zone (21 killed in 2,222 encounters), Lucknow Zone (20 killed in 971 encounters), Ghaziabad Commissionerate (18 killed in 789 encounters) – the highest among all Commissionerates; Kanpur Zone (12 killed in 791 encounters), Lucknow Commissionerate (12 killed in 147 encounters), Prayagraj Zone (11 killed in 643 encounters), Agra Commissionerate (10 killed in 489 encounters), Gautam Buddha Nagar Zone (9 killed in 1,144 encounters), Gorakhpur Zone (8 killed in 699 encounters), Varanasi Commissionerat (8 killed in 146 encounters), Prayagraj Commissionerate (6 killed in 150 encounters), and Kanpur Commissionerate (4 killed in 253 encounters).

The government’s detailed list of encounter numbers comes nearly a week after the state witnessed 35 encounters between May 6 and May 7 that left three dead and 35 injured. The sequence of events in most of these shootings was similar — the suspects fired at police, tried to flee, and were shot in the leg in retaliatory fire.In January, the Allahabad High Court said that such encounters had “become a routine feature” in Uttar Pradesh and were being executed to “please senior officers or to teach a lesson to the accused”.Hearing bail pleas filed by three persons arrested after being shot in the leg, the bench of Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal stated, “This Court is frequently confronted with cases where, even in matters involving petty offences such as theft, the police indiscriminately resort to firing by projecting the incident as a police encounter.”

Why most ‘kidnapping’ cases in Maharashtra are actually runaways and missing children

GNS News Agency, May 19

Why most ‘kidnapping’ cases in Maharashtra are actually runaways and missing childrenOf the 13,299 kidnapping cases involving minors in the state, 7,165 — nearly 54% — involved those aged 16 to 18. A further 5,405 cases involved children between 12 and 16. Only 106 cases involved children below 6 years of age.Nearly 95% of minors named in kidnapping and abduction FIRs in Maharashtra in 2024 were teenagers between 12 and 18 years old, according to National Crime Records Bureau data. The numbers, striking at first glance, reflect a legal reality: under a Supreme Court order, every missing minor must be registered as a kidnapping case.Of the 13,299 kidnapping cases involving minors in the state, 7,165 — nearly 54% — involved those aged 16 to 18. A further 5,405 cases involved children between 12 and 16. Only 106 cases involved children below 6 years of age.

The national picture tells a similar story. Of the 85,473 victims found alive across the country in 2024, nearly 64% were classified as “deemed kidnapped,” meaning they couldn’t be traced when the complaint was first registered. Of these, 36,106 were missing children who were eventually found, 9,663 involved elopements or love relationships, and 9,318 had left home on their own or after a fight with parents.The Supreme Court’s 2013 ruling in the Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs Union of India case mandated that all missing minor complaints be registered as kidnapping FIRs. The intent was to ensure every case was taken seriously. In practice, police say it has had an unintended side effect. “For us the challenge is to identify actual cases where the person has been taken away and treat it seriously,” an officer said. He admitted that because so many cases turn out to be runaways or elopements, even genuine abductions can sometimes fail to get the attention they deserve.The gap between perception and reality has repeatedly fuelled public panic. In December 2024, messages



about kidnappers being on the prowl circulated widely on WhatsApp groups of housing societies after discussions in the state Assembly’s winter session. MNS chief Raj Thackeray had written to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis citing NCRB data, pointing out that the number of missing children in Maharashtra rose 30% between 2021 and 2023, and alleging that some children were being forced to beg by interstate gangs.Mumbai Police moved quickly to counter the panic, posting on X on December 14 that 98% of children reported missing over the previous five years had been reunited with their families.The distorted perception has had deadly consequences before. In April 2020, two sadhus were lynched in Palghar after being suspected of being child traffickers, a tragedy driven by rumours of toddler kidnappings spreading on social media.The danger of under-reacting is just as real. In July last year, Rahul Kharwar, a housekeeping worker from Kurla, went missing and his family alleged police dismissed the case, assuming he had left on his own. It was only after the family approached the High Court that a serious investigation began — and six months later, it emerged that Kharwar had allegedly been murdered by a friend for money and his body thrown into the Mithi river.

NSUI, Yuva Sena protest over NEET paper leak



Members of the Congress-affiliated National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) and Shiv Sena UBT’s Yuva Sena staged a protest outside Modern College of Arts, Science, and Commerce on Sunday morning, demanding strict action over the alleged 2026 NEET paper leak and calling for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. A biology teacher of Modern Junior College Manisha Mandhare has been arrested by the CBI for her alleged involvement in the leak of the paper.Maharashtra NSUI State President Sagar Salunkhe said that the large-scale irregularities in the medical entrance examination process were jeopardising the future of lakhs of students across the country. Addressing the gathering, Salunkhe alleged political protection for individuals linked to the paper leak racket and demanded accountability from the central government.

NSUI’s Salunkhe said, “The NEET paper leak has pushed students into stress and depression while wasting the hard work, money and time of nearly 22 lakh aspirants. A BJP leader has already been arrested in Rajasthan in connection with the case, while key accused have links to Maharashtra. As you can see, a teacher named P.V. Kulkarni has been arrested in Latur. Here, at Modern College, a teacher named Mandhare has been arrested by the CBI; we also suspect that Nivedita Ekbote is involved in this case and Devendra Fadnavis is attempting to shield Nivedita Ekbote by manipulating the police administration. We demand the immediate resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.”Salunkhe further quoted, “Amidst this entire scandal, four students have died by suicide. Today, 2.2 million students are compelled to prepare for the examination all over again; a full month of these 2.2 million students’ time has been wasted. These 2.2 million students are once again being charged various tuition fees for this additional month of preparation. Consider their financial burden: their hostel

expenses have increased for this extra month, as have their food costs. Given these circumstances, Narendra Modi has plunged the future of all these students into darkness.”Protesters were detained by the police during the protest. “We had sought permission for the protest yesterday but the police still detained us. This is on behalf of Nivedita Ekbote, who is the principal of Modern College and also a BJP corporator,” said Bhushan Ranbhare of NSUI.Ekbote on her part has said that communications between the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the arrested teacher are confidential as per rules and they are not involved in it. Further, the college has said that it will be initiating an inquiry against the teacher.

Forza Horizon 6: Unbeatable experience

Hyderabad: Over 300 hours is the total amount of time I spent playing Forza Horizon 5 in 2021 and 2022 as I drove through the many biomes and regions of Playground Games’ representation of Mexico.

From the Porsche Taycan to the Bugatti Chiron, and from the game’s Lamborghini collection to the Hoonigan catalogue, there was an endless variety of cars and a seemingly endless number of challenges to experience both speed and control. After my time with Horizon 5, I thought no driving game could come close to it; however, my 20 hours in Horizon 6 have me seriously reconsidering that assessment.Horizon in Japan is not only bigger and brighter, but also doing its best to capture the spirit of automobile racing in Japan.

I would like to begin my early review of Horizon 6 with two words: Mt. Fuji and Tokyo. For fans of racing culture, I don’t need to say any more. For everyone else, the joy of driving a classic Nissan “Hakosuka” (the 1971 Skyline 2000 GT-R) is one of the greatest pleasures in a racing game, and in Horizon 6 it is available as a barn find in the Nangan region.Driving up to Mt. Fuji and through the streets of Tokyo in Horizon 6 is an unparalleled experience. Similarly, drifting with classic JDM cars or driving off-road among the cherry blossoms is a thing of sheer beauty. This is by far the most beautiful driving game, and with over 600 cars, we are all going to spend a lot of time here.

Sports, discipline and family support power Punjab's brightest students



GNS News Agency, May 19

After the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) declared the Class 12 examination results on Wednesday, the toppers attributed their success to disciplined routines, strong family support, and a balanced approach towards academics and extracurricular activities. Supneet Kaur of Gurukul Academy Public Senior Secondary School at Ubhha in Mansa district, who came first in the science stream, said her dream is to become a pilot. Speaking to The Indian Express, she said she plans to enrol for a BSc degree while pursuing her passion for sports.

Supneet credited her coach, Ajay Suri, for training and motivating her with discipline and dedication. She said that she woke up daily at 3 am and left for sports practice at Baba Farid Academy by 4 am. After completing her training session, she would return at around 6.30 am before attending school. "Both studies and sports are equally important for me, as they help me stay mentally fit and focused. I never allowed pressure from studies or sports to burden my mind and always followed a proper routine," she said. Her father Raj Singh Ubhaa said the family was expecting her to feature in the merit list but never imagined she would secure the first rank in Punjab. "She has brought laurels not only to our family but also to our village," he said, adding that Supneet had also won medals in the National School Games and that she always did well in school. PSEB Class 12 2026 topper Suhani Chauhan Suhani Chauhan celebrates with her family. (Express Photo)Suhani Chauhan

of BCM Senior Secondary School, Jamalpur Focal Point, Ludhiana, who studied humanities and clinched the second rank, said she always maintained a balance between studies and sports.

Currently attending a family function in her native village, Khalilabad in Uttar Pradesh, Suhani told The Indian Express that she never allowed studies to overshadow sports, or vice versa. She said she studied for around three to four hours daily as part of her routine and often prepared overnight during examinations. Suhani credited her coach, Ranjit Singh, for teaching her how to maintain the right balance between academics and sports. She also thanked her teachers for extending academic support even over phone calls whenever she missed classes due to sports activities. Giving the biggest credit to her mother, Suhani said she was never pressured to prioritise household work over studies or sports. "My mother always encouraged me to focus on studies and games while she managed the rest," she said. Suhani now plans to pursue a BA LLB from Guru Nanak Dev University and aims to prepare for the judicial services or the Punjab Civil Services in the future.

PSEB Class 12 2026 topper Divanshi Divanshi celebrates with her parents at their residence in Ludhiana. (Express Photo) Another humanities achiever, Divanshi from Teja Singh Sutanter Memorial Senior Secondary School, Shimlapuri, Ludhiana, who secured third position in Punjab, said she strictly followed a timetable and focused more on conceptual clarity rather than rote learning. "I never left a topic until my concepts were completely clear, even if it took several hours," she said, adding that her study method helped her retain concepts permanently. Divanshi said she plans to pursue a BCA from Guru Nanak Girls College and hopes to build her career in the IT sector. Her mother works as a teacher in a private school while her father is employed in the private sector. Her grandmother Anju Johar said the family was proud of her achievement and that relatives and neighbours had been visiting their home to congratulate them. She added that the family had returned from Canada around two years ago after finding the education system in India more suitable. Despite not taking any private tuition, Divanshi achieved the feat through dedication and hard work, she said.

Gujarat Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi, MP Mitesh Patel skip US event backing PM Modi's austerity call



GNS News Agency, May 19

In a symbolic political response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for citizens to avoid foreign travel and practice economic restraint amid global uncertainty, two Gujarat BJP leaders, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and Anand MP Mitesh Patel, Wednesday cancelled their planned visit to the United States for a major convention with the Gujarati diaspora. They justified their decision by supporting what they describe as a "nation first" economic appeal. Sanghavi and Patel were scheduled to attend a Gujarati Convention organised by the Federation of Gujarati Associations of USA (FOGAUSA) in the United States from May 19, where they were invited as chief guests. However, both leaders decided to cancel the visit following the Prime Minister's call.

The cancellation of the high-profile US visit by the Gujarat leaders is being seen as an early political endorsement of the Prime Minister's broader push for economic

restraint and domestic consumption to prepare for a period of global uncertainty triggered by the West Asia and US conflict. The 'United Gujarati 2026' grand convention is scheduled to be held from May 22 to 25 at Renaissance Orlando (SeaWorld), USA. The event will mark the second such convention that unites over 1.8 million Gujaratis living in the USA.

The move comes after Prime Minister Modi on his visit to Vadodara on Monday urged the countrymen to revert to 'Covid-era' habits such as work-from-home, virtual meetings, car pooling and reduced fuel consumption, warning that the ongoing conflict could emerge as "one of the biggest crises of this decade" after the coronavirus pandemic. Modi made a series of public appeals urging citizens to adopt economic discipline and strengthen the spirit of "India First" and to voluntarily avoid foreign travel for one year in order to conserve foreign exchange and support national economic resilience. Anand MP Mitesh Patel said he was "voluntarily withdrawing" from the US visit following the Prime Minister's appeal. Patel said, "Respecting the appeal made by the country's respected Prime Minister not to undertake foreign travel, I have voluntarily cancelled my proposed visit to the United States for the FOGAUSA event. Commitment towards the nation and leadership stands above everything else." "The PM's appeal was rooted in the principle of 'nation first' and aimed at strengthening India's self-reliance and national upliftment. My decision reflects my unwavering dedication towards the nation and complete commitment towards Modiji." In response to the global economic situation, Sanghavi also urged citizens of Gujarat to support all the Prime Minister's appeals for the country's economic self-reliance and protection.

24 Bihar children rescued from Karnataka madrasa after alleged abuse, forced labour



As many as 24 children from Bihar, who allegedly faced abuse and forced labour at a madrasa in Karnataka's Tumakuru district, were rescued from a railway station in Bengaluru, where the police said they have booked the preacher in connection with the case.

GNS News Agency, May 19

Bengaluru children madrasa rescue, Bengaluru police, Karnataka madrasa During counselling, the children said they escaped from the institution after allegedly being unable to endure the abuse. AI generated image As many as 24 children from Bihar, who allegedly faced abuse and forced labour at a madrasa in Karnataka's Tumakuru district, were rescued from a railway station in Bengaluru, where the police said they have booked the preacher in connection with the case. The accused has been identified as Moulai, 44, a preacher at Jamia Arebia Hasinia Trust, a madrasa located

in Amlapura village in Tumakuru.

The case came to light on April 19 when personnel of the Railway Protection Force found the children wandering in a group at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station. During questioning, the children said they had escaped from the madrasa and were trying to return home to Bihar. "They were unaware that it was Bengaluru, but looking at big platforms and many people, they got down and started searching for a train to go to Bihar when they were found," an official said. The children were taken to the child helpline centre at the station and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) was informed. Asha H K, Child Protection Officer, Bengaluru South, told The Indian Express that the children said they were from Bihar and had been left at the madrasa by their parents. According to the FIR, the children told authorities they were physically assaulted at the madrasa and forced to work on construction activities, including building a compound wall within the premises. They also alleged they were prevented from contacting their families. During counselling, the children said they escaped from the institution after allegedly being unable to endure the abuse.

A CWC official said the children were between 8 and 17 years old. “The parents of these children come from a poor background, and they came here and enrolled their children on the madrasa for their education and returned to their hometowns. All the children are from Araria city in Bihar and we have summoned the parents,” the official said. “The children are in CWC custody. We are conducting a social investigation to verify the financial and social background of the parents. We will act accordingly,” the official added. The case, initially registered by the railway police, was later transferred to Tumakuru Rural Police Station. The police booked the accused under provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. However, the Tumakuru Rural police said the children’s statements have yet to be recorded and that no arrests have been made so far.

Leopard corridor in Delhi? New plan proposes major overhaul for Asola Bhatti



GNS News Agency, May 19

Asola Bhatti, Delhi's only wildlife sanctuary, could soon get a dedicated core area and a wildlife underpass on the Gurgaon-Faridabad highway to help protect leopards and other animals from road accidents. The proposals are part of a new 10-year management plan (2024-25 to 2034-35) prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The plan divides the sanctuary and the adjoining forest landscape into five zones and has earmarked Rs 61.64 crore for the various developmental activities.

Part of the Ridge in South Delhi, the sanctuary is a rugged mosaic of thorn forests and flooded mining pits and is part of the Sariska-Delhi wildlife corridor in the Aravallis that runs from the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan to the Delhi Ridge. Several reports have pointed to the presence of leopards and other mammals in this sanctuary, highlighting the significance of the space. The WII, using 23 camera traps, also recorded 23 mammal species, including 18 wild and five stray or domestic species as part of a study to prepare the plan.-Core zone 9 sqkm: Identified for strict protection because of carnivore movement, including leopards and jackals.-Conservation zone 24 sq km: Will focus on restoration and reducing urban pressure-Tourism zone (7.6 sq km) and interpretation-cum-education zone (5 sq km): Will regulate public access and learning-Extended buffer zone (12.1 sq km): Will include fragmented patches outside the present sanctuary boundary, including areas near Tughlaqabad and below Bhatti village, which could serve as future wildlife corridors. Going beyond a limited eco-cart ride to Neeli Jheel, the plan has proposed a dedicated interpretation centre with interactive exhibits, dioramas, touchscreens, an audio-visual section, a resource library and displays on the Aravalli ecosystem, mining history and ecological restoration. The plan has noted that the existing interpretation facility is inadequate and functions largely as a multipurpose hall. Other visitor proposals have included an upgraded ticket counter, visitor information centre, cafeterias, eco-friendly toilets, souvenir shops, improved cycle tracks, watchtower upgrades, gazebos, battery-operated minibuses, additional eco-carts and guided nature trails. The

Firing at Diljit Dosanjh's manager's Karnal house sparks AAP-BJP war over Lawrence Bishnoi

GNS News Agency, May 19

Diljit Dosanjh, Diljit Dosanjh manager, Gurpratap Singh Kang The Haryana Police found no evidence of gunfire beyond one or two empty shells, and Kang's family did not lodge any complaint. (Photo: YouTube/DiljitDosanjh) Even as the Haryana Police continue searching for clues in the alleged firing incident at the house of Gurpratap Singh Kang, the manager of singer Diljit Dosanjh, the Aam Aadmi Party has accused the BJP of shielding Lawrence Bishnoi and using gangsters to intimidate those who refuse to join the saffron party.

The incident, though still under investigation, has quickly spiralled into a political flashpoint, with the AAP framing it as intimidation and the BJP dismissing the charges as desperate electioneering. After receiving information about the alleged firing, a team of Haryana Police reached Kang's farmhouse in Gondar village, Karnal, late Tuesday. At the site, the police found no evidence of gunfire beyond one or two empty shells, and Kang's family did not lodge any complaint. Officers said they were examining all aspects, including CCTV footage, to verify what had happened. A police officer told The Indian Express Wednesday that no FIR had been lodged so far. "The police have found one or two shells, but the family has not filed any complaint yet. We are still looking for some more clues. We are working on it. We are examining all aspects, including the cameras," said the officer. Meanwhile, a senior officer refused to acknowledge the social media posts linking the attack to any specific gang or group. On Wednesday, AAP convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also weighed in with a post on X, pointedly asking: "Who got the firing done outside the house of Daljit Dosanjh's manager?"

BJP leaders have taken strong exception to these remarks, describing them as baseless and absurd. Reacting to the controversy, Punjab BJP media chief Vineet Joshi said: "The statements made by AAP leaders are baseless and absurd. They have a history of levelling false allegations whenever they fail to maintain law and order in Punjab."



These latest claims are nothing more than a desperate attempt to mislead the public and garner votes. Such political tactics will not succeed.” AAP leaders, however, continued to press their accusations. “The timeline is crystal clear for everyone to witness. BJP tells @dijlitsdosanjh to join them which he publicly refuses. Days later, the Bishnoi gang attacks his manager’s house to send a ‘message,’” Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said. “And what does the BJP government do? It blocks every serious attempt to interrogate Lawrence Bishnoi, keeps him protected in Gujarat and treats him like a state asset instead of a criminal. This is not law and order. This is the weaponisation of gangsters to intimidate Punjabis who refuse to bend before the BJP. A cowardly, vindictive and deeply Anti-Punjab mindset is on full display. Punjab will not be bullied into silence.” Echoing similar sentiments, AAP leader Baltej Pannu said, “This is not just a coincidence, but rather the BJP’s anti-Punjab mentality. Just a few days ago, Diljit Dosanjh was asked to join the BJP. Diljit Dosanjh clearly refused. Then, gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is being protected in Gujarat by the BJP, orders a shooting at Diljit’s manager’s house.”

Bengal Police to review 2021 post-poll violence cases, launch illegal arms crackdown

GNS News Agency, May 19

Following the transition of power to the new BJP government, the West Bengal Police have ordered a comprehensive review of all cases related to the 2021 post-poll violence. Simultaneously, the police are set to launch a massive statewide crackdown on illegal arms, ammunition, and explosives starting May 16. The directives were issued by Ajay Ranade, Additional Director General (Law and Order), following a meeting with Chief Minister Suvedudh Adhikari Monday. A major focus of the new directive is the serious complaints regarding the original investigations into the violence that followed the 2021 Assembly elections. The BJP has long claimed that hundreds of its workers were killed or injured during that period.

Police superintendents and commissioners (CPs) have been told to carefully re-examine “final reports” submitted in 2021. If lapses are found, cases are to be reopened and thoroughly reinvestigated. Authorities will review general diary entries (GDEs) and petitions from 2021 where specific cases were never registered. If a preliminary inquiry reveals a cognisable offence, fresh FIRs must be filed immediately. Senior officers are tasked with monitoring

these cases through the trial stage, even after chargesheets are submitted.

“A drive will be conducted across all jurisdictions to seize illegal weapons. Districts must submit daily reports on seizures to the ADG, CID, who will compile the data for the state government,” said a police officer. The directive emphasises heightened vigilance at borders to dismantle criminal networks. SPs are required to hold border meetings to identify active criminals and “border touts.” Border-level coordination meetings will now occur monthly at the police station level and quarterly at the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) level. Strict enforcement has been ordered against illegal cattle markets, unauthorised slaughterhouses, and illegal mining. Officers must ensure that the Animal Slaughter Control Act, 2014, is strictly enforced, while protecting legal traders from extortion by “local rowdies”. The police have also been asked to prioritise traffic management and public safety. Special drives will be launched to ensure mandatory helmet use under the Motor Vehicles Act and to increase presence in sensitive areas, deterring extortionists from interfering with legal mining and trade activities.

Maharashtra minister seeks ban on AIMIM, compares Asaduddin Owaisi to Osama bin Laden



GNS News Agency, May 19

Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Nitesh Rane has termed the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) a "terrorist organisation", calling for the party to be banned and comparing party chief Asaduddin Owaisi to former Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Rane made the remarks in connection with allegations against AIMIM corporator Mateen Majid Patel, who is accused of sheltering Nida Khan, the main accused in the Nashik TCS religious conversion

and sexual harassment case. Nida Khan was produced before a Nashik court on Friday after her anticipatory bail plea was rejected.

Attacking AIMIM, Rane said, "AIMIM is a terrorist organisation. There is no difference whatsoever between Osama bin Laden and Asaduddin Owaisi. The very work that Osama bin Laden used to carry out through Al-Qaeda is precisely what Asaduddin Owaisi is now doing through AIMIM." Questioning the party's contribution in constituencies represented by it, Rane added, "What significant work have they actually accomplished since being elected? Their manifesto contains only one agenda: that they will wage Jihad. Just as we banned the PFI, AIMIM should be banned as well." The comments triggered a sharp reaction from AIMIM leaders. Party leader Waris Pathan condemned the remarks and demanded Rane's removal from the Maharashtra cabinet. "Who are they to make such remarks? We appeal to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to remove him from the ministerial post immediately. This person is not worthy of being a minister. He is using such words against a five-time MP and his party. If I were to ask, who are you?" Pathan said.

Punjab tops NITI Aayog report, surpasses Kerala in school education: Minister

GNS News Agency, May 19

Teachers body slams '50-second meet' with Bains; plans protest on March 8 Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains hailed the achievement as the beginning of "Punjab's Era," attributing the success to the Bhagwant Mann government's systemic reforms and infrastructure investments. Punjab education minister Harjot Singh Bains Sunday said Punjab was recognised as one of India's best-performing states in school education, with the NITI Aayog Education Quality Report 2026 placing it ahead of Kerala, which is long considered India's gold standard in school education.

Bains said, "This honour belongs to every parent, student and teacher who refused to give up on government schools. This is not a one day miracle. When policy, intent and execution walk together, results follow." He shared details of the report and said, "Punjab recorded 82 per cent proficiency in language and 78 per cent in mathematics in Class 3, surpassing Kerala's 75 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively. In Class 9 mathematics, Punjab scored 52 per cent, significantly higher than Kerala's 45 per cent."

Highlighting the impact of the Punjab Government's reforms, Bains said, "Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab's post-COVID 19 recovery push through Mission Samarth and the Schools of Eminence programme has yielded tangible results." Citing findings from the NITI Aayog report, he said, "Almost 99.9 per cent of government schools now have electricity, 99 per cent have functional computers and over 80 per cent are equipped with smart classrooms. Additionally, over 90 per cent of Class 10 students now transition smoothly to Class 11, indicating a sharp decline in dropout rates. The student teacher ratio has also been improved to an ideal 22:1." The minister said, "The NITI Aayog report specifically praised Punjab for bridging the urban-rural divide in education and ensuring equal opportunities for students from villages and also girls. Punjab's adoption of global best practices has led to a sharp rise in



competitive exam success among government school students. As many as 786 government school students have cleared JEE Main and 1,284 students have qualified for NEET so far." Bains also said, "Teacher training programmes in Finland and Singapore, rolled out under the state's education reforms, have translated into results on the ground. This shows our classrooms can compete with the best. Punjab has recruited 13,000 teachers and staff, and rolled out the English Edge Programme for nearly three lakh students, besides establishing 118 Schools of Eminence." "With the right policy, intent and performance, quality education is inevitable. Our teachers have proved it," Bains said, noting that, "NITI Aayog has now validated what the state has been seeing on the ground. Government school children are not just catching up, they are leading." Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said: "We are reaping what we sowed in the education sector. We have started getting positive results. According to the NITI Aayog's report, Punjab has surpassed Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi in primary and middle education. Punjab has surpassed Haryana in digital education. We have 80 per cent smart classrooms and Haryana has 50.3 per cent. In Punjab, 88.9 per cent schools have internet facilities, Haryana has 78.9%... I congratulate teachers and parents for this Sikhya Kranti."

Retired Army man chases, kills son after dinner fight, dies by suicide in Punjab



GNS News Agency, May 19

GunThe Ludhiana police said Surinder lived with his unmarried son, Gursharan, while his two daughters are settled abroad. Representative ImageA retired Indian Army man allegedly chased his son on the street, shot him dead and then died by suicide by consuming poison in Punjab's Ludhiana late Sunday. According to the Ludhiana police, Surinder Singh alias Fauji, who was in his sixties, shot dead his son Gursharan Singh Ginny, 40, after a heated argument during dinner. Police sources said the argument occurred after Gursharan objected to his father's proposal of

a second marriage. Surinder's wife died some years ago, and he wanted to get married again, but his son was against it, said a police source.

According to the police, Surinder lived with his unmarried son, Gursharan, while his two daughters are settled abroad. "After the argument escalated, Surinder opened fire at his son with this 12-bore double-barreled gun, but it misfired. His son started running to save himself, but Surinder chased him down in the street and shot him. He then dumped his injured son in the street and returned home. He locked himself in the house and consumed a poisonous substance," said Vijay Kumar, Station House Officer, Sarabha Nagar Police Station. "Some passersby noticed Gursharan lying injured in the street and informed the police. Later, we broke open the door of the house and found Surinder lying unconscious. Both were taken to the hospital but died during treatment," said Kumar. The inspector said that, according to neighbours, they used to argue and quarrel often over dinner. "Both were apparently drunk. We found food on the plates, indicating that the argument happened during dinner and escalated. We are contacting both daughters to hand over bodies for the last rites after the autopsies." A murder case was registered against Surinder for opening fire at his son, but he died during the treatment, said the inspector.

One more operative linked to Bangladesh-based arms dealer Shahbaz Ansari arrested

In fresh crackdown on a transnational arms trafficking and terror network, backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested an allegedly notorious operative, Praveen Kumar alias Tittu, who is a close associate of gangster Rohit Chaudhary of South Delhi and linked to Bangladesh-based arms dealer Shahbaz Ansari, said officers.

The Crime Branch recently said it had arrested over a dozen accused — linked to Shahbaz Ansari network — for allegedly transporting the foreign-made illegal firearms in Delhi-NCR. Praveen was involved in the similar chain of networks as he was providing the weapons to Rohit Chaudhary. Shahbaz Ansari, who continues to be in Bangladesh, is wanted by security agencies, said an officer. "A cash reward of Rs 2 lakh reward had previously been declared on Praveen's head," said another officer. Authorities recovered one high-end Italian-made semi-automatic pistol and five live 0.32 bore cartridges from his possession.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjeev Yadav said a team led by Inspectors Man Singh and Sundeer Gautam under ACP Sanjay Kumar Nagpal's supervi-

sion arrested Praveen. So far, 25 foreign-made sophisticated weapons—including a sub-machine gun—and 221 live cartridges have been seized from these accused. The police have also added an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act section in the case.

Praveen Kumar, 45, son of late Virender Singh and a resident of South Delhi's Malviya Nagar, worked as a property dealer in Aaya Nagar, said police.

Investigations reveal his deep ties to Rohit Chaudhary's gang, active in South Delhi's areas like Aaya Nagar, Mehrauli, Pushp Vihar, and Ambedkar Nagar. He allegedly helped occupy disputed properties, encroach on forest land for illegal plotting, and laundered proceeds into gambling. While jailed, he linked up with co-accused Nishant Arora (already arrested) and later sourced foreign weapons to spread terror post-bail. Rohit Chaudhary, facing a Rs 4 lakh reward and charged under MCOCA for murder, extortion, and arms offences, was nabbed in a Crime Branch encounter. His network has fueled violence against rivals, builders, and bookies. Police said the module traces to Shahbaz Ansari and ISI handlers, underscoring ongoing efforts to dismantle such networks in the Capital.

‘How do we take care of ourselves at our old age?’: Greying NCR fuels senior living boom in Gurgaon



When 72-year-old Deepak Chatterjee told his daughters he planned to move into a dedicated senior living project, they had only one question: Why?

To which Chatterjee, a former MD and CEO of SBI Mutual Funds and currently chairperson of the UTI Asset Management board, had only one answer: Peace of mind, for both generations.

This story, in short, of the Chatterjees, who currently live in Vasant Kunj in South Delhi, is illustrative of a growing niche among the upper middle class of Delhi-NCR seeking specialised housing in their senior years. An increasing elderly population and the nuclearisation of families, with both spouses working, have made such dedicated residences an increasingly attractive market, one that is only set to grow, say developers and real estate consultants. The Indian Express spoke to real estate developers, senior citizens who have invested in dedicated living spaces, and government officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), and found several options catering to this growing trend — from independent residences and care homes to integrated intergenerational communities.

Market studies show that Gurgaon has emerged as the epicentre of this growing industry, boosted by a wealthier catchment group, favourable regulations, and the availability of real estate. A recent benchmarking study by Savills found that approximately 8% of Gurgaon's population is in the 60-plus age bracket. More significantly for the luxury housing segment, 37% of the city's population earns more than Rs 10 lakh annually, making those who fall under both categories natural candidates for premium senior or assisted living. Real estate major DLF formally announced its first dedicated senior living project in Gurgaon at the start of this year. Mordor Intelligence's 2026 framework values India's senior living market at roughly \$4.47 billion this year, projecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 26% through 2031. Outright sale, or freehold models, remain the preferred approach, accounting for more than 62% of market share, as buyers treat units as appreciating assets. CBRE's Residential Market Outlook 2026, released in March, flags senior living as a primary growth theme for institutional capital, noting that a "flight-to-quality" trend is pushing affluent buyers, particularly NRIs securing homes for aging parents, to demand global service and healthcare benchmarks. Epoch Elder Care home (titled Gustav) at Mayfield Garden. It specialises in dementia care. Epoch Elder Care home (titled Gustav) at Mayfield Garden. It specialises in dementia care. At the end of 2024, the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) introduced a separate accreditation for operational senior care homes with quarterly key performance indicators to be submitted over a four-year cycle. The key focus: facility management and safety; health, hygiene and infection control; resident engagement. Last month, the Haryana government raised the maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR; the ratio of a building's total constructed floor area to the size of the land plot on which it is built) for senior living colonies from 2.25 to 3.0. The revision allows builders to dedicate more space to medical and holistic care facilities without sacrificing sellable residential area, making senior living a more commercially viable asset. Independent residences: 'Location, facilities'

The Chatterjees wanted a space that would be conducive for older people. "What was on our mind is how do we take care of ourselves at our old age. We have two daughters; life is different. Those who are working often find it difficult to take care of aging parents," the former banker said. The couple first considered an Aashiana senior living project at Bhiwadi, south of Gurgaon in Rajasthan, which is part of Delhi-NCR. "Through a friend's reference, we booked it just before the pandemic, took delivery in 2021, and put the unit on rent," Chatterjee said. Subsequently, the couple saw an ad for Advait, a project by Pioneer Urban Estates at Nirvana Country in Gurgaon. Its location in the heart of the city, close to major hospitals, presented an important advantage. They purchased a unit in 2024, and expect possession formalities to begin in December this year. Spread across 2.6 acres in Sector 50, Advait features 164 two-bedroom residences across four 18-storey towers, each priced between Rs 3.5 crore and Rs 4 crore. The project has a Haryana RERA senior living licence, which mandates safety and accessibility features. Apartments are designed

with anti-skid flooring, wider doors, and adequate wheel-chair-turning radius. Homes are fitted with panic alarms, two-way switches, and electrical controls at accessible heights. Washrooms have grab bars, rounded corners, raised seat heights, and heat pumps for instant hot water. A specialised air filtration system, officials claim, maintains indoor AQI between 40 and 70 even during the peak pollution months. The property hosts a Fortis medical centre with a pharmacy, physiotherapy room, and consultation spaces, along with 24-hour nursing, on-site doctors, nutritionists, and priority homecare services. A 35,000-sq-foot clubhouse includes an acupressure path, meditation garden, hydrotherapy area, and wellness centre.

Although they are currently fit and active, the Chatterjees said their decision was made easier by the promise of specialised life care. "We told our daughters that we do not want you to worry and instead live life comfortably. End-of-life care is also getting specialised. Our friends live all over Delhi-NCR. If we had stronger connections around our (current) home, maybe that would have delayed our decision. We tried to nudge several of our friends who are as concerned about health, but they could not take the plunge," Chatterjee said. Care homes: 'Better than our home'

Not every care-home model involves purchasing property, according to developers. There is an option for elders who need consistent medical attention that is more than a family can typically provide but not so much that hospitalisation would be needed. So, residents check in for the long term, receive round-the-clock medical supervision, and pay a monthly rent. Epoch currently operates four such assisted living homes in Gurgaon, with a focus on specialised senior care, particularly for those with dementia. Gustav, its Mayfield Garden facility that was set up in 2024, is a four-storey property with 38 beds, located close to C K Birla Hospital. There is a reading room and cognitive activity spaces in the basement. Tariffs average Rs 1.3 lakh per person per month, starting at Rs 85,000 for twin-sharing and going up to Rs 2 lakh depending on the level of personalised care required. The facility holds a medico-assisted living licence from the Town and Country Planning Department. Interiors of Advait senior living homes by Pioneer Urban Estates of Advait senior living homes by Pioneer Urban Epoch CEO Neha Sinha acknowledged that these facilities are often the last resort for families that have exhausted other options. "We like to do long-term stays, so we have started offering trials. About 45% of our elders are from NRI families, from the US and UK, as of now. Unlike the other models that are hospitality, ours is about care," Sinha said, adding that 95% of move-in agreements are for life, with the remainder being post-surgical short stays.

Asked what typically brings a family to the facility, she said, "It is mostly the adult child that brings the elders in, after trying home care and resident nurses. It is typically the primary caregiver who comes, and in some cases the spouse — very rarely do elders admit themselves. In an old-age home, you will not get person-centric care. Here, I can tailor-make plans. About 70% of our elders have chronic neurodegenerative conditions." A resident, who is a retired academic, said: "We moved here after one of my sons moved abroad. Yahaan garh se bhi achchha hai. (This is better than our home.) There was no problem adjusting. I get my meals and watch TV as per my time and take part in activities." "In our country, people still believe in living with and taking care of parents, and parents too want to be around healthy people, not with those who are sick. This kind of space will work only with strong integration with medical players and in locations close to hospitals. And the properties will not have much resale value as an investment since they can only be bought by seniors. Why would a family living in a 3 or 4 BHK then want to keep their parents elsewhere?" Abhishek Bhardwaj, founder of Kalpvriksha Realty, said.

Such concerns have shaped the approach of at least one developer. Antara, the senior living arm of the Max Group, has launched Estate 360, an intergenerational community on the Dwarka Expressway. "We were getting a lot of feedback from seniors that they don't want to see just old people around themselves. They also want younger people nearby. So we launched an intergenerational project in which Max Estates is building some towers, while we are building some," said Rajit Mehta, MD and CEO of Antara Senior Living. Antara has launched 1,400 units, of which 1,000 have been offered for sale, and 950 have been sold. The company also operates around 200 care home beds across Gurgaon and Noida. While standard residential communities in the area sell at around Rs 20,000 per square foot, Antara prices its units at a 15-20% premium to account for the additional infrastructure: wider doorways and corridors for wheelchair access, barrier-free design, specialised electrical fittings, higher lux lighting levels, no sharp edges and emergency call buttons, Mehta said. A monthly maintenance fee of around Rs 10 per square foot covers access to doctors, basic health services such as blood pressure and sugar checks, nurse support, and community engagement programmes.

Railways nod for two projects in Northwest Delhi aimed at reducing congestion



The government said that once widened, the ROB at Haiderpur-Badli will reduce congestion at Mukarba Chowk, one of the city's busiest traffic intersections that sees heavy movement of passenger vehicles and goods carriers. The proposed elevated loop, which will cross over the railway tracks, will connect Shalimar Bagh with Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar.

GNS News Agency, May 19

The Delhi government on Sunday said that the Indian Railways has approved two key infrastructure projects in North-West Delhi — the widening of the Railway Overbridge (ROB) at Haiderpur-Badli on Outer Ring Road and an elevated loop connecting Shalimar Bagh with Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar — aimed at easing congestion in several areas in Northwest Delhi.

The government said that once widened, the ROB at

Haiderpur-Badli will reduce congestion at Mukarba Chowk, one of the city's busiest traffic intersections that sees heavy movement of passenger vehicles and goods carriers. The proposed elevated loop, which will cross over the railway tracks, will connect Shalimar Bagh with Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar. The government said Mukarba Chowk, Outer Ring Road and Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar are among the city's busiest transport corridors and have long faced congestion issues due to heavy vehicular movement.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the Public Works Department (PWD) had submitted the required plan and technical proposals for both the projects to the Railways. After detailed scrutiny, the Railways found the proposals technically feasible and issued an in-principle No Objection Certificate (NOC) with the approval of the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM). Gupta added that the Railways has mandated that construction work must be carried out under prescribed safety standards and technical supervision to ensure that railway operations and traffic movement are not adversely affected. She said that the Delhi government is working at a fast pace to identify major traffic bottlenecks across the city and develop long-term solutions. "The Delhi government is committed to developing a modern, safe and uninterrupted transport network across the Capital," Gupta said, adding that the projects are expected to reduce travel time and improve connectivity in the area. Gupta also expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, stating that such projects will further pave the way for transforming the capital into a 'Viksit Delhi'.

Donald Trump accorded red carpet welcome in Beijing, protocol broken



GNS News Agency, May 19

Beijing: US President Donald Trump was accorded a red carpet welcome on Wednesday upon his arrival in Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on a host of issues, including the Iran war and a trade deal.Trump was welcomed by Chinese Vice President Han Zheng at the airport, a rare honour that broke with usual diplomatic protocol.Officials say most of the top leaders visiting China, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, a close ally of Xi, were received by State Councillors, a high-ranking post of the ruling Communist Party of China.By deputing Vice President Han to receive Trump, China sent a message about the importance it attached to his visit, observers said.

There was also a brass band playing as Chinese military personnel presented a guard of honour as Trump descended the steps of his plane.He was also greeted by 300 Chinese youth dressed in blue and white uniforms and waving Chinese and American flags in unison, chanting in Chinese, "Welcome, welcome! Warm welcome!"Trump briefly paused to listen to the flag-waving youth and moved to get into his limousine, The Big Beast, flown from Washington.

The highway route leaving the airport was decorated with American and Chinese flags. Skyscrapers were lit up with Chinese characters meaning "Beijing Welcome."Trump's son Eric and his daughter-in-law Lara, as well as Tesla chief Elon Musk, disembarked from Air Force One along with Trump.Accompanying Trump on his trip to China are some of the US's top business leaders.

Nvidia's Jensen Huang, Tim Cook of Apple, Musk of Tesla and SpaceX, and Larry Fink of BlackRock, are among those travelling with the US president."I will be asking President Xi, a Leader of extraordinary distinction, to 'open up' China so that these brilliant people can work their magic, and help bring the People's Republic to an even higher level," Trump said in a post on social media.Trump said that it will be his "very first request" when he meets the Chinese leader, BBC reported."I have never seen or heard of any idea that would be more beneficial to our incredible Countries," he said.The last-minute addition of Nvidia's Jensen Huang to Trump's delegation was regarded as significant, as semiconductor chips are central to the US-China technology rivalry.

No cosmetic permitted to be used as injection: CDSCO

New Delhi: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) said that cosmetic products are not permitted to be used through injections and warned that such practices violate provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Cosmetics Rules, 2020, according to a notice released on Tuesday.In a public notice, the CDSCO said products supplied in injectable form do not fall under the definition of cosmetics and cannot be used by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics."No cosmetic is permitted to be used for injection by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics. Cosmetics are only intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on the human body," the notice stated.The regulator clarified that cosmetics are legally defined as products intended for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering the appearance of the human body or any part thereof.

"Cosmetic means any article intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on, or introduced into, or otherwise applied to, the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, and includes any article intended for use as a component of cosmetic," the regulatory stated in the notice.It further stated that cosmetics are not permitted to be used for treatment purposes by professionals or individuals. The CDSCO also warned against misleading claims and use of prohibited ingredients in cosmetic products, stating that such violations attract action under the Drugs and

China is bargaining for semiconductor chips for its AI tech development, while the US wants the rare-earth minerals used for manufacturing mobile phones and aircraft jets.Ahead of Trump's arrival, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and Scott Bessent completed the final round of trade negotiations in South Korea, details of which are not known.The next two days, Trump and Xi are scheduled to hold several rounds of talks to discuss both bilateral and global issues, especially the Iran war.

The talks are expected to focus on trade and tariffs, Artificial Intelligence and technology, Taiwan and US' arms sales to Taipei, Iran and West Asia East security and rare earths and supply chains.Trump's schedule in Beijing included a visit to the Temple of Heaven, a complex of imperial temples where emperors would pray for a good harvest.Ahead of his departure for Beijing, Trump told the media in Washington he would be talking with Xi about trade more than anything else. He plans to sign more deals with China to buy more American food and aircraft.The two countries also plan to set up a Board of Trade with China to address differences between the countries.From a trade point of view, China looks to reap a rich harvest as Trump is accompanied by top CEOs of US multinational giants, including Tesla chief Musk and Apple CEO Cook, who have well-entrenched businesses in China.The global focus on the summit, however, would be on any possible outcome that could end the US-Israeli war against Iran and end the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.Ahead of Trump's visit, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made his first visit to Beijing after the war and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.The US watched his visit closely as China is the largest importer of Iranian oil and shares strategic defence ties with Tehran, and has considerable influence over Iran.

After talks with Araghchi, Wang called on Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible, even as it appreciated Tehran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, a prime demand of Trump to end the war.Commenting on Wang-Araghchi talks, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, "I hope the Chinese tell him what he needs to be told. And that is what you are doing in the Strait, which is causing you to be globally isolated. You're the bad guy in this."China's anxieties over the Iran war increased, especially after Trump imposed a blockade of Iranian ports, restricting Iran's oil exports to China.Bert Hoffman, former World Bank country director for China, said China wants the Iran war to end because it has many partners in the region, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait. "So they don't like to see wars, they like to have stability," he said.In its editorial on Trump's visit, state-run Global Times said Xi has held multiple telephone conversations and meetings with him, which have helped correct the course of the bilateral relationship and steer it clear of hidden dangers at critical moments.



Cosmetics Act and related rules.

"As per the provisions of labelling, no cosmetic may purport or claim to convey any idea which is false or misleading to the intending user," the notice said.The regulator added that no person is allowed to alter, obliterate or deface any inscription or mark made by the manufacturer on the container, label or wrapper of a cosmetic product. The CDSCO noted that the list of Generally Not Recognized as Safe (GNRAS) and restricted ingredients is published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).The health regulator urged the public to report any such violations or suspicious activities to the regulatory authority or the respective state licensing authorities.

we can do that without bombing the hell out of them, I would be very happy," Trump told reporters.A Pakistani source confirmed that Islamabad, which has conveyed messages between the sides since hosting the only round of peace talks last month, had shared the Iranian proposal with Washington.The sides "keep changing their goalposts," the Pakistani source said, adding: "We don't have much time."

Although neither side has publicly disclosed any concessions in negotiations that have been stalled for a month, a senior Iranian official suggested on Monday that Washington may be softening some of its demands.The source said the U.S. had agreed to release a quarter of Iran's frozen funds - totaling tens of billions of dollars - held in foreign banks. Iran wants all the assets released.And the source said Washington had shown more flexibility in agreeing to let Iran ?continue some peaceful nuclear activity under supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.The U.S. ?has not confirmed that it has agreed to anything in the talks.A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied a report by Iran's Tasnim news agency that Washington had agreed to waive oil sanctions on Iran while negotiations were under way.

The U.S.-Israeli bombing killed ?thousands of people in Iran before it was suspended in a ceasefire in early April. Israel has killed thousands more and driven ?hundreds of thousands from ?their homes in Lebanon, which it invaded in pursuit of the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia. Iranian strikes on Israel and neighbouring Gulf states have killed dozens of people.The Iran ceasefire has mostly held, although drones have lately been launched from Iraq towards Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, apparently by Iran and its allies.Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said they launched the ?war to ?curb Iran's support for regional militias, dismantle its nuclear programme, destroy its missile capabilities, and create conditions for Iranians to topple their rulers.

No deal, no exit: How US-Iran standoff risks fresh conflict



LONDON, GNS News Agency, May 19 Three months after the United States and Israel staged an attack on Iran, a U.S. blockade and Tehran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz have created a deadlock, with neither side bending, economic pain deepening and the risk of ?renewed war rising.A growing concern among policymakers is not whether a deal is near, but how long tensions can persist before a miscalculation by Washington or Tehran triggers renewed conflict.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Calls for a fresh strike are growing louder in the U.S. ?and Israel, with some officials arguing that increased pressure could weaken Tehran's leverage and force Iran back to the negotiating table."There is one major problem with this theory: We have already tested it, repeatedly, and Iran did not capitulate," said Danny Citrinowicz, a senior researcher on Iran at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies and former head of the Iran branch in Israeli Defense Intelligence."We're in a war of attrition with the prospect of a new U.S.-Israeli attack growing by the day," said one regional official.

Iranian officials told Reuters concessions on their missile programme, nuclear capabilities or control of the Strait are not policy tools but ideological pillars ?of the Islamic Republic's survival -- giving them up is not compromise, it is surrender.That explains, Citrinowicz said, why even prolonged military confrontation has failed to shift Tehran from its red lines, and why further escalation is unlikely to succeed.Rounds of indirect talks mediated ?by Pakistan have produced no breakthrough. The gaps remain vast.The United States wants Iran to halt uranium enrichment for 20 years and ship out its stockpiles ?to the U.S.Iran wants an end to strikes, security guarantees, war reparations and recognition of its sovereignty over Hormuz -- terms Washington has rejected.Iran's foreign ministry did not reply to a request for comment. The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the issues raised in this article.President Donald Trump has warned Tehran that the "clock is ticking," saying they "better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them." He threatened that if Tehran fails to reach a deal with Washington, it will face "a very bad time."

Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group said neither side has shown willingness to make "the painful concessions" needed for a deal. "Both believe time is on their side and they have the upper hand, and that perception is precisely what is making a deal impossible."The result is a war of endurance centred on one of the world's most critical waterways. Before the war, the Strait carried roughly 25% of global oil trade and 20% of liquefied natural gas. Now, with the strait near-closed, the economic fallout is growing, disrupting supplies.Former State Department Iran official Alan Eyre, who took part in past U.S.-Iran talks, said an agreement may be ?out of reach. "These two sides will

Russians covertly trained by China return to fight in Ukraine, sources say



China's armed forces secretly trained about 200 Russian military personnel in China late last year and some have since returned to fight in Ukraine, according to three European intelligence agencies and documents seen by Reuters.While China and Russia have held a number of joint military exercises since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Beijing has repeatedly stated that it is neutral ?in the conflict and presents itself as a peace mediator.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

The covert training sessions, which predominantly focused on the use of drones, were outlined in a dual-language Russian-Chinese agreement signed by senior Russian and Chinese officers in Beijing on July 2, 2025.The agreement, ?reviewed by Reuters, said about 200 Russian troops would be trained at military facilities in locations including Beijing and the eastern city of Nanjing. The sources said around this number subsequently trained in China.

The agreement also said hundreds of Chinese troops would undergo training at military facilities in Russia.By training Russian military personnel at an operational and tactical level who then participate in Ukraine, China is far more directly involved in the war on the European continent than previously known, one intelligence official said.The Russian and Chinese defence ministries did not respond to requests for comment on the details outlined in this article.

"On the Ukraine crisis, China has consistently maintained an objective and impartial stance and ?worked to promote peace talks, this is consistent and clear and is witnessed by the international community," China's foreign ministry said in a statement to Reuters. "Relevant parties should not deliberately stoke confrontation or shift blame."The intelligence agencies spoke on condition they not be identified in ?order to discuss sensitive information.European powers, which see Russia as a major security threat, have watched warily at increasingly close relations between Russia and China, the world's second largest economy and an important European Union trade partner.The two nations announced a "no limits" strategic partnership days before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and pledged to conduct military exercises to rehearse coordination between their armed forces. As the West tried

never reach a deal. Trump doesn't want to just win, he wants to humiliate Iran and be seen as having crushed Iran."Tehran sees its stockpile of enriched uranium and control of Hormuz as core strategic assets essential to survival. "Iran is therefore ?determined to use these assets to guarantee its interests," a senior Iranian official said, adding capitulation is not an option.

"We fight, we die, but we don't accept humiliation. Surrender is fundamentally incompatible with Iran's identity."A second Iranian official argued Tehran has already won -- not ?by defeating Washington ?militarily, but by refusing to submit. Weeks of U.S. and Israeli strikes failed to break Iran's will, reinforcing its view that its nuclear stockpile and control of Hormuz remain the core of its deterrence.Surrendering them would dismantle that balance. "Trump wants to declare victory but Iran won't give it to him. Can the world economy withstand the pressure? That's the question Trump owes the world an answer to," he added.More strikes would not change Iran's calculus, only accelerate escalation, he said, adding that Iran will not abandon enrichment or bow to ultimatums without compromise from Washington.Yet behind the defiant posture, Iranian sources close to the establishment describe a more conflicted reality: Tehran does not want a prolonged "no war, no peace" scenario as inflation rises, unemployment worsens and strikes on key industries bleed an already battered economy.

Instead, they said, Iran is seeking a ?preliminary deal to end the war -- reopening Hormuz under Iranian oversight ?in exchange for lifting the U.S. blockade, before tackling harder ?issues such as sanctions relief and nuclear restrictions. The U.S. says ending the war must be deferred to later talks.On the nuclear issue, Iranian sources say Tehran could dilute its stockpile of 440 kg of highly enriched uranium or send part of it abroad, preferably to Russia, arguing it could reclaim it if Washington violates any agreement. Washington has refused.Iran is also pushing for a shorter halt to enrichment ?than Washington's 20-year demand and full access to \$30 billion in frozen assets, but Washington has only agreed to free a quarter of those assets under a timetable, the sources added.

NO MILITARY FIX LEAVES ?TALKS AS ONLY OPTION, SAYS ANALYSTTehran ?is seeking a new governance mechanism over Hormuz, rejecting a return to the pre-war status quo, while the U.S. insists on unconditional reopening -- no tolls, no veto -- a gap that may prove harder to bridge than the nuclear issue itself.Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. official and Middle East negotiator, says control of Hormuz will be the key measure of success or failure for Washington.

How this ends could define Trump's foreign policy, he added, with the U.S. leader acutely sensitive to the risk of being seen as having lost.Reopening the waterway without a political settlement, Miller added, would ?require "a prolonged American ?occupation with ground forces of Iranian territory".There is no military solution to Hormuz other than the costly one that Trump may be unwilling to undertake, argued Vaez, leaving ?negotiations as the only viable path.Despite operational gains of the U.S.-Israeli campaign, the strikes have failed to deliver a strategic knockout, Citrinowicz said."We didn't topple the regime -- we have a more radicalised one. We didn't end Iran's missile capacity. And they still have the uranium."Citrinowicz said over-estimating pressure and underestimating Tehran's resilience carries its own danger."It raises the risk that Washington once again enters a confrontation expecting coercion to produce capitulation, and discovers, too late, that the regime was prepared to absorb far more pain than anticipated," he said.

to isolate Russia, China provided a lifeline by buying its oil, gas and coal.Chinese leader Xi Jinping ?is due to host Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday and Wednesday, less than a week after U.S. President Donald Trump's high-profile visit.China and Russia have cast Putin's trip - his 25th visit to China - as further evidence of their "all-weather" partnership, even as the West urges Beijing to pressure Moscow into ending ?its war in Ukraine.

Both sides use long-range models to attack targets hundreds of miles away, while on the battlefield, smaller drones remote controlled by pilots using first person view equipment (FPV) and armed with explosives dominate the sky, making it hazardous for armoured vehicles or infantry to move.In September, Reuters reported that experts from private Chinese companies had conducted technical development work on military drones for a Russian attack drone manufacturer, according to European officials. China's foreign ministry said then it was unaware of the collaboration.The two companies identified in the article were sanctioned by the EU last month.

According to the training agreement reviewed by Reuters, ?the Russians would be schooled in disciplines such as drones, electronic warfare, army aviation and armoured infantry. The agreement prohibited any media coverage of the visits in either country and said no third parties should be informed.Visits by Chinese troops to Russia for training have been taking place since ?at least 2024, but Russian personnel training in China is new, two of the intelligence agencies said.While Russia has extensive combat experience in Ukraine, China's vast drone industry offers technological know-how and advanced training methods such as flight simulators, they said.China's People's Liberation Army has not fought a major war for decades, but it ?has expanded quickly in ?the past 20 years and now rivals U.S. military might in some areas.A significant number of Russian personnel who received training in China were ranking military instructors in a position to pass knowledge down the chain of command, the two intelligence agencies said.One of the agencies said they had confirmed the identities of a handful of Russian military personnel who trained in China and had since been directly involved in combat operations with drones in Ukraine's occupied Crimea and Zaporizhzhia regions.The rank of those people ranged from junior sergeant to lieutenant colonel, the agency said.The names of the individuals appeared in a Russian military document seen by Reuters that listed the servicemen going to China. Reuters was unable to independently confirm the subsequent involvement of those individuals in the Ukraine war.The same intelligence agency said it was highly probable that many of those who trained in China had gone to UkraineOne report dated December 2025 described a training course on combined arms warfare for about 50 Russian military personnel at the PLA's Ground Forces Army Infantry Academy branch in Shijiazhuang.The report said the course involved training soldiers to fire 82mm mortars while using unmanned aerial vehicles to identify their targets.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked by 90 paise per litre, 2nd increase in under a week as OMCs continue to bleed



Fuel Price Hike: Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) hiked petrol and diesel prices by 90 paise per litre each on Tuesday, raising the auto fuel prices for the second time in under a week's time as they continue to grapple with financial strain amid the West Asia crisis. This price hike follows Friday's increase by Rs 3 per litre, which was the first price hike in over four years. With Tuesday's hike, petrol price went up to Rs 98.64 per litre, while that of diesel rose to Rs 91.58 per litre in Delhi, with corresponding changes in other parts of the country. Fuel prices vary across states due to differences in state-level taxes.

The Rs 3-per-litre hike in petrol and diesel prices implemented Friday on provided some relief to OMCs, reducing their combined daily losses on sales of the two automobile fuels and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by a fourth, or about Rs 250 crore, to about Rs 750 crore a day, as per the Petroleum Ministry. Tuesday's price hike is likely to offer some more relief to them, although they are likely to continue bleeding by selling fuels at a loss. According to industry sources and analysts, the quantum of Friday's price hike was expected to have only partially eased the pressure, as the gap between the retail fuel prices and the market price was much wider. More calibrated and staggered price hikes were being anticipated after last week's increase.

"The Rs 3 hike, alongside a marginal softening in crude prices, brings estimated residual under-recoveries down to Rs 10 and Rs 13 per litre, offering OMCs a degree of operational breathing room. The overhang is far from gone, though... The latest price increase is, therefore, aimed at containing incremental balance sheet stress rather than restoring marketing margins, and is better read as a policy acknowledgement that absorbed costs must eventually reflect in prices," Sehul Bhatt, director, Crisil Intelligence had said on Friday. Global crude oil prices have surged by over 50% due to the West Asia war and the consequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz, but in a bid to insulate domestic consumers, the government-owned OMCs hadn't passed on the higher rates for retail petrol and diesel. In fact, prices of the two auto fuels hadn't been hiked for four years, although cut once — before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Discussions on a hike in petrol and diesel prices had gathered pace within the government, with a consensus that an increase was necessary. The key considerations were the timing and the quantum: whether to announce a steep hike in one go or adopt a staggered approach, according to a top government official. A staggered approach

US clean chit for Adani after Iran deal, offer to invest \$10 billion

The Donald Trump-led US administration moved to dismiss criminal fraud charges against Gautam Adani on Monday, while also settling alleged Iran sanctions violations involving his flagship Adani Enterprises, according to court records. The US Department of Justice permanently dropped all criminal charges against Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, bringing high-profile securities and wire fraud case in New York to a complete close after prosecutors concluded they could not sustain the allegations. With this, multiple US regulatory and legal investigations involving the group have all closed in the last couple of days. The New York Times had last week reported that Adani's attorney Robert Giuffra Jr, who is also a personal attorney of US President Donald Trump, had in a presentation said Adani wanted to invest \$10 billion in the United States but could not do so because of the cases. Adani had been accused of agreeing to pay \$265 million in bribes to Indian government officials so Adani Group could win approval to develop the country's largest solar power plant. The Adani Group has consistently denied wrongdoing. Adani is the company's founder and chairman.

Earlier on Monday, Adani Enterprises Ltd entered into an agreement with the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) by paying an amount of \$275 million to settle its potential civil liability for apparent violations of OFAC sanctions on Iran. This settlement — the second such agreement in the US — is without admitting the allegations made by OFAC, AEL said in an exchange filing. "Pursuant to the settlement agreement, the company has undertaken to pay the settlement amount of \$ 275 million to OFAC mitigated from the maximum statutory penalty of \$384 million," it said. Last week, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had gone for final consent judgments against Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani, whom it had earlier accused of making false and misleading statements linked to a 2021 bond offering by Adani Green Energy Ltd. If approved by the court, Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani would have to pay civil monetary penalties of \$ 6 million and \$12 million, respectively. According to OFAC, from November 2023 to June 2025, AEL purchased shipments of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from a Dubai-based trader purporting to supply Omani and Iraqi gas. Red flags should have put AEL on notice that the LPG actually originated from Iran, OFAC said in a statement. During this time period, AEL caused US financial institutions to process 32 US dollar-denominated payments totalling approximately \$192,104,044 for the shipments, OFAC said. "The settlement amount reflects OFAC's determination that AEL's apparent violations were egregious and not voluntarily self-disclosed and further reflects the AEL's remedial measures following discovery of the conduct and the cooperation AEL provided for OFAC's investigation," OFAC said. In June 2023, AEL entered the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) market by importing LPG and selling to customers in India. However, neither AEL nor any of its affiliates had, prior to this time, traded LPG on their own account through Mundra Port. "None of the parties involved in AEL's LPG imports were sanctioned at the time of the LPG shipments, and none of the documentation provided to AEL contained any information explicitly pointing to Iranian origin of the LPG. However, AEL and APSEZ sanctions compliance programme did not include other measures to account for risks arising from its dealings," it said. OFAC said from the earliest days of the relationship, a number of red flags called into question the true source of the Dubai supplier's cargo. On at

was evidently chosen.

The timing of the global surge in energy prices, which clashed with assembly elections in some states, made it politically fraught for fuel prices to be hiked. With the elections over, a hike in prices was in the offing. Early May, a top government official had told The Indian Express that a hike was "inevitable" and "only a matter of time". Retail prices of petrol and diesel are deregulated, but in practice, the government-owned OMCs — with 90% market share in fuel retail — kept prices stable in consultation with the government. They incurred losses when international oil prices surged, and earned profits when the prices slumped. A one-shot steep price hike wouldn't have been politically palatable, and would have had a shock factor to it, industry sources said. Calibrated price hikes give the government the opportunity to pass on the higher prices to consumers gradually, while keeping a tab on the public reaction and the inflationary impact on an ongoing basis, instead of the inflationary shock and backlash that a steep hike might lead to. Besides directly having a bearing on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fuel prices have an indirect impact on inflation as they affect the cost of freight and logistics, as well as energy and input costs for various sectors. "Given the weightage of petrol and diesel in the CPI basket, a 3-5% increase (in fuel prices) likely adds about 15-25 bp (basis points) to the headline inflation, besides second round impact," Radhika Rao, senior economist and executive director, DBS Bank had said on Friday. She also recounted that back in 2022, amid the global oil and fuel price surge in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, retail fuel prices were hiked by about 9-10% in two steps. A few other analysts also expect staggered price hikes going forward.

The crisis has put the OMCs under severe financial stress. Last week, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said that the combined losses of the three refiners-cum-fuel retailers are projected at Rs 1 lakh crore in the April-June quarter at the current price levels, enough to wipe out their collective profits for the entire 2025-26 (FY26). The government had slashed excise duty by Rs 10 per litre on petrol and diesel late March to blunt the impact of high international prices on the OMCs, but the retailers continue to bleed. The excise duty cut has resulted in the government foregoing revenue of about Rs 14,000 crore a month. While the country has managed to secure adequate crude oil volumes from non-Gulf suppliers and has not faced a shortage of crude, refiners have been paying for the oil through their nose, spending valuable foreign exchange. With uncertainty over how long the crisis might last, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently appealed for conservation of petroleum fuels, among other measures, aimed at moderating imports and foreign exchange outgo. The Indian crude oil basket, which averaged \$70 per barrel last year, averaged over \$114 in April; so far in May, it has averaged at about \$107 per barrel. Refiners are incurring high additional costs due to emergency sourcing from the spot market and surging shipping and insurance rates. Oil imports in 2025-26 stood at about \$135 billion. If oil prices sustain at \$100 in the current fiscal and import volumes don't fall, the oil import bill could be upwards of \$200 billion for the year.



least four separate occasions between March 2023 and February 2024, AEL learned of third-party concerns that cargos supplied by the Dubai Supplier may have originated in Iran, OFAC said. "AEL acted recklessly and had reason to know of the Apparent Violations due to the presence of red flags pointing to potential links to Iran. These included warnings received from third parties that LPG cargos being imported by AEL may have been of Iranian-origin, and the economic, commercial, and logistical implausibility of the cargos' origin and pricing," it said. On the mitigating factors, OFAC said AEL provided substantial cooperation to OFAC, including by conducting a thorough, independent internal investigation on an expedited basis and at substantial cost, responding promptly to OFAC's requests for information, and providing large volumes of data regarding the Apparent Violations. "AEL has implemented significant remedial measures to respond to the Apparent Violations, including ceasing imports of LPG into India, enhancing its sanctions compliance policy and controls, and implementing certain compliance commitments," it said.

Crude oil futures hit record Rs 10,044 on MCX amid West Asia crisis



New Delhi: Crude oil prices rose on Tuesday, with futures hitting a record high of Rs 10,044 per barrel during trade amid disruptions in global energy supplies triggered by the lingering West Asia crisis. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil for June delivery surged Rs 43, or 0.43 per cent, to trade at Rs 9,967 per barrel in 8,508 lots. The contract had closed at Rs 9,924 per barrel on Monday. Analysts said fresh buying by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude was trading 0.01 per cent higher at USD 108.67 per barrel, while Brent crude rose 1.45 per cent to USD 110.48 per barrel.

Manisha Koirala shares a glimpse of her latest gym workout: ‘One more set’



Manisha Koirala, 55, recently took to social media to share a few glimpses of her gym workout, in which she can be seen working on her upper-body strength. "Calf said, 'take it easy.' Heart said, 'one more set.' So here we are... taped up, moving slowly, but moving anyway," she shared on Instagram, while thanking her trainer. Inspired by her gym time, we asked an expert all about the exercises. Consultant dietitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal said the actor is performing a combination of wide-grip lat pulldowns, dumbbell lateral raises, dumbbell overhead triceps extensions, and cable-based exercises, reflecting a balanced upper-body strength training routine. Explaining that the wide-grip lat pulldown primarily targets the back muscles, especially the latissimus dorsi, she added: "This exercise helps im-

prove posture, upper body strength, and spinal support, which become increasingly important with age and sedentary lifestyles."

She is also seen doing dumbbell lateral raises, where the arms are lifted out to the sides. According to Goyal, this movement primarily targets the lateral deltoid muscles of the shoulders and helps improve shoulder stability, mobility, and upper-body definition. Another exercise in her routine is the dumbbell overhead triceps extension, in which a dumbbell is lifted overhead and lowered behind the head. "This movement strengthens the triceps, which are important for pushing movements and daily functional activities like lifting or getting up from a seated position," Goyal said.

The routine also includes cable exercises, which are particularly effective because they maintain constant tension on the muscles throughout the movement. Goyal noted that cable training improves muscle control, coordination, and joint stability while reducing excessive strain on joints. From a clinical perspective, Goyal reflected that this type of resistance training is extremely beneficial for maintaining muscle mass, bone density, posture, and metabolic health. "Strength training also supports healthy ageing by improving functional capacity and reducing the natural decline in muscle strength over time," said Goyal. What stands out is the focus on controlled, structured movement rather than extreme intensity, which makes such workouts more sustainable and safer in the long run, she added.

X user calls rasgulla ‘idli in sugar syrup’; Shashi Tharoor’s reply wins internet: ‘If this lady...’



What began as a playful social media debate over rasgulla and idli quickly turned into a larger conversation about food identity, regional pride and the cultural significance attached to everyday Indian dishes. The discussion started after a user named Sayantika posted about Bengali sweets like Misti Doi and Nolen Gurer Rosogolla, wondering how to explain their taste to someone unfamiliar with Bengali cuisine. In response, another X user, @crazyxedi, dismissed rasgulla as "nothing but an idli dipped in sugar syrup" and called it "the most overrated dessert." The remark soon caught the internet's attention, especially after Congress MP Shashi Tharoor stepped into the debate with a characteristically elaborate defence of the idli. Responding to the comparison, Tharoor wrote, "Indeed! To conflate a Rasgulla with an Idli is not just a culinary error; it is a profound cosmological misunderstanding." He went on to explain why the two foods are fundamentally different, adding, "She is comparing chhena (the delicate, squeaky, pristine curd of milk) with a meticulously fermented batter of parboiled rice and black gram (urad dal). Their compositions are from entirely different kingdoms."

Tharoor further described rasgulla and idli not just as foods, but as products of entirely different culinary philosophies. "One is an airy, spongy lattice designed to trap light sugar syrup; the other is a dense, wholesome, steamed matrix of complex carbohydrates and proteins. Their taste, consistency, structural integrity, and existential purpose share absolutely nothing in common," he wrote. He also passionately defended the idli's cultural and nutritional importance, saying, "The Idli is not a mere 'bland cake.' It is a masterclass in biotechnology." Highlighting the science and craftsmanship behind fermentation, Tharoor added, "To achieve the perfect Idli is to balance the delicate microflora of wild fermentation over a cold night, resulting in a steamed cloud that is a triumph of gut health, lightness, and nutritional balance." Calling it "a savoury monolith of South Indian culinary genius," he argued that idli was "perfectly engineered to absorb the sharp tang of a well-spiced sambar or the fiery depth of a molaga-podi (gunpowder) paste infused with cold-pressed sesame oil or nutritious melted ghee."

He concluded with a humorous but firm defence of the dish's identity: "To suggest an Idli would even consent to being drowned in sugar syrup is to fundamentally misunderstand its dignity." Tharoor also remarked, "If this lady finds Rasgullas overrated, argue that on the merits of their sponginess or sweetness. But please, leave the noble, perfectly fermented, steamed majesty of the Idli out of your dessert-table polemics, ma'am!" The exchange triggered amused and enthusiastic reactions online. One user commented: "Wah Tharoor saab waah maja aa gaye I am gonna eat some idli sambhar now let me order." Another wrote: "As my eyes perused through this, my brain and belly conspired to ignite within my soul an urgent urge to devour a plateful of Idlis for dinner." A third user joked: "Well said. Got me thinking though, what if we do dip Idli in sugar syrup. Yum yum." Food author and chef Sadaf Hussain tells indianexpress.com, "The comparison is technically inaccurate because rasgulla and idli are fundamentally different dishes despite sharing a somewhat spongy texture." He continued, "I don't think rasgulla is comfort food in that sense. It's a celebration... whereas idlis are a basic necessity of every morning." Indeed! To conflate a Rasgulla with an Idli is not just a culinary error; it is a profound cosmological misunderstanding.

Concurring, celebrity chef Ananya Banerjee explains, "Rasgulla is made from chenna (curdled milk solids) kneaded into soft balls and simmered in light sugar syrup, giving it a spongy, airy texture that absorbs liquid, whereas idli is a steamed savory cake made from fermented rice and lentil batter, resulting in a grainy, porous structure; the cooking methods differ—rasgulla involves boiling in syrup while idli relies on steaming — and the ingredients, preparation, and mouthfeel are fundamentally distinct, making the analogy misleading."

Chef Hussain also commented on the broader debate, saying comparisons like these can become unnecessary. He used the example of pancakes and luchi, saying that even dishes made from similar ingredients can be fundamentally different in identity and experience. The emotional and regional significance To understand why a comparison between idli and rasgulla sparks such a reaction, we have to look at food as a form of 'cultural shorthand.' Alok Singh,

founder of Diga Organics and food science expert, Teria Ambedkar Uttar Pradesh, mentions, "When someone calls a rasgulla an 'idli dipped in sugar syrup,' they aren't just making a culinary observation; they are unintentionally stripping away the distinct technical and cultural labour associated with those regions." In India, regional pride is often tied to the 'Terroir' and the specific techniques perfected over centuries. "The idli is the soul of the South—a symbol of patience, where the batter must sit through the night to capture wild yeasts. The rasgulla, particularly for Odias and Bengalis, represents a historical breakthrough in confectionery. In the 19th century, the Bengali technique of 'chhena' (curdling milk) was a revolutionary departure from the traditional Vedic aversion to 'spoiled' or split milk." When these dishes are trivialised, Singh notes that it feels like an attack on the collective memory of a community. "Food is often the first thing people take with them when they migrate and the last thing they give up as they assimilate."

What actually makes a well-made idli so difficult to perfect despite its simple appearance?

Chef Hussain said the biggest factor is fermentation. "Everything depends on the fermentation itself." He explained that if fermentation goes wrong, the idlis can become dense rather than soft and airy. This is also why homemade idlis may not always turn out like restaurant versions. "Factors like the rice-to-lentil ratio, fermentation quality, grinding texture, batter aeration and steaming time all have to align perfectly," says Chef Banerjee, adding that even small variations in climate or fermentation can change the final texture dramatically. Fermentation: The ancient masterclass in biotechnology According to Singh, Shashi Tharoor's description of the idli as a "masterclass in biotechnology" is scientifically spot-on. Long before we had microscopes to see Lactobacillus or yeasts, Indian ancestors mastered the art of "controlled spoilage." In the context of Indian food history, he states that fermentation was the original preservation and nutrition-enhancement tool. In a tropical climate, fresh milk or cooked grains would spoil quickly. However, by inviting the right bacteria to the party, our ancestors could not only preserve food but also make it more digestible.

"The science behind the idli is incredible: the soaking of urad dal and rice encourages the growth of Leuconostoc mesenteroides and Lactobacillus bulgaricus. These microbes break down complex starches and neutralise 'anti-nutrients' like phytic acid, which otherwise prevent the body from absorbing minerals. This process also creates B-vitamins—essential nutrients that might be lacking in a simple grain-based diet," he notes. Historically, he says that this wasn't seen as "lab work" but as "rhythm." The placement of the stone grinder, the temperature of the kitchen, and even the touch of the hand (which introduces local microflora) were all part of an ancient biotechnological ritual. "Fermentation allowed for the creation of soft, leavened textures without the need for commercial yeast or chemical baking powder," concludes the expert.

Your heart may be older than your actual age, warns a cardiologist

A cardiologist is drawing attention to the difference between chronological age and biological age, especially in heart health. In a recent Instagram post, board-certified cardiologist Dr Sanjay Bhojraj explained that while people often focus on the number on the calendar, the body — and particularly the cardiovascular system — may be ageing much faster depending on lifestyle habits and metabolic health. "Biological age is one of those terms that makes everyone either very excited or very annoyed at dinner parties," the cardiologist noted. However, he clarified that discussions around reversing biological age are not about "chasing some biohacker badge so you can brag that your mitochondria are in college." Instead, as he put it, "I'm talking about real-life function." According to Dr Bhojraj, a younger cardiovascular system is more adaptable and resilient, and "your heart ages in the exact same environment you put it (and yourself) in." He pointed to several everyday factors that may quietly accelerate ageing within the body, including "Poor sleep. Chronic stress. Low muscle mass. Inflammation. Too little movement. Years of pretending your body is 'fine' because nothing has exploded yet. That's usually where the damage starts." Rather than focusing on extreme anti-ageing hacks, Dr Bhojraj encouraged people to prioritise practical lifestyle habits that improve vascular function and metabolic resilience. He also stressed the importance of looking deeper into metabolic and cardiovascular markers. "Advanced lipids. Insulin resistance. Inflammation. Vascular health. The stuff that tells us whether your system is ageing faster than your birthday says it should," he explained. At the same time, Dr Bhojraj cautioned against unrealistic expectations, adding that while no doctor can literally give someone "the heart of a 20-year-old," people can still avoid accelerating their hearts' ageing if they intervene early enough.

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



GNS News Agency, May 19

Tucked inside New Moti Bagh, an upscale residential complex in Lutyens' Delhi where many of India's top bureaucrats live, children slice through the water in a temperature-controlled pool beneath a transparent canopy. Nearby, a teenager drills forehands on a gleaming tennis court. The facilities look public, but guards at the gate decide who gets in. About 3 km away, a squash court at the Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI) sits empty on a mid-week afternoon. Scuff marks on the side walls hint at an evening rush. Outside, a signboard declares the rules of entry: No ID, no access. An investigation by The Indian Express has found that the money used to build, or refurbish, these world-class facilities meant for some of the country's top bureaucrats came from the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) — a fund created to train athletes and build sporting infrastructure, and allotted by a committee of bureaucrats. The Indian Express investigated five years of official records and data obtained under the RTI Act, and interviewed current and former Government officials, to find that while a chunk of these funds was indeed allotted for sports facilities, a slice of the pie was also channelled into civil services institutions and the Delhi colony for bureaucrats. Among the well-known sports missions funded by NSDF: the flagship Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for elite athletes. Among the not-so-well-known beneficiaries: facilities for senior bureaucrats, two RSS-linked institutions in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and even some lesser-known cricket boards in Asia and the Caribbean. National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs The badminton court at the New Moti Bagh clubhouse The NSDF fund is governed by a 12-member Council under the Union Sports Minister. But the body that clears grant proposals is a six-member committee of officials under the Sports Ministry — from the same system that benefits from the grants.

Between 2021 and 2025, over Rs 6.2 crore from the NSDF went to the Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI), the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) and for the New Moti Bagh Residential Complex from a sanctioned total of over Rs 6.7 crore, Sports Ministry records show. During the same period, the records show that two RSS-affiliated organisations received approximately Rs 2.66 crore to conduct tournaments and build facilities from a sanctioned amount of Rs 5.07 crore. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), through the NSDF, also spent approximately Rs 1.08 crore on “procurement of gifting of cricket items” to cricket boards in the Maldives, Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines. These expenditures are significant because they coincide with a sharp fall in contributions to the fund — from Rs 85.26 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 37.02 crore in 2025-26.

So much so that a Parliamentary Standing Committee raised the red flag. Calling for “greater regulations of the NSDF”, its report tabled in the Lok Sabha in August 2025 said: “The Committee has been given to understand that in previous years’ grants, these funds have been given to the residential colonies and civil services associations. The Committee recommends that this practice should be avoided.” National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs General view of the New Moti Bagh clubhouse Sports money for officers' colony Nothing illustrates the diversion more plainly than the swanky facilities in Delhi's New Moti Bagh. Records show that around mid-2024, the six-member committee that screens NSDF grant applications received a proposal from the residential colony for some of the country's most senior bureaucrats — centrally located, tightly guarded and spread over 100 acres. The request was not the first of its kind. Records show that on July 31, 2019, SAI had already sanctioned Rs 2.8 crore from the Khelo India scheme for the “creation of sports infrastructure at New Moti Bagh Complex, New Delhi”.

On June 7, 2024, another grant of Rs 2.2 crore — this time from NSDF — was approved for “Residents Welfare Association, Moti Bagh”. The purpose: “For upgradation/renovation of sports infrastructure at New Moti Bagh Residential Complex, New Delhi”. Of this, Rs 1.1 crore was released in 2024-25 and Rs 88 lakh in 2025-26 — the second instalment arrived when contributions to the NSDF were at their lowest since 2021-22 (see chart). The sports complex itself can rival any top facility in the country: badminton courts with wooden flooring, a squash cubicle, a temperature-controlled swimming pool with a transparent canopy, a gym, a billiards room and two tennis courts. According to SAI's project status report, the tennis courts had already been part of the 2019 Khelo India project. Five years later, the same hard courts were upgraded again. National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs The tennis court at New Moti Bagh clubhouse

Sudhanshu Pandey, president of the New Moti Bagh Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) and election commissioner for Union Territories, said he had not read the Parliamentary committee's report and did not offer any comments on its observations. He said the RWA appointed NBCC, the agency that developed the colony, to execute the project. “It prepared a DPR (Detailed Project Report), which got approved by SAI, then the Sports Ministry evaluated it and sanctioned the money. The capital expenditure came from there. Where the money comes from, that is for the Government to decide,” Pandey told The Indian Express.

On access to the complex's facilities, Pandey said they are available to “residents of the colony, other government officers staying outside and private citizens”. “But we do proper screening, so that the right kind of people only join. We organise a lot of activities. Recently, we organised a sports competition. It was almost spread over a month, in all the sports. We also organised a marathon. So, our focus is basically to promote fitness, to promote sports. So, a lot of children of civil servants use the facilities, and naturally, they get attracted, and some of them also excel,” he said. Asked about the propriety of drawing from a fund mainly

meant for sportspersons, Pandey said, “Residential colonies are also developed by the Government and a part of that overall welfare activity.” He said: “Otherwise, such huge Government colonies would not have been developed like Sarojini Nagar, New Moti Bagh, Netaji Nagar, and so many. And the sports facilities are one of the integral facilities that are required. Sports facility and creating that awareness about the emotional health, mental health, physical health, which essentially saves a lot of health expenditure indirectly also.”

National Sports Development Fund, sai, Sports Authority of India, Right to Information Act, Express investigation, special fund is for top athletes, RTI Act, Sports money, Sports money for officers' colony, Indian express news, current affairs A TT table at CSOI According to the official website of the Sports Ministry, NSDF aims to mobilise “resources from Government as well as non-government organizations and individuals to provide required support for promotion of specific sports disciplines and improving performance of Indian sports in the major international events. Institutions, government and non-government organizations exclusively dealing with promotion of sports and individual sportspersons of outstanding ability will be eligible for getting financial assistance from NSDF for specific projects”.

It states that the fund was established in 1998, under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890. “The NSDF supports sportspersons to excel in the field by providing opportunities to train under coaches of international repute with technical, scientific and psychological support and also in getting exposure to international competitions,” it states. “Financial assistance is also provided to specific projects for promotion of sports and games sponsored by reputed Organizations/ Institutes, provided the facilities so created are made available to a sizeable population of the area/ region,” it states, adding that the NSDF office is located in Shastri Bhavan in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Sports Ministry did not respond to an emailed questionnaire from The Indian Express, seeking its response to the key findings of the investigation. CSOI general manager, Col. Vijay Yadav (retd), declined to comment. CCSCSB did not respond to requests for comment.

Speaking to The Indian Express, a former Sports Ministry official said it was “unethical” to dip into NSDF for projects serving bureaucrats that are not open to the public. On the “gifts” to cricket boards abroad, the official said the purpose was to “promote international cooperation, which is one of the key objectives of the NSDF”. But, he said, “The argument would hold water if the NSDF money was used to promote indigenous sport in other countries. Why the taxpayers' money is used to support cricket in other countries, when the Government doesn't even fund cricket in India, remains a question.” Their clubs and institutes benefited, too. The diversion was not confined to where bureaucrats live. Records for the past five years show that for infrastructure, equipment and sports promotion, the NSDF released a total of Rs 34.18 crore (2021-22), Rs 16.97 crore (2022-23), Rs 73.18 crore (2023-24), Rs 22.29 crore (2024-25) and Rs 27.31 crore (2025-26). Consider where some of it went, according to Sports Ministry records:

On March 10, 2021, the NSDF sanctioned Rs 3.01 crore for “construction/ renovation of the sports facilities at the campus with gym equipment, etc” at CSOI, an exclusive facility for bureaucrats in the heart of the capital. The institute received the first tranche of Rs 1.5 crore in 2021-22 and its second instalment of Rs 1.2 crore in 2024-25. On December 20, 2021, Rs 1.55 crore was approved for the “construction/ renovation of sports facilities” at the CCSCSB campus, also in Lutyens' Delhi. The CCSCSB, which functions under the Directorate of Personnel and Training (DoPT), received Rs 77.65 lakh in 2021-22 and a second instalment of the same amount in 2023-24. Take the case of 2021-22, when total donations to the NSDF stood at Rs 15.13 crore — the lowest in five years. The Government contributed Rs 5 crore, taking the total corpus that year to Rs 20.13 crore. Records show that more than 10 per cent of this amount was used to upgrade facilities for civil servants.

Records show it was not just facilities for bureaucrats. In 2024-25, RSS-affiliated Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad at Kotra in Udaipur received Rs 2.41 crore for the construction of a spectator's gallery with a utility building, resurfacing of an athletic track and a practice football ground. The sanctioned amount, in March 2024, was Rs 4.82 crore. The Parishad runs sports centres, hostels, and health care centres, among other things, for scheduled tribes across Rajasthan. Similarly, Sangh-linked Vanvasi Kalyan Samiti in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur, which “works towards the upliftment of the tribal communities”, according to its website, received Rs 18.75 lakh to conduct national-level competitions in Raipur. In 2025-26, the same organisation received Rs 6.25 lakh to organise a tournament. Not all the money went to organisations outside the national sporting ecosystem — even if it covered the then Sports Minister's home state. In 2021-22, with Kiren Rijiju as Sports Minister, Rs 5.93 crore was approved on June 4 for “civil work and installation of open-air gym at 26 District HQ” across Arunachal Pradesh — of this, Rs 2.96 crore was released that same year and Rs 2.37 crore in 2023-24. On March 16, 2022, a further Rs 2.25 crore was sanctioned for the “construction of two-court badminton hall at 15 locations” in the state. In 2022-23, when contributions to the NSDF peaked at Rs 85.26 crore, the Government spent Rs 73.18 crore on infrastructure, equipment and sports promotion. Nearly half of this went towards constructing hostels at SAI's Bengaluru centre and Gwalior's Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education and Sports, and establishing a high-performance centre at SAI, Sonapat. That year, the cricket associations of Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines received “cricket items” worth Rs 46.23 lakh and Rs 8.79 lakh, respectively, as “gifts”. In 2024-25,

Canara Bank clinch HCA D-Division Title with eight-wicket win over FCI

Hyderabad: Canara Bank recorded an eight-wicket win against Food Corporation of India in the final of the HCA D-Division one-day league cricket championship here on Monday.

Batting first, FCI scored 113 in 26.2 overs with V. Shathakani (36) being the top-scorer while G. Srinivas Rao (four for 17) being the main wicket-taker.

In reply, Canara Bank reached home in 23 overs thanks to fine knocks by M. Eshwar (56 n.o.) and N. Praveen Kumar (31 n.o.).

Rahul replaces Pant as Test vice-captain, Kishan returns to ODI squad



KL Rahul has replaced Rishabh Pant as India's Test vice-captain as the squad was announced for the side's one-off Test and three-match ODI series against Afghanistan on Wednesday. Pant has also been dropped from the squad for India's subsequent three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Ishan Kishan has earned a recall to the ODI squad as well. Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya have also been included in the Indian ODI squad, although their availability is subject to their fitness being cleared by the BCCI CoE. Maiden Test call-ups have been handed to left-arm spinners Manav Suthar and Harsh Dubey. Fast bowler Gurnoor Brar has received maiden call-ups to the Test and ODI squads both while fellow pacer Prince Yadav and has received a maiden call-up to the ODI squad alone. A notable omission from the Test squad is

Who is Manav Suthar, the new spinner in Indian Test team



GNS News Agency, May 19

As news emerged of Manav Suthar getting a call-up to India's squad for the upcoming Test against Afghanistan, tears welled up in his father Jagdish Suthar's eyes. Ever since it emerged that Suthar is in contention to make the Indian team, the senior Suthar has been engrossed in prayers. Jagdish struggles to open up when asked about the moment he learnt his son was in the India side. He sobs uncontrollably till his wife takes over the phone. “Uske andar se poore emotions bahar aa rahe hai. Waise woh bahot tough hai, but yeh moment bohut emotional hai (He's overwhelmed with emotions right now. He's otherwise very tough, but today it got very emotional for him),” she says. Even after Jagdish takes back the phone, he struggles to hold back tears. “This was a life-long dream for us, we worked really hard. So I am very happy,” he says.

Like most father-son tales from Indian cricket, the story of Suthars isn't different. During his younger years, cricket meant everything to Jagdish, who couldn't get beyond school-level cricket. So when Manav showed interest in cricket, the choice was a no-brainer. “I didn't push him, he had an interest in cricket. So at 11, I put him in an academy,” says Jagdish, who works as a PE teacher at a school at Sri Ganganagar, a small town five kilometres from the Pakistan border. Bowling left-arm spin, though, wasn't in Jagdish's mind. “I wanted him to become a batsman. But, his coach (Dheeraj Sharma) told me on the first day of training that my son is made for bowling,” he recalls. Ever since Manav was summoned to the India's preparatory camp for the 2023 World Cup, the 23-year-old, who is also a reliable batsman lower down the order, has been on the national radar. Even before he joined the camp in Bengaluru, there was plenty of hype around him. At the camp, as he troubled the likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, it was evident that there was substance to back the hype. The common acknowledgement among the senior players during that camp was if he could manage to get drift with the white-ball, then he could do wonders with the red-ball.

In the lead up to the team selection, the Suthar household had been a worried a lot. At a time where players in the Indian Premier League hog the limelight, there were even

Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Auqib Nabi.

Jasprit Bumrah has also been rested for the duration of the series, as is the case with veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Prasidh Krishna returns to the Test fold after missing the home series against West Indies and South Africa late last year. Axar Patel has also been excluded from the two squads. Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said while announcing the squad that India will be looking to try out options apart from Axar and Jadeja in the months leading up to the 2027 World Cup. The Test match will be just the second between India and Afghanistan and the first since 2018. It will also be the first time that a Test match will be played in the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh. The one-off Test is set to start on June 6. This will be followed by the three-match ODI series that starts on June 14 in Dharamshala. The second ODI is set to be played on June 17 in Lucknow and the series concludes in Chennai on June 20. India squad for one-off Test vs Afghanistan: Shubman Gill (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul (VC), Sai Sudarshan, Rishabh Pant, Devdutt Padikkal, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar, Harsh Dubey, Dhruv Jurell India squad for three-match ODI series vs Afghanistan: Shubman Gill (C), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), KL Rahul (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Hardik Pandya, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey.

talks in Sri Ganganagar that Manav isn't made for the top level, as he went the entire season warming the bench with Gujarat Titans in 2025 and played only four fixtures this season. Even when he toured to the UK as part of the India A squad to face England Lions in 2025, opportunities deserted him. At last year's Duleep Trophy too, he carried the drinks for the Central Zone team, which preferred Saransh Jain and Harsh Dubey. The story was no different last September with India A, which started with Dubey and Tanush Kotian against Australia A in the first Test. It was in this backdrop that Suthar got drafted into India A XI for the second Test against Australia A last year, where he picked up five wickets to prove his credentials again. “He was actually very nervous,” Suthar's coach Dheeraj Sharma says. “He was not getting opportunities anywhere. At Gujarat Titans, he had Sai Kishore ahead of him. When there was a lot of talk around not getting an IPL game, I kept telling him only thing. ‘If you play for India, then you will do so with the red-ball. They will hand over the red-ball to you one day and when that happens, never let it go’. He is made for Test cricket,” Sharma says. That Suthar is made for Test cricket isn't a tag that is placed on him for the wrong reasons or to stop him from flourishing in white-ball circuit. The reason why Dheeraj has been repeatedly in his ward's ears telling him that he's made for Test cricket is largely down to his skillset. “He is built in a classical mould. He is not someone who will bowl with a flat trajectory. He has an action and a release which is perfect for a left-arm spinner. Be it the bowling speeds, or variations, or efficiency in terms of constantly asking questions, he has it in him. White-ball is a different experience and even though he hasn't got any game time in IPL, I tell him to use the two months to learn from the rest in terms of how they prepare and read the game,” Dheeraj says.

At a time when India's spin bowling resources are thin, the selectors haven't just gone by numbers. Playing for Rajasthan, which hasn't gone beyond the group stages in recent years, means opportunities have been few. In 29 first-class outings, he has picked up 129 wickets at 25.76 — not eye-popping numbers by any means — but what has got many excited are the traits that Dheeraj listed out. “In his mind, he thinks like a Test match bowler. From a young age, he understood the value of bowling dot balls. He is a firm believer that a set of dot balls will definitely lead to batsman making a mistake. So to bowl dot balls, one needs to be consistent with his line. He is definitely not a fully-finished product, but if groomed, will serve you for long,” Dheeraj adds. With Kuldeep Yadav and Washington Sundar already part of the Test side, Suthar may have to wait for his turn like he has been doing off-late. In recent years, in Shahbaz Nadeem and Saurabh Kumar, Indian cricket has seen left-arm spinners specialised in red-ball cricket, being found to be too slow for the top level. Dheeraj, though, has no such doubts. “Woh Test cricket ke liye thayaar hai!”

What RR win over LSG would mean for qualification chances of PBKS, CSK, DC, KKR



IPL 2026 Playoff Scenarios for CSK, PBKS, RR, DC, KKR: SRH's victory over CSK has left four teams just about hanging on in the race for the last available playoff spot.

GNS News Agency, May 19

IPL 2026 Playoff Qualification Scenarios: Rajasthan Royals face Lucknow Super Giants in their penultimate league game of the 2026 Indian Premier League on Tuesday. RR and Kolkata Knight Riders are the only teams among the contenders for the final playoff spot who have two games left this season and so a victory for the Royals could have huge repercussions on the race for the top four. RR are sitting on 12 points in 12 matches with six wins and defeats each. They are one of three teams on 12 points, the other two being Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals. However, they are placed above both sides on fifth due to their net run rate of 0.027. A victory for RR over LSG today would mean that they will jump up to 14 points and thus take fourth place, pushing Punjab Kings down to fifth. LSG, meanwhile, have no bone in this fight. Sitting last with eight points in 12 matches, they are well and truly out of the

race.

Here is how a victory for RR would affect the other teams still in the race for a final playoff spot: Punjab Kings (13 points in 13 matches): If RR beat LSG, PBKS will go down to fifth place which would mark an extraordinary fall for a side that looked invincible in the first half of the league stage. Punjab looked set to become the first team to reach the playoffs at the halfway mark of the league stage itself, having not lost a single one of their first seven matches. However, they have only lost games ever since and ended up matching the number of wins they had in that first half with a sixth consecutive defeat in their previous match. With just one game left for them this season, PBKS will have to win that match and then hope that RR don't win their final game of the season.

Chennai Super Kings (12 points in 13 matches): If RR beat LSG, CSK will have to win their final game of the season by a huge margin to overturn the NRR deficit they have with the Royals. They will then have to hope that PBKS lose their final match of the season and that KKR or DC win their final game of the season by a small enough margin that CSK won't be overtaken on NRR. Delhi Capitals (12 points in 13 matches): If RR beat LSG, DC simply have to win their final game of the season and hope for favourable results from matches involving CSK and PBKS and RR's final game. Fortunately for them, they can make sure that one of those rivals of the final playoff spot don't earn any points as their last match of the season is against KKR themselves. Kolkata Knight Riders (11 points in 12 matches): If RR beat LSG, KKR will have beat DC in their final league match of the season and then hope that RR don't win their final match as well. If that happen, KKR will quite simply be mathematically ruled out as they can only reach a maximum of 15 points while RR winning their last game would put them on 16. They also need favourable results in the matches involving CSK and PBKS.

Denied work, Dileep Raj was forced to dub; wanted to retire to his farmhouse, will be buried there now



The death of Kannada actor-producer Dileep Raj at the age of 47 after suffering a heart attack has left the Kannada film industry heartbroken. To many, he was one of the finest performers Sandalwood ever produced — an actor who could effortlessly slip into layered, emotionally rich characters, yet somehow never received the recognition his talent truly deserved. Raj complained of discomfort Tuesday night and also contacted a doctor to get an appointment for Wednesday morning. He died of a heart attack before that. “It is unimaginable that he passed away. He faced many ups and downs in his career. While working in television serials, he received film offers and left TV. But things did not go as expected in films. Even after returning to serials, he continued to struggle. He sold his expensive watches and perfumes to support his family,” actor Ravi Shankar told SCREEN.

From films like Milana, Love Guru and U Turn to over a dozen television serials, with Hitler Kalyana being among his latest works, Dileep built a career that audiences admired deeply. But behind the performances was an actor who often felt the industry had never fully tapped into his potential. Ironically, while he still waited for the “big role” he believed he deserved, Dileep had already begun planning retirement. His dream was simple — to step away from the chaos of the industry at 50 and settle down at the farmhouse he had lovingly built over the years in Ramanagara, the same place where legendary filmmaker Ramesh Sippy shot Sholay for nearly two years.

How Dileep Raj became an actor Before cinema happened, Dileep was just another carefree college student, unsure about life but naturally drawn towards performance. He believed choreography might someday become his profession because dance came instinctively to him. But destiny had different plans. During his college days, he happened to meet Nandita, who was involved in a stage play. Dileep was initially cast in a side role, but when the lead actor suddenly fell ill, he stepped in at the last minute. That one performance changed his life forever. Despite having only one play to his credit, he won the Best Actor award. The recognition opened the doors of television for him, eventually leading to his role in the serial Kambada Mane. Recalling those early days in an interview with Rapid Rashmi, Dileep once shared, “I received a call from the bank and they handed over Rs 500 to me. I first thought they had made a mistake, then I was told it was payment for my role in the show. From that moment onwards, I started considering acting as a serious career option.”

When Dileep Raj said ‘talent alone was not enough’

Television soon made him a familiar face, but cinema never embraced him the way it did actors like Ganesh and Yash, who also transitioned from television to become mainstream superstars. Over time, Dileep painfully realised that talent alone was not enough to survive in the film industry. “A lot of people ask me, ‘You have all the talent

and skill needed to become successful, then why haven’t you made it big?’ Earlier, I believed talent and effort were enough. Today, I surrender to luck. Luck plays a very important role. Work never came to me consistently,” he had admitted candidly.

When Ambareesh felt Kannada industry was not utilising Dileep Raj’s talent

Even veteran actor Ambareesh once questioned why the industry had failed to utilise Dileep properly. The actor recalled how Ambareesh watched his performance in Ambi Ning Vayassaytho and was stunned to learn he had already spent nearly two decades in the industry. “Has nobody been giving you work? They are not utilising your talent,” Ambareesh had reportedly told him. Dileep often reflected on how his career moved in frustrating cycles. After films like Boyfriend, Milana, Love Guru and Gaana Bajana performed well, many believed he would finally become a major star. But the breakthrough never truly arrived. “I received good characters, but not frequent work,” he had said. According to him, one reason could have been the lack of a “Godfather” or a major production house backing him at a time when such support mattered immensely. Another factor, he believed, was the tag of being a television actor. “Serials are discussed in kitchens and living rooms, but film conversations happen at auto stands and tea shops. Television actors rarely cross that barrier,” he had once explained. When Dileep Raj turned into a dubbing artist, producer

Determined to survive and stay relevant, Dileep constantly reinvented himself. He became a dubbing artist, beginning with Jogi starring Shiva Rajkumar. What started out of curiosity eventually became another steady stream of work. Later, after briefly working behind the scenes with Colors Kannada as Fiction Head, he launched his own production house in 2014 with his wife managing the business side while he handled the creative vision. He not only acted and produced content but also directed several shows himself, especially during the early years. One of his proudest achievements remained Majaa Bharatha, a comedy reality show he produced and directed for 52 episodes almost single-handedly. “In 24 hours, I barely slept for two. I would lock scripts, polish them, produce and direct them,” he had recalled. But for Dileep, production was never merely about business. “When we enter acting, we come with dreams about the kind of stories and roles we want to do. If those opportunities don’t come to us, sometimes we create them for others,” he had beautifully explained. Yet, despite everything, the hunger to act never faded. “No matter what I do, I am still waiting to do acting,” he once confessed. Dileep Raj wanted to retire at 50 and settle in his farmhouse. As he grew older, Dileep began valuing peace over ambition. He often spoke about how money had slowly lost importance in his life. “I worked hard to enjoy life, not to keep accumulating wealth. I simply want to retire at 50,” he had shared. His farmhouse in Ramanagara was meant to be that final destination — a quiet life surrounded by antiques, greenery and peace alongside his wife. “Whenever I go there, I never feel like returning,” he had once said fondly.

Till his very last breath, Dileep Raj remained active in the industry he entered in 1997, still hoping for roles worthy of his talent. In another interview with Namma KFI, he had poignantly said, “The industry has not used me to my full capacity yet. Maybe because I don’t have strong PR. I come, do my character, and disappear.” Today, as tributes pour in from fans and colleagues alike, one sentiment echoes repeatedly — Kannada cinema may have lost an exceptional actor long before it truly realised his worth. According to TV9 Kannada, the actor will now be laid to rest at the very farmhouse where Dileep Raj had dreamt of spending his retired life after turning 50.

Iulia Vantur walks the Cannes red carpet, blows flying kisses.



It’s that time of the year again, Cannes time. The 79th edition of the festival opened on Monday at the iconic Grand Theatre Lumiere, with India being prominently represented by Alia Bhatt, whose presence is lighting up social media, and newly appointed IFFI director Ashutosh Gowariker. Among the stars walking the red carpet was Romanian actress-turned-singer Iulia Vantur, who has lent her voice to songs like “Selfish,” “Veere,” and, more recently, “Tere Sang.”

She took to Instagram to share a reel featuring snapshots from her appearance at the prestigious film festival. The video shows her taking selfies with fans, posing for photographers, blowing kisses, and climbing the iconic festival stairs. She also posed alongside her co-star Deepak Tijori for their short film Echoes of Us, which brought them to Cannes. In the caption, she wrote: “A magical evening at the opening of one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, Cannes Film Festival. It feels so good to be here, to showcase our film ‘Echoes Of Us,’ which has had an unbelievable journey itself. We were honoured to come as a team and to be together on this special evening, on the red carpet. Grateful.”

Just a few months ago, Iulia spoke about the song Tere Sang, marking her first collaboration with renowned singer Arijit Singh, who has recently retired from playback

singing. She shared with Bollywood Bubble about visiting Arijit’s village, describing it as peaceful and charming: “We actually went to his gaon. It was beautiful. It was amazing. I love all those small shops when we were passing by car. You could see the merchants and the tailors and everyone doing their crafts and all. It was very nice, actually. And it’s a beautiful atmosphere there. These surroundings, he made them in a way that it felt so safe and warm. It’s his universe, and it’s such a beautiful universe. He’s all about music, people, community, and helping.”

Varun Dhawan, Samay Raina’s hilarious gym banter over ‘Wow’ wins fans online

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan and comedian Samay Raina recently shared a fun behind-the-scenes moment from their gym time, further giving fans a glimpse of their light-hearted camaraderie around Varun’s latest song, ‘Wow.’

In a video shared by Varun on his social media account, the actor was seen singing the opening lines of his upcoming movie Huai Jawaani Toh Ishq Hona Hai’s latest track ‘Wow,’ further expecting Samay to join in with the main hook line. However, Samay, in his own hilariously dramatic and sarcastic way, had his own take on the song’s promotions. As Varun started singing, Samay jokingly responded, “Bro, this way it won’t work,” hinting at Varun’s song promotion strategy.

When Varun asked why, the comedian quickly added, “If it’s a good song, it’ll work.” The candid exchange left Varun amused who said, “Oh I thought it will only work this way.” Talking about Wow, the peppy dance number features Varun Dhawan alongside Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde.

Varun has been going all out in promoting the song. Recently, he had performed a peppy and fun dance performance on Wow along with Sanya Malhotra.

The track is a part of the upcoming romantic comedy Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, directed by veteran filmmaker David Dhawan. The movie is set to mark yet another father-son collaboration between David and Varun.

‘CM Vijay a matter of pride,’ says Kamal Haasan a day after Rajinikanth refused comment



Vijay has stepped into the role of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and his colleagues from the film industry are cheering him on as he takes on the new responsibilities. On Wednesday, actor Kamal Haasan was spotted at the Chennai airport, and as the actor tried to make his way in, he was asked about Vijay’s new role. Kamal did not hesitate to extend his support to Vijay and applauded his order to close 717 liquor shops. Kamal said, as shared by ANI, “My congratulations to the new government of Tamil Nadu. The closure of 717 liquor shops is a welcome move. It has been discussed for a long time and has now been implemented. It is appreciable.”

Kamal then added that now, Vijay is not just a film star, and has many other responsibilities. He pointed out that Vijay’s win proves that anyone can join politics from any field. “We should not just see Vijay as a film star. He has other responsibilities as well. Anyone can come to politics from any field. It is a matter of pride that Vijay has come to power from our industry,” he said. Kamal had previously applauded Vijay on Tuesday when he congratulated him on closing 717 liquor shops near places

of worship and educational institutions. He wrote on X, “Even as the expectation of Tamil families was that liquor retail shops near places of worship, educational institutions, and bus stands should be removed, Hon’ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Brother Vijay @TVKVijayHQ has taken this action immediately upon assuming office. Liquor sales should never be a function of the government; the government must take responsibility for regulating the flow of alcohol. The Tamil Nadu government must move towards this position. Today, it has begun by closing 717 liquor shops. This number must be increased. This action must be continued. Congratulations.”

Kamal had also congratulated Vijay after he was sworn in as the Chief Minister on Sunday, May 10. “May the state of Tamil Nadu shine under the leadership of the president of the Tamil Nadu Victory League, the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, my brother Thiru. Vijay @TVKVijayHQ. May it reach new heights. I convey my heartfelt congratulations,” he wrote. Vijay announced his retirement from films a while ago and declared that Jana Nayagan would be his last film. The film was scheduled to release in January but was postponed just days before the release as it could not secure its CBFC certificate. The film is still awaiting a release date. Kamal has been actively involved in politics since 2018 when he launched his political party Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM). The actor is currently a member of Rajya Sabha. Kamal was last seen in the 2025 Mani Ratnam film Thug Life, which was poorly received. He is now looking forward to Indian 3, his reunion with Rajinikanth titled KHxRK, and the sequel of Kalki 2898 AD. Interestingly, superstar Rajinikanth had refused comment on Vijay’s ascension on Tuesday. The actor was asked by reporters about Vijay becoming the Tamil Nadu CM but Rajinikanth offered no comment. He smiled, folded his hands and walked away. He had, however, wished Vijay after his win on May 4. “My congratulations to Thiru Vijay, President

‘Wasted 17 years on three stupid marriages’: Meera Vasudevan on regaining control of life

Meera Vasudevan talks about her three failed marriages While Meera Vasudevan has been on a consistent professional journey, her personal life hasn’t been as colourful. (Credit: Instagram/@officialmeerasvasudevan)

The impact of cinema is such that one solid performance or a notable appearance in one great movie is enough to imprint an actor’s face in the minds of the masses forever. Even after many decades, the audience will still remember these artistes and their work in those projects. Meera Vasudevan is a fine example of this. Although she has done quite a few movies since then, Meera is still remembered for her performance in director Blessy’s

Thanmathra (2005). Revolving around a man diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and its effects on him and his family, Thanmathra starred Mohanlal and Meera in the lead roles. One of the most acclaimed tearjerkers in 21st-century Malayalam cinema, the tragic drama and her portrayal of Lekha Ramesan in it earned her widespread fame. Although she couldn’t capitalise on the acclaim going forward and soar as a formidable thespian, the Mumbai-born actor is still active in Malayalam show business, appearing in movies and soap operas. While she has been on a consistent professional journey, her personal life hasn’t been as colourful, marked by three failed marriages.

OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT

First Phase of Census 2027

Houselisting and Housing Census

Census: A Guarantee of Privacy Your Information is Completely Secure

- Full confidentiality under the Census Act, 1948
- Encrypted data on secure servers
- Only aggregate figures are published in reports
- Name and address are never shared with anyone
- Not used for tax, policing or investigation purposes

Trust and Participation

- Give correct information
- Give information without fear
- Support the nation’s development

REST ASSURED

Your Information

- Will remain secure
- Will remain confidential
- Will be used only for Nation-Building

Let us fulfill our responsibility and participate in the Census

TOLL FREE - 1855

CensusIndia2027

CBC-19108/13/0091/2627