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Due process must not be bypassed

UTTAR Pradesh has witnessed, on average, five encounters every day under Yogi Adityanath's rule over the past nine years. According to the state government, the encounters have led to the killing of 289 "hardened criminals", while around 12,000 have been injured. These striking figures have reignited the debate about trigger-happy cops and the limits of state power. The BJP dispensation portrays these encounters as evidence of a "zero-tolerance" policy against criminal elements. As per the National Crime Records Bureau's latest report, UP's crime rate is 180.2 per one lakh population – far lower than the national average of 252.3. The relentless crack-down has apparently weakened organised crime networks, but the means employed to achieve this goal have come under scrutiny. There is no denying that public safety is a vital responsibility of the state. Citizens expect swift action against extortionists, gangsters and other hardcore offenders. Cops are authorised to use force in self-defence, but the celebration of encounters as a governance model raises serious constitutional concerns. The Allahabad High Court's remarks about the growing trend of accused persons being shot in the legs suggest a troubling normalisation of extra-judicial methods. The HC rightly reminded the state in January this year that punishment was the exclusive domain of courts, not the police. In a democracy governed by the rule of law, even the most dreaded criminal possesses constitutional rights. The Supreme Court's 2014 guidelines were framed precisely to curb fake encounters and misuse of police power. Mandatory FIRs, independent investigations, magisterial inquiries and transparent documentation are important safeguards to ensure justice.

Foundation Stone Laid for Development Works Worth 8.36 Crore in Ramanthapur and Venkat Reddy Nagar Divisions: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



“UPPAL , MAY 20(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for several development works worth ₹8.36 crore in the Ramanthapur and Venkat Reddy Nagar divisions of the Uppal constituency. “The proposed works, being taken up at an estimated cost of ₹8.36 crore, are expected to provide permanent solutions to several long-pending civic problems faced by local residents. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the Uppal constituency is being developed comprehensively in all sectors. He stated that issues related to roads, drainage, rainwater stagnation, lake protection, and basic civic infrastructure in colonies are being addressed in a phased manner. “As part of the development initiatives, major works include the construction of a box culvert near Ravinder Nagar in Venkat Reddy Nagar, a major box drain near Chinna Cheruvu in Indira Nagar, reconstruction of storm water drains in Old Ramanthapur and Netaji Nagar areas, and construction of a box drain from Vasavi Nagar to the STP. “Social infrastructure works will also be undertaken, including construction of a shed, painting and flooring works in Bhavani Nagar, construction of a storeroom at Ambedkar Seva Sangham, repair and painting of the compound wall at Rajendra Nagar crematorium, and construction of a waiting hall and store-room near the Eidgah in Indira Nagar. “Giving special priority to road development, the MLA announced construction of a CC road from Madhura Nagar to Vivek Nagar, another CC road from Sai Ram Convent School to Yadaiah Hotel, CC roads in several streets of Ram Reddy Nagar, and road development works in Sai Krishna Colony. “Among the major allocations, ₹1.99 crore has been earmarked for the box drain from Vasavi Nagar to the STP, while ₹98 lakh has been allocated for the box drain near Chinna Cheruvu in Indira Nagar. Residents expressed happiness over the allocation of substantial funds for CC roads and drainage infrastructure.”

“Resolving public issues is our primary goal. We are committed to providing essential infrastructure facilities in every colony. There will be no compromise on the quality of development works, and all projects will be completed at the earliest for public use,” the MLA said. “GHMC officials including DE Vennela Kumar and EE Swetha participated in the programme along with BRS leaders Pasula Prabhakar Reddy, Gantham Nageswara Rao, Dr. B.V. Chari, Ramasahayam Srinivas Reddy, Sooram Shankar, Chand Pasha, Jahangir, Prashanth Goud, Muthyala Madhu, Manish, Shankar Anna, Sameer, Mahender, Vempati Srinu, Salar, Maruthi, Munna, and Prem Lakshmi, among others.

Ayuna Zoha receives twin Pratibha Puraskars

TMRIES student scores 572 out of 600 in SSC examination.



KARIMNAGAR May 20 (Correspondent): Student Ayuna Zoha of TMRIES Girls-I, Karimnagar, has been honoured with two Pratibha Puraskars for her outstanding performance in the Class 10 examinations, in which she secured 572 marks out of 600. She was first presented the award by the I Foundation at a function held at Kala Bharathi Auditorium in Hyderabad. School Principal Monica Soni attended the programme. Later, the district administration felicitated the student with another Pratibha Puraskar at a separate event organised at the Collectorate auditorium in Karimnagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayuna Zoha attributed her achievement to the encouragement and guidance extended by her parents, teachers and school management. Principal Monica Soni said the student bringing home two consecutive awards was a matter of pride for the institution and reflected the academic standards maintained by TMRIES institutions. TMRIES Secretary B. Shafiullah, District In-charge Abdul Subhan and Regional Level Coordinator Ramesh Laal Hatkar congratulated the student and the school staff on the achievement. The student's success has brought cheer to the institution, which has continued to register commendable academic results.

Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy has been selected as a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted to examine the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026.

“Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (may 20)“Chevella Lok Sabha Constituency Member of Parliament (MP) Konda Vishweshwar Reddy has been appointed as a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee formed to examine the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill–2026. An official announcement to this effect was released in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II on May 19, 2026. “This joint committee, comprising members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, will thoroughly examine the proposed amendments to corporate laws and submit recommendations to Parliament. “The inclusion of Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy in this prestigious committee is seen as recognition of his experience, understanding of parliamentary affairs, and his active role in public issues. “The committee will study key aspects such as corporate governance, ease of doing business, investor protection, and strengthening of the regulatory system, and submit a report. “Lok Sabha Member Shri Sudhir Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of this Joint Committee.



Roads Development Works Worth 10 Crore Launched in Uppal Bhagayat-

-Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Inspects Ongoing Works“UPPAL , MAY 20(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy on Wednesday inspected the road development works being undertaken in HMDA Bhagayat area of Uppal at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore. “Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that residents of Bhagayat had been waiting for proper roads for many years. “During the rainy season, the roads turned muddy, and during summer, people suffered due to dust. After the Congress government came to power, priority has been given to resolving public issues. Road development works worth ₹10 crore have now been taken up through HMDA funds. We have clearly instructed contractors and officials not to compromise on quality under any circumstances,” she said. “She also outlined several upcoming development initiatives planned for the area, including the construction of a multi-level sports complex for youth, a community hall for local residents to conduct social and family functions, and phased development of parks, drainage systems, and street lighting facilities. “Rajitha further stated that every issue in the Bhagayat area would be brought to the attention of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy



and assured residents that Bhagayat would be transformed into a model colony within the Uppal constituency. “Several local leaders and residents participated in the programme, including Eega Santosh, Nidhanakavi Sudhakar, Poojala Prabhakar, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Thummala Devi Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Alugula Anil Kumar, Bal Reddy, Alwala Bhaskar, Dinne Bhim Sen, Pastam Sriramulu, Eega Naveen, and Malpelli Chandra Reddy.

Basti Bata Program Conducted in Kummari Kunta and New Ram Nagar Colonies: Chilukanagar Division Congress President Mulukalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj



“UPPAL , MAY 20 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “Under the directions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Chilukanagar Division Congress Party President Mulukalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj organized a “Basti Bata” outreach program in Kummari Kunta and New Ram Nagar colonies. “During the program, representations regarding local civic issues were

received from colony residents. Rajesh Mudiraj spoke with the concerned officials and explained the problems being faced by the people in detail. The officials reportedly responded positively and assured that permanent solutions to the issues would be provided soon. “Speaking on the occasion, Mulukalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj said that the people's government is taking special initiative to resolve public grievances. He stated that the “Basti Bata” program is being conducted under the guidance of Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. “He further said that the objective of the program is to identify local problems faced by residents, bring them to the notice of officials, and ensure their resolution. “Among those who participated in the program were Chilukanagar Division Congress Party In-charge Akati Agam Reddy, A-Block Women President Amareshwari, Division Congress Party General Secretary Nallavelli Mahender, Pallati Krishnaiah, Rebel Bhaskar, Fayoom, Anoop, Vamsi, Kiran, Sandeep, and several colony residents.

Deepthi Mahila Samithi leads Swachhta drive at NTPC Ramagundam

Peddapalli: Deepthi Mahila Samithi (DMS) in Ramagundam participated in a Swachhta drive held in the NTPC township on Wednesday. Inaugurating the drive, DMS president Rakhi Samanta emphasised the importance of sustained cleanliness practices and encouraged everyone to adopt Swachhta as a daily habit rather than as a one-time activity.

Elvino Café Inaugurated at Uppal Bhagayat by Former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



“UPPAL , MAY 20 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy on Wednesday inaugurated the newly established “Elvino Café” at Uppal Bhagayat by cutting the ribbon. “Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that Uppal is rapidly developing and expressed happiness over the establishment of cafés that not only provide employment opportunities to youth but also offer a pleasant environment for the public. “She conveyed her best wishes to the management and hoped that Elvino Café would earn a good reputation in Uppal and achieve steady growth in business. “She congratulated the café management members Anil, Prem, Ranjith, Anil, Jaswa, and Sridhar, and later visited the café premises. “Several local leaders and guests including Bandi Mallareddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Tummala Reddy, Varakala Madan Goud, Bheem Seen, Venkatesh, Chandra Reddy, and Prashanth Reddy participated in the inauguration programme.

Cordon search in Indiramma Colony, Tandur town



“Indian Chronicle Tandur(may 20)“Police conducted a cordon search in Indiramma Colony of Tandur town on Wednesday. Under the supervision of Tandur DSP Narsing Yadaiah, along with the town and rural CIs and 50 police personnel, they combed every house. “During the inspections, vehicles without proper documents, 31 outdated vehicles, and five autos were identified and seized. The DSP stated that the searches were carried out as per the orders of the District SP to curb rising crimes in society and to instill confidence among the public. “The DSP said that since the prime accused in the recent Moinabad farmhouse elderly women murder case is from Indiramma Colony, locals were in a state of fear and panic. Hence, this cordon search was undertaken to remove the fear among the public and to instill courage. “On this occasion, the police gave several key instructions to the public. They advised people to immediately inform the police if any new/unknown persons are found roaming in the colony. They also asked the public to be cautious about cyber crimes. The DSP urged people to remain vigilant regarding strangers and requested public cooperation with the police to maintain law and order in the colony.

People Should Cooperate with Enumerators Visiting Homes:



“Census Supervisor Padmavathi““Wanaparthy correspondent, May 20, (Indian Chronicle):“As the house listing process has been continuing in the district from the 11th of this month, Census Supervisor Padmavathi of Wards 18 and 19 urged residents to cooperate with enumerators visiting households and provide accurate information. On Wednesday, as part of the house listing programme in Ward No. 19, she participated along with enumerators and explained to homeowners the details related to information collection. She informed residents that, as part of the house enumeration process, details regarding the condition of the house, type of construction, number of rooms, drinking water facilities, toilets, electricity, cooking fuel, vehicles, and internet connectivity would be collected. Information related to household items such as mobile phones, televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines would also be recorded. Enumerators Gandham Prasad, Yadagiri, Sudhakar, Balakrishna, and others associated with the respective wards participated in the programme.

Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Awareness Program Held in Venkat Reddy Nagar Colony

Uppal Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel Participates



the Cyber Crime Helpline Number – 1930 and urged victims of cyber fraud to report incidents immediately without delay. During the program, speakers highlighted the importance of installing CCTV cameras in colonies and individual houses to improve security, prevent crimes, and assist police during investigations. Colony leaders Ragi Venkat Reddy, Somayya Goud, Shiva Goud, Kanakayya, Harish Chari, Mallayya, Raghu, Srinu, Kishore, Bhanu, Krishna, Pottelu Paramesh, and several colony residents actively participated in the awareness program. Residents thanked the police officials for conducting such a useful initiative. The residents of Venkat Reddy Nagar Colony appreciated the efforts of Uppal Police and stated that such awareness programs are essential for ensuring public safety and welfare.

Rice Millers Must Unload Paddy Quickly

District Collector Adarsh Surabhi Wanaparthi, correspondent, May 20, (Indian Chronicle): District Collector Adarsh Surabhi directed rice millers to ensure speedy unloading of paddy-loaded lorries without making farmers wait for long periods. He also made it clear that no deductions should be imposed on paddy procurement. On Wednesday, the Collector visited Sai Gopala Industries in Pebburu mandal and inspected the paddy unloading process. He also inspected IKP procurement centre at Pathapalli and the MEPMA paddy procurement centre located near Chelimela village. During the inspection, the Collector issued several key instructions to rice millers. He stressed that paddy-laden vehicles should be unloaded promptly to avoid delays and inconvenience to farmers. He observed that farmers are supplying paddy with moisture levels lower than the prescribed limit and instructed millers not to impose any deductions on the produce. The Collector directed officials and millers to speed up the unloading process and clear lorries waiting at mills and warehouses as quickly as possible. He instructed millers to immediately send truck sheets through WhatsApp to PPC in-charges so that tablet entries can be completed quickly, enabling faster payment transfers into farmers' bank accounts. At Pathapalli and Chelimela procurement centres, the Collector inspected paddy registration records and advised officials to check moisture levels promptly, weigh the produce without delay, and ensure farmers are not kept waiting unnecessarily. He also instructed officials to create aware-



ness among farmers to bring cleaned paddy to procurement centres, stating that this would help avoid any possibility of deductions by millers. When farmers informed the Collector about a shortage of transport vehicles, he assured them that additional lorries would be arranged to resolve the issue. He advised farmers not to worry about paddy transportation and instructed procurement centre in-charges to keep tarpaulins ready to protect farmers from inconvenience in case of rain. District Civil Supplies Officer Kashi Vishwanath, MPDO Praveen, revenue officials, and other officers accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Welcomes Supreme Court Verdict on Caste Enumeration in Census

: TPCC President MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud has welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict supporting the inclusion of caste enumeration in the national census process. He stated that the Congress party has consistently been demanding a comprehensive caste census as an essential step towards addressing deep-rooted social and economic inequalities in the country. Mahesh Kumar Goud recalled that Leader of Opposition had strongly advocated for caste enumeration during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, taking the issue to people across the nation and emphasising that a caste census is crucial for achieving social justice. He said that a scientific and transparent caste census is indispensable to ensure justice and equitable opportunities for backward

and marginalised communities in proportion to their population. The TPCC President further noted that the caste survey undertaken in Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister, with the coordinated efforts of ministers and public representatives, had emerged as a successful and exemplary exercise. He stated that the Telangana government conducted the survey in a transparent and methodical manner, setting an example for the rest of the country. Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasised that caste enumeration would play a key role in ensuring social justice, equal opportunities and fair distribution of welfare benefits. He urged the Union Government to adopt the Telangana model and undertake a nationwide comprehensive caste census in the larger interests of social equity and inclusive governance.

No More Delay on Journalists' Issues.

- Resolve the problems at least now. - TWJF President Mamidi Somaiah demands action from the State Government. Appeals for a positive decision in the State Cabinet meeting. KHAMMAM, 20 MAY (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) State President Mamidi Somaiah has demanded that the long-pending issues of journalists be discussed and resolved in the State Cabinet meeting scheduled for May 23. He stated that nearly thirty cabinet meetings have been held in the two years since the Congress government came to power, but not a single meeting has discussed journalists' issues. He urged the Chief Minister to at least take up the major concerns of journalists in the upcoming cabinet meeting and resolve them. Somaiah said that even after two years of the government being formed, the process of issuing new accreditation cards has not been completed. He pointed out that within four months of issuing GO 252, there have already been three amendments, six objections, and court cases, causing the accreditation card process to move at a snail's pace. He also stated that the issue of house sites for journalists remains unresolved. Due to the absence of health cards, many journalists suffering from health problems are unable to receive treatment in private and corporate hospitals, resulting in loss of lives, he expressed with concern. He criticized the government for not clearing advertisement bill payments issued to small and medium newspapers over the last two years. Not only have pending bills remained unpaid, but government advertisements have also reportedly been stopped. Because of this, many small and medium newspapers are facing severe financial difficulties, and several are on the verge of closure, he said. Somaiah alleged that after the formation of Telangana State, the previous government had "played with the lives of journalists" for nine and a half years and suppressed small and medium newspapers. He criticized the current government for allegedly following the same approach. He further stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had promised a new media policy for journalists' welfare, house sites for all eligible journalists, accreditation cards, and health insurance cards. However, according to Somaiah, none of these promises have been implemented even after two years. He appealed to the government not



to discriminate against journalists and to resolve their issues positively. He also requested that eligible journalists in the state capital be allotted house sites quickly, without discrimination, disputes, or technical complications.

Historical Heritage Must Be Preserved Research by Kotha Telangana Historical Team

KHAMMAM, NELAKONDAPALLI, 20 MAY (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : There are traces of very ancient history in Nelakondapalli Mandal. Evidence dating back thousands and even lakhs of years should be brought to the attention of the world. As part of this, ancient stone structures that are believed to be thousands of years old still exist on the hill located along the road from Painampalli to Cheruvumadaram. Such structures must be protected and preserved. These constructions are important for future generations to understand historical aspects and significance. There are also signs indicating the existence of pre-historic humans in the area, including pits dug for stone tools and water storage pits. Kotha Telangana Historical Team State Convener Katta Srinivas and member Pasumarthi Srinivas personally visited the site and stated in a media release that further research on these historical remains is necessary.

Green Signal for Modernization of Warangal Regional Eye Hospital

Minister Konda Surekha Expansion to 100 Beds; 1.73 Crores Sanctioned for State-of-the-Art Equipment

"Warangal, May 20 (Indian Chronicle) : Minister for Forests, Environment, and Endowments, Konda Surekha, stated that making corporate-level medical services accessible to the common people is the government's top priority. As part of achieving this objective, she announced that key decisions have been taken to further strengthen the Warangal Regional Eye Hospital (REH). Accompanied by Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju and Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada, the Minister inaugurated newly constructed internal CC (Concrete) roads within the hospital premises, built at a cost of 775 lakhs. Speaking at the subsequent Hospital Development Committee meeting, the Minister assured that the Regional Eye Hospital would be transformed into a center equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, and that she would ensure there is absolutely no shortage of staff or essential medical equipment. She stated that appropriate measures are being implemented to develop this hospital into a primary referral center for patients arriving from surrounding districts. She issued a stern warning that any negligence in duties by staff members appointed through agencies would not be tolerated under any circumstances. She also directed officials to install awareness boards informing patients arriving from remote areas that free Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) bus services are available for commuting to the hospital. Furthermore, she suggested intensifying awareness campaigns to instill greater public confidence in hospital services and emphasized the need to prominently highlight patient success stories. The Minister also recommended integrating yoga training into the medical protocol to encourage normal deliveries. The committee decided to increase the hospital's current bed capacity from 75 to 100. As part of the expansion—specifically in the third phase—the number of specialized units dedicated to the treatment of corneal conditions, glaucoma, retinal disorders, and strabismus (squint) is set to increase from four to six. Approval has been granted to procure state-of-the-art medical equipment worth 1.73 crore through the Aarogyasri Revolving Fund. To enhance safety, sanitation, and patient care, the number of support staff members will be increased from 32 to 62. Vacant technical and non-technical positions



are to be filled on a contract basis. As a means of augmenting the Hospital Development Committee's funds, the committee also discussed undertaking the construction of commercial shops within the hospital premises. KSK Prasad, Executive Engineer at TGMISDC, stated that estimates for repair and civil works are currently being prepared. It is anticipated that once the expansion works are completed, significantly improved and high-quality ophthalmic care services will become available to the people of the Warangal region.

Medical Shops Bandh Successful Across the Country

KHAMMAM, NELAKONDAPALLI, 20 MAY (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : The nationwide bandh (shutdown) of medical shops was successfully observed. Speaking on the occasion, Medical Shop Association representative Pasupuleti Upendar stated that the exploitative pricing policies of corporate companies are having a severe impact on the established medicine distribution system. He expressed concern that the movement is being carried out to protect pharmacies and safeguard public health. He demanded that the illegal activities in the pharmacy sector be stopped immediately and called for an end to the unfair pricing policies adopted by large companies. He further stated that these practices are not only threatening the survival of small and large chemists but are also posing serious risks to public health. The medical shop owners observed the bandh in support of several demands. Medical shop representatives P. Venkateswara Rao, Suresh, Jagadeesh, Fareed Baba,



Uday, Sai Baba, V. Narayana Rao, Ramprasad, Kailasapu Gopi, and others participated in the programme.

CM Revanth Reddy to lay foundation stone of Vedic school at Temple City in Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Kshetra on 23rd of this month

(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle..May 20):- On the occasion of Telangana State Chief Minister Ennumula Revanth Reddy visiting Yadagirigutta Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Kshetra on 23rd of this month to lay the foundation stone of Vedic school at Temple City, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanthi has instructed the concerned officials to be on alert and complete the arrangements in a proper manner. During the Chief Minister's visit to the Collectorate Conference Hall on Wednesday, District Collector Anurag Jayanthi, District SP Akshansh Yadav, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao, Additional Collector of Revenue Venka Reddy, Additional SP Lakshminarayana held a review meeting with district level officials. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector reviewed the arrangements of the Police, Revenue Department, District Rural Development Department, EER&B, SC Irrigation, Transport, Electricity, Fire, Panchayat, EEE Panchayat Raj, Medical Department, Transco, Horticulture DPRO, Civil Supply, Traffic and other departments. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector said that the officials of various departments should complete the arrangements in a coordinated manner. The Temple requested that all arrangements be made at the venue. He instructed the R&B officials to make all arrangements for the helipad at Temple City, the police department officials to make security arrangements, law and order, full police force, and a large-scale cordon, the fire department to make fire equipment and services available, the health department to make necessary medical arrangements, the R&B officials to complete road repairs quickly, and the municipality and district panchayat departments to pay special attention to these arrangements. District SP Akshansh Yadav said that all the officials should be alert and work in coordination. He said that all arrangements should be completed for the foundation stone laying at the Veda school. Later, District Collector Anurag Jayanti held a meeting with the concerned officials on Bakrid arrangements, grain purchase, Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR), census, etc. The District Collector said that since the holy festival of Bakrid is on the 28th of this month, he ordered the concerned officials to set up basic facilities at the Eidgahs. Keeping the festival in mind, he said that the officials of the concerned departments should perform their duties in coordination with each other without any problems. He said that basic facilities like strong sanitation, fresh water and electricity should be provided at the mosques. District SP Akshansh Yadav said that special arrangements should be made at the Eidgahs and advance measures should be taken without traffic disruption. He said that all facilities would be provided at the mosques on the day of Bakrid. He wanted to increase the speed of grain purchase and transportation. He wanted to complete the canta process at the grain purchase centers quickly. He wanted to load the purchased grain quickly and transport it to the mills by hiring enough porters. He ordered the mandal tahsildars to continuously



monitor the performance of the BLOs in the Special Comprehensive Amendment (SIR) mapping process and complete the mapping in accordance with the targets. He wanted to work with transparency in accurate verification and correct data entry. As part of the first phase of Census-2027, it was ordered that the house-to-house survey be conducted in a proper and transparent manner. He ordered that the details of each family be collected and recorded properly. It was clarified that all the details should be kept confidential. ZP CEO Shobharani, Revenue Divisional Officers Krishna Reddy, Sekhar Reddy, DRDA Nagi Reddy, Police Officers, Tahsildars, Municipal Commissioners, and District Officers of the concerned departments participated in this program.

Police Commissioner conducts surprise inspections at jewellery showrooms and hotels in Karimnagar

Managements asked to strengthen security measures and ensure proper functioning of CCTV systems.



KARIMNAGAR May 20 (Correspondent): Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam conducted surprise inspections at jewellery showrooms, lodges and hotels in

Karimnagar on Wednesday as part of efforts to strengthen law and order and prevent criminal activities in the city. Additional DCP Venkataramana, ACPs Venkataswamy, Venugopal and Vasala Satish, Inspector Ramchander Rao and other police officials participated in the inspections.

During the visits, the Police Commissioner instructed jewellery showroom managements to enhance security arrangements by deploying trained security personnel and installing Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) and Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) at entry points. Mr. Alam also directed the managements to install emergency alarm systems at multiple locations inside the establishments to enable immediate communication with the police during emergencies. Hotel and lodge operators were asked to collect Aadhaar cards or other valid government identity proofs from guests while allotting rooms and verify the phone numbers furnished by them. They were instructed to immediately alert the police in case of any suspicious activity. The Commissioner stressed the need for uninterrupted functioning of CCTV cameras in commercial establishments and hotels and said the surveillance systems should maintain clear footage with adequate backup support. Appealing to business establishments to cooperate with the police in maintaining public safety, Mr. Alam warned that strict legal action would be initiated against those found violating prescribed security norms.

Congress Erupts in Protest Over Fuel Price Hike Effigy of Prime Minister Burnt



“Hanumakonda, May 20 (Indian Chronicle) : Protesting the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, the Warangal West Constituency unit of the Indian National Congress staged a massive demonstration in Hanumakonda on Wednesday. Party cadres took out a rally from the DCC Bhavan to Ashoka Junction, carrying an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi while raising slogans against the Central Government. The protest culminated in the burning of the effigy as a mark of dissent. “Addressing the gathering, Congress leaders alleged that the Centre had imposed an additional financial burden on citizens by hiking fuel prices immediately after the elections. They pointed out that despite a decline in crude oil prices in the international market, domestic fuel prices continue to rise — a reflection, they said, of policy failure at the national level. “The leaders further accused the Bharatiya Janata Party government of prioritizing corporate interests over the welfare of common people. They noted that the ripple effect of rising fuel



prices has led to an increase in the cost of essential commodities, severely impacting the middle class and economically weaker sections. From farmers to auto drivers, every section of society is grappling with the consequences of the price surge, they added. “Criticizing the government for failing to deliver on its promises made under the slogan of “Acche Din,” the leaders demanded an immediate rollback of the fuel price hike.

They asserted that the agitation would continue until the Centre acknowledges public distress and brings down fuel prices. “Among those present at the protest were District Library Chairman Aziz Khan, former Floor Leader Thota Venkateshwarlu, corporators Jakkula Ravinder Yadav, Pothula Sriman, Madhavi, District Mahila President Banka Sarala, and leaders Nayini Laxma Reddy, Banka Sampath, Thautam Ravinder, Aluwala Karthik, Thota Pawan, Gunti Swapna, Sagarika Division presidents, party leaders, and activists.

Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai reviews sanitation measures in Karimnagar

Officials asked to strengthen drainage cleaning and expedite public toilet works.



KARIMNAGAR May 20 (Correspondent): Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai conducted inspections of sanitation and drainage works in several parts of Karimnagar city on Wednesday and directed officials to strengthen cleanliness measures and improve civic amenities. As part

of the municipal sanitation drive, the Commissioner visited Vavilalapalli in the 51st Division, Kaman, Adarsh Nagar and the Agricultural Beat Market, where he reviewed sanitation conditions and inspected ongoing civic works.

During the inspection at Vavilalapalli, local corporator Bandari Venu brought to the Commissioner’s notice the issue of open defecation and garbage dumping in vacant plots. Mr. Desai instructed sanitation officials and field staff to take immediate steps to address unhygienic conditions and prevent dumping of waste in open spaces. At Kaman, the Commissioner inspected drainage problems on the main road and found large quantities of plastic waste and silt clogging the drains. Sanitation workers were instructed to clear the accumulated waste immediately. He also directed officials to construct two drainage chambers and ensure regular desilting of drains across the city. The Commissioner later visited the Agricultural Beat Market and inspected incomplete public toilet facilities. He instructed officials to expedite the pending construction works and complete them at the earliest to provide better amenities to farmers and visitors to the market. In Adarsh Nagar, Mr. Desai directed officials to undertake desilting works to facilitate the smooth flow of wastewater in drains. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said negligence in sanitation management would not be tolerated and stressed the need for daily garbage collection and regular drainage cleaning. He also instructed officials to identify persons indulging in open defecation and urination in public places and impose penalties on violators.

Ongoing civil works in various educational institutions in the district should be completed expeditiously

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti““Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 20):- District Collector Anurag Jayanti has ordered the concerned officials to complete the ongoing civil works in various educational institutions in the district expeditiously. On Wednesday, the Collector held a review meeting with Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskara Rao at the Mini Meeting Hall to review the progress of construction and repair works in PM Sri Schools, KGBVs, Bhavita Kendras, Young India Residential Schools, Residential Schools, Junior Colleges and Welfare Hostels in the district. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector suggested that all repair works, NABARD works of KGBVs and civil repairs should be completed by the time the schools start and steps should be taken to ensure that all basic facilities are available to the students without any problems. He ordered the relevant departments to work in coordination so that the pending works are also completed next month. “He said that special attention should be paid to the quality of the works and that the engineering officers should conduct frequent monitoring without any defects in the constructions. He suggested that deadlines should be fixed for each work



and continuous monitoring should be done. In this meeting, District Employment and BC Welfare Officer “Sahithi, TGEWIDC DE. Sivakumar, Panchayat Raj Engineering EE Dasaiah, District Education Department In-charge Assistant Director Srinivasa Rao, Planning Coordinator Srihari Iyengar, TGEWIDC AEs and officers of various departments participated.

Police Solve Woman Murder Case; Accused Arrested.



““Wyra ACP Sarangapani reveals details in media conference.““KHAMMAM, MADHIRA, 20 MAY (INDIAN CHRONICLE): ““Wyra ACP Sarangapani stated that the Madhira Rural Police successfully solved the murder case of a woman that took place on May 15 in the Nakshatra Open Venture area of Krishnapuram village under the limits of Madhira Rural Police Station and arrested the accused.“According to the case details, on May 16, Gopishetti Sairam alias Sai lodged a complaint stating that his sister, Gopishetti Kalpana (28), a resident of Meduru village in Gampalagudem mandal of NTR district, had gone missing. Kalpana was working in a private finance company and, as usual, had left home on the morning of May 15 saying she was going to Madhira for work. However, she did not report to the office that day, and her family members were informed about this by one of her colleagues. “The complainant further stated that on the same day, a person named Yarlagadda Chennarao sent a message saying, “Your sister is with me, we need to talk.” Based on mobile phone signal tracking, police conducted a search and found Kalpana’s dead body in the Nakshatra Open Venture area

on the outskirts of Krishnapuram village. Police noticed that she had been murdered by tightening a chunni around her neck and mouth. A case was registered at Madhira Rural Police Station and investigation was taken up. “During the investigation, police questioned witnesses and found that the accused, Yarlagadda Ankush Rao alias Chennarao (30), a resident of Kanumuru village in Gampalagudem mandal of NTR district, had been in a close relationship with the deceased. Investigation revealed that disputes frequently occurred between them regarding their personal relationship. “After registering the case, police formed three special teams and used technical evidence to trace and apprehend the accused. “Police said that on May 15, 2026, the accused took the deceased on his two-wheeler to a secluded place near Krishnapuram. During an argument between them, the deceased allegedly warned that she would reveal their relationship to his wife. Enraged by this, the accused strangled her to death using her chunni, which he later confessed during interrogation. “On May 20, 2026, police took the accused into custody in the Ambarupeta Venture area, seized his mobile phone, formally arrested him, and stated that he would be produced before the honorable court. “The ACP appealed to the public to remain cautious in personal relationships, as incidents of people being deceived in the name of relationships are increasing. He advised people to immediately inform family members or police if they notice threats, harassment, or suspicious behavior, and to avoid going to isolated places or allowing personal disputes to escalate into dangerous situations. “Circle Inspector D. Madhu and Madhira Rural SI “B. Lakshmi Bhargavi also participated in the media conference.

Police Hold Meeting with Muslim Religious Leaders Ahead of Bakrid

“Town ACP Ramanamurthy Conducts Coordination Meeting.

““KHAMMAM, 20 MAY (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Town ACP Ramanamurthy stated that the upcoming Bakrid festival should be celebrated peacefully and in a spirit of communal harmony. “A coordination meeting was held at the Khammam One Town Police Station with Muslim religious leaders and mosque committee members. “Addressing the gathering, the ACP urged community leaders to cooperate in maintaining law and order and ensuring that no untoward incidents take place during the festival. He said that police have arranged 24-hour surveillance at check posts to prevent illegal transportation of cattle. He advised that animals should be transported only with proper documentation and in accordance with regulations. “He further instructed that cow slaughter should not be carried out and only permitted animals should be used for sacrifice. He also appealed to the community not to dump animal waste in public places and to maintain clean-



liness with the support of municipal authorities. “The ACP warned that strict action would be taken against those spreading provocative content or rumors on social media. “Inspectors Karunakar, Balakrishna and Mohan babu of 1 Town, 2 Town, and 3 Town police stations respectively, along with Sub-Inspectors, participated in the meeting.

Distribution of equipment to differently-abled students



:- Bhuvanagiri Mandal Education Officer P. Nagavardhan Reddy““Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 20):- Bhuvanagiri Mandal Education Officer P. Nagavardhan Reddy said that the government will provide all kinds of facilities for the welfare of differently-abled students. He spoke after launching a free equipment distribution program for students with special needs under the auspices of ALIMCO Samagra Shiksha on Wednesday at Bhuvanagiri Pensioners Bhavan. District Inclusive Education Coordinator Pesaru Linga Reddy urged them to take advantage of the equipment worth lakhs of



rupees being distributed free of cost by the government. He said that various types of equipment are being provided to 148 differently-abled students from 17 mandals of the district. Three students from Choutuppal, Bhuvanagiri and Gundala mandals have been provided with battery-powered tricycles, wheelchairs, C. P. Chairs, rollators, hearing aids and TLM kits etc. were distributed. Motkur Mandal Education Officer T. Satyanarayana, resource persons Kiran, Ramachandru, Ravinder Reddy, Sudhamani, Sandhyarani, Sujatha, ALINCO representatives Soni Kumari, Shobhit Dwivedi, Sumeet Raj, parents of the students and others participated in this program.

Congress government..public government..development is its mission

Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar

“ (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 20):- Congress government is at the forefront in taking care of public issues. Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar said that the Congress rule will be done effectively under the leadership of the state Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and his government is in the forefront to move towards development by allocating special funds to the village panchayats and municipalities. In Jalili Pura in the 25th ward of Bhuvanagiri town, local municipal chairman Thangalipalli Srivani suggested to Ravikumar that as per the order of the MLA, the water problem of the people should be identified and a borehole should be drilled. Borehole was done as per their order. Water also reached 70 feet. Local ward councillor Bende Swaroop Lal Raj, Geo Uddin, Moez, Upender, Nakoti Ram, Disco Adinarayana, Subanu, Salman, Mohammad, Ward people participated in this program.

Felicitations for Sharanya’s Outstanding Achievement in Class 10

“Khammam, Nelakondapalli, May 20 Indian chronicle: “Students who excelled in the Class 10 public examinations in government schools were honored with “I Foundation Merit Awards.” “Mothukuri Sharanya, a student from Kattukacharam village in Nelakondapalli mandal, scored 565 marks. “She was grandly felicitated at an awards

ceremony held in Hyderabad. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Kodandaram, Hyderabad DEO Rohini, State Vaishya Corporation Chairperson Sujatha, and I Foundation Chairman Ravinder participated in the event and guided the students. “They encouraged students to achieve even better results in government schools. Family members of the student and several others also attended the program.



Went to Dubai to earn, family kept sending him money: Punjab youth rescued after four months



GNS News Agency, May 20In search of a better future, a Jalandhar youth went to Dubai four months ago only to return home traumatised after allegedly being trapped by a company that confiscated his passport, withheld his salary and forced him to work under harsh conditions amid a war-like atmosphere.lovepreet and his mother with M P Balbir Singh Seechewal In search of a better future, a Jalandhar youth went to Dubai four months ago only to return home traumatised after allegedly being trapped by a company that confiscated his passport, withheld his salary, and forced him to work under harsh conditions amid a war-like atmosphere.

Lovepreet Singh of Sofi village, the only son of his parents, had left for Dubai to help his debt-ridden family. But, on the contrary, his family sent him money from Punjab for four months so that he could survive in Dubai.Describing his ordeal, Lovepreet said, I was sent to Dubai on a two-

month tourist visa after being promised a simple packing job and a monthly salary of 1,300 dirhams (around Rs 33,000), but after reaching there, I was forced to work in a steel factory under difficult conditions.”

“Despite working for months, the company neither paid me nor returned my passport. Whenever I asked for my wages, company officials would threaten me with consequences,” he said.Lovepreet recalled living in constant fear due to the tense situation there. “Whenever sirens sounded, everything stopped. Even today, those sounds echo in my ears,” he said, adding that he had almost lost hope of ever returning home and meeting his family.As his health deteriorated and communication with him became irregular, his worried mother approached the office of Rajya Sabha member Balbir Singh Seechewal on April 6, seeking help for her only son.Lovepreet Singh of Sofi village, the only son of his parents, had left for Dubai to help his debt-ridden family. But, on the contrary, his family sent him money from Punjab for four months so that he could survive in Dubai. Lovepreet and his mother with M P Balbir Singh Seechewal (Following this, Seechewal wrote to the Ministry of External Affairs, and then the Indian Embassy in Dubai intervened and facilitated Lovepreet’s return to India on May 13.Upon reaching home, Lovepreet met Seechewal and expressed his gratitude for helping reunite him with his family.Seechewal urged Punjab youths to avoid illegal shortcuts and carefully verify job offers and travel agents before going abroad for work. He also thanked the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Dubai for their prompt action in ensuring the youth’s safe return.

Karnataka Lokayukta books officials, contractor in Rs 23-crore PMAY scam

GNS News Agency, May 20Lokayukta officials said Rs 29.45 crore was released to the contractor between April 2019 and November 2024 through 13 bills and related approvals.Lokayukta officials said Rs 29.45 crore was released to the contractor between April 2019 and November 2024 through 13 bills and related approvals.The Karnataka Lokayukta on Tuesday registered a case against officers of the Karnataka Slum Development Board and a private contractor for allegedly causing the government a loss of over Rs 23.35 crore through irregularities in housing works executed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme in Belagavi district.

According to Lokayukta officials, large-scale irregularities were allegedly committed in PMAY housing projects undertaken in the notified slum areas of Ramdurg town. The complaint alleged that officers, in collusion with contractors, prepared fake bills and records despite several houses remaining incomplete.Investigators found that although nearly 600 houses were allegedly not fully constructed, officials certified the work as completed and facilitated the release of payments by creating false inspection reports and fabricated GPS-based photographic records.

Lokayukta officials said Rs 29.45 crore was released to the contractor between April 2019 and November 2024 through 13 bills and related approvals.A preliminary inquiry reportedly revealed that instead of constructing complete houses for beneficiaries, only construction materials worth



around Rs 6.10 crore were supplied. Government funds amounting to nearly Rs 23.35 crore were allegedly misappropriated in collusion with officials and contractors.Based on the findings, the Lokayukta registered a case against retired Assistant Executive Engineer Shambulingappa B.S., contractor Prasad N.P. of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), and others.The case was registered by Karnataka Lokayukta SP (Belagavi unit) Prasanna Desai, while Inspector Venkatesh Yadahalli is conducting the investigation.On May 19, Lokayukta teams conducted simultaneous searches at multiple locations linked to the accused, including government offices, the residences of officials and contractors, and the Bengaluru office of NPCC. Several documents related to the alleged irregularities were seized during the raids.

Mohali land rates double in 3 years: Why ED raids hit real estate boom

GNS News Agency, May 20Three FIRs registered by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau — the Guava Orchard compensation scam, the Suntec City change of land use (CLU) case and the FIR linked to Chief Town Planner Pankaj Bawa — have together opened the door for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to probe Punjab’s land, revenue and town-planning machinery.The first FIR that paved the way for the ED in Punjab was the Guava Orchard Compensation Scam registered by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau in 2023. The case alleged that officials of GMADA, the Revenue Department and the Horticulture Department colluded with private players to fraudulently claim nearly Rs 137 crore as compensation for guava orchards on land acquired for Aerocity and IT City projects in Mohali. Investigators alleged that once land acquisition plans became known, guava trees were either planted or falsely shown in records to inflate compensation claims.

The ED later registered a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case on the basis of the Vigilance FIR, conducted raids across Punjab and Chandigarh, and began tracing the money trail linked to land acquisition and compensation.The second FIR, registered in November 2022, related to Suntec City and associated CLU approvals in the Mohali-New Chandigarh belt, where investigators are examining how land earmarked for institutional or educational purposes was allegedly converted into high-value residential and commercial property.The case focuses on the alleged manipulation of master plans, zoning changes and CLU permissions that dramatically increased land prices and benefited select developers and landowners. The ED has summoned GMADA officials, sought planning and registry records, and widened scrutiny into land transactions in the Majri block and New Chandigarh region. Investigators believe the core of the alleged scam lies not in land acquisition itself, but in the conversion of land-use categories that generated massive private gains.In the third FIR linked to Punjab Chief Town Planner Pankaj Bawa, it was alleged that Bajwa Developers Limited obtained approvals for a residential and commercial project spread over 179 acres in villages Sinhpur, Hasanpur and Jandpur in Mohali district. The company also secured approval for a residential layout plan in Mohali and a housing project for economically weaker sections (EWS) over 9.09 acres.

Bawa was chargesheeted on the grounds that “all this happened under his watch and he did not monitor the case properly,” said a source privy to the developments.This FIR, registered in February 2024, became significant because it linked administrative decision-making with alleged financial irregularities in land and planning matters. Sources in the bureaucracy said the case gathered momentum after the probe against Bawa. Once the Vigilance Bureau filed charges and financial transactions came under scrutiny, the ED began examining whether the alleged acts generated “proceeds of crime” under the PMLA framework.Officials said this FIR helped the ED expand its reach beyond isolated corruption allegations into a wider examination of Punjab’s change-of-land-use ecosystem involving planning authorities, tehsils and revenue records.The ED has now summoned GMADA Chief Ad-



ministrator Sandeep Kumar in connection with its ongoing money-laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in CLU approvals granted to Suntec City and Altus Space Builders Pvt Ltd projects.

At the heart of the raids and summons are the CLUs in Mohali and New Chandigarh. Sources said Punjab’s master plans use colour-coded zoning for educational, residential, commercial and institutional purposes. Investigators are examining how land originally reserved for educational or institutional use in areas around Mullanpur and New Chandigarh was later converted for residential use, sharply increasing its market value.Officials familiar with the process pointed to how certain parcels designated years ago as “Edu City” zones allegedly became lucrative residential sectors. “This happened in New Chandigarh when CLUs were allowed in Edu City and IT City. This was also allowed in Sector 87 in Mohali. All these CLUs were allowed in February this year. The master plan is locked till 2031. However, these CLUs were cleared,” said a source. The CLU for the Suntec City project was approved in 2016. In some cases, land prices reportedly rose from nearly Rs 3.5 crore per acre to around Rs 12 crore per acre after CLU changes in Edu City and IT City areas. Investigators are examining who benefited from these changes, who pushed the amendments, and whether public office was used to create private gains.

Through the probe, investigating agencies are also trying to establish whether there are links to the senior leadership of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Sources said the party’s senior leadership became more active in Punjab after AAP’s loss in the Delhi Assembly elections in February 2025.Officials said the “change in master plan colour-coding from purple (institutional) to yellow (residential)” is one of the factors that has drawn the attention of investigators. “The land is now worth hundreds of crores. The process may appear administrative on paper, but it can create enormous wealth overnight,” said a source.Officials added that the ED’s interest is no longer confined to a single project. The agency has reportedly begun examining registries and transactions across parts of the Majri block and the New Chandigarh belt, where land-use conversions transformed the economics of entire sectors.However, officials noted that land acquisition itself is rarely illegal on paper. “CLU changes are officially processed through notifications, board approvals and planning amendments. The challenge for investigators is proving criminal intent.

2 men in custody, but no FIR: What raid at 2 Bengaluru police stations revealed



Karnataka police illegal detentionA preliminary inquiry following surprise inspections at the RMC Yard and Kothanur police stations has revealed serious violations, including illegal detention and misuse of official authority, an official said. The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission’s (SHRC) police wing on Tuesday raided two police stations in Bengaluru and allegedly found two men, including a city-based jeweller, being illegally detained despite no formal cases being registered against them.The surprise inspections were conducted by a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashanthnarayana at the RMC Yard and Kothanur police stations. The officials allegedly found that the two men were in custody without First Information Re-

ports (FIRs) being filed, allegedly because the police were demanding money and gold for their release.

According to SHRC officials, Rajesh Kumar Mehta was allegedly detained at the RMC Yard police station for two days based on the statement of a house-break theft accused, who reportedly claimed to have sold stolen valuables to him.“Despite the victim denying any links with the accused and offering CCTV footage to establish his innocence, the police allegedly pressured him to hand over 1 kg of gold,” an official associated with the inquiry said.In another case, Fardeen Pasha, an employee of a private firm, was allegedly detained at the Kothanur police station for nearly three days without any complaint or FIR being registered against him. Officials alleged that police personnel demanded Rs 5 lakh for his release under the guise of an inquiry.During the raids, SHRC officials reportedly found that neither Mehta nor Pasha had been formally booked in any case despite being kept in custody. Both men were medically examined, and their statements were recorded by commission officials.“Preliminary inquiry has revealed serious violations, including illegal detention and misuse of official authority. Further action will follow based on the investigation,” an official said.Cases have reportedly been initiated against the two inspectors on charges related to illegal detention, abuse of power and human rights violations. Further investigations are underway.

‘Plea raises issues requiring adjudication’: HC refuses to reject election petition against Haryana minister Vipul Goel

GNS News Agency, May 20The Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed an application filed by Haryana Cabinet minister and Faridabad MLA Vipul Goel, seeking rejection of an election petition challenging his victory in the 2024 Assembly election.“The plea raises issues requiring adjudication and cannot be rejected at the threshold,” noted a single bench of Justice Vikas Suri, hearing an application under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CrPC) filed by Goel in the election petition instituted by Lakhan Kumar Singla.

Singla’s petition challenges the result of the Faridabad Assembly constituency election on grounds of alleged corrupt practices under Section 123(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and also raises the issue of variations in the battery percentage levels of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting.

Dismissing the minister’s application, the court said, “...the election petition cannot be rejected at the threshold and particularly, on the premise that the cause of action for one of the grounds raised in the election petition, is not made out...”Senior advocate M L Sarin, appearing for the returned candidate, argued, “There are no averments containing any specific details of any corrupt practices alleged in the election petition, and the said pleadings are vague and of a general nature.”Also, no cause of action was made out and that the petitioner had failed to demonstrate how the alleged acts materially affected the outcome of the election, as required under Section 100(1)(d) of the Act.“On the allegations about EVM battery levels, the respondent argued that the claim was based on “a technical misunderstanding and vague speculation” and that the election petitioner had not pleaded any material fact to show how the difference in battery level affected the accuracy or integrity of EVMs.The respondent argued that Ganesh Mahotsav, referred to in the election petition, had been organised on September 7, 2024, while nomination papers were filed on September 9, 2024.Referring to Section 79(b) of the Representation of the People Act, the counsel contended that Goel “was not even a candidate on September 7, 2024, therefore, the question of exercising any influence on the voters in the name of religion does not arise, and the said ground cannot be ap-



plied against the applicant”.Opposing the plea, senior advocate Mohan Jain, appearing for election petitioner Singla, argued that the application was “misconceived” and that “there exists no ground for the returned candidate to seek rejection of the present election petition”.The counsel submitted that the petition specifically pleaded that the returned candidate “indulged in corrupt practices under Section 123(3) of the Act by seeking votes in the name of religion” and that details, including “date, venue, etc., have also been clearly mentioned therein”.

It was further argued on behalf of the petitioner that “there is no statutory bar on maintainability of an election petition alleging corrupt practices if it is filed within limitation and complies with the provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder”.Singla’s counsel also argued that the allegations raised in the election petition warrant a full-fledged trial and that the “issues relating to corrupt practices can be determined only after examining oral and documentary evidence”.After hearing both sides, the court noted that the election petition contains averments that during the counting of votes on October 8, 2024, the petitioner had raised an oral complaint before the Returning Officer about differences in EVM battery levels and the resultant effect thereof.Justice Suri noted that the petitioner had also referred to a letter written on October 9, 2024, to the Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad, and a plea seeking recounting of votes on account of unexplained variations in the battery level of EVMs.The court observed that the aspect relating to EVM battery variations “would be a matter of trial and can only be proved by leading cogent evidence”.

Twist in Nashik TCS case? Man alleges his new home was bulldozed by mistake in hunt for Nida Khan

When the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Municipal Corporation (CSMC) sent bulldozers pre-dawn to pull down houses in connection with the search for Nashik TCS case accused Nida Khan, they may have razed one structure wrongly. This is what Hanif Khan, 31, has alleged, in his petition to the Bombay High Court.On Monday, hearing his plea along with that of AIMIM corporator Matin Patel, premises linked to whom were also demolished, the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court Monday slammed the CSMC, saying it did not appear to have followed procedures in carrying out the action.

The demolition drive on May 13 covered two properties allegedly linked to Patel as well as the house where Nida stayed, which Khan says he had bought. Additionally, neighbouring structures, including a building material shop and another residential property, were also demolished.

Khan, a handyman who takes up small construction jobs, says he had bought the 600 sq ft house, in Chhatrapati Sambhaji’s Kausar Bagh, just two months earlier. Patel, an acquaintance, sought his permission to use it during the period Nida was allegedly sheltered there briefly by him, as per Khan.All his family’s savings had gone into the house, and he had all the papers, he told The Indian Express. Documents submitted by him in court show that he and his brother-in-law purchased the house for Rs 27 lakh, through a registered sale deed executed on March 12 this year, at the Joint Sub Registrar Office in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

Nashik TCS case demolitions: HC pulls up civic body as 31-year-old claims house duly registered Hanif Khan submits papers establishing he bought the house where Nida Khan briefly stayedNida, one of the TCS employees facing allegations of conversion attempts at the Nashik office, reportedly was living there when police were looking for her.Asked about Khan and Patel’s submissions to court regarding the demolition, the CSMC said it had followed all due procedures, and that the structures razed were unauthorised. On why a notice purportedly bearing Matin Patel’s name was initially pasted on a property which Khan says was his, Chhatrapati Shivaji Mayor Sameer Rajurkar told The Indian Express: “It is the administration which drafted the notice and they will be in a better position to answer these questions.”Officials from the corporation’s Encroachment Department declined to comment, saying the matter was sub-judice.Recalling how he stood watching as his house was brought down, Khan says: “It was heartbreaking. This was the first house the family had ever



owned... We thought instead of spending our life in rented homes, we should buy something of our own... We were waiting to renovate it before shifting in.”

Khan told court he and brother-in-law Syed Sarwar Syed Afsar had purchased the property from one Aamer Khan Akhtar, paying Rs 3 lakh as earnest money in February and the remaining Rs 24 lakh at the time of registration.According to Khan, sometime in the first week of May, Patel, whom he describes as a friend and local political figure, asked if he could use the premises temporarily. “He said some guests were coming. Since he was known to us and was a local corporator, I did not hesitate,” Khan says.On May 8, police arrested Nida from the premises. A day later, the civic corporation sent a notice alleging that the house where she was found was “illegal” and lacked municipal permissions.In their writ petition before the Bombay High Court, Khan and his relatives said the notice was initially issued in the name of “Matin Shaikh” – purportedly a reference to Matin Patel. Later, Khan and Syed said, municipal officials added their names onto the notice by hand, before affixing it to the structure.In a separate petition, Patel said his family owned some of the properties that were demolished since 1992, had regularly paid taxes on them and obtained municipal no dues certificates before the 2025 corporation elections that he fought and won.Accusing the civic body of denying him a fair hearing, Patel called the demolition politically motivated as the AIMIM to which he belongs is the main Opposition in the municipal corporation.Soon as they got the notices, Khan as well as Patel first challenged them before the civic authority, asking why they were given only three days to submit ownership and permission documents.

Why did Mumbai’s train guards go on a ‘work-to-rule’ strike and delay your evening commute?



GNS News Agency, May 20

Between 5.15 pm and 5.45 pm, train managers, commonly known as guards, staged a ‘work-to-rule’ strike at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. Three pairs of sub-urban services between CSMT and Kalyan were cancelled. Several others were delayed. Platforms got crowded during rush hour. Normal services resumed after railway authorities sat down with guard representatives. The trigger was a single circular issued eight days ago.

On May 7, Central Railway’s Principal Chief Operations Manager issued Correction Slip 15, introducing revised rules for how guards and motormen communicate while a train is moving.Under the new protocol, as a train approaches the next station, the guard must send an advance bell signal to the motorman, giving him time to anticipate the stop and begin braking. If the motorman doesn’t respond and the train comes in too fast, the guard must apply the brakes himself.The reasoning is straightforward. In April, a Badlapur-bound fast local overshot the platform at Vikhroli. In March, an AC local to Kalyan stopped two coaches past the designated halt point at Bhandup. No one was hurt in either case, but both incidents triggered internal safety reviews. The new circular is Central Railway’s response.Central Railway guard protest Platforms got crowded during rush hour. Normal services resumed after railway authorities sat down with guard representatives. (Express photo by Deepak Joshi)

Q: What does a guard actually do?

Most commuters think of the guard as the person

waving a flag at the rear of the train. The job is considerably more involved than that. Guards are stationed in the last coach and are responsible for signalling the all-clear for departure once passengers have boarded safely. They communicate with the motorman through a system of bell codes: two bells means ready to go, one bell means stop immediately.During the journey, guards monitor the train for anything unusual, from strange sounds to brake binding, and flag it to the motorman. They can apply emergency brakes if the train approaches a station above 40 kmph. They also ensure that the public address system, flasher lights and tail lamps are all working.The motorman, at the front, drives the train and is guided by trackside markers like EMU halt boards to stop at the right spot.

Q: Why are guards unhappy?

Guard associations say the new circular adds to a workload that is already physically demanding. A guard’s eight-hour shift covers entire round trips, often without breaks, requiring constant attention throughout. In summer, with temperatures inside coaches climbing, the conditions are particularly punishing.“The job already demands constant attention throughout the journey. Adding more responsibilities without addressing existing concerns is unfair,” said a guard, who did not want to be named.Guards also pointed out that Western Railway already follows a similar advance-signal practice, and trains have still overshot platforms there. So the measure, they argue, isn’t a guaranteed fix.

Q: What is Central Railway saying?

Railway officials say the circular is about safety, not about burdening guards. “Guards are familiar with their routes and can gauge distances between stations. The advance signal is a preventive step that adds an extra layer of safety,” a senior official said.A meeting between CR and representatives of the Central Railway Mazdoor Sangh has been scheduled for May 18 to work through the concerns.Central Railway has also recently rolled out a GPS-based Signal Location Announcement System, called SILAS, on suburban trains. It alerts motormen 350 metres and 250 metres before an upcoming signal, reducing the chance of human error. It also tells the motorman the next halt based on the route selected by the guard, adding another layer of coordination between the two.

Nirma MD Hiren Patel safe after helicopter makes emergency landing in Gujarat field

GNS News Agency, May 20

A private helicopter flying from Ahmedabad to Mumbai made an emergency landing in a field near a village in Navsari Wednesday afternoon following a technical snag, police said. All five people on board, including Nirma Managing Director Hiren Patel, were safe.According to Maroli police, the five-seater helicopter was en route to Juhu in Mumbai when it developed a technical fault mid-air, prompting the pilot, Karansingh Dahiya, and co-pilot, Kuldeep Mehta, to carry out an emergency landing at Maghob Bhata about six kilometres from Ubhrat beach in Navsari district.“We noted an emergency landing of a helicopter on open, barren land at Maghob Bhata village on Wednesday afternoon. We deployed our personnel as a huge crowd from neighbouring villages gathered to see the helicopter and the people travelling in it. The helicopter is a five-seater, and all the passengers are safe. Repair work is in progress,” said A N Gabhani, Inspector, Navsari police.Besides Hiren Patel,



the helicopter was carrying his colleagues Dhruvin Patel and Dev Patel.The police said the passengers later left for Mumbai by road in a private vehicle, while the pilot and co-pilot stayed back at the site as technical experts began repair work on the helicopter.

2 more poultry farms near Maharashtra’s Navapur test positive for bird flu



GNS News Agency, May 20

A fortnight after bird flu (avian influenza) was first detected at Navapur in Maharashtra’s Nandurbar district, officials from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying identified two more poultry farms reporting unusual chicken deaths, with samples testing positive for the virus.“Both farms where samples tested positive are located within a 3-km radius of the original farm where avian influenza was initially detected. We have remained on high alert, and nearly four lakh chickens have been culled so far,” an official said.Dr Sanjay Khachane, District Deputy Commis-

sioner, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Nandurbar, told The Indian Express close to four lakh chickens had been culled, apart from destroying more than 22 lakh eggs and feed worth over Rs 5 lakh.“Overall, a total of 15 poultry farms have been affected, and we have submitted a proposal seeking an allocation of Rs 10 crore to provide compensation to those whose birds and feed were destroyed during the culling operation,” Dr Khachane said.The latest two farms where samples tested positive for avian influenza are the Richie farm and the New Shanti farm.

The process of culling commenced on May 1, after samples from three Navapur poultry farms that had witnessed unusual mortality of chickens tested positive for bird flu. The authorities directed the culling of chickens within a 1-km radius of the infected farm and declared a 3-km containment zone to prevent the disease from spreading.A similar redrawing of boundaries was done when three farms reported unusual mortality in birds. With two more farms also reporting mortality and samples testing positive by the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases at Bhopal, animal husbandry officials are ensuring a wider surveillance net of 10 km.“We hope to complete the culling process soon and also focus on backyard poultry farms,” Dr Khachane said.

First-time MLA Rathindra Basu set to become West Bengal Speaker

GNS News Agency, May 20

Basu, a chartered accountant by profession, submitted his nomination papers on Thursday afternoonRathindra Basu, a chartered accountant by profession, submitted his nomination papers on Thursday.Rathindra Basu, BJP MLA from Cooch Behar South constituency, is slated to be the new Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly.

BJP’s parliamentary party has chosen Basu as its candidate with the election for Speaker scheduled on Friday. Though it is unclear whether the Opposition parties will participate in the election, Basu’s victory is almost certain.In a social media post, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said Rathindra Bose has been nominated as Speaker of the 18th Legislative Assembly. “It is my firm belief that he (Rathindra) will be unanimously elected as the Hon’ble Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly,” posted the Chief Minister.After being nominated, Basu said, “I will fulfill the responsibility given by the party. If necessary, I will take the advice of experienced members of the Assembly.”

Basu, a chartered accountant by profession, submitted his nomination papers on Thursday afternoon in the pres-



ence of the chief minister and other BJP MLAs. If everything goes well, Basu’s elevation as Speaker will break the tradition of political parties usually nominating a jurist or a lawyer to the post.Basu was associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for a long time. Later, he came into active politics

How West Bengal’s Class 12 exam toppers kept away technology to score 99%



GNS News Agency, May 20

The West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) on Thursday announced the Higher Secondary examination results, recording an overall pass of 91.23 per cent. Sixty-four students featured among the top 10, which included 56 boys and 8 girls, with scores above 97 per cent. Purba Medinipur emerged as the best-performing district with a pass of 94.19 per cent.

Adrito Pal of Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, South 24 Parganas district, emerged as the topper, securing 496 out of 500 (99.2 per cent), while Ritobrata Nath, also from the same school, came second with a score of 495“I was hopeful of getting a good rank because my exams had gone well. I missed the rank in Madhyamik (Class 10 examination) by just one mark. It motivated me to work even harder for the Higher Secondary examinations,” said Adrito, who added that strict discipline and the absence of mobile phones helped him remain focused on studies.He said he used to spend nearly six hours a day in self-study apart from regular school classes.“At our boarding school, mobile phones were not allowed, which helped us concentrate more on academics,” he said.‘Studies have always been my main focus’

Adrito said he wants to pursue Pure Science and later on Astronomy. Unlike many students of his age, he said he is not particularly interested in sports or outdoor activities and prefers to devote most of his time to academics.“Studies have always been my main focus,” said Adrito, whose favourite subject is Chemistry.Apart from textbooks, Adrito also enjoys reading extensively about environment out of personal interest and curiosity.Adrito’s father said the family has no pressure or expectations regarding his son’s career choices and would fully support whichever path he chooses.“We only want him to pursue what truly interests him. Our blessings and support will always remain with him,” he said.

Second rankholder Ritobrata Nath credited the discipline of the residential school and the role of his teachers and parents behind his achievement.“I want to give full credit

Punjab Police arrest Zirakpur taxi driver for Jalandhar BSF blast

The Punjab Police Thursday arrested a taxi driver, who has been living in Zirakpur for the past few months, for allegedly planting a bomb outside the Border Security Force (BSF) headquarters in Jalandhar earlier this month.The blast took place on the evening of May 5, after a parked scooter right outside the main gate of the BSF Punjab Frontier headquarters at BSF Chowk exploded at around 8.15 pm. Just a few hours later, a second low-intensity explosion took place near the Khasa Army cantonment in Amritsar.

According to sources, Umar Deen has been arrested in connection with the Jalandhar blast case on charges of planting the bomb. His role and connection with the other accused are being probed, they added.On May 8, the Delhi Police Special Cell detained a man on suspicion of planting the explosive device outside the BSF office that triggered the blast on May 5. According to Delhi Police sources, CCTV footage and preliminary investigation indicated that a suspect allegedly boarded a bus from the Jalandhar bus stand shortly after the explosion and travelled to Delhi.

Meanwhile, sources also said that an extensive crackdown in the region by Punjab and Haryana police has led to the detention of over 200 people allegedly linked with Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti. The state police forces are probing their role and linkage with the extremists across the border.The aftermath of the blasts had seen a major political controversy when the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party, claiming

to my school teachers for guiding us throughout the journey, along with my parents who were my biggest supporters,” he said.According to Nath, who aims for IIT, students at the boarding school were not allowed to use phones or electronic gadgets, which helped them remain focused on academics. He had earlier secured the seventh rank in Madhyamik (10th) and has already qualified for JEE Mains. He is currently preparing for JEE Advanced, scheduled on Sunday, May 17.“We are proud of our son. Now he needs to focus more on the future,” his mother said.

The third rank was shared by Tanmoy Mandal from Purulia district and Subhayan Mondal from Birbhum district with a score of 494 marks.For Tanmoy Mandal, a student of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, consistent hard work played a major role in his achievement. He had earlier scored 14th rank in Madhyamik.“There was never a fixed study routine that I followed. I studied whenever and however I could,” he said.According to his mother, Tanmoy was academically focused and has always scored above 98 per cent in all examinations since childhood. Apart from studies, he is also involved in drawing and karate, and currently holds an orange belt in karate.Tanmoy, who is also interested in research, has already cleared JEE Main with a 99.6 percentile and secured a rank close to 6,000. He said he now wants to qualify for JEE Advanced.Loves playing cricket, guitar’Mondal, who studied at Suri Public and Chandragati Mustafi Memorial High School, said he spent most of his time focusing on studies and often studied for long hours during examinations.“I do not have any fixed routine. Sometimes I study for five hours, sometimes eight hours. During examinations, it often crossed ten hours a day,” he said.

Mondal said he enjoys playing cricket and guitar, and also watches science fiction and thriller movies during his leisure time.Mondal, who wants to become a neurosurgeon, said he has received a good score for NEET, and is preparing for the upcoming re-examination process.“This is not the end. It is just the beginning,” he said.‘I wish to become a surgeonAritra Kumar Chakraborty from Baradongal R N Institution, Hooghly district, who secured the fourth rank with 493 marks, said he is now focusing entirely on his medical entrance. He had scored 690 marks in NEET and is currently preparing for the re-examination.

“My main focus now is to become a doctor. I want to become a surgeon,” he said.Aritra said he was mostly focused on studies throughout the academic year and did not spend much time on hobbies.“Sometimes I used to read books or paint, but studies remained my main focus,” he said.He also mentioned that he does not own a personal mobile phone and uses his parents’ phone whenever necessary.“I never felt strongly about having a personal phone. As long as I can use my parents’ phone when needed, it is enough for me,” he said.



the blasts were part of a “BJP strategy” to create riots, small blasts, and religious and caste divisions in states where they want to contest elections. He called it “election preparation” and vowed to maintain law and order.Opposition parties, including the BJP, Shiromani Akali Dal, and Congress, had slammed the AAP government for security lapses and failure to control law and order. SAD alleged a possible cover-up and urged central intervention. They questioned the quick explanations and demanded accountability.Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) reportedly claimed responsibility for the Jalandhar blast. Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav had said that preliminary indications of cross-border links of Pakistan’s ISI with suspicions of attempts to disrupt peace ahead of the anniversary of Operation Sindoor could be some of the motives behind the blast.

104 killed in massive UP storm; viral video of Bareilly’s ‘flying man’ captures horror



GNS News Agency, May 20

A terrifying viral video from Uttar Pradesh’s Bareilly district has become the face of the massive storm disaster that has left at least 104 people dead across the state in the last 24 hours. It shows a man being flung into the air while trying to hold on to a tin shed during violent winds.The man has been identified as Nanhe Khan, 50, from Bareilly’s Bhamora area, who survived the impact with a fracture in his left hand and leg. But the same storm killed a 12-year-old girl and a 76-year-old woman under the same police circle. The girl was crushed under a falling tree, and the woman died after wooden blocks stacked on a roof collapsed on her.

Who is the viral ‘flying man’ and what happened in Bareilly?

According to the police, Nanhe was holding a pole supporting a temporary marriage structure when fierce winds uprooted the tin shed and hurled him several feet into the air before he crashed to the ground. His flight was captured by a local who was making a video of the storm.Speaking to The Indian Express, Pawan Kumar Singh, Station House Officer, Bhamora police station, where the incident took place, informed that as Nanhe held onto

the pole of a tin shade tightly, he was lifted and then thrown away by the strong winds that uprooted the shade.According to Singh, Nanhe suffered fractures in his leg and hand but is stable. “He was admitted to hospital and later discharged,” said Singh. Locals said that Nanhe remains in shock.The viral clip has emerged as one of the starkest visuals from the deadly weather system that battered Uttar Pradesh with lightning, heavy rain, hailstorm and unusually powerful winds.

According to the latest figures, the disaster has so far left 104 dead, 52 injured, 130 animals killed, and 98 houses damaged across the state. The worst-hit district was Prayagraj, which reported 21 deaths, followed by Mirzapur (19), Sant Ravidas Nagar-Bhadohi (14), Fatehpur (11), and Bareilly (2). Officials said most deaths and injuries were caused by falling trees, collapsing structures, flying objects and wall or roof collapses triggered by the high-speed storm.

Atul Kumar Singh, a senior scientist with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), told The Indian Express that storm activity is common during the season, but “speed-wise, this event was unusually intense”. He said the storm’s intensity had crossed 100 kmph in certain areas.According to the IMD, the severe weather developed due to an interaction between a cyclonic circulation over the northwestern part of Uttar Pradesh in the lower atmosphere, easterly winds coming from southern Rajasthan, and westerly winds in the middle troposphere.In an official note, the IMD said isolated places witnessed storm winds exceeding 100 kmph, while several areas experienced gusts of 60-70 kmph, leading to large-scale destruction.The powerful winds uprooted trees, damaged houses, collapsed temporary structures, and snapped power lines in several districts, causing panic in rural and urban areas alike.Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed all district administrations to immediately assess the losses and ensure compensation reaches affected families within 24 hours. T

Xi tells Trump that mishandling of Taiwan could spark conflict



BEIJING, -GNS News Agency, May 20 China's Xi Jinping told President Donald Trump that trade talks were making progress at the start of a two-day summit on Thursday, but ?cautioned that disagreement over Taiwan could send relations down a dangerous path and even lead to conflict.Xi's remarks on Taiwan, the democratically governed island claimed by Beijing, came in a closed-door meeting of ?the leaders of the world's two largest economies that ran more than two hours, China's foreign ministry said.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.They represented a stark - if not unprecedented - warning during a pomp-filled occasion that was otherwise friendly and relaxed, although the U.S. summary of the talks made no mention of Taiwan.Instead it focused on the leaders' shared desire to reopen the key waterway of the Strait of Hormuz, effectively closed due to the Iran war, and Xi's apparent interest in buying American oil to reduce China's dependence on Middle East supplies.

With Trump's approval ratings dented by a war with Iran that shows no ?signs of abating, the first visit by a U.S. president to China in nearly a decade has taken on added significance as he searches for economic wins."There are those who say this may be the biggest ?summit ever," Trump told Xi in brief opening remarks, after a ceremony that featured an honour guard and throngs of children waving flowers and flags at Beijing's Great Hall of ?the People.

Xi told Trump that preparatory negotiations between U.S. and Chinese economic and trade teams in South Korea on Wednesday had reached "balanced and positive outcomes", China's foreign ministry said in a summary.The talks aimed to maintain a fragile trade truce struck ?when the leaders last met in October, where Trump suspended triple-digit tariffs on Chinese goods and Xi backed away from choking global supplies of vital rare earths.Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who led Wednesday's talks, said he expected progress on establishing mechanisms to support ?future bilateral trade and investment, and an announcement about large Chinese orders for Boeing

Trump expected Xi to raise the thorny issue of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, he said earlier this week. With the status of a \$14-billion package awaiting Trump's approval

still unclear, China has reiterated its strong opposition to the sales.The U.S. is bound by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, despite a lack of formal diplomatic ties.The Chinese leader told Trump that Taiwan was the most important issue they faced and if handled poorly could push ?the entire U.S.-China relationship into an extremely dangerous situation and cause the countries to collide or even enter conflict, according to Beijing's summary of the talks.Xi's remarks were noteworthy, even though Beijing had issued strong warnings on Taiwan in the past, ?said Joe Mazur, geopolitics analyst at consultancy Trivium China."He's warning the U.S. side in no uncertain terms not to screw around," Mazur added.

Trump did not respond to a reporter's shouted question whether the leaders had discussed Taiwan as he posed with Xi later for photos ?at the Temple of ?Heaven, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where emperors once prayed for good harvests.Taipei said there was nothing surprising from the summit and that China's military pressure is the real threat to peace.At a lavish state banquet on Thursday evening attended by senior officials and business executives, Xi told the audience that the China-U.S. relationship was the most important in the world."We must make it work and never mess it up," Xi said, before guests tucked into a 10-course dinner that included lobster soup, Beijing roast duck and tiramisu.The leaders will take tea and lunch together on Friday before Trump departs.Joining Trump on his visit are a group of CEOs looking to resolve issues with China, from Elon Musk, viewed in China as a visionary ?and occasional villain, to Nvidia

The United States has cleared around 10 Chinese firms to buy Nvidia's powerful H200 AI chip, but not a single delivery has been made so far, Reuters exclusively reported.U.S. courts have hemmed in his ability to levy tariffs at will on exports from China and other countries, while the Iran war has boosted inflation at home and escalated the risk that Trump's Republican Party will lose control of one or both legislative branches in November's midterm elections.Though the Chinese economy has faltered, Xi does not face comparable economic or political ?pressure.As well as Boeing jets, Washington ?is looking to sell farm goods and energy to China to cut a trade deficit that has long irked Trump. Beijing, for its part, wants U.S. curbs eased on exports of chipmaking equipment and advanced semiconductors, officials involved in the planning said.

Aside from trade, Trump is expected to encourage China to convince Iran to make a deal with Washington to end the conflict, as a fifth of global supplies of oil and natural gas travel through the Strait of Hormuz in normal times.But analysts doubt Xi will be willing to push Tehran hard ?or end support for its military, given Iran's value to Beijing as a strategic counterweight to the United States.U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio ?told Fox News that it was in China's interest to help resolve the crisis as many of its ships are stuck in the Gulf and a slowdown in the global economy would hurt Chinese exporters.Trump on Thursday invited Xi for a reciprocal trip to the White House on September 24, ?the first since Trump began his second term last year.

New attacks hit ships near Hormuz as Trump discusses Iran with Xi

U.S. President Donald Trump discussed the Iran war with China's President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Thursday, while new attacks on ?vessels near the Strait of Hormuz brought a reminder of the costs of a prolonged stalemate, with peace talks stalled.After Trump and Xi met, a White House official said the leaders ?had agreed that the strait should be open, and that Iran should never obtain nuclear weapons. China is close to Iran and the main buyer of its oil.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.In an interview with CNBC in Beijing, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said he believed China would "do what they can" to help open the strait, which he said was "very much in their interest".But diplomacy to end the war has been on hold since last week when Iran and the United States each rejected the other's latest proposals, ?sticking to initial demands that each considers to be "red lines".

Iran has largely shut the Strait of Hormuz to ships apart from its own since the United States and Israel launched their bombing ?campaign two-and-a-half months ago, causing the biggest ever disruption to global energy supplies. The U.S. paused the bombing last month but added a blockade of Iran's ports.In the latest incident on the trade route, an Indian cargo vessel carrying livestock from Africa to the United Arab Emirates was sunk on Thursday in waters off the coast of Oman.

India condemned the attack and ?said all 14 crew members had been rescued by the Omani coastguard. Vanguard, a British maritime security advisory firm, said the vessel had been hit by a missile or drone which caused an explosion.Separately, British maritime ?security agency UKMTO reported on Thursday that "unauthorised personnel" had boarded a ship anchored off the coast of the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah, and were steering it towards Iran.Security in that area is particularly sensitive, as Fujairah is the UAE's sole oil port on the far side of the strait, allowing some exports to reach markets without passing through it. Iran included that part of the coast on an expanded map it released last week of waters it claimed were under its control.Still, Iran appears to be making more deals with countries to allow some ships to pass through the strait - if they accept Tehran's terms.A Japanese tanker crossed on Wednesday after Japan's prime minister announced that she had ?requested help from the Iranian president. A huge Chinese tanker also crossed on Wednesday, and Iran's Fars news agency reported on Thursday that an agreement had been reached to let some Chinese ships pass.Iran's Revolutionary Guards said 30 vessels had ?crossed the

India slams attack on Indian-flagged ship near Oman, crew safe

New Delhi: An Indian-flagged commercial vessel has come under attack off the coast of Oman but all its crew members are safe, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. It is not immediately known who carried out the strike on the vessel on Wednesday. The MEA described the attack as "unacceptable".

"The attack on an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman yesterday is unacceptable and we deplore the fact

that commercial shipping and civilian mariners continue to be targeted," it said.

"All Indian crew on board are safe and we thank the Omani authorities for rescuing them," it said.

The MEA said India reiterates that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members, or otherwise impeding freedom of navigation and commerce, should be avoided.

Donald Trump accorded red carpet welcome in Beijing, protocol broken



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.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.For China-US relations to truly stabilise and improve in the future, the most fundamental step is to fully and faithfully implement the important consensus reached by both leaders, it said.From China's point of view, the Taiwan issue was expected to figure prominently in the talks.Last week, Foreign Minister Wang told Rubio, during their telephone talks, that the US should make the right choice about the self-ruled Taiwan.

Netanyahu meets UAE president secretly during Iran war

Jerusalem/Abu Dhabi: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid a secret visit to the United Arab Emirates during the ongoing Operation Roaring Lion, holding high-level talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in what officials are describing as a "historic breakthrough" in bilateral relations. ?The development was first disclosed through a statement issued by the Israeli Prime Minister's Office late on Wednesday night. ?

Shortly afterwards, the official social media account of the Israeli Prime Minister claimed that the visit had opened a new chapter in ties between the two nations amid heightened regional tensions. ?While details of the discussions remain closely guarded, diplomatic observers believe the meeting could carry significant strategic implications for the Middle East, particularly against the backdrop of the military operation known as Operation Roaring Lion. ?The timing of the visit has triggered intense speculation among regional analysts, many of whom see it as an indication of deeper security and political coordination between Israel and key Gulf nations.The UAE has, over the past few years, emerged as one of Israel's most important regional partners following the normalisation agreements signed under the Abraham Accords. Trade, technology cooperation, tourism and intelligence-sharing between the two countries have steadily expanded despite periodic unrest across the region.However, Netanyahu's reported secret trip suggests that discussions may have moved beyond routine diplomatic engagement.Sources familiar with regional affairs suggest the talks may have focused on security coordination,



regional stability, economic partnerships and the evolving geopolitical landscape in West Asia.

Neither the Israeli Prime Minister's Office nor Emirati authorities have yet released photographs or an official joint statement from the meeting, further adding to the secrecy surrounding the visit.Political commentators in Israel described the development as one of the most sensitive diplomatic moves undertaken by Netanyahu in recent months. In the UAE, officials have so far maintained silence, though regional media outlets are closely monitoring possible follow-up announcements.The visit comes at a time when the Middle East is witnessing rapidly shifting alliances, growing security concerns and renewed diplomatic engagement among regional powers.

Why Experts Believe PCOS Was Never Just An Ovarian Disorder



Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a condition affecting more than 170 million women worldwide, has officially been renamed Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) after a 14-year international consultation involving doctors, researchers, and patient advocacy groups.The new name was introduced in a paper published in The Lancet and presented at the European Congress of Endocrinology in Prague. Experts say the change reflects a broader understanding of the condition, which affects hormonal, metabolic, and mental health systems beyond the ovaries.Professor Helena Teede, Director of Monash University's Monash Centre for Health Research & Implementation, who led the initiative, said the previous term was scientifically misleading.

"What we now know is that there is actually no increase in abnormal cysts on the ovary," Teede said, adding that

the old name failed to capture the condition's wider metabolic and endocrine impacts.PMOS is associated with irregular menstrual cycles, fertility issues, acne, weight gain, insulin resistance, obesity, and increased risks of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 70 per cent of affected women remain undiagnosed.

Researchers said the earlier focus on "cysts" and ovaries often led to confusion among both patients and doctors, resulting in delayed diagnosis and fragmented treatment.Rachel Morman, Chair of UK-based advocacy group Verity, said many patients without ovarian cysts were sometimes dismissed despite experiencing serious metabolic and hormonal symptoms. The renaming process involved more than 50 professional and patient organizations and nearly 22,000 survey responses worldwide. Experts said cultural stigma surrounding women's reproductive health was also considered during the consultations.

Professor Terhi Piilonen of Oulu University in Finland said the new terminology was designed to remain scientifically accurate while avoiding terms that could be harmful or stigmatizing in some cultures.Under the updated framework, diagnosis may rely more on hormonal markers and blood tests alongside menstrual irregularities, potentially reducing dependence on ultrasound scans.The transition from PCOS to PMOS is expected to continue over the next few years, with updated international medical guidelines planned for 2028. Experts involved in the process say the change could improve awareness, diagnosis, research funding, and long-term care for millions of women living with the condition.

Remembering Batukeshwar Dutt, the forgotten comrade of Bhagat Singh



On April 8, 1929, the Hindustan Times in Delhi rushed out a special evening edition, while The Statesman in Calcutta cabled its story to London to evade colonial censorship. That afternoon, two young men had thrown harmless bombs into the Central Assembly Hall, now Parliament, raising slogans of Inquilab Zindabad (Long Live the Revolution) and Samrajyavad ka Nash Ho (Down with Imperialism). They scattered red pamphlets titled ‘To Make the Deaf Hear’. Reporters caught the words, and newspapers across India and abroad carried dramatic headlines. One international paper proclaimed: “Reds Storm the Assembly!” The two young men were Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt. Both were arrested, tried, and convicted. While Bhagat Singh went on to become one of the most iconic figures of the Indian freedom struggle, his comrade Dutt gradually faded from public memory, remembered only occasionally, and rarely honoured with the dignity he deserved. A revolutionary’s journey

Batukeshwar Dutt was born on November 18, 1910, in the Burdwan district of Bengal. Convicted in the Delhi Assembly Bomb Case on June 12, 1929, he spent nine years in prisons across India — Multan, Jhelum, Trichinopoly, Salem, and even the Andamans. In each jail he resorted to hunger strikes, twice fasting for over a month, demanding humane treatment for political prisoners. When Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were executed in Lahore on March 23, 1931, Dutt was languishing in the Salem jail. That night he dreamt of Singh in chains, a vision that haunted him. Released in 1938, Dutt was rearrested during the Quit India movement of 1942 and spent another four years in jail. After his release, he married Anjali, a school teacher, and settled in Patna with their daughter Bharti, who later became a Professor of Economics at Patna College. But life after independence offered little stability. The Bihar government allotted him a coal depot, but it proved financially unviable. President Rajendra Prasad intervened, urging the State to extend due consideration to him. The gesture resulted only in a token nomination to the Bihar Legislative Council — for the remainder of an existing member’s six-month term. Despite such neglect, Dutt remained respected by many political leaders. His health, however, declined in the mid-1960s. Afflicted with bone cancer, he was admitted to AIIMS, New Delhi, where he endured eight months of suffering. Leading orthopaedist Dr. Vig told his comrades that treatment could only ensure a “painless death”. Plans to send him abroad were abandoned after the Indian High Commission in London reported that Delhi offered care equal to Europe’s. Dutt passed away on July 20, 1965. Honouring his last wish, he was cremated at Hussainiwalla in Punjab, alongside Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev. The site, which remained in Pakistan until

1965, had only recently come under Indian control for the construction of a memorial to the martyrs.

Neglect and recognitionFor a brief moment after his death, the nation honoured Dutt. His funeral procession was massive, attended by the President, Prime Minister, central ministers, the Lok Sabha Speaker, and the Punjab Chief Minister. The funeral drew vast numbers of people along the streets. Yet today, few remember that the farewell accorded to him rivalled those of the most revered leaders of his time. Ironically, the Parliament building where he and Bhagat Singh had staged their act of defiance still does not display their portraits. In contrast, the portrait of V. D. Savarkar, once an accused in Gandhi’s assassination case (though later acquitted), hangs prominently opposite Gandhi’s. In 2014, MPs including Dharamvira Gandhi and Sitaram Yechury protested this omission, but the demand to include Bhagat Singh — and by extension Dutt — was ignored.

The story of this neglect was first documented by Chaman Lal Azad, a fellow revolutionary who later became a journalist. While caring for Dutt at AIIMS, Chaman Lal Azad wrote a series of articles in the Urdu daily Pratap. These were later compiled as Bhagat Singh aur Dutt ki Amar Kahani (1966), one of the most authentic, if scattered, accounts of the revolutionary movement. The book contains Bhagat Singh’s letters, court statements, and postcards — some published for the first time — along with Gandhi’s letter to Dutt and rare photographs of him with Nehru and Indira Gandhi in 1963. The book also records Dutt’s conversations about fellow revolutionaries. In it, he spoke of Hari Kishan Talwar, who was hanged in 1931 for shooting Punjab’s Lieutenant Governor, and of his comrade Ehsan Ilahi, who migrated to Pakistan, became a musician, and died penniless despite Chaman Lal Azad’s attempts to help him. Dutt also disapproved of films made on Bhagat Singh in the 1950s, which he and other comrades protested against. Only Manoj Kumar’s Shaheed in 1965 won their approval, with the actor personally consulting Dutt. Equally touching are accounts of his bond with Bhagat Singh’s family. Mata Vidyawati, Bhagat Singh’s mother, spent long periods with Dutt in his final days. She even sold a Hindi epic poem on Bhagat Singh, gifted to her by poet Sri Krishan Saral, to raise funds for Dutt’s treatment. Revolutionary comrades such as Shiv Verma, Sadashiv Malkapurkar, and Jatin Das’s brother Kiran Das remained constantly by his side. Leaders including Home Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda, Defence Minister Y. B. Chavan, Jagjivan Ram, Swaran Singh, and Dr. Sushila Nayyar also visited him in hospital, though such respect was rarely extended while he was alive and struggling. Ode to the forgotten soldierChaman Lal Azad used his book to underline Bhagat Singh’s intellectual legacy — his ability to rise above religion and envision socialism as the foundation of India’s future. Dutt himself remarked that Singh was far-sighted, always with a book in hand, reading wherever he went. Despite having a shared vision of India’s future, history has not treated Dutt kindly. He remains absent from memorials, textbooks, and the national consciousness. While newer works such as Justice Anil Verma’s Bhagat Singh ke Sahyogi: Batukeshwar Dutt and Bhairav Lal Das’s Vipulvi Batukeshwar Dutt (both post-2007) have attempted to reclaim his place, Chaman Lal Azad’s earlier book, rich with first-hand memories, is nearly lost. Its Hindi translation, commissioned years ago by the Government’s Publications Division, still lies unpublished due to copyright hurdles.

Attribution science: the tricky task of linking climate disasters to emitters

On November 12, Delhi’s air became distinctly unbreathable. A thick blanket of smog enveloped the capital, which recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 400, and the pollution was categorised as “severe”. On November 9, Delhiites, aware of the possible respiratory ailments this relapsing crisis could lead to, protested at India Gate. Many were detained. Meanwhile in April, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, released a three-decade long study that established that rainwater, in several parts of the country, was becoming increasingly “acidic.”

In August, there was another environmental disaster, this time in the Himalayas: flash floods inundated Uttarkashi, washing away people and buildings, reportedly caused by a glacial lake burst. While it was small in scale, it was reminiscent of the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy, when over 6,000 people died after an avalanched ruptured the banks of the Chorabari Lake, causing it to burst and release 262 million litres of water within minutes. This was the worst environmental disaster in the country after the 2006 tsunami. But can we authoritatively attribute these environmental catastrophes to human-induced climate change? Put another way, while the irrefutable fact is the earth has warmed by more than 1°C since pre-industrial times thanks to human-generated greenhouse gases and there are local events that result in local environmental disasters as well, how sure we can we be that climate change made a cloudburst or a cyclone more likely? This is where climate attribution science comes in. This field is concerned with estimating how the probability of events or their intensity, duration or frequency are altered by climate change. “Models try to create a world where climate change didn’t happen and look at the real world where events happened,” earth system scientist Raghu Murtugudde explained. “Models are imperfect, and depending on which of these changes you try to estimate, you can get different answers. An event may have occurred naturally but attribution may say its intensity was made stronger or that its probability was increased and so on,” he told The Hindu. In general the attribution of heat waves is more accurate than the attribution of extreme rain events, J. Srinivasan, honorary professor at the Divecha Centre for Climate Change, said. “When a major heat wave strikes Europe or Asia, scientists try to estimate the contribution of increase in carbon dioxide to that particular heat wave. Their attribution will be accurate if the model is good at simulating the past heat waves in that region,” Prof. Srinivasan said. For instance, acid rain in Visakhapatnam has been associated with fossil fuel emissions from a power plant and a shipping yard, among other activities in the vicinity. Delhi’s extreme pollution has been linked to the city’s many vehicles spewing carbon dioxide and, seasonally, to crop residue burning in neighbouring States (which release organic aerosols), the unchecked use of firecrackers during Diwali, and particular wind patterns.

Identifying point sourcesEarlier this year, researchers at Utah State University reported studying the 2013 Kedarnath floods and finding through attribution analysis that northern India has received increasingly large amounts of rain in June since the late 1980s due to more greenhouse gases and aerosols in the atmosphere. There are two forms of emission attribution, Amit Garg, professor at the Indian

Institute of Management Ahmedabad, who specialises in energy, climate change, and sustainable development issues, told The Hindu. “Point sources of emissions mean large sources at one location such as power plants, steel plants and cement plants, while non-point are dispersed sources such as cars and rice fields.” A 2007 study published in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment investigated the chemical composition of precipitation over Jharkhand’s Dhanbad, the “coal city of India”. The rain water samples were found to have an average pH of 5.37, “indicating acidic to alkaline nature of rainwater.” This is how researchers tracked down the “point source” of emissions responsible. Coal mining in Jharia, Dhanbad, emits methane, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and “dust particles in the atmosphere ... [that] act as centres for catalysing chemical reactions, leading to the formation of secondary pollutants such as smog and acid rain,” according to a 2025 paper in International Journal of Scientific Research in Science and Technology. For instance chemical transport modelling can now track plumes and satellites can monitor emissions, and “the increase in model resolution has improved the accuracy of attribution,” says Prof. Srinivasan. “If the number of heat waves or floods increase in the simulation with increasing carbon dioxide, we can use statistics to estimate the probability that the increase in floods or heat waves was caused by an increase in carbon dioxide.” Satellite observations are showing that cyclones are intensifying rapidly on account of high sea-surface temperatures, he added: “With global warming, the water vapour in the atmosphere increases. Weather forecasts from IMD have become more accurate and so deaths from cyclones have reduced dramatically.” But when there isn’t enough data, “researchers run models for the planet’s climate without increasing greenhouse gas emissions and other anthropogenic forcings. Where there is sufficient data, they use trends in the data to compare conditions today with a period from the past in which human effects on the planet were relatively minimal,” Prof. Murtugudde wrote in The Hindu in May 2024. One climate attribution model that needs to be better fine tuned is per-capita entitlements, according to Prof. Garg. “Climate change attribution would require per-capita entitlements for greenhouse-gas emissions and equivalent climate risk coverage across populations in all countries and generations for equity and justice.” Attribution also could, in theory, translate into a way to fix responsibility, especially for rich and developed countries: as Prof. Garg said, “They should ideally commit to pay for the losses imposed on developing countries and the poor all over the world due to as unbridled GHG emissions growth since 1850s.” India’s contribution to the global increase in cumulative CO2 emissions (since 1850) is less than 6%, Prof. Srinivasan said. “So what we do in the next 10 years is not as relevant as what we plan to do during the next 50 years. India has made good progress in solar and wind power plants. In the case of batteries the availability of materials may be a bottleneck.” One paper published in Nature in April 2025 went a step further and asked: “Will it ever be possible to sue anyone for damaging the climate?” Because, the paper said, “the scientific and legal implications of an ‘end-to-end’ attribution that links fossil fuel producers to specific damages from warming” are now available.

Decoding the NDA’s landslide win in Bihar



Many factors contribute to the landslide victory of a political party or an alliance. This holds true for the recent victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar as well. The victory conveys two messages — that there was an overall approval of the work done by the incumbent NDA government under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and of the voters’ continued faith in the promises made by the NDA during its campaign. The results also point to the vital role of women voters in Indian elections. Not only did women voters turn out to vote in much larger numbers in 2025 as compared to all the previous elections, but they also seemed to have voted decisively in favour of the NDA, giving the alliance a significant lead. The results

These results are a major setback for the Mahagatbandhan (MGB). But despite a rout in terms of seats, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) emerged as the single largest party in terms of votes polled. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav led the campaign from the front. He managed to consolidate his core voters — mainly Yadavs and Muslims — but failed to attract voters from other communities. Prashant Kishor’s Jan Suraj Party (JSP) party polled just over 3% of the votes. However, one should credit Mr. Kishor for leading the campaign on the issue of job opportunities for residents in Bihar, rather than on the issue of migration of labour to industries outside Bihar. This message later resonated in the campaigns of other parties. The JSP appeared to attract large crowds and generated significant buzz. This created the popular perception that Bihar was heading for a three-cornered contest. However, the contest was essentially a bipolar one, as was the case in previous elections. The NDA won 202 seats and polled 46.6% of the votes, while the MGB managed to win 35 seats with 37.7% of the votes. This is the second best performance of the NDA; in the 2010 Assembly elections, it won 206 seats. Together, the two alliances polled roughly 85% of the vote, with other parties receiving a much smaller share compared to earlier elections. A large number of voters made up their mind about which party to vote for during the last few days of the campaign. Evidence from a survey suggests that 42% were late deciders, choosing who to vote for one or two days before voting or on the day of voting. Most of these late deciders voted either for the NDA (47%) or for the MGB (36%), while the JSP (3%) was not seen as a party that was likely to win or play a role in government formation. Success of the NDA campaign

The NDA’s strategy of pitching its election campaign on large, State-level issues rather than on local issues seems to have helped it in a big way. The NDA campaigned on the need for a double engine sarkaar (Nitish-Modi government) for faster development of the State. About half of the voters in Bihar believed it was necessary for the party in power at the Centre to also be in power in the State, while a

little over one-third (37%) did not agree with this view. The NDA conveyed the message that this election was not about electing an MLA or Chief Minister, but to ensure that Bihar moves ahead on the path of development. It also warned the voters that if the MGB won, it could result in a return to ‘Jungle Raj’ — a reference to the poor law-and-order situation between 1990 and 2005 during Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi’s leadership. This message seems to have appealed to a large segment of voters, especially women, who faced major challenges on account of the poor law-and-order situation.

Countering anti-incumbencyOne major reason why the NDA government was able to overcome anti-incumbency was the high level of voter satisfaction with both the State and Central governments. Data show that nearly three-fourths of voters expressed satisfaction with the performance of both, creating a favourable environment for the NDA’s campaign. Voters also reported notable improvements across key public services and infrastructure. More than three-fourths of the respondents said that the availability of electricity had improved, and nearly seven of every 10 believed that the conditions of roads had improved. They also said that there were improvements in social sector services. More than six of every 10 voters felt that the condition of government schools had improved, and a similar share reported better access to drinking water. A little over half (54%) believed that government hospitals were functioning better, while nearly half the respondents (48%) perceived an improvement in law and order. Crucially, more than three out of every five voters said they wanted to give the Janata Dal (United) or JD(U)-led NDA government another chance in Bihar. The welfare schemes specifically targeting women also seem to have helped the NDA in mobilising women voters in bigger numbers in 2025 as compared to previous elections. Women had supported Mr. Kumar in earlier elections as well, due to his policy of sharab bandi (alcohol prohibition), policy of giving cycles and school uniforms to schoolgirls, and the Jeevika Didi scheme. Initial evidence suggests that women voters seem to have played an important role in NDA’s victory. The MGB was unable to generate confidence among voters of its ability to provide better governance if electe

It also appeared much weaker than the NDA in mobilising support. While in the NDA, alliance partners drew voters from different castes and communities, the MGB largely reinforced support within its existing base and failed to bring in additional voters. Within the NDA, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attracted a large chunk of upper caste voters, the JD(U) brought in Kurmi votes, Upendra Kushwaha’s Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) was instrumental in securing Koeri votes, and both the Hindustaan Awaam Morcha and the Lok Jan Shakti Party (R) attracted a large segment of Dalit votes. It is important to note that the core base of the MGB was much smaller than that of the NDA. The alliance partners in the MGB — mainly the RJD, Congress, Vikasheel Insaan Party, and the Left parties — more or less have the same core support base, which includes Yadavs, Muslims, and poorer segment of voters. While the alliance of these parties helped in consolidating the core supporters of the MGB, it appeared unable to attract non-committed voters. Evidence suggests that over seven of every 10 (70%) of Yadavs and Muslims voted for the MGB in this election. But the alliance failed to win over voters of other communities.

Why COPD is no longer just a smoker’s disease



To be physically active in an area with severe pollution is worse than to be physically inactive. Although, in principle, people perform physical activities (such as running, cycling, yoga, etc.) to decrease the risk of cardiovascular diseases, exercising in a location with a high AQI (air quality index) appears to be harmful to the lungs. During deep-breathing exercises,

Until recently, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was a common diagnosis for persons who’d spent their lives smoking, since tobacco smoke is the biggest contributor to the condition. However, of late, COPD cases among non-smokers have been on the rise, leading to a recalibration of how we understand respiratory disease risks to our lungs. Environmental and genetic factors are affecting an increasing number of individuals who have never smoked a single cigarette, but who are experiencing shortness of breath, chronic cough, wheezing and throat issues. It’s in the air

To be physically active in an area with severe pollution is worse than to be physically inactive. Although, in principle, people perform physical activities (such as running, cycling, yoga, etc.) to decrease the risk of cardiovascular diseases, exercising in a location with a high AQI (air quality index) appears to be harmful to the lungs. During deep-breathing exercises, the inspiratory flow rate significantly increases to maximise the intake of fresh air and oxygen. As a result, fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) and toxins that may be found in polluted air, is inhaled, causing stress to the distal air sacs of the lungs (alveoli). Over a period of time, chronic inflammation and oxidative stress in the lungs from these factors lead to irreversible lung disease, and an increased risk of cardiovascular problems in an otherwise

healthy non-smoker. Our homes, considered a sanctuary, can be a reservoir of lung irritants. In many parts of the world, particularly developing regions, the use of biomass fuels (wood, coal, crop residue and also fuel made out of cow dung) for cooking and heating in poorly ventilated spaces is a leading cause of COPD, especially among non-smoking women. But the threat is also present in subtler, everyday items. Products such as mosquito coils, insect sprays, air fresheners, scented candles and the like, release fine particulate matter and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that irritate the airway lining. Furthermore, fumes from outdated gas appliances, old furnaces, and certain strong household cleaning products can linger, causing chronic, low-level inflammation that steadily chips away at lung function. Genetic predispositionsMost non-smoking COPD cases result from factors, genetically or early in life, that one can identify and define well before they cause problems during adulthood. Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency most commonly causes undiagnosed COPD. The deficiency exists as a hereditary condition. In this condition, the liver does not produce enough of the protein AAT. This protein protects the lungs from destruction with naturally-occurring enzymes. This deficiency results in the gradual destruction of lung tissue, causing structural changes associated with COPD and leading to emphysema, which often presents in patients during their 30s or 40s. Childhood asthma that is not well controlled can also cause structural airway changes. These changes may continue into adulthood. This may cause COPD that occurs early. The airway calibre may be altered, relative to lung size.

This is known as dysanapsis. Healthy non-smokers then have little “breathing reserve” and are more likely to develop obstructive lung disease with increasing age or small environmental exposures. These airway disorders are obstructive. Another important cause is infections such as tuberculosis that can heal but leave behind significant lung damage, leading to COPD-like clinical conditions. The risks are real: adopting proactive strategies focused on minimising lung stress and maximising efficiency however, can offer crucial support. Apart from quitting smoking and avoiding second-hand smoke—the single most impactful action that can be taken—individuals should focus on environmental control and lifestyle adjustments. This includes actively improving indoor air quality, ensuring excellent ventilation, and dusting/vacuuming regularly to remove indoor pollutants. Maintaining good posture is also a simple yet powerful ‘trick’, as sitting or standing tall provides the lungs with maximum space to fully expand. Practicing good nutrition and hydration is also generally known to support the body through natural detoxification and cleansing. Dietary support mainly detoxifies against oxidative stress and inflammation. Consuming antioxidant-rich foods that are high in vitamin C such as berries and citrus fruits and anti-inflammatory spices such as turmeric and ginger can help. Diets rich in omega-3 fatty acids such as fatty fish or walnuts, in addition to food that packs dietary fibre might help improve lung function by promoting general health in people who are already suffering from COPD. Controlled coughing may assist lung clearance: this special technique of coughing helps clear mucus. Steam therapy may assist in lung clearance as it loosens the mucus. Lastly, maintaining hydration is vital, as sufficient water intake keeps the protective mucus lining thin and easier for the body to expel, thereby supporting long-term respiratory health.

Cloudflare Outage: How a ‘latent bug’ triggered a global disruption of X, ChatGPT services | Explained



Several of the world’s largest online services, including X, ChatGPT, and numerous websites that depend on Cloudflare for security and traffic routing, were disrupted on November 18, 2025, when a significant outage rippled across the internet. Users reported slow loading, broken pages, and complete downtime for platforms that typically handle billions of daily requests. As confusion mounted, Cloudflare’s Chief Technology Officer, Dane Knecht, posted a detailed explanation on Twitter, outlining the internal failure that cascaded into a global disruption. In his message, Mr. Knecht acknowledged that Cloudflare had “failed” its customers and the broader internet. He emphasised that organisations across the world rely on Cloudflare to keep their websites and applications accessible, and on this particular day, the company did not uphold that responsibility. What looked from the outside like a sudden, widespread network collapse stemmed from a highly technical but critical component inside Cloudflare’s infrastructure: its bot-mitigation system.

I won’t mince words: earlier today we failed our customers and the broader Internet when a problem in @Cloudflare network impacted large amounts of traffic that rely on us. The sites, businesses, and organizations that rely on Cloudflare depend on us being available and I...To understand why the failure caused such extensive disruption, it’s essential to understand what a bot-mitigation system actually is. The modern internet is flooded with automated traffic. Not all bots behave maliciously. For instance, search engines, uptime monitors, and legitimate APIs rely on automated processes. But a significant portion of bots exist to cause harm or unfairly exploit online systems. These harmful bots attempt credential-stuffing attacks using leaked passwords, scrape websites to steal content or competitive information, test servers for potential security vulnerabilities, overwhelm sites with junk traffic, or otherwise distort normal usage. Bot-mitigation systems exist to keep this type of abusive automated traffic away from websites and applications. Cloudflare’s system analyses vast amounts of web traffic in real time, using a combination of behavioural analysis, machine-learning models, network fingerprinting, challenge-response mechanisms, and IP-reputation tracking. It scrutinises how quickly a user, or a bot, moves between pages, whether headers match known browser patterns, whether traffic resembles human interactions, and how the request compares to global patterns across millions of clients. Many of these checks are invisible to normal users, but they play an essential role in preventing everything from data theft to full-blown outages caused by bot overload. Does only Cloudflare use bot-mitigation systems?

Cloudflare is not unique in running such systems. Virtually every major infrastructure provider that handles web traffic at scale has its own bot-mitigation architecture. Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud, and other content-delivery providers maintain similar systems that separate harmful and legitimate traffic before it reaches the websites using their services. Without these layers of automated protec-

tion, the modern internet would be much more fragile, susceptible to constant low-grade attacks, and significantly slower for everyday users.

What is a latent bug?

What made the incident particularly notable was that the flaw was what Mr. Knecht described as a “latent bug.” A latent bug is an error that sits hidden in the system, often for months or years, without causing any visible issues. These are among the most difficult flaws to detect because they remain dormant under everyday conditions. They often require a rare or unusual combination of inputs or environmental conditions to activate. Only when that specific combination occurs does the underlying flaw suddenly emerge and cause unpredictable, sometimes severe, effects. In this case, the latent bug existed inside a service responsible for supporting Cloudflare’s bot-mitigation capabilities, per what the CTO posted on X. Under normal operations, the bug probably didn’t interfere with the system’s functioning. It remained silent until a specific configuration update created exactly the sequence of events needed to trigger the crash. Once the service started failing repeatedly, the problem cascaded to other interconnected systems, leading to a broad degradation across Cloudflare’s network. Although the issue originated in a subsystem dedicated to handling automated traffic, the ripple effect reached far beyond that, affecting practically every service that depends on Cloudflare’s infrastructure. Mr. Knecht emphasised that the disruption was not the result of an external attack. Instead, it was an internal systems failure exacerbated by the scale and interdependence of Cloudflare’s services. Many modern internet outages have similar root causes: an unexpected failure born from the complexity of distributed systems rather than malicious activity. When companies operate thousands of servers across hundreds of regions and handle an enormous share of global traffic, even small internal faults can create disproportionately large external consequences. What is a routine configuration change?

The incident stemmed from what the CTO described as a “routine configuration change,” which is another key concept in understanding why outages like this occur. Large internet infrastructure providers regularly make configuration updates to keep systems running smoothly. These updates are not the same as rewriting software or deploying new code. Instead, they involve adjusting the internal parameters that define system behaviour. A typical routine update could involve modifying traffic-routing rules, updating threat-detection models, adjusting timeout or capacity settings, switching on new features, or updating lists of known malicious IP ranges. Such updates occur constantly. They are considered safe because they usually pass through extensive automated testing, and companies roll them out in stages to reduce the risk of widespread disruption. However, even with these safeguards, the sheer complexity of global infrastructure means that unexpected interactions sometimes slip through. When a latent bug meets an ordinary update, the result can be a cascading failure, exactly the situation Cloudflare found itself managing. In his message, the CTO noted that Cloudflare had already fixed the issue and the company is now working on long-term fixes to prevent the same flaw from reemerging. He also noted that more detailed information about the cause of this issue will be shared by the company. This outage, which follows less than a month after the AWS outage, serves as a reminder of how interconnected the internet is and how much of it passes through infrastructure providers. It also illustrates the fragile balance between complexity and reliability that underpins the online world. A single bug, dormant and undetected, combined with an ordinary configuration change, can ripple across continents and disrupt services used by hundreds of millions of people.

Meta is sued by US Virgin Islands over ads for scams, dangers to children

The attorney general of the U.S. Virgin Islands has sued Meta ?Platforms, accusing the Facebook and Instagram owner of deliberately profiting from ?advertisements for scams and failing to keep its social media platforms safe for children. “Meta knowingly and intentionally exposes its users to fraud and harm. It does so to maximize user engagement and, in turn, its revenue,” states the lawsuit, which was filed in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands on St. Croix.

The lawsuit repeatedly cites an article by Reuters last month that revealed how Meta ?internally projected that 10% of its 2024 revenue – about \$16 billion – would come ?from ads for scams, illegal gambling and banned products. Based on a cache of internal company documents, the article also reported that Meta doesn’t block advertisers suspected of scams unless its algorithms are 95% ?certain that the marketer is ?engaging in misbehaviour. Following the story, two U.S. senators called on the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to look into the matter and “pursue vigorous enforcement action where appropriate.”

The Virgin Islands lawsuit seeks penalties for violating its consumer ?laws. In a statement, Attorney General Gordon C. Rhea said it “marks the ?first effort by an attorney general to address reports of rampant fraud and scams on Meta’s platforms.” The lawsuit also accuses Meta ?of misleading the public about its efforts to protect children and adults on its platforms, including Facebook and Instagram. “Meta repeatedly touts the ‘safety’ of its platforms to its users, parents, ?regulators, and Congress,” the Vir-



gin Islands lawsuit states. “Meta consistently, and intentionally, fails to implement the policies it writes.” In response to the lawsuit, Meta spokesman Andy Stone referred Reuters to past company statements calling allegations that it has failed to protect consumers baseless. “We aggressively fight fraud and scams because people on our platforms don’t want this content, legitimate advertisers don’t want it and we don’t want it either,” he said, adding that scam reports from users of Meta’s platforms have fallen by half ?over the last 18 months. Stone said that the claims regarding Meta’s failure to make the platform safe for young users were also without ?merit. “We strongly disagree with these allegations and are confident the evidence will show our ?longstanding commitment to supporting young people,” he said. In August, Reuters reported that an internal Meta document outlining its policies on chatbot behavior permitted the company’s artificial intelligence creations to “engage a child in conversations that are romantic or sensual.”

Coinbase CEO says ex-employee arrested in India

Crypto exchange Coinbase’s CEO Brian Armstrong announced on social media that an ex-employee had been arrested in India, with the update coming months after the company disclosed a security breach in which customer data was stolen. Armstrong thanked the Hyderabad Police in his message, but did not provide detailed information about how the arrested individual was linked to any past security incidents at Coinbase.

“We have zero tolerance for bad behavior and will continue to work with law enforcement to bring bad actors to justice. Thanks to the Hyderabad Police in India, an ex-Coinbase customer service agent was just arrested. Another one down and more still to come,” posted Armstrong on December 26 on X. On May 15, Coinbase disclosed that cyber criminals “bribed and recruited a group of rogue overseas support agents” to steal customer data and target them directly, in what is known as a social engineering attack. An

electronic filing with the Office of the Maine Attorney General stated that the total number of affected persons was 69,461. Per the same filing, the breach occurred in December last year and was discovered in May this year, with “insider wrongdoing” being cited as the category.

“Criminals targeted our customer support agents overseas. They used cash offers to convince a small group of insiders to copy data in our customer support tools for less than 1% of Coinbase monthly transacting users. Their aim was to gather a customer list they could contact while pretending to be Coinbase—tricking people into handing over their crypto. They then tried to extort Coinbase for \$20 million to cover this up. We said no,” said Coinbase in a statement in May, noting that wallets, login credentials, 2FA codes, private keys, and hot/cold wallets were not compromised. This is not the first time Coinbase has faced security issues due to the conduct of its employees.

The row over Karunanidhi’s ‘Anna way-Periyar way’ remark during 1991 election campaign



Unaware of Tamil Nadu going to be the site of the gruesome assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi along with 15 others at Sriperumbudur on May 21 in 1991, the State, till then, witnessed the run-up to the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assembly in a manner no different from the previous occasions. Originally, May 26, 1991 was fixed as the date of polling in the State. But, it was postponed to June 15 in the wake of the assassination. In tune with the State’s characteristic, the poll campaign then too reached feverish pitch with leaders from various parts of the country descending and local leaders launching an all-out effort to sway the voters. Public and street corner meetings were all going on, as usual, with major political parties keeping the cadres in good humour - which meant providing them food, funds, and liquor in many cases.

According to an estimate put out by The Hindu in a report on May 12, 1991, a candidate for the Assembly seat would have to cough up between ?6 lakh and ?10 lakh, depending on the composition and spread of the constituency, while a Lok Sabha candidate may have to find anything from ?25 lakh to ?30 lakh. “Perhaps the parties may be in a position to offer 20 per cent of this, the rest depends on the influence and resourcefulness of the contestants,” it stated.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Assembly had faced snap polls. The ninth Lok Sabha, which was formed on December 2, 1989, was to last till December 1994 but was dissolved on March 13, 1991. Likewise, the ninth Legislative Assembly, which was constituted on February 6, 1989, was dissolved on January 30, 1991. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)’s council of Ministers, led by M. Karunanidhi, was removed by the Union government, which was then headed by Chandra Shekhar, who, in turn, depended on the Congress and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for support in the Lok Sabha. Tamil Nadu came under the President’s rule for the fourth time in its history which remains the last such instance. Then President of India R. Venkataraman (right) with the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M. Karunanidhi (left) at Madras in December 1990. As the then President R. Venkataraman had approved the Union Cabinet’s proposal for the proclamation of the President’s rule, the DMK still holds a grudge against him. Venkataraman died in January 2009. On his decision, Venkataraman, in his memoir, My Presidential Years, justified it by saying the office of President was not an “appellate or supervisory” authority over that of Prime Minister. “It was my duty to act on the advice of the Cabinet so long as the proposed action was not violative of provisions of the Constitution,” Venkataraman pointed out.

The dismissal of the DMK regime was more controversial than any other similar operation because the then Governor of Tamil Nadu, S.S. Barnala, had refused to send a report to the Centre recommending imposition of President’s rule in the State under Article 356, as dictated by the Centre. For this, Venkataraman’s explanation was that it was “beyond dispute” that the Union government could act on the basis of a report of Governor or otherwise. So, the absence of the Governor’s report was “not an infirmity,”

the former President stated, recalling that in 1977, the Janata government at the Centre dismissed the councils of Ministers in nine States without reports of the Governors concerned. As was the norm since the 1977 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, the formations led by the DMK and the AIADMK were the principal players. The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) contested on its own in 1991. While the DMK-led coalition included the Janata Dal and two Left parties; the AIADMK had the Congress, the United Communist Party of India (UCPI), the Republican Party of India, Forward Bloc, Farmers Toilers party and the Human Rights Party as its allies. The DMK contested in 171 Assembly seats and the AIADMK in 164. Right from the word go, the AIADMK-led alliance was tipped to win the Assembly polls. This was no surprise, as even in the November 1989 Lok Sabha elections, the coalition won in all but 39 constituencies, the exception being Nagapattinam. It was ahead of its principal adversary and others in 227 Assembly segments and the DMK-headed front, six seats, with the PMK surging to the front position in one segment - Taramangalam of Salem district.

Opinion polls too favoured the AIADMK-Congress combine, which was headed by J. Jayalalithaa then. An early public opinion survey commissioned by Frontline, a sister publication of The Hindu, in three Assembly constituencies in Madras (now Chennai) revealed a 7 percentage point lead for the AIADMK-Congress (I) front over the DMK-led front. Carried out by the Apt Research Group during April 5-7, 1991, the “early days” survey revealed that the AIADMK-Congress alliance’s vote share was 45.9% against the DMK-led front’s 38.72%. A month later, The Hindu-MARG conducted an opinion poll in Tamil Nadu which showed the alliance was more or less in the same commanding position as in November 1989 when it won a massive victory. It was against this backdrop that the DMK president and former Chief Minister Karunanidhi stunned political observers by his statement, during his campaign in Coimbatore district on May 15, that “if we win, we will follow the path of Anna [DMK founder and former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai] and if defeated, we will go the Periyar [Dravida Kazhagam founder E.V. Ramasamy] way.” A news report published by this newspaper on May 16, 1991, stated the remark had created “some confusion.” He was quick to clarify later in the day that by the term ‘Anna way,’ he meant that the DMK would form the government, and “not to contest in elections” was what he meant by the term “Periyar way.” Even this clarification did not satisfy many and a spokesman of the Dravidian major had to say later that the stand of the DMK would be known after the results were announced. R. Kannan, the biographer of Annadurai and M.G. Ramachandran and the author of The DMK Years, explains the DMK was founded for the express purpose of fighting elections. “This was the only reason Anna and others left Periyar,” he adds. Elaborating, he says Periyar’s way is to go back to the basics, “an impossibility in electoral politics. Electoral politics entails endless compromise and accommodation.” He also recalls how Karunanidhi, in August 1983, immediately after the anti-Tamil pogrom in Sri Lanka, made an offer that his party would not make an attempt at power and the Congress could rule the State for 10 years, if the Centre — which was led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi — sent troops to the neighbouring country. Karunanidhi himself laid to rest the row that surrounded his observation on “Anna way-Periyar way” at a public meeting in Madurai in June 1991. “He always wanted to work like Periyar and would always follow the path shown by Anna, Periyar and the Justice Party,” The Hindu on reported on June 9, 1991. Unsurprisingly, the 1991 Assembly election’s results were one-sided with the AIADMK-Congress combine bagging 225 Assembly seats. Karunanidhi was the lone DMK candidate to win from Harbour. He later resigned and in the bye-elections to Harbour and Egmore constituencies (which were earlier countermanded), the DMK candidates emerged victorious.

Pregnant Karishma Tanna swears by walking: ‘Body changes, tiredness, weight...it’s all real’

Actor Karishma Tanna, who is expecting her first child with husband Varun Banger, recently emphasised the importance of walking during pregnancy. “Just a small reminder to all mamas-to-be. One thing that genuinely helps me during pregnancy is walking,” she noted in an Instagram post, which shows her walking on a treadmill. According to Tanna, a “simple, daily walk makes such a difference physically and mentally”. “Pregnancy is beautiful, but the way the body changes, tiredness, weight...it’s all real. And exactly why movement becomes important. No pressure, but just stay active and strong. Even 20-30 minutes of daily walking will help you with swelling, stiffness, mood swings, sleep, and digestion, and make you feel better. Be gentle but don’t stop moving.” Taking a cue from the 42-year-old, we asked an expert. Dr Sujata Rathod, senior consultant, obstetrician and gynaecologist, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, affirmed that in most healthy pregnancies, moderate walking, including on a treadmill, can be quite beneficial. “It helps improve blood circulation, supports healthy weight gain, reduces stiffness, and can even boost mood and sleep quality. Many pregnant women also find that regular walking helps ease back pain and keeps their energy levels stable throughout the day,” said Dr Rathod. Dr Rathod mentioned that a treadmill can be a convenient choice, especially during extreme weather, because it allows for controlled speed and a safer indoor environment. For women with uncomplicated pregnancies, walking is generally seen as one of the safest forms of exercise. “However, intensity matters. Pregnancy is not the time for intense workouts or pushing physical limits. The focus should be on staying active, not exhausting the body,” contended Dr Rathod. Most women can continue walking into the second and even third trimester if they feel comfortable, maintain balance, and have clearance from their doctor. Proper footwear, hydration, and avoiding overheating are also important, she said. Can exercise during pregnancy help during labour and recovery? Dr Rathod asserted that staying physically active during pregnancy may improve stamina, muscle strength, and flexibility, all of which can help during labor and postpartum recovery. “Women who keep a moderate activity level often report better mobility, improved stress management, and quicker recovery after delivery. That said, exercise alone does not ensure an easy labour. Each pregnancy and delivery is different,” said Dr Rathod.

Are there situations where treadmill walking should be avoided?

Dr Rathod said that women with high-risk pregnancies, bleeding, severe anaemia, uncontrolled blood pressure, placenta-related issues, or a history of preterm labour should avoid unsupervised exercise unless their doctor specifically advises otherwise. “Pregnant women should



also stop exercising immediately if they experience dizziness, breathlessness, chest pain, contractions, vaginal bleeding, or reduced fetal movement,” said Dr Rathod.

What is the safest way to stay active during pregnancy?

The best approach is consistency over intensity. “Simple activities like walking, prenatal yoga, stretching, and light strengthening exercises are usually enough for most women. Even 20 to 30 minutes of gentle movement on most days can make a noticeable difference in physical and emotional wellbeing during pregnancy,” said Dr Rathod.

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 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.

8.3%: April wholesale prices rose most in 42 months as Iran war pain deepens



Wholesale prices in India jumped 8.3% year-on-year in April as against an increase of 3.88% in March as the impact of the West Asia war mounted sharply, with producers bearing the brunt of the cost. According to data released by the commerce ministry on Thursday, inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in April was the highest in 42 months, with energy related items witnessing an unprecedented rise in prices and contributing almost three-fourth of the increase in inflation from March. Wholesale price of Aviation Turbine Fuel, or ATF, more than doubled in April from March, with naphtha, furnace oil, and bitumen seeing prices rise 67%, 46%, and 39% on a month-on-month basis.

Naphtha is used in a variety of industries, including plastics and paints. Bitumen is used to make roads. Meanwhile, wholesale price of petrol was 24% higher in April compared to March, high-speed diesel 17%, natural gas 15%, kerosene 12%, and LPG 10%. Among common everyday items, the largest month-on-month price increases were seen for plastic tape (12%), aluminium foil (7%), plastic bags (5%), and cigarettes (5%). The wholesale price numbers come two days after the statistics ministry released retail data for April, which showed that Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rose very slightly to 3.48% year-on-year from 3.4% in March, as the government's effort to protect households from the West Asia energy price shock continued to bear results. However, signs of producers passing on some of their highest costs to consumers have begun to emerge, with the price of dining out rising sharply in April compared to March. "The first sign of the impact of war on the Indian economy has been seen in the WPI inflation number for April," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda.

Amid West Asia crisis, government bans sugar exports until September 30



government bans sugar exports, government bans sugar exports until September 30, Sugar exports, US-Israel war on Iran, west asia war, Iran war, Israel-US-Iran war, Iran conflict, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Hormuz shut, west asia conflict, iran and israel war, iran and israel, us israel war, war in iran, iran us, us israel iran, us israel, us iran war, iran us war, us war, israel news, israel iran war news, war news, israel iran news, israel war news, iran war news, war on iran, iran israel war today, war in iran and israel, iran attack israel, israel iran, israel us attack iran, attack on iran, iran attack on us, us and iran, us attack in iran, did iran attack us, us to attack iran, us and israel, us and israel attack iran, us attack iran today, us iran news, iran us news, us news, iran attack news, iran attack today The prohibition on sugar exports comes a day after the government hiked import duty on gold and other precious metals as a measure to curb non-essential imports and protect foreign exchange. The government is undertaking a series of measures to ensure energy availability and essential supplies in the country.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) late on Wednesday prohibited export of raw, white and refined sugar with immediate effect till September 30 amid inflation and future supply-related concerns in the backdrop of the ongoing West Asia conflict. The prohibition will not apply to sugar exports to the European Union and the US under the

Amul, Mother Dairy hike milk prices by Rs 2/litre across India, blame higher cost



Amul is a premier Indian dairy cooperative brand based in Anand, Gujarat. Amul is a premier Indian dairy cooperative brand based in Anand, Gujarat, while Mother Dairy commands big business in Delhi NCR. Dairy companies Amul and Mother Dairy have hiked the retail price of fresh milk by Rs 2 per litre across India, blaming an increase in "cost of operation and production of milk".

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), one of the leading suppliers of milk in India that markets under the Amul brand, made its decision known on Wednesday and said the price hike will be effective May 14, news agency PTI reported. Amul is a premier Indian dairy cooperative brand based in Anand, Gujarat. The increase translates to about 2.5-3.5 per cent per litre, which is lower than the average food inflation, it added.

"While WPI inflation is not a target for MPC, it is known that with a lag, these prices also get transmitted to the CPI component through higher input costs. Therefore, these numbers remain important for policy formulation. They also indicate the pressure that is being exerted on the government to raise prices at the retail end," Sabnavis added. According to Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at CareEdge Ratings, the rise in wholesale inflation – which she expects will average 7.8% in FY27 as against 0.7% in FY26 – raises the risk of second-round effects "gradually spilling into retail inflation". "So far, OMCs and the government have absorbed much of the rise in crude prices, but a prolonged period of elevated oil prices may lead to some pass-through to consumers. Additionally, concerns around a higher probability of an El Nino event this year pose upside risks to food inflation," Sinha added. Second-round effects refer to the spreading of a specific price shock through the rest of the economy. For instance, if fuel prices at the pump rise, it could lead to a rise in taxi fares and transportation costs for workers. In turn, they might demand higher wages from employers, which could result in producers raising selling prices of the goods and services they make.

While wholesale food inflation was muted at 2.31% in April, all other categories notched up significant price increases. Primary articles inflation – the year-on-year change in prices – rose to 9.17% from 6.36% in March, fuel and power inflation skyrocketed to 24.71% from 1.05%, and inflation for manufactured products increased to 4.62% from 3.39%. And while wholesale food inflation was subdued, it was because outliers at both extremes cancelled each other out. However, a crash in the prices of key vegetables such as onion (down 5% from March) is putting the rural economy in stress, with onions fetching just 50 paise per kilogram in the Satana Agricultural Produce Market Committee in Nashik, Maharashtra. While unseasonal rain has hit the quality of onion and led to lower prices, the war in West Asia has hurt export demand. The 'fuel and power' category, which makes up 13% of the entire WPI, saw its inflation rise to 18.22% in April from 4.2% in March. On the manufacturing front, chemicals pose the biggest challenge. Chemicals such as phthalic anhydride (up 22% from March), ammonium liquid (19%), ammonium nitrate, nitric acid (both 15%), and mono ethyl glycol (12%) all saw sharp price increases from March. Manufacturing food products also became more expensive, primarily due to dearer edible oils – Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this week called on the country to reduce its oil consumption.

preferential quota, the notification said. The prohibition on sugar exports will also not apply to the advance authorisation scheme (AAS), government-to-government exports, and consignments already in the physical export pipeline, it stated.

The decision to ban sugar exports is seen more as a precautionary move, given the finely balanced supply and stocks position. Sugar production in the 2025-26 season (October-September) has been estimated at about 275 lakh tonnes. With opening stocks of 50 lakh tonnes, the total availability of 325 lakh tonnes can comfortably meet the projected domestic consumption requirement of 280 lakh tonnes. It will leave the closing stocks of sugar at 45 lakh tonnes, which is the lowest since the 39.4 lakh tonnes of 2016-17. The government does not want to take any chances of lower production in the 2026-27 season from subnormal monsoon rains and anticipated shortfalls in fertiliser availability due to the West Asia crisis

The DGFT, which comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, also said that the sugar exports will be allowed if the loading of sugar on the ship has commenced before May 13 or sugar consignment has been handed over to Customs before Wednesday. "The export of sugar shall be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments," the notification said. The prohibition on sugar exports comes a day after the government hiked import duty on gold and other precious metals as a measure to curb non-essential imports and protect foreign exchange. The government is undertaking a series of measures to ensure energy availability and essential supplies in the country. The ongoing West Asia conflict and its resultant impact on energy prices and supplies have given rise to inflation concerns as international fuel prices have doubled since the West Asia war. Scores of commercial vessels with thousands of seafarers have been stuck in the Persian Gulf since the West Asia war began on February 28 as vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz came to a halt. The Strait is among the world's most critical chokepoints for energy supplies, and accounts for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows.

"The price hike is being done due to an increase in the overall cost of operation and production of milk. There is a substantial increase in the cost of cattle feed, milk packaging film and fuel during the year," GCMMF said. The cooperative said its member unions have also increased farmers' procurement price by Rs 30 per kg of fat, which is a 3.7 per cent increase over May 2025. Mother Dairy, which had last revised the price in April, 2025, said a hike was "necessitated in view of the sustained increase in farmer procurement prices, of around 6 per cent over the past one year, despite continued efforts to limit the impact on consumers," it said. Mother Dairy said this price revision will lead to only a partial pass through of increased costs and is aimed at "maintaining a fair balance between farmer welfare and consumer interests".

Eli-Lilly out with India's first Alzheimer's drug, Lormalzi

Hyderabad: Pharmaceutical giant Eli-Lilly is again in the spotlight with the launch of India's first Alzheimer's disease-modifying drug, donenemab, under the brand name 'Lormalzi'. The monthly administered intravenous drug works by breaking down beta-amyloid protein plaques (protein clusters) accumulated in the brain, a primary cause of Alzheimer's disease.

Salted water trend: Who should try it and who should stay far away



Salt water is considered good for the body, but is it advisable to add salt to each glass of water every day? This is what experts told us: "Your regular meals already provide enough sodium for the body's needs. Extra salt in every glass of water can easily push your intake far beyond the recommended limit and raise the risk of high blood pressure, water retention, and long-term cardiovascular issues," said Dr Amit Saraf, director, internal medicine, Jupiter Hospital, Thane.

This trend has grown with the popularity of "electrolyte hacks" on social media, according to Dr Saraf. "Salted water can help in specific situations, like after heavy sweating, long workouts, vomiting, diarrhoea, or heat exposure, when the body loses sodium. But turning this into an everyday ritual is unnecessary and may even be harmful," said Dr

Saraf.

Who should never try this trend?

People with hypertension, heart disease, kidney disease, swelling or fluid retention, and thyroid conditions. "People with kidney disease should avoid adding extra salt to water completely, unless advised by a doctor. Their bodies are more sensitive to sodium load," said Dr Saraf.

Are there any cases where adding salt to water is appropriate?

Yes, but very limited. "For endurance sports, or dehydration due to disease, or even when exposed to heat for long periods, rehydration with electrolytes (inclusive of sodium) is necessary. In such cases, too, ORS or medically prepared electrolyte drinks are safer and better options than the random addition of table salt to water," said Dr Saraf.

This method is generally useful during summers or humid weather when fluid loss is high, or for individuals who do not drink enough water or are involved in intense physical activity, said Dt. Deepali Sharma, clinical nutritionist, CK Birla Hospital, Delhi. "It is important to remember that the quantity should be very small, a pinch, not a spoon, and should be balanced with regular clean water intake throughout the day. People with kidney disease, hypertension, heart issues, or the elderly should avoid this practice unless advised by a doctor," said Sharma. "Don't think that more salt automatically means better hydration. The body mainly needs water, and too much sodium could leave you feeling thirstier." Rely on natural hydration. Plain water, coconut water, buttermilk, watermelon, and ORS (if necessary) are healthier options.

Amitabh Bachchan's sleep hack: How classical music helps him unwind at 80+

Even as he continues working actively in his 80s, Amitabh Bachchan recently opened up about struggling to sleep due to his demanding work schedule. Writing on his blog in the early hours of the morning, the veteran actor reflected on how work often takes priority over rest, despite being aware of the health consequences.

"No sleep process takes over at this hour of the morning from the night before. Why? Because work is more important than sleep... medical says it's not right... must get 7 hours minimum... the body grows, develops and repairs in the sleep hours... so what does one do? (sic)," he wrote. Bachchan also shared his personal ritual for unwinding during these sleepless nights. According to him, calming instrumental music, especially slide-guitar and sitar renditions, creates a sense of peace that helps him gradually fall asleep. "As I work, I am glued to the EB Blog, but in the silence of the night, that gentle music on slide guitar-sitar rendering some of the most soulful classical meditation solos... aaah!! There is no better cure for the soul than this. It is the chord that ties the soul to the Almighty... that invisible thread unseen, yet felt despite its absence... I feel... so it strums the strings within... put it on and softly it shall give you the peace of slumber... the seven notes that have invaded all music in whichever part of the world, are the universal commonness of mankind... respect it, and it shall respect you (sic)," he added.

This is not the first time Bachchan has spoken about prioritising work over rest and personal time. Earlier this month, while discussing work ethic and focus, he quoted Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and wrote, "When you focus, the only matter that gets you going is what needs to be done. Not in a few days, not tomorrow, not any specific time... ITS DO IT NOW!" suggesting that complete focus on work is often treated as more important than other aspects of life. While dedication and discipline are often celebrated, experts have repeatedly warned that chronic sleep deprivation can quietly affect both physical and mental health over time. Long-term physical and mental health effects of consistently sleeping less than the medically recommended seven hours Psychologist Rasshi Gurnani tells indianexpress.com, "Consistently sleeping for less than seven hours can gradually affect almost every system in the body and mind. From a psychological and neurological perspective, chronic sleep deprivation increases cortisol levels, keeps the nervous system in a prolonged state of hyperarousal, and reduces the brain's ability to emotionally regulate stress. Over time, this can contribute to anxiety, irritability, emotional exhaustion, poor concentration, memory impairment, burnout, and even symptoms linked to depression." Physically, she adds that insufficient sleep is associated with weakened immunity, hormonal imbalance, cardiovascular strain, metabolic dysfunction, increased inflammation, and a higher risk of lifestyle disorder.

The 'chutti' irony: Why professionals in India are taking leave just to finish office work

Have you ever taken 'chutti' from the office... just to finish office work? Well, apparently, a large part of corporate India is doing it. This may sound unusual, but it's a well-documented, sad reality that was also identified as an ironic workplace trend a few months ago. Honestly, it doesn't sound shocking to me. I've been in the system for many years and see this happen frequently. I have seen so many of my friends and colleagues trying to dodge the constant distractions at work, only to fail. Miss one work message and all hell breaks loose. Your inbox has 200 emails, all marked "urgent". There is yet another meeting, where nothing remotely productive is happening. Your annoying co-worker has a "small doubt" for the millionth time today.

Your office bestie wants a coffee break right when your brain cells finally start cooperating. Then comes another performative cake-cutting ceremony where you know nothing about the person except their email address and WhatsApp DP. Somehow, despite all this chaos, your boss wants to know why you don't have an original, creative, and revolutionary idea by the end of the day. And this isn't just me exaggerating or ranting. As per Microsoft's Work Trend Index Annual Report 2025: "During the 9–5, employees are interrupted every 2 minutes by meetings, emails, or pings. Factor in activity outside of core work hours, and it adds up to 275 interruptions a day." Relax, corporate India. You are not diffusing bombs or saving lives. Replying five minutes late is not going to be the end of the world. "Kahan se kaam ho payega, abhi bhi mai meeting me hi hoon!" When comedian Ravi Gupta said this iconic line ("How am I supposed to work? I am still in a meeting") in his stand-up special Office, the internet went crazy. Millions of people found it "relatable" and "funny".

But Gupta's stance isn't just for laughs. It reflects a work culture that expects you to deliver your best without



providing the time or mental bandwidth to do so. Dilpreet Kaur Banerjee, a sales professional, feels strongly about it. "Sometimes it's crucial to take a break to do tasks when you know there are endless meetings at work and you have deadlines to meet," she tells indianexpress.com.

A similar sentiment is echoed by Jinal Bhat, a Mumbai-based journalist, who admits that taking leave for office work has become a part of her routine, especially after becoming an editorial lead. "I loved my team to bits, but some days I needed a break to complete my work without constant Slack pings and the interruptions that come with an open office!"

I couldn't relate more to this! My line of work also demands my full attention. Already, it is challenging for my social-media-fried brain to get into the zone of the writing, and when I finally do, even one tiny distraction is enough to catapult me back to zero. I remember my editor once asking me why I am often spotted writing at odd hours. Well, this is why!

Rafael Nadal rubbishes reports of challenging for Real Madrid presidency



GNS News Agency, May 20

Rafael Nadal has denied reports and speculation linking him to fight for the post of president of Real Madrid after the current incumbent Florentino Perez announced elections at the Spanish club. The 22-time Grand Slam winner is known to be an ardent fan and an honorary member of the club. "I have read reports that link me as a possible candidate for the Real Madrid presidency," Nadal wrote on social media. "I would like to clarify that these reports are not true." He leído informaciones que me relacionan con posibles candidaturas a la presidencia del Real Madrid. Me

gustaría aclarar que estas informaciones no son ciertas. Nadal has previous expressed interest to potentially succeed Perez in the role. Perez has held the post since 2009, having previously been president between 2000 and 2006. He had at the time itself clarified that it was no concrete plan though. "Would I like to be [president]? I think so," he told Movistar in an interview in 2023. "I think I'd like to. But there are a lot of things. Right now there's nothing to say because we have the best possible president [Pérez].

"What I think today, I might not think tomorrow. There are lots of twists and turns in life. You have to know if you're qualified to do this kind of thing. I'm quite realistic. I know my limitations. I don't know if I'd be capable or not. Time will tell." Perez's announcement of the election came in a rather explosive press conference in which the 79-year-old challenged anyone to compete for the post against him. The conference came in the wake of Real Madrid going a second consecutive season without a trophy. "Good afternoon, I regret to inform you that I'm not going to resign," Perez told reporters. "If someone does want to stand for election, this is your opportunity. But don't move in the shadows with publications, news outlets. And I'm not in bed, unwell. I have to come out and sit here because as Real Madrid president, I can't allow journalists to do what they do."

Virat Kohli's 105 vs KKR decoded: Rotating strike, controlling chase, winning it

GNS News Agency, May 20

When questions were starting to surface after two consecutive ducks, Virat Kohli produced an innings that brushed aside all talk of loss of form and reminded everyone why he remains one of the best chasers in T20 cricket. His unbeaten 105 against Kolkata Knight Riders in Raipur had all the classic Kohli features — composure, assurance and perfect pacing.

The two standout moments, though, came late in the innings: A stunning straight six off Anukul Roy that was all timing in the 17th over and a wristy whip over deep midwicket off Kartik Tyagi in the following over. These were not wild slogs. They were the kind of shots that have defined his batting for nearly two decades. Timing over brute force. Orthodoxy over extravagance. Control over risk. RCB were chasing 193 and top spot in the points table, and after Jacob Bethell's early departure, the former captain settled in quickly. He rotated strike smartly, used gaps with precision, rarely looked to force anything and ensured that he kept chipping away at the target. Out of his 105, 43 runs (27 singles and eight twos) came just from running between the wickets, showing how much he focused on quick singles and twos. The twos, especially, stood out. He clipped Sunil Narine through midwicket early on for a sharp couple. Against Cameron Green, he turned two different slower balls into doubles through wide mid-on and deep midwicket. Vaibhav Arora's pace was used effectively, with Kohli glancing one to deep fine-leg before pushing another through midwicket and immediately calling for the second run.

In Devdutt Padikkal, he found an able ally who was able to respond to his sharp running between the wickets, which ensured the required rate was always under control. Even late in the innings, Kohli punched Anukul Roy through extra cover and comfortably came back for two more. IPL 2026 has been a caravan of six-hitting, and in the middle of that dominance, Kohli's knock was a reminder that smart strike rotation and running between wickets, coupled with the timely four or six, can still decide matches. Narine and Green tried varying pace, but Kohli's judgement of line and length ensured there were no false shots. The innings showed how Kohli still reads a chase better than most. The hundred arrived in the 19th over with a simple push to long-off and a brief raise of the bat. There was no big celebration, with the focus firmly on finishing the chase, which RCB completed comfortably. Even in the last phase of his innings, there was no sense of panic. He was calculative, chose his



moments and ensured the chase stayed within reach until the end.

"The celebration wasn't a big one because we know the importance of the points right now. And yeah, look, for me, it's a conscious effort to try and contribute to the team's scores. And I know if I bat for long enough in the game, our chances of winning become higher," he said after the match. The 37-year-old also admitted that not contributing in the previous two matches had bothered him. "The fact that I didn't get many runs in the last two games... it eats me up in a way that I know I can play well, and I'm hitting the ball well. But then, when you don't carry on, and you haven't created the impact for the team, it bothers you because that's basically been the goal all these years, trying to improve so that you can be the best version for your team when you play out there and make an impact," he added.

Kohli's innings was important in the context of RCB's campaign. It not only helped them get the two points but would have helped to strengthen the belief in the dugout. When Kohli bats the way he did on Wednesday, chasing scores never feels out of reach, and it keeps the dugout calm. The winning runs may have come from Jitesh Sharma's bat, but the chase was anchored and the game was won by Kohli. Ultimately, the knock showed why he remains a master chaser. Despite having won so many games in the second innings, his primary strengths remain the same: reading the situation, staying calm and knowing when to accelerate. That balance keeps him ahead in high-pressure chases even now. It's not about reinventing himself each match, but trusting the habits and methods built over years of winning chases. No one does that better than Kohli.

The Indian Express understands that the selectors might give the 15-year-old the big break in the short series just before a white-ball tour of England.

Sachin Tendulkar is the youngest male cricketer to represent India, when he made his Test debut against Pakistan in Karachi in 1989 at the age of 16 years and 205 days. Overall, Shafali Verma is the youngest cricketer to play for India at the age of 15 years, seven months and 27 days. If Sooryavanshi plays on the tour to Ireland, he will break Shafali's record. The two T20Is are scheduled for June 26 and 28. India A Squad for the tri-series: Tilak Varma (Captain), Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Riyan Parag (Vice-Captain), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Harsh Dubey, Suryansh Shedge, Prabhsimran Singh (WK), Kumar Kushagra (WK), Vipraj Nigam, Yash Thakur, Yudhvir Singh, Anshul Kamboj, Arshad Khan.

Kiran More conducts speical camp for Andhra wicket-keepers

Hyderabad: Former India wicketkeeper Kiran More is conducting a special training session for the wicketkeepers from Andhra at the ACA North Zone Academy in Vizianagaram from Thursday, according to a media release of Andhra Cricket Association.

"The ACA continues to innovate with fresh initiatives to develop cricket in the state. ACA President Kesineni Chinni and Secretary Sana Satish Babu expressed their gratitude to Kiran More for his invaluable contribution to Andhra cricket's growth. They commended his dedication and wished him the best," ACA media release said.

"The association remains committed to nurturing young talent and elevating standards in Andhra cricket."

The list of wicket-keepers who are attending the camp include Ricky Bhui, UMS Girinath, Revanth Reddy (seniors), SDNV Prasad, T. Sai, MK Datta Reddy and P. Pandurangaraju (under-23), Lohit Laxmi Narayana, VMVS Rakshan, Hrithik Varma (under-19) and Hemanth Kumar Royal, Cherish Vardan and Rishi Kumar Reddy (under-16).

‘Records meant to be broken, but will take a long time to match Kohli’: Gavaskar



Sunil Gavaskar said that Virat Kohli showed how it is done in a season in which the focus has been on the generations that have come after him. (Picture Credit: BCCI/Creimas) Sunil Gavaskar said that Virat Kohli showed how it is done in a season in which the focus has been on the generations that have come after him. (Picture Credit: BCCI/Creimas) Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has said that records that have been set by Virat Kohli will take a long time for players to break. Kohli put up a masterclass on Wednesday as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) beat Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by six wickets in the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL).

‘When you drop Virat Kohli, it becomes difficult’: Abhishek Nayar after KKR’s loss

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli warms up before the start of the Indian Premier League cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders in Raipur, India, Wednesday, May 13, 2026. (AP Photo) Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli warms up before the start of the Indian Premier League cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders in Raipur. (AP Photo)

KKR head coach Abhishek Nayar did not spend too much time searching for complicated reasons after Royal Challengers Bengaluru chased down 193 with relative comfort in Raipur on Wednesday night. For him, the turning point was simple enough. "When you drop Virat Kohli, especially in a chase, it becomes very difficult," Nayar said after KKR's six-wicket defeat. Kohli made KKR pay dearly for the dropped chance on 21, finishing unbeaten on 105 off 60 balls and guiding RCB home with the kind of control and composure that has defined his career for years. Nayar admitted KKR had enough runs on the board but felt the game slowly slipped away through a series of small moments that did not go in their favour. "As I said earlier, the score was fine on this pitch," Nayar said. "There are a lot of things that could have been better. Virat's catch was a very tough one. The Angkrish catch, you would expect him to take." The KKR head coach also pointed to the absence of Varun Chakravarthy, whose injury once again left a significant hole in the middle overs.

"At the end of the day, cricket works like that. If we had another 10-15 runs, maybe the game changes. If those catches are taken, maybe the game changes. If Varun Chakravarthy plays, maybe the game changes," Nayar said. KKR have relied heavily on the Sunil Narine-Varun Chakravarthy combination in recent seasons, and Nayar admitted the side continues to miss the mystery spinner's control and wicket-taking ability. "It is an open secret that we have done really well with the Sunny-Varun combina-

"Virat Kohli was absolutely outstanding against KKR. He knows how to construct a chase better than most," Gavaskar said on Star Sports' 'Amul Cricket Live'. "While everyone was talking about this being the season of 'Gen Next', Kohli showed he is still around. He silenced the doubters with a century and moved to third in the Orange Cap race. He proved that the old generation is still the best."

Kohli scored an unbeaten 105 in 60 balls as he powered RCB to victory in a 193-run chase. It was his 10th T20 century, making him the first Indian to get to the mark, and he became the fastest to 14,000 T20 runs over the course of the knock. "When it comes to T20 centuries, he is third on the list with 10, behind Chris Gayle and Babar Azam. But he is the fastest to 14,000 T20 runs and has nine IPL hundreds. Records are there to be broken, but it will take a very long time for anyone to match what Kohli keeps delivering, game after game, season after season," said Gavaskar. "This hundred from Virat Kohli was one of those special moments that remind us of his greatness." This was Kohli's 279th IPL match, making him the player with most appearances in the league. He was tied with Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni until Wednesday, with both players tied on 278 matches. Kohli also won player of the match for his efforts. It was the 21st time he won the award in the IPL, the joint-most by any Indian, alongside Rohit. Only AB de Villiers (25) and Gayle (22) have more overall.



tion. It is unfortunate that we have missed him a lot this season," Nayar said. "This is the second time he has had a fracture, which is unfortunate for him. You will always miss a Varun Chakravarthy." Despite the defeat, Nayar felt KKR's batting effort was competitive on the Raipur pitch, especially considering there was not much dew later in the evening.

"Midway through the innings, we felt anywhere between 180 and 200 would be a good score. There was no dew as well, so that was not a factor," he said. Nayar, though, found positives in Angkrish Raghuvanshi's innings. The youngster made 71 off 46 balls after KKR lost early wickets, and the coach felt the knock showed maturity beyond his age. "I was very impressed with the way he batted because the ball was really nipping around early on. Hazlewood and Bhuvn are world-class bowlers," Nayar said. "At no point did he look uncomfortable. He looked like he belonged there." Nayar also revealed KKR had spent considerable time helping Rinku Singh work through a lean patch earlier this season. "For Rinku, it was about getting him batting time and also making a small technical adjustment," he said. "A lot of groundwork went into helping him regain belief in his game and trust that he can clear boundaries again."

Sale of IPL passes: Police ask DDCA officials to join probe



"They allegedly procured tickets and complimentary passes through various persons. The role of others associated with this syndicate is also under investigation. They also supplied premium tickets at exorbitant prices to people involved in online live betting/satta operations inside stadiums, as well as to pickpockets and other criminal elements," Yadav said. "To gain credibility and lure cricket enthusiasts, the accused falsely projected themselves as authorised representatives of the cricket administration and event management authorities. They are currently in police remand, and further investigation is underway to identify others involved in the procurement and illegal sale of tickets," Yadav said.

On Friday, three men identified as Mukeem, 35, from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh; Gufran alias Sajid, 36, from Jamia Nagar; and Md. Faisal, 38, from Seelampur, were arrested outside the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Central Delhi. "It has also come to notice that criminal cases related to ticket black marketing had previously been registered against them in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. One case of ticket black marketing during the Auto Expo in Faridabad was also registered against them," DCP Yadav added. Their questioning and the discovery of fresh evidence, the investigation team made another arrest on Tuesday, detaining Pankaj Yadav, who worked as a supervisor at a petrol pump outside Arun Jaitley Stadium. Police have recovered 54 IPL match tickets, 33 complimentary passes and Rs 25,000 in cash from their possession.

Test Twenty introduces Parity Rule, creating first mixed-gender cricket ecosystem

Hyderabad: Cricket is about to witness one of the most significant structural evolutions in its history. In a landmark moment for global sport, Test Twenty, the revolutionary new 80-over format recently announced the introduction of the Parity Rule, officially becoming the world's first major cricket ecosystem designed around true mixed-gender participation. At a time when global sport is searching for more meaningful inclusion, Test Twenty has not merely added women into an existing structure. It has rebuilt the structure itself. The announcement marks a defining moment not just for cricket, but for sport globally.

For the first time, a cricket ecosystem has been architected from the ground up where male and female athletes compete under the same franchise system, for the same points table, badge, owners, and ultimately, the same championship outcome. This is not a symbolic inclusion exercise. This is not representation for optics. This is parity by design. For decades, women's sport has often existed adjacent to the main stage – respected, celebrated, but still structurally treated as additional. In cricket, parallel leagues

such as the WPL, WBBL, The Hundred Women and WCPL have undoubtedly accelerated visibility and opportunity, but they have continued to operate separately from the primary franchise architecture. Test Twenty changes that framework entirely. The platform has been built from day one on the belief that talent, pressure, leadership, temperament, intelligence, and impact are not defined by gender. Speaking as part of the Olympics Value Education Programme in 2025, Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra reflected on how mixed-team sporting environments in schools led to noticeable behavioural and cultural change among young boys and girls. "What we noticed early on in PE classes in schools was that girls normally never ventured out, or very few would. What we did was frame them into mixed team activities, which helped girls and boys play together. The boys were a little grumpy the first week, but after a few days, weeks, and months, they realized the girls were actually very good at what they did. Suddenly there was a behavioural change. There was more respect for girls because in sport, everybody is equal," said Abhinav Bindra.

Mouni Roy confirms divorce with Suraj Nambiar: ‘We have decided to part ways’



TV actor Mouni Roy and businessman Suraj Nambiar announced their separation on Thursday after four years of marriage. The couple shared a joint statement on Instagram confirming the news. The statement read, “We note with dismay the unnecessary and intrusive attention into our personal lives by certain quarters of the media. We would like to state that we have decided to part ways and are taking the necessary time to address matters privately and amicably. Attempts have been made to sensationalize our private lives by circulation of fictitious narratives and blatant falsehoods, which do not reflect the reality of our relationship..”

It further read, “After thoughtful reflection on evolving personal priorities, we have mutually chosen to move

forward on separate paths with respect and understanding. At this point, we are focused on navigating this phase thoughtfully and privately. We will endeavour to cherish our friendship in times to come. We sincerely appreciate your understanding, respect for our privacy, and the continued support extended to us during this time.”

Mouni Roy and Suraj Nambiar first met in 2018 during a New Year’s celebration in Dubai. At the time, Suraj had spent several years living abroad and reportedly had no idea that Mouni was a popular actress. Their first interaction may have been brief, but it marked the beginning of a connection that soon grew stronger. As Mouni frequently travelled to Dubai, the two began spending more time together and gradually developed a close friendship, which eventually blossomed into a romantic relationship. After dating for a couple of years, their bond deepened further during the COVID-19 lockdown period. The couple eventually tied the knot on January 27, 2022, in Goa in an intimate yet lavish ceremony attended by family members and close friends. Their wedding beautifully blended Bengali and Malayali traditions, reflecting both their cultural roots. Speaking about her relationship with Suraj Nambiar, Mouni Roy once told News18, “I am a hardcore romantic person. I believe in old-school romance, and for me, writing letters and having long conversations over the phone is romantic. Suraj and I have known each other for five years, and everything between us happened very organically. It was a typical boy-meets-girl story, and we realised that we complement each other in many ways.”

‘Female characters with dignity’: Mudassar Aziz on whether Pati Patni Aur Woh Do promotes adultery

Mudassar Aziz has been around for 20 years. A journey that began in the discipline of screenwriting and gradually found its voice in direction. Along the way, he has seen the highest of the highs with features like Happy Bhaag Jayegi and Pati Patni Aur Woh, while also weathering the inevitable challenges of films that did not resonate at the box office. Yet, undeterred by the vicissitudes of the industry, he returns with yet another comedy of errors, Pati Patni Aur Woh Do. Yet another star entertainer, led by Ayushmann Khurrana, Sara Ali Khan, Rakul Preet Singh, and Wamiqa Gabbi. And yet another attempt to explore new creative possibilities within a familiar framework. In an exclusive conversation with SCREEN, Aziz addresses the allegations that the film promotes adultery, reflects on the art of reimagining remakes, the box office failures of his previous works, and discusses his commitment to writing women characters with agency.

What initially attracted you to the story and convinced you to make a sequel?

This is a very beloved franchise. People love it. It’s something BR Chopra saab started back in 1978. And when I say “people,” I mean the aam junta, the masses. This time, the thought was: what if you had to make Pati Patni Aur Woh about a husband who is so straitjacketed that he doesn’t even have a roving eye? How would you create comedy then? That’s when the character of Prajapati Pandey, played by Ayushman, came into being.

When the trailer dropped, social media buzzed with critiques noting that even in 2026, we’re making films that promotes adultery.

I can answer on two levels: personal and professional. Personally, I don’t have a presence on social media, I don’t have Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook, so it’s easy to stay away. Professionally, as a filmmaker, I started my career as a writer. And a writer must allow discourse of any kind, and that’s always welcome. If people react to a trailer or film in a certain way on social media, I’m happy. Because eventually, people watch the film, and then they realise whether it’s about adultery or not. Maybe they were too quick to react, and the problem solves itself. So, why worry? If I were genuinely trying to promote adultery, I’d be concerned. But I’m not. At the end of the day, the film releases, people watch it, and they’ll see: “Oh, this is not about adultery, and it’s certainly not promoting it.” As they say, the proof of the pudding is in the tasting. Pati Patni Aur Woh Do Ayushmann Khurrana and Sara Ali Khan in Pati Patni Aur Woh Do.

In your previous films, like Happy Bhaag Jayegi and Khel Khel Mein, you handled gender dynamics rather thoughtfully. How do you approach getting the politics of gender right at a time when women characters are often just footnotes in commercial comedies?

It’s not entirely in my hands whether films hit or flop, that’s up to the audience. But what I can do is write my female characters with dignity. Even, if you see, Pati Patni Aur Woh, Ananya Panday and Bhumi Pednekar’s characters are dignified. They team up to challenge the male lead, and in the climax, you realise they were playing him all along. Even in Khel Khel Mein, characters of Taapsee Pannu and Vaani Kapoor make their own decisions. In an Akshay Kumar-like vehicle, they find space to express themselves. Similarly, in Pati Patni Aur Woh Doh, the three women are really the film. And I think, again, a hint should be taken from the fact that everyone knows how difficult it is to cast three contemporary leading ladies in one film. It is only if the script provides them with that kind of impetus while they are reading and hearing it that they will say, “My arc is completely in place, I’m gonna do this.” So you will find that the three of them, each one of them, is in a completely different kind of character, very, very assured. And they are more capable, more able, and have more agency than Prajapati Pandey does in this film. Sara Ali Khan recently said she’d love to play Rakul Preet Singh’s character in another universe.

(Smiles) I’ll tell you anecdotally, there were so many times when Sara told me, “I really wish I would have done Rakul’s part?” And at one point in time, Rakul had once told me, “I really wish I had got Wamiqa’s part.” So, funnily enough, I cracked this joke on set where I said, “I should have just cast one actress and made her play a triple role or something.” So, point being that it’s nice. I feel complimented as a writer when my actors, after selecting the parts that they selected, feel like somebody else’s part has also come out really good. I’m telling you from the deepest, honest place in my heart that it has turned out to become such a beautiful comedy. And my attempt with this one is to take us back into a world of Welcome and No Entry.

Mirzapur The Film, his ‘daddy issues’ typecasting: ‘Still



hungry’ Your comedies are essentially comedies of errors, all about chaos. I think it comes from the fact that there are some kinds of films as a child that I really enjoyed. And those films were Chupke Chupke, Bawarchi, Pati Patni Aur Woh, Angoor. And then came Kader Khan, Govinda, and Shakti Kapoor while I was growing up. And they provided a lot of chaos as well. Like one of my all-time favourite films happens to be Chaalbaaz. At one point I almost came to a point where a Chaalbaaz remake was happening and it was coming my way, and then for some reason it didn’t materialise. But it happens to be one of my all-time favourites.

In an alternate universe, I keep seeing Chaalbaaz and I keep thinking, looking at it, and I feel like, wow, this is such a feminist film. Because there’s a woman in charge. This comedy is commercial of course, but there are two stars willing to play second fiddle to the female star. And these are not small stars, it’s Sunny Deol and Rajinikanth. So yeah, I think growing up on this kind of cinema has largely been responsible. You’re right though, I do enjoy chaos. Pati Patni Aur Woh Do Mudassar Aziz opened up about the debacle of his films like Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi and Mere Husband Ki Biwi.

You have done multiple remakes in your career. So what’s your process of getting the contemporary setting right while retaining the charm of the original?

When you’re working on something which is an adaptation, the first thing you need to look towards is what the plot is saying. After you look at what the plot of one particular film is saying, then you’ve got to detach yourself from the plot and look for that plot around you in your society, and leave the film. Just leave it. This is my process. So I’ll give you an example of, say, Perfect Strangers, the Italian film (which was remade as Khel Khel Mein). I saw it, and I understood what the director wanted to say by way of the plot. And then I detached from it. I started to search for his plot in our world. So then I could go back to it with my kind of characters, which have nothing to do with his characters. My kind of setting, which has nothing to do with his setting. And my kind of climax, which has nothing to do with his climax. When films like Mere Husband Ki Biwi, or Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi, or even Khel Khel Mein don’t do the expected numbers, how do you look at it?

It’s not easy because this is a profession that’s more subject to public judgment than any profession. If an accountant makes a balance sheet mistake in his office, the boss yells at him and five people come to know. If a film doesn’t do well, the whole nation is talking about a film that you just made. So it’s not easy. Yet, you have to believe in yourself. You have to believe that when I open my laptop again, some magic will happen. And then this time it will work. I think that’s the magic of this profession, honestly.

Your first film, Dulha Mil Gaya, didn’t work. Did that prepare you for how tough this profession can be?

Absolutely. Look, I’m an outsider, and I came from an academic family. I’m an engineer by qualification. I wanted to do films since I was 12, and my parents were dead against it. And I think the debacle of the first film, the fact that it took four years to make, I think it was the Almighty’s way of preparing me for it’s going to be a ride which will be bumpy and you’d have to stick to your guns. You’d have to believe, you’d have to keep fighting. I think you have to believe in the grace of the Almighty, that after a point, you know, hard work will shine through beyond all the riffraff and the chattering and all of that.

Dulha Mil Gaya had an extended cameo with Shah Rukh Khan. Would you want to work with him again someday?

I genuinely believe he’s got such a fantastic sense of comic timing. He’s very good at comedy.

Athiradi movie review: Basil Joseph and Tovino Thomas’ film seems like a millennial’s take on Gen Z



Athiradi Movie Review & Rating: What made Vidheyan’s (1994) Bhaskara Pattelar (Mammootty) and Chotta Mumbai’s (2007) CI Nadesan (Kalabhavan Mani) such impactful villains? Was it the stirring and chilling performances alone that made them iconic? Of course not. While Mammootty and Kalabhavan Mani’s spellbinding portrayals significantly contributed to the immortalisation of these two archvillains, their brilliance stemmed from the fact that both characters were well-wrought. Even without having to beat up 10-100 rivals on-screen, Pattelar and Nadesan’s notoriety and ferocity came across clearly because the characters were well-conceived and fleshed out on paper. And the impact that it gives, no amount of antics can. That’s pretty much what’s lacking in debutant director Arun Anirudhan’s Athiradi. Yes, Sreekuttan Vellayani aka Kuttan (Tovino Thomas) is a unique villain and is presented like a Goliath. However, the issue is that his Goliath-ness is limited to the presentation alone. The situation is more or less the same for other characters, too. Cinematic Anatomy | From onscreen messiah to Tamil Nadu CM: The cinematic blueprint behind Vijay’s political ascent While the makers have tried to inflate the action comedy as much as possible — in fact, worryingly close to the tipping point — the only problem is that the Athiradi balloon is so transparent that the hollowness within is quite evident. Whether the makers failed to conceal this or left it so on purpose is something only they can explain.

Remember that scene in Ee Parakkum Thalika (2001) where Unnikrishnan (Dileep) asks Sundaran (Harisree Ashokan) to decorate their old bus by slipping in flowers and small plants into all the holes in it? Once the task is done, the vehicle appears like a moving forest because of the sheer number of plants they had to use. Athiradi is that in movie form, where Arun Anirudhan and his co-writer Paulson Skaria have tried to fill the gaps in the narrative with Gen-Z lingo, pop culture references, and the partial recreation of popular memes. Sadly, there were simply too many holes.

Following an unfortunate stampede that kills three students, BCET College decides to call off its prestigious Arohan fest permanently. Years later, Samkutty (Basil Joseph) joins the college and begins making efforts to restart Arohan, believing this would help his elder brother (Vishnu Agasthya) overcome the guilt over the notion that he, albeit unknowingly, caused the stampede. Despite each of his attempts backfiring, Sam never gives up, and finally, after 3.5 years, he secures permission to organise the fest. However, the event, which starts off well, soon turns chaotic as the students of BCET lock horns with Sreekuttan Vellayani (Tovino Thomas). A reformed local don, Kuttan’s ego is hurt when his musical programme is cancelled due to the fight, and he sets out to ruin Arohan in the aftermath. What follows is a high-stakes David vs Goliath battle between Sam and Kuttan.

Athiradi is basically like Sam in the initial years of college — pretends to be cool but is actually a doofus. The only difference between them is that while Sam grows over time, Athiradi remains the same throughout. Although the movie opens strongly with the tragic stampede, it soon transitions into a setup that’s far too familiar these days. I would describe it as the “millennials’ understanding/assumption of what Gen-Zers are — or the lack thereof, a trope frequently used by Malayalam filmmakers these days.

Diljit Dosanjh’s first post from Florida concert amid US citizenship reveal: ‘Main Vaapas Aaunga’



Diljit Dosanjh has shared his first post since reports about him being a US citizen surfaced online. The actor-singer recently shared a heartwarming video on his Instagram handle from his concert in Orlando, where fans from different age groups and nationalities could be seen singing and dancing along to “Kya Kamaal Hai” — a track from his upcoming film Main Vaapas Aaunga. The clip captures the electrifying atmosphere of the concert as Diljit soulfully performs the track live, interacts with fans, poses with his stage performers, and completely owns the vibe of the evening.

Released nearly four weeks ago, the song has already crossed 16 million views and is now steadily turning into a global favourite. The song also marks the reunion of the celebrated Chamkila trio — Diljit Dosanjh, Intiaz Ali, and AR Rahman — who have collaborated once again for Main Vaapas Aaunga after the success of Amar Singh Chamkila. The song is penned by acclaimed lyricist Irshad Kamil. Set

From social media and news, millennials seem to have developed a certain understanding of Gen-Z, their lifestyle, and way of thinking. Without properly verifying their assumptions, they depict these elements in movies. To sound young, they slip in words and phrases primarily used by Gen-Z at regular intervals. However, the result is the stereotyping of youngsters, particularly through superficial characterisation that fails to give them depth. From the outset, Arun and Paulson keep throwing around Gen-Z lingo. While some are intended to establish the generation in focus, others aim to evoke laughter. For instance, there’s a student, Sam’s rival, who repeatedly claims he is an “Alpha.” He keeps referencing this at various points, and it’s evident that the makers hoped this would crack up viewers. Unfortunately, their attempt comes off as desperate. There are also moments like Sam mistaking the mention of “red flags” for the Communist flag — a hackneyed joke that reflects lazy writing. Athiradi movie review and rating A major issue plaguing Malayalam cinema at the moment is filmmakers’ overreliance on popular memes, and that’s evident in Athiradi as well. (Credit: Instagram/@athiradi_movie)

A look at Riya Shibu’s character, Swathy (the so-called female lead), is enough to illustrate how superficial the script is. Not only is she created by simply stitching together stereotypes often associated with Gen-Zers — with the remainder given to Sam — but Swathy is as pointless as the film’s title, Athiradi, in which not a single action sequence stands out. Another major issue plaguing Malayalam cinema at the moment is filmmakers’ overreliance on popular memes. While one or two in a film might seem fun if woven in organically, peppering the movie with them only exposes the lack of creativity and effort that has gone into the script. Athiradi, too, is weighed down by the forced insertion of such elements, with the most pointless and juvenile being the appearances of social media sensations Joby PU Wayanad, Santhivila Dinesh and Devan.

Because of its desperate attempts to appear vibrant and cool, Athiradi compromises on the basics: emotions. While Arun and Paulson could have completely avoided it and made the movie a battle of male egos, the writers have also tried to anchor the narrative emotionally to give it more gravity. However, these moments and plot devices — even Sam’s brother’s recorded speech, which is actually pivotal to the narrative — fail to generate the desired impact and end up feeling quite dull. Even the conflict-building is unimpressive, preventing the rising stakes from truly resonating with the viewer. While the point of no return and the interval block are presented grandly, the build-up to them is shallow, thereby detracting from their overall impact. The lack of depth in the characters, including Sam and Kuttan, worsens the situation, particularly since they display excessive theatrics without meaningful justification for their behaviour. Worse still, the jokes just don’t land at all. Athiradi movie review and rating Although Tovino Thomas’ screen presence is admirable as usual, he doesn’t quite embody Kuttan.. (Credit: Instagram/@athiradi_movie)

One reason Sachy’s Driving License (2019) and Ayyappanum Koshiyum (2020) impressed many was that the central male characters were well-developed, both horizontally and vertically. Be it Kuruvila (Suraj Venjaramoodu) and Hareendran (Prithviraj Sukumaran) or Ayyappan (Biju Menon) and Koshiy (Prithviraj), the battles of male egos became enticing because the men involved were thoroughly explored. However, Arun and Paulson never delve that deeply into the characters of Sam and Kuttan. Also, the ending was far too obvious and could be seen from a mile away. While Basil doesn’t physically look out of place as a college student, since Sam isn’t a character only he could have pulled off, it raises the question: why not a 20- or 21-year-old instead of him? Thankfully, the 15-year age gap between Basil and Riya isn’t disgustingly in your face, as their romance is understated and becomes a proper topic only towards the end; then it becomes weird. Although Tovino’s screen presence is admirable as usual, he doesn’t quite embody Kuttan. It almost feels as if the real Kuttan has been replaced by a version struggling to pretend to be him convincingly. While Vineeth Sreenivasan’s scenes (he plays a fictional version of himself) are fun, particularly with an unhinged Shaan Rahman by his side, the sheer artificiality in these moments is palpable. Athiradi’s production design by Maanav Suresh and art direction by Akhil Damodhar are top-notch, shining most in scenes featuring large crowds and numerous props. The atmospheric construction by them makes one feel as if they’ve stepped into an actual college fest venue. Although Vishnu Vijay’s songs are unimpressive, the background score is electrifying. Chaman Chakko’s editing also deserves praise.

Diljit Dosanjh’s first post from Florida concert amid US citizenship reveal: ‘Main Vaapas Aaunga’

In Intiaz Ali’s signature world of love, heartbreak, and longing, Main Vaapas Aaunga stars Diljit Dosanjh alongside Naseeruddin Shah, Sharvari Wagh, and Vedang Raina in pivotal roles. The film is produced by Applause Entertainment’s Sameer Nair and Deepak Segal, along with Mohit Choudhary and Shibaish Sarkar of Window Seat Films. Main Vaapas Aaunga is slated to release in cinemas on June 12, 2026, with music under Tips Music. The report further stated that Dosanjh’s wife, Sandeep Kaur, is also a US citizen. While acquiring American citizenship, Diljit had reportedly listed a five-bedroom bungalow spread across 3,107 square metres in an upscale locality in California as his residential address. The singer-actor reportedly used his US passport to travel to India last month. Sources quoted by the publication claimed that he has been visiting India on an e-visa since September 2022, which also suggests that he does not hold an OCI card.

Jr NTR clarifies he is not associated with fan-run charity drives, urges public caution

Hyderabad: Pointing out that it had come to their attention that certain fan groups had been organising charity drives and raising funds in the name of NTR, the team of actor Jr NTR has now clarified that the star was in no way associated with such activities and that he did not endorse them in any capacity.