

Telangana HC refuses to stay NBWs against Heera group company MD

Hyderabad: Justice E.V. Venugopal of the Telangana High Court on Thursday declined to grant interim stay or set aside the non-bailable warrants issued against Nowhera Shaik, Managing Director of the Heera Group of Companies, by the Special Court for PMLA Cases at Nampally. The Judge, however, directed the Enforcement Directorate and the Telangana State government to file their response in the writ petition filed by her and adjourned the matter to a date after the High Court vacation. In the meanwhile, the Court directed Nowhera Shaik to surrender before the authorities.

TGSRTC to run special buses for Saraswati Pushkaralu from May 21

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) will operate special bus services for devotees travelling to the Saraswati Pushkaralu at Kaleshwaram from May 21 to June 1, 2026.

In a statement issued on Thursday, TGSRTC MD Y Nagi Reddy said the special services have been arranged to ensure safe and comfortable travel for pilgrims attending the sacred Pushkaralu baths.

CM Revanth Slams KCR's Silence on POCSO Case

Hyderabad, May 21

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday hit out at opposition BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao for not responding to the issue of the POCSO case against the son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar. Taking a swipe at Sanjay Kumar over his comments that he asked his son to cooperate with the police, he said, had it been a voluntary surrender before the police, the Union minister should have called the police to take his son into custody.

The Chief Minister said he believes the state police, who announced that they arrested Sanjay Kumar's son Bageerath during a 'nakabandi' (police checkpoint).

"When injustice happened to a minor girl (in the POCSO case), where is the Leader of Opposition (Chandrasekhar Rao) sleeping? If he does not have the capacity to come out and speak, he should at least issue a press release. He will go to Jagtial to admit a leader from another party into BRS. But, such a major incident happens in the state, and the main opposition leader does not even respond," Reddy told reporters here.

The CM said journalists should question either KCR or his party leaders why the opposition leader confined himself to a farmhouse without responding to the issue concerning a minor girl.

He asserted that the government and police acted as per the law in the case. Bageerath had filed a complaint of extortion and criminal intimidation against te aggrieved girl and her parents, he recalled.

Referring to the allegations of BRS spreading photos of the aggrieved girl in the POCSO case and her parents on social media, he said the opposition is playing "shameless" politics.

Dismissing allegations of BRS against the Congress government, he said the government had issued a notice when narcotic substances were allegedly found at the farmhouse of a relative of BRS leader K T Rama Rao and also to Bageerath in the POCSO case. The CM asked why BRS has not taken action against its former MLA, who was allegedly involved in firing on police at a farmhouse here.

Alleging that BRS leaders did not allow lorries to unload the paddy procured from farmers, which led to a shortage of lorries for the procurement process, he alleged that the opposition party is involved in an "organised crime".

The BRS leaders are "taking selfies" instead of extending help when farmers die due to natural disasters or accidents, he said. The BRS is playing politics over dead bodies, he said.

Asserting that the government has procured 80 per cent of the farmers' produce, Reddy said there was some



disruption in procurement for a few days as workers involved in the process visited their home state of West Bengal to cast their votes in Assembly elections.

Criticising PM Narendra Modi over the fuel price hike, the chief minister alleged that Modi looks at things from a political angle, as the fuel prices were not hiked during the recent Assembly polls. The prices of fuel are now being increased almost every day, he claimed.

Pulwama Attack Mastermind Burhan Hamza Shot Dead in PoK

NEW DELHI, MAY 21

Arjumand Gulzar, alias Burhan Hamza, a designated terrorist and the key mastermind behind the 2019 Pulwama terror attack on a CRPF convoy, has been shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said here on Thursday. Hamza, who was operating under heavy ISI-vetted security, was ambushed in Muzaffarabad.

He was critically injured and airlifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Rawalpindi, where he succumbed to his injuries, the officials said.

The assailants managed to flee the scene before local security forces could intervene, they added.

Originally from Khar in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, Hamza was once associated with Al Badr, moved to Al Baraq, and maintained a close alliance with Pakistan's espionage agency, the ISI, after an acrimonious exit from the outfit.

He was declared a designated terrorist under UAPA for his involvement in orchestrating the February 14, 2019, suicide terror attack conducted by Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad, on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama, which killed 40 personnel.

In retaliation, the Indian security forces ran an intelligence-led operation led by IAF jets in the early hours of February 26, 2019, striking the biggest training camp of JeM in Balakot.

Hamza, who also had an alias, Doctor, was currently living in Cheela Bandi, a densely populated neighbourhood on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad, with security details of eight commandos, a bullet-resistant (BR) vehicle, and an escort vehicle, indicating state-level protection and operational importance, sources said.

The security cover was given to him after he allegedly made a fabricated attack on himself somewhere between January and February 2025, they said.

He worked closely with Farooq Qureshi, a former Al Baraq commander whose name has repeatedly surfaced in dossiers linked to narcotics trafficking, counterfeit currency rackets, arms smuggling and cross-border militant operations in the Kashmir Valley.

The two operated from an industrial compound locally referred to as the "Machis Factory" in Muzaffarabad, the sources said.

Hamza maintained close ties with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, particularly with an officer identified as Col Rizwan, suggesting deeper intelligence ties and protection, they said.

The terrorist had recently married the daughter of Qadir Lala, a former Hizbul Mujahideen operative from Kupwara, currently employed as a security operator at the terror group's housing project in Chek Shezad, Pakistan.

He was also said to have maintained close ties with Murtaza, another former Hizbul Mujahideen operative from Pulwama, now based in Islamabad, making frequent visits to his residence, the sources said.

On April 22, 2025, terrorists attacked a group of tourists in the Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam, in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving dozens dead and others injured.

It was the first major terror attack on civilians in Kashmir since the Centre ended J&K's special status in 2019. It is the deadliest terror attacks in the region since the 2019 Pulwama strike.

Three armed terrorists opened fire on tourists near Pahalgam in J&K killing 26 civilians, including one Nepali citizen. The terrorists selectively targeted the male members in the tourist group.



Air India Flight Grounds After Tail Hits Runway During Bengaluru Landing

New Delhi: I, MAY 21

An Air India aircraft, with 181 passengers onboard, suffered a tail strike during landing at the Bengaluru airport on Thursday morning and the plane has been grounded for a detailed inspection. The airline's narrow-body A321 aircraft was operating the flight AI2651 from Delhi to Bengaluru.

An Air India spokesperson said the plane "experienced a tail-strike during landing".

The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally, the spokesperson said.

A source said the plane experienced "wake turbulence" when it was close to land, following which the pilot decided to perform a go around manoeuvre. During the manoeuvre, there was a tail strike, the source added.

The "wake turbulence" was caused due to the take-off of a wide-body aircraft in the vicinity, the source said.

Specific details about the wide-body plane could not be ascertained.

The source said there were 181 passengers onboard the aircraft that operated the flight AI2651.

The Air India spokesperson said the plane has been grounded for detailed inspection and the incident will be investigated in accordance with established procedures, in coordination with the relevant regulatory authorities.

"As a result, the return flight AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi has been cancelled. Alternative arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers at the earliest.

"Our ground teams in Bengaluru are providing all necessary assistance," the spokesperson said and regretted the inconvenience caused to the passengers.

Information from flight tracking website Flightradar24.com showed the flight was operated with an A321 aircraft.

According to the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) website, "wake turbulence" is a function of an aircraft producing lift, resulting in the formation of two counter-rotating vortices trailing behind the aircraft.

Wake turbulence from the generating aircraft can affect encountering aircraft due to the strength, duration, and direction of the vortices, as per the website.



Centre Allocates Rs 200 cr for Sea Planes Project In AP

The Andhra Pradesh tourism department has received a push for the launch of the Sea Plane project in the state. The Centre allocated Rs 200 crore under Udan scheme to run sea planes in 10 places in the state. Each of the places was allotted Rs 20 crore for establishing the aerodrome, floating jetty and providing other infrastructure. The state airport development authority would take up the works related to the project.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu travelled in the sea plane run between Vijayawada Berm Park and Srisaillam last year, as part of trial run. As the state has a long coast, the CM has directed for running the sea planes in as many places as possible. Accordingly, the officials had proposed sea plane projects in nine other places.

With the Centre releasing the funds, land is being acquired the project. The officials are trying to get the necessary permissions from the civil aviation ministry, Indian Airports Authority (IAA) CRZ Authority and environment authorities. Once the clearances are taken, interested private operators would be invited for running the sea planes.

Reportedly, two organisations had already shown interest in the project

The Centre extends help to the air services to compensate for the unfilled seats in aircrafts. Similar financial assistance would be given to sea planes too, for some time.

The state government has taken up the responsibility for inviting private operators to run the sea planes. Plans are afoot to run the sea planes under the Public-Private Partnership.

The sea planes would land and take off from water only. Jetties would be arranged to enable the tourists embark and disembark the seaplane. A passenger terminal, similar to a small airport, would be arranged to provide space for a ticket counter, waiting hall and security checks.

Sea planes have been planned at Vijayawada, Srisaillam, Tirupati, Suryalanka, Gandhikota, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Araku, Lambasingi, and Polavaram.



Harish Rao calls for reunification of Telangana forces during US visit

Hyderabad: BRSLP deputy leader T Harish Rao called for the reunification of Telangana forces, emphasising that those who fought for statehood with commitment and sacrifice must always be remembered and honoured.

Speaking at a gathering of Telangana supporters in New York during his personal visit to the United States, Harish Rao said the spirit of the movement should continue to unite people across the world. The event was hosted at the residence of NRI Lakshman Enugu in Long Island and attended by Telangana natives from New York and New Jersey. Geographic Reference

Recalling the role of the diaspora during the statehood agitation, Harish Rao said many NRIs extended financial and moral support, despite living abroad. He said several activists and supporters worked tirelessly with the sole objective of achieving a separate State. He urged Telangana proponents in the US to unite and support the BRS, which was the only party fighting for Telangana's interests.

He appreciated NRI businessman Dr Paila Malla Reddy for supporting Telugu people in the United States by providing employment and livelihood opportunities, and lauded host Lakshman Enugu for organising cultural events such as "Dhoom Dhaam" in the US and promoting Telangana artists, poets, and leaders abroad.

During the interaction, several NRIs reportedly expressed concern over the alleged injustice faced by some movement activists and conveyed dissatisfaction among sections of supporters.

Dr Rajender Reddy Jinna, Srinivas Guduru, Satish Kalva, Sahodhar Reddy, Ravinder Kodela, Haricharan Bibbili, Mallik Reddy, Rama Vanama, Vani Enugu, Usha Mannem, Ranjith Kyatham, Amar Lingala, Sunil Mannem, Thanneru Mahesh, Narasimha Rao, Chandu Talla, Tirupathi Reddy, Srinivas Jakkidi and several other NRIs participated.

BRSLP deputy leader T Harish Rao participated in a Meet and Greet programme in New Jersey, where he interacted with NRIs and BRS supporters on issues concerning Telangana. Addressing the gathering, Harish Rao said Telangana achieved record paddy production during the BRS's ten-year rule, surpassing Punjab due to focused governance and sector-wise attention. He alleged that people in the State were now facing difficulties under the Congress government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Potential benefits not enough to build consensus

A Joint Parliamentary Committee is holding nationwide consultations on two Bills related to the politically divisive issue of 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE). PP Chaudhary, the BJP MP who is heading the multi-party panel, has stated that India can save Rs 7 lakh crore if Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are held simultaneously. According to him, this exercise would raise the country's GDP by 1.6 per cent and the money saved can be used for development works and welfare schemes. There is no quarrel with the argument that ONOE would lead to considerable savings in terms of money, time and manpower. However, there is much more to electoral democracy than convenience and cost-benefit calculations.

The Congress and many other Opposition parties are calling simultaneous polls an attempt by the BJP-led Union government to centralise power and undermine the federal structure. These concerns have only grown after the saffron party added West Bengal to its burgeoning kitty of states. The Centre, however, is insistent that ONOE will benefit the nation. The lack of consensus makes it vital for the parliamentary committee to engage with a wide range of stakeholders — political parties, constitutional authorities, legal experts, administrative bodies, financial and educational institutions, industry and civil society. One of the biggest challenges is to synchronise elections — different states go to the polls in different years. Also, there has to be a concrete plan for the worst-case scenario — when a government falls mid-term due to defections or a no-confidence motion. Moreover, Lok Sabha elections focus on national issues, while Assembly battles primarily revolve around state/regional matters.

BJP Delegation Brings Uppal Constituency Issues to Notice of MMC Commissioner



Under the Leadership of Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, UPPAL, MAY 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): A BJP delegation led by former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar met MMC Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy at his office and discussed several civic issues related to the Uppal constituency. "The delegation included BJP leaders Bheti Subash Reddy, Gorige Krishna, Pothagani Gopal Goud, Ambati Venkatachalam, Thinderu Hanumantha Rao, and G. Ravinder Reddy. "During the meeting, the leaders raised concerns regarding sanitation, progress of development works, mosquito control measures, population census activities, the upcoming SIR process, house numbering, and development of parks in the constituency. "The BJP representatives alleged that development activities in several areas had slowed down and many works were progressing at a very sluggish pace. They urged the Commissioner to take immediate steps to speed up pending civic and development works in Uppal constituency.

Development Works Pending in Uppal Constituency Should Be Accelerated with Coordination Among Officials

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy"



“UPPAL , MAY 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):"Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated in a review meeting held on Thursday at Swagath Grand Hotel in Nagole regarding the ongoing development works under the jurisdiction of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. "MLAs, MPs, and MLCs from the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation limits attended the meeting. Detailed discussions were held on the progress of development works in various constituencies, public issues, infrastructure development, roads, drainage systems, drinking water supply, sanitation, and other civic amenities. "Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy instructed officials to work in coordination to ensure better services to the public and to expedite the pending development works. He also urged the officials to act without negligence in resolving public grievances.

Telangana Hikes Minimum Wages to 16,000–20,000: Major Relief for Workers

CM Revanth Reddy Commends Minister Vivek's Commitment to Workers' Welfare""Hyderabad: In a major boost to workers' welfare, the Telangana Congress government has announced a significant hike in minimum wages, with revised monthly wages ranging between 16,000 and 20,000. The new wages will come into effect from June 1, 2026. ""Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with Labour and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy, made the announcement at a press conference held at the State Secretariat on Thursday. ""The government has classified workers into four categories — unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled — and divided the state into three zones for wage determination. ""This decision is expected to directly benefit over 1.11 crore workers across Telangana. The revised minimum wages are as follows: "Unskilled workers: 16,000 (earlier 12,750)"Semi-skilled workers: 17,000 (earlier 13,152)"Skilled workers: 18,500 (earlier 13,772)"Highly skilled workers: 20,000 (earlier 14,607)"Describing this as the first major decision for workers' welfare since the formation of Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy stated that the Congress government is committed to protecting the interests of labourers, unlike the previous BRS regime which neglected them. ""The Chief Minister recalled the contributions of veteran labour leader G. Venkataswamy and noted that Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy is sincerely carrying forward his father's legacy through progressive welfare measures. ""Minister Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy said the wage revision reflects the government's resolve to ensure dignity and better living standards for working-class families. ""CM Revanth Reddy also urged the youth to look beyond traditional IT jobs and opportunities in the United States. He highlighted vast employment prospects in countries like Germany, Japan, and Singapore, and called upon youngsters to focus on skill-based education. ""The state government has established a Skills University to equip the youth for global opportunities. This substantial wage hike is being seen as a landmark step towards fulfilling the Congress government's promise of inclusive development and welfare for all sections of society.

A good future comes only through education



Arya Vysya Corporation State Chairman felicitates 10th class student""Indian Chronicle (may 21)"In the 2025-2026 academic year SSC exam results at Karan Kote Zilla Parishad High School, Tandur Mandal, Vikarabad District,

a student named CH. Yadamma scored 564 marks and stood as a district topper. ""Following this, at an event organized by i Foundation at Ravindra Bharathi in the capital city of telangana, the student along with Mathematics teacher Veeresham were felicitated grandly. State Arya Vysya Corporation Chairman Kalva Sujatha felicitated the student, presented her with a special memento, and conveyed her best wishes. ""Speaking on the occasion, she said that Yadamma, a student from a rural area who studied in a government high school and achieved excellent results on par with private schools, is an inspiration to all. She expressed her wish that the student continue with the same enthusiasm, pursue higher education, and reach great heights. ""She added that it is a matter of pride that a student studying in a government school at the Tandur constituency level has achieved such outstanding results. She noted that the role of the student's parents along with the teachers was crucial in this. ""Professor Kodandaram, i Foundation founders, teachers, and students participated in this program.

Rajiv Gandhi Death Anniversary Observed Grandly in Ramanthapur

Uppal Congress In-charge Parameshwar Reddy Pays Rich Tributes to the Architect of Modern India"

""UPPAL, MAY 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): The death anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi was observed grandly today in Ramanthapur. The programme was organized under the leadership of Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, who paid floral tributes to the statue of Rajiv Gandhi along with party leaders and workers. "Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said that Rajiv Gandhi was a visionary leader who laid the foundation for modern India and envisioned a 21st-century India. He stated that the computer revolution, telecom revolution, Panchayati Raj system, and granting voting rights to citizens at the age of 18 were clear examples of Rajiv Gandhi's farsighted leadership. "He further said that Rajiv Gandhi played a key role in encouraging youth participation in politics and called upon everyone to work towards fulfilling his ideals and vision. "Building the India envisioned by Rajiv Gandhi will be the true tribute to him," he remarked. "Several Congress leaders and party workers participated in the programme, including senior leader Kandi Aagi Reddy, DCC General Secretary Jalil Pasha, Ramanthapur Congress Working President Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Uppal Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel, Garika Sudhakar, Poosa Satheena, Bukka Suresh, Upender Reddy, Rudrala



Narasimha, Sandeep, Sridhar, Raji Reddy, Lingam, Swami, K. Swami, Bhaskar, Meetu Goud, Shankar, Kiran, Naga Mallaiiah, Gautham, Ashok, Balaraj, Ambika, Sriatha, senior Congress leaders, division presidents, Mahila Congress leaders, SC Cell and BC Cell leaders, Youth Congress and NSUI members, and party activists in large numbers.

Coordination Meeting Focuses on Uppal Civic Issues; Parameshwar Reddy Raises Key Concerns



""UPPAL , MAY 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy strongly highlighted several major civic issues of the Uppal constituency during a coordination meeting held on Thursday at Swagath Grand Hotel in Nagole. The meeting was conducted with public representatives and officials of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation under the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. "During the meeting, Parameshwar Reddy raised several pressing public concerns and demanded immediate action from the authorities. "Referring to the long-pending drinking water issue in Padmashali Township under Kapra Circle, he said that water connections have not been provided to residents for several years. He stated that nearly 2,400 families living beside the dumping yard are being forced to consume contaminated water and urged officials to provide immediate water connections. He also demanded the construction of a separate reservoir as a permanent solution. "Highlighting the flood threat in Uppal Bhagayath, he said that HMDA had developed layouts across 541 acres without constructing proper storm water drains or outlet systems. He warned that the entire layout could face severe flooding during heavy rains. He criticized the lack of coordination between HMDA and the Municipal Corporation and demanded the immediate construction of a comprehensive storm water drainage system for the entire area. "Parameshwar Reddy also raised concerns over the nala coming from the Amberpet STP towards Uppal Nalla Cheruvu, stating that the drainage flow gets blocked near the Warangal Highway, leading to stagnant water, foul smell, mosquito breeding and health hazards. He pointed out that the two 900 mm pipelines laid by HMDA are insufficient during heavy rains, putting Saraswathi Nagar, Vijayapuri, Lakshmi Reddy Colony and Shanthi Nagar at risk of flooding. "He suggested the construction of



a box drain from Uppal Sheshasai Nagar to Nalla Cheruvu via Mallikarjuna Nagar and called for proper nala alignment through the Bhagayath layout. "Parameshwar Reddy further thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for sanctioning Rs.150 crore for the development and beautification of Kapra Cheruvu, Uppal Nalla Cheruvu, HMT Cheruvu and Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu. "The meeting was attended by Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender, MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy, Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, Malkajgiri CP Sumathi, Malla Reddy, District President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav and other officials.

Hyderabad varsity students demand fact-finding panel after Mayukh Kundu's death

Hyderabad: Various student organisations at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) demanded the varsity administration to constitute an independent fact-finding committee to investigate the events that led to the death of Mayukh Kundu, a first-year MA Financial Economics student, on May 17.

In a joint press statement on Thursday, ASA, AISA, BRSV, BSF, DSU, Fraternity, MSF, PDSU, SFI and TSF alleged that a group of students affiliated with ABVP, along with present Students' Union members, gathered outside 'F' Hostel under the pretext of taking action against Mayukh, who was accused of laptop theft.

Film and T V personalities joined in BJP

Hyderabad , May 21 : ? S several prominent personalities from the film and television industries joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the presence of BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao here today. Speaking on the occasion, Film Cell Co-Convenor Vaibhav Surya stated that many artists are joining the BJP, drawn by its patriotic ideology and development- oriented politics. He said that several more film and TV personalities are expected to join the party in the future. " Prominent film actor Manohar, senior actor Sharath, senior actress Smt. Padmarekha, and Film Cell member Pujitha formally joined the BJP during the event. BJP state President extended a warm welcome to all the new members by wrapping the party scarf (kanduva) them. "After joining the party, the new members expressed that they were inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the BJP's ideologies, and its public service initiatives. They stated that they would do their part to strengthen the BJP in the state. " The event was attended by party leaders, Film Cell representatives, and party workers.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Congratulates Haripriya for Winning State Kickboxing Championship



“UPPAL, MAY 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy congratulated Telagavapu Haripriya from Uppal for securing first place in the Telangana State Kickboxing Championship 2026-27. "The championship was held at the Indoor Stadium in Katedan, Rangareddy district, where Haripriya, representing Medchal-Malkajgiri district, competed in the 60 kg category and emerged as the winner. "The MLA said it was a matter of pride that Haripriya achieved victory at the state level at such a young age. He expressed confidence that she would achieve many more successes at the national and international levels in the future. "Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that encouraging sportspersons would help boost confidence among the youth and inspire more young people to excel in sports.

MP Eatala Rajender Felicitates State EAMCET Engineering Topper M. Rushi



“UPPAL , MAY 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):"Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Eatala Rajender felicitated student M. Rushi, a resident of Chilukanagar Division, for securing the first rank in the state in the EAMCET-2026 Engineering results. "Speaking on the occasion, the MP said that status, background, or position are not important for achieving success, and that determination, dedication, and the desire to achieve goals can lead to great accomplishments. He praised Rushi for proving this through her outstanding performance and said that she would serve as an inspiration to many students. "He further stated that students across Telangana should take inspiration from Rushi and strive towards building a bright future for themselves. Chilukanagar Division leader Telangana Sampath and BJP leaders also participated in the programme. "[

Two Permissions for One School..Doubts Surround “Excellent School”

One school up to 7th class... another school name for 8th, 9th & 10th classes.. "Are Education Department officials trapped in a "bribe game".. "How was permission granted for a petrol bunk near a school..? Serious allegations by former MPTC Konderu Ramu "Manuguru, May21— Indian Chronicle "The functioning of "Excellent School," located beside the Edulla-Bayyaram main road in Pinapaka mandal, has become controversial. Several doubts are being raised among locals regarding school permissions, safety standards, and the operation of an educational institution near a petrol bunk. "When the local MEO was asked for clarification, he reportedly stated that "Excellent School" has permissions only up to 7th class, while permissions for 8th, 9th, and 10th classes were granted under the name "Bhasha School." However, former Uppaka MPTC Konderu Ramu questioned how two different schools could operate within the same premises under separate names. "He also alle



Commissioner Gaush Alam stresses speedy disposal of pending cases

Officials asked to intensify patrolling, strengthen surveillance on rowdy sheeters, and enhance community outreach.



KARIMNAGAR May 21 (Correspondent): Police Commissioner Gaush Alam has directed officials of the Karimnagar Police Commissionerate to expedite the disposal of pending cases and strengthen measures for maintaining law and order across the Commissionerate limits. Chairing the monthly crime review meeting at the Commissionerate headquarters on Thursday, Mr. Alam reviewed pending investigations, including grave offences registered this year, property-related crimes, crimes against women and cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He instructed officials to speed up investigations and ensure timely disposal of

cases. The Commissioner stressed the need for "visible policing" in the city and asked officials to intensify day and night patrolling. Police personnel were also directed to respond promptly to complaints received through Dial 100 services.

Reviewing security arrangements, Mr. Alam instructed officials to maintain strict surveillance on rowdy sheeters and suspect sheeters and conduct surprise inspections at their residences. Hotels and lodges were asked to verify identity cards and contact details before allotting rooms to customers, failing which action would be initiated against the managements concerned. In view of recent incidents involving Nepali gangs, the Commissioner directed police stations to register details of over 1,000 Nepali workers employed in various sectors across the Commissionerate limits. The Commissioner also ordered security audits in banks and jewellery establishments and asked officials to ensure compliance with safety protocols. Special drives against drunk driving and vehicles without registration number plates were also reviewed. Mr. Alam called upon police personnel to strengthen community policing by visiting villages and urban wards under the Community Contact Programme and creating awareness on cyber crimes among the public. With Bakrid approaching, officials were instructed to prevent illegal transportation of cattle and take precautionary measures to avoid any law and order issues during the festival period. The Commissioner further directed officials to increase the installation of CCTV cameras across the Commissionerate and ensure that the existing surveillance cameras remain functional and geo-tagged. Trainee IPS officer Soham Sunil, Additional DCP Venkataramana, ACPs Srinivas, Venugopal, Srinivas G, Vijay Kumar, Venkataswamy, Madhavi, Satish and Pratap, besides Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, attended the meeting.

Rajiv Gandhi's Services Inspire Future Generations : MLA Revuri



"----Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for 60 Lakh Rajiv Gandhi Statue and Park Development Works""Geesugonda/ Sangem, May 21 (Indian Chronicle) :Parakala MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy stated that the services of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi—who earned a permanent place in the hearts of the Indian people—and his visionary leadership will continue to serve as a constant source of inspiration for future generations. "On Thursday, the MLA laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Rajiv Gandhi statue and for park development works within the 'Rajiv Gandhi Township,' located inside the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, which spans the Geesugonda and Sangem mandals. This project is being undertaken at an estimated cost of approximately ₹60 lakhs. "Alongside MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, the development works were formally inaugurated by KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkatramireddy, Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, Narsampet MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy, Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, former Mayor Gundu Sudharani, Warangal District Congress President Ayub Ali, and District Collector Satya Sarada. "Speaking on the occasion, MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy remarked that Rajiv Gandhi worked tirelessly for the cause of national integration and inclusive development. He described Rajiv Gandhi's family as one that has made immense sacrifices for the sake of the nation's integrity and



equality. The MLA stated that the government would forever remain indebted to the families displaced from their lands to facilitate the establishment of the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park. He informed that the 'Rajiv Gandhi Township' is being developed as a modern model colony, equipped with superior civic amenities, for the benefit of these displaced families. "He noted that development works within the Textile Park gained momentum following the formation of the Congress-led People's Government, thanks to the special initiative taken by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He added that, subsequent to the Chief Minister's visit, 'Indiramma Houses' were sanctioned to 863 beneficiaries to facilitate the construction of homes for the displaced families. Revuri Prakash Reddy revealed that several infrastructure projects are currently under construction within the Rajiv Gandhi Township; these include the construction of a primary school building, a Primary Health Centre, a Gram Panchayat office, a veterinary hospital, CC roads, culverts, and 11 kV three-phase five-wire LT lines, as well as the establishment of new MSME clusters. "Criticizing the BJP-led Central Government, the MLA alleged that attempts are being made to distort history through the misuse of political power. He emphasized that the people of the nation would never forget the services rendered by the Congress party and Rajiv Gandhi towards India's development.

Family Members of Gudi Swarna Madhusudan Reddy Participate in



Sparsha Darshan" and Abhishekam at Kedarnath Shrine"Hyderabad, May 21 (Indian Chronicle):"Family members of Sri Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple Chairman and GMR Trust Founding Chairman Gudi Swarna Madhusudan Reddy, along with Vandana Venkataramana and their family members, participated in the sacred "Sparsha Darshan" and Abhishekam of Lord Shiva at the holy shrine of Kedarnath Temple on Thursday. "Speaking on the occasion, they said that receiving the divine blessing of touching and worshipping Lord Shiva at Kedarnath is truly the result of great fortune earned over many lifetimes. They stated that only with the grace of Lord Bhola Shankar can devotees undertake the pilgrimage and experience such a spiritually elevating darshan. "They described the journey to Kedarnath as physically challenging, involving a steep 22-kilometre mountainous trek and difficult breathing conditions due to the high-altitude environment. However, the scenic beauty of lush green mountains, waterfalls, and the breathtaking Himalayan landscape makes devotees forget all hardships along the way. "They further said that during sunrise, when the rays of the sun fall upon the snow-covered Himalayan peaks surrounding Kedarnath, the en-



tire temple ? resembles Mount Kailash itself. Witnessing such a divine sight fills devotees with spiritual bliss and removes all exhaustion instantly. "The devotees also highlighted the historical and spiritual significance of the temple, which is believed to have been originally built by the Pandavas and later revived in the 8th century by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. Constructed with massive stone slabs, the temple has withstood several natural calamities over centuries. "They also visited sacred sites near the temple, including Amrit Gundam, Bhim Shila, and the meditation place associated with Adi Shankaracharya, which remain major attractions for pilgrims visiting the holy shrine.

Rajiv Gandhi's Ideals Inspire Today's Youth: MP Kadiyam Kavya



"Hanamkonda, May 21 (Indian Chronicle) : "Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya described former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna recipient Rajiv Gandhi as a visionary leader. She stated that the vision he demonstrated set the country on the right path; furthermore, she recalled that he always maintained a deep bond with the people, personally and directly understanding their problems. "On the occasion of Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary on Thursday, the MP paid rich tributes to his portrait at the Hanamkonda District Congress Committee (DCC) office. "Subsequently, she paid homage to the statue of Rajiv Gandhi located at MGM Circle, as well as to the statue situated near Konayamakula in Geesugonda Mandal. "On this occasion—accompanied by MLAs Nayini Rajender Reddy, Revuri Prakash Reddy, and Donthi Madhava Reddy, along with DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy—MP Kadiyam Kavya laid the foundation stone for park development works estimated at approximately ₹58 lakhs in the KMTP Residential Layout village within Geesugonda Mandal. "Speaking to the media thereafter, the MP remarked that Rajiv Gandhi was a visionary statesman who steered the nation towards modernization. She specifically highlighted that the foundations he laid for the Information Technology (IT) sector and the telecom revolution stand as pivotal milestones in India's developmental



journey. Kavya noted that Rajiv Gandhi would be remembered for generations to come as a leader who encouraged youth participation in politics. She added that his efforts toward rural development, strengthening the Panchayati Raj system, and women's empowerment would remain permanently etched in the nation's history. "She stated that, drawing inspiration from Rajiv Gandhi's ideals, the Congress party continues to work with unwavering commitment toward public welfare. Emphasizing the importance of remembering his contributions to safeguarding national unity and secular values, she called upon the youth to embrace Rajiv's ideals and strive for the nation's progress. "Criticizing the BJP, the MP alleged that while the Congress party has always worked for the welfare of the poor, the BJP, in contrast, promotes divisive politics based on religion. She expressed concern that, despite being entrusted with power at the Centre to resolve public issues, the BJP government is imposing a burden on the common people by hiking the prices of essential commodities under the pretext of warlike situations. "Dr. Kadiyam Kavya expressed confidence that Rahul Gandhi is emerging as a strong alternative and a beacon of hope for the people of the country; she asserted that, in the future, he would indeed become the Prime Minister of India. "Local public representatives, Congress leaders, party workers, and supporters participated in this event.

Bandari Lakshma Reddy Inaugurates Spark Dental Clinic in Uppal

"UPPAL , MAY 21(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Bandari Lakshma Reddy inaugurated the newly established Spark Dental Clinic at Swaroop Nagar Colony in Uppal on Wednesday. "Clinic administrators Dr. P. Preethi and Dr. J. Soujanya welcomed the MLA and expressed their gratitude for inaugurating the facility. "Speaking on the occasion, Bandari Lakshma Reddy said that access to quality healthcare services is very important for the public. He expressed happiness over the launch of a modern dental clinic with advanced facilities in the Uppal area and advised people to pay special attention to their health and oral care. "BRS party leaders, activists, and local residents also participated in the programme.



Rajiv Gandhi's Contributions to India's IT Revolution Are Invaluable : MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy



"Narsampet, May 21 (Indian Chronicle) : "Narsampet MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy stated that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi laid strong foundations for the development of the Information Technology (IT) sector in India and played a transformative role in steering the nation toward modernization. "On the occasion of the death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi—who is widely hailed as the architect of India's information revolution—the MLA paid rich tributes to him on Thursday by garlanding his portrait at the Congress Party office in Narsampet town. "Speaking on this occasion, Donthi Madhava Reddy remarked that Rajiv Gandhi would forever be remembered as a visionary leader who ushered India into the modern era through key reforms in computer-

ization, information technology, and the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system. He asserted that Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to the building of modern India are unforgettable and hold immense historical significance. "The MLA emphasized that the strong foundations laid for the IT sector have opened the doors to world-class opportunities for today's youth. Recalling Rajiv Gandhi's immense faith in the youth, he noted that the former Prime Minister firmly believed that the future of the nation rested in the hands of its young generation. He added that, with this same foresight, Rajiv Gandhi granted citizens the right to vote at the age of 18, thereby empowering the voice of the youth within the democratic system. "Madhav Reddy stated that Rajiv Gandhi's vision of extending technology and development to rural India continues to guide the Congress government to this day. He affirmed that the Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, remains committed to youth empowerment, digital advancement, sports development, and the creation of employment opportunities. He called upon everyone to rededicate themselves to the ideals and aspirations of Rajiv Gandhi. "Municipal Chairperson Pendem Srilakshmi-Ramanand, Vice Chairman Gandham Narendra, Town Congress President Pambi Vamshi, Town Women's Congress President Dhoni Keerthana, municipal councilors, women ward members, and party workers participated in this event.

Relief from Scorching Heat: Innovative Misting Water Bus Stops – MLA Nayini

"Hanamkonda, May 21 (Indian Chronicle) : As part of a novel initiative aimed at providing relief to citizens from the intensifying summer heat, specially designed 'misting water bus stops'—established under the aegis of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC)—were inaugurated on Thursday by Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy and District Collector Chahat Bajpai. "Hailed as the first-of-its-kind innovative initiative in Telangana, these specially designed misting bus stops are garnering significant public attention for their novel approach to combating extreme temperatures. "On this occasion, the MLA and the Collector inspected the misting water bus stops installed within the premises of the Hanamkonda Government Maternity Hospital and in the vicinity of the Public Gardens. Officials stated that these advanced misting systems were introduced to provide temporary cooling relief to commuters and public transport users amidst the rising temperatures. "Speaking at the event, MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy noted that cities such as Khammam, Warangal, and Karimnagar are rapidly emerging as major regional hubs for commerce, business, and public services. He stated that thousands of people commute daily to these urban centers from surrounding rural and suburban areas, and the vast majority of them rely heavily on public transportation systems such as buses and auto-rickshaws. "He explained that this increasing reliance on bus services—for employment, education, healthcare, and other essential needs—is leading to severe overcrowding at bus stops and waiting areas. He added that, particularly during peak hours, commuters experience significant discomfort due to the stifling heat. "With these challenges in mind, the adminis-



tration has introduced "misting bus stops" with the aim of improving public health, passenger safety, and travel comfort. "The MLA emphasized that misting systems serve as an effective solution in urban areas grappling with extreme temperatures. He explained that the ultra-fine water droplets released through high-pressure nozzles evaporate into the air, helping to lower the ambient temperature by approximately 5 to 10 degrees Celsius. He noted that the primary objective of this system is to create a temporarily cool environment around bus stops, thereby providing a more comfortable experience for commuters. Among those who participated in this program were District Library Corporation Chairman Aziz Khan, former Corporator Pothula Sriman, leaders Binny Lakshman, Thota Pawan, and Manohar, Horticulture Officer Ramesh, EE Ravikumar, DE Rajkumar, and AE Hari, along with several other officials and public representatives.

BRS Party Membership Enrollment Goes Digital

Former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy



“---Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy Appointed as Constituency Observer-----Narsampet, May 21 (Indian Chronicle) : In accordance with the directives of former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS Chief K. Chandrashekar Rao, and the party's Working President K.T. Rama Rao, former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy announced that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will soon launch a digital membership enrollment drive across the state.“In a state-

ment released on Thursday, Sudarshan Reddy stated that an online-based digital membership enrollment program would soon commence throughout the Narsampet constituency. He revealed that former MLA Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy has been appointed as the constituency observer to effectively oversee this membership enrollment process.“He further informed that two in-charges would be appointed for each of the 283 polling stations (booths) falling within the constituency limits. In the coming days, special training sessions regarding the digital membership enrollment process will also be conducted for these in-charges.“Furthermore, Mandal-level coordination and monitoring committees are being constituted in all Mandals to oversee this membership enrollment drive. Sudarshan Reddy expressed confidence that, under the guidance of these committees, the program would be implemented with the utmost efficiency; he also called upon every party worker to actively participate in this initiative and contribute to its success. He clarified that once the membership enrollment process is completed, the state leadership will constitute party committees at the village, Mandal, and district levels. He stated that priority would be given to dedicated activists who have worked tirelessly for the party, as well as to the youth, in these new committees.

Congress Committed to Fulfilling Rajiv Gandhi's Vision : MLA Naini Rajender Reddy



“““Hanamkonda, May 21 (Indian Chronicle) :“Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy stated that the Congress Party remains firmly committed to carrying forward the ideals and vision of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi, whose services continue to inspire the younger generation.“On the occasion of the 35th death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, a memorial programme was organised on Thursday under the aegis of the District Congress Committee at the DCC Bhavan in Hanamkonda. MLA Naini Rajender Reddy paid rich floral tributes to Rajiv Gandhi by garlanding his portrait.“Addressing the gathering, the MLA said Rajiv Gandhi's contribution towards India's modernisation and his efforts in steering the youth towards the technological revolution would remain unforgettable. He described Rajiv Gandhi as a visionary leader who laid strong



foundations for rural development and the expansion of the information technology sector in the country.“He further asserted that the Congress Party continues to move forward on the path shown by Rajiv Gandhi for achieving holistic national development and empowering the youth.“Later, floral tributes were also paid to the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at MGM Junction. A large number of Congress leaders and party workers participated in the programme and fondly remembered the late leader's remarkable services to the nation.“Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy, Ayub, District Library Organisation Chairman Aziz Khan, along with several Congress leaders and public representatives, attended the event.

Rajiv Gandhi's Death Anniversary Observed with Solemnity at Atmakur Mandal Headquarters



Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah Pays Tribute““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District

Bureau... Indian Chronicle... May 21): On the occasion of the death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, Telangana State Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ailaiah paid solemn tributes by garlanding the statue of Rajiv Gandhi at the Atmakur Mandal headquarters in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Subsequently, he inspected the ongoing road construction works at the Atmakur Mandal center and instructed the contractor to expedite the project while ensuring that the road is built to high-quality standards.““Speaking on this occasion, Beerla Ailaiah also paid solemn tributes to former Prime Minister of India, Sri Rajiv Gandhi, by garlanding his portrait which had been arranged at the Motakondur Mandal headquarters to mark the anniversary. He took this opportunity to recall the services rendered by Rajiv Gandhi towards the development of the nation. He emphasized the need to carry forward the ideals of Rajiv Gandhi, who continues to serve as an inspiration to the youth.

Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah embarks on a bicycle tour to protest against the increase in petrol and diesel prices in Mootakondur



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 21):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah, who embarked on a bicycle tour to protest against the increase in petrol and diesel prices from Yadagirigutta town of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district to Mootakondur mandal, visited the main points in

Mootakondur mandal to resolve the problems, visit the grain purchase centers and give instructions to the officials to ensure that the farmers do not face any difficulties. He inspected the construction work of the newly constructed Mandal Praja Parishad office and Tahsildar office in the mandal center.

SIT, forensic team revisit Dharmasthala skeletal remains site

GNS News Agency, May 21
Mangaluru (Karnataka): The SIT investigating the allegations of multiple murders, rapes and burials in Dharmasthala, and a team of forensic experts, on Thursday visited one of the locations where human skulls and skeletal remains were allegedly found earlier, officials said. A three-member team of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Bengaluru reached the Banglegudde forest area along with SIT officials and conducted a detailed inspection at the spot, they said.

According to officials, the SIT probing the case had recovered human skeletal remains during a spot inspection at Banglegudde, a hillock located near Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district, in September 2025.Officials said the FSL experts were tasked with recreating the scene of the discovery, confirming the precise location where skeletal remains were found, and preparing a technical report for the SIT.



BJP Calls for Grassroots Strengthening and Public Outreach in Tamil Nadu



““Khammam,May21 Indian chronicle:““Senior BJP leaders emphasized that the party can secure a lasting place in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu only by standing with the public and continuously working to resolve their issues.“At a high-level review meeting held on Thursday at the BJP district office in Coimbatore, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B. L. Santhosh and BJP national leader and Tamil Nadu–Karnataka Co-incharge Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy gave clear directions to party leaders and cadre regarding future political strategy and organizational strengthening.“Focus on Public Connect and Booth-Level Expansion“Addressing the meeting, B.L. Santhosh urged party leaders not to remain confined to offices but to directly engage with the public. He stated that exposing the failures of the state government and standing by common people should be the party's immediate priority.“He stressed that the BJP would gain the trust and confidence of the people in Tamil Nadu only when leaders sincerely work among the



masses and actively help solve local issues.“Take Central Schemes to Every Household“Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy conducted an in-depth review of the party's organizational structure and suggested immediate measures to strengthen the BJP from the village level to every polling booth.“He instructed leaders to make booth committees more active and ensure that the welfare schemes implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government reach every household.“He said strong organizational foundations are essential for achieving political success and described booth-level workers as the real strength of the party.“Senior Leaders Attend Strategy Meeting“The review meeting was attended by several senior BJP leaders, including Tamil Nadu BJP affairs in-charge Arvind Menon, Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran, and Ooty BJP MLA Bojarajan.“Leaders unanimously resolved to expand party activities in the coming days and launch new initiatives aimed at attracting large numbers of youth and women into the party.

Paleru TRS Key Leaders Hold General Body Meeting Former MLA Kandala Participates

“Khammam ,Paleru, May 21 Indian chronicle:““A general body meeting of key leaders from the Paleru constituency was held today at the BRS party office in Khammam district. The meeting was attended by important leaders from four mandals of the Paleru constituency.“The meeting was chaired by Paleru constituency in-charge and former MLA Kandala Upender Reddy, along with erstwhile Khammam district in-charge Takkalapalli Ravinder Rao.“During the meeting, leaders held extensive discussions on several important topics including the party's digital membership registration drive, strengthening the party at the grassroots level, formation of village-level committees, upcoming political programs, and coordination among party workers.“Addressing the gathering, the leaders called upon party workers to strongly take the ideals and policies of the BRS party to the people and work with dedication for the party.“The leaders also emphasized the need for collective efforts to further strengthen the party in the Paleru constituency.“Prominent leaders from Tirumalayapalem mandal who participated in the meeting included Mandal Party President Bhashaboyina Veeranna, Mandal Secretary Devaram Devender Reddy, Chava Venugopala Krishna, Chamakuri Raju, Shaik Chandu, Boda Mancha



Naik, Banoth Army Ravi, Billagiri Dhanunjay, Pole Ponga Ramachandru, Dharavath Shankar Naik, and others.

Youth Arrested for Performing Bike Stunts on Roads

““Khammam , Kusumanchi May 21 Indian chronicle:““Two youths who were allegedly performing dangerous bike stunts on public roads and driving at excessive speeds for social media likes and reels were arrested by the Khammam Task Force and Kusumanchi police, according to Task Force ACP Satyanarayana.“The arrested youths were identified as Madhavarapu Shiva Ramakrishna (20) from Parikasingaram village of Kusumanchi mandal and Banoth Jashwanth (18) from Kokya Thanda. Police said the duo had been carrying out risky stunts on highways and roads in and around Khammam city, endangering their lives as well as the safety of pedestrians and other motorists.“Kusumanchi SI Nagaraju took the youths into custody on Thursday.“Police stated that the social media monitoring team is closely tracking such posts online and warned that strict cases are being registered under the Motor Vehicles Act and public nuisance laws against those involved in dangerous driving and racing activities.“Officials emphasized that performing bike stunts on public roads is a punishable offense and can lead to serious accidents. They also appealed to parents not to allow minor children to ride motorcycles and advised them to closely monitor their children's activities and counsel them against engaging in unlawful and life-threatening acts.“Police further urged youth not to risk their lives for such adventures and requested the public to report anyone disturbing public safety to local po-



lice or Dial 100.“According to the Motor Vehicles Act, reckless driving and illegal racing can attract imprisonment and heavy fines, police warned.

Government Focused on Welfare and Development: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

“Khammam,Edulapuram, May 21 Indian chronicle:““Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that the state government is giving special priority to both welfare and development initiatives.“On Thursday, the minister, along with District Collector Divakar T.S., laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 3.6-kilometre BT road from Tellidarupalli to the Khammam–Kodad Road via Ramudu Cheruvu in Ward No. 14 of Edulapuram Municipality. The project is being undertaken at a cost of 74.02 crore.“79 Crore Development Works Already Implemented“Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that development works worth nearly 79 crore have already been implemented in the Tellidarupalli area.“He said the newly sanctioned BT road project would significantly improve transportation facilities for local residents.“Welfare Schemes Being Implemented“The minister highlighted several welfare schemes being implemented by the state government, including:“Indiramma housing scheme“Free bus travel for women“200 units of free electricity“Distribution of fine rice“Issuance of new ration cards“He also said that diet charges in Gurukul schools had been increased by 40 percent and cosmetic charges by 200 percent.“Employment, Farmer Support, and Pensions“The minister stated that the government has provided employment to 72,000 youth and implemented farm loan waivers up to 72 lakh for farmers.“He further announced that the government is providing a 7500 bonus for fine paddy procurement and said that a decision regarding new Aasara pensions would soon be taken in the state Cabinet meeting.“Later, the minister and district collector distributed house site allotment and patta verification certificates to beneficiaries.“The event was attended by



Edulapuram Municipal Chairperson Anitha, Vice Chairman Thammineni Naveen, Municipal Commissioner Srinivas Reddy, Panchayat Raj SE Venkat Reddy, RDO Srinivas, and other officials.

‘Mahayuti ended cartelisation’: Mumbai BJP chief Ameet Satam as BJP-Sena completes 100 days in BMC



GNS News Agency, May 21

As the Mahayuti completed 100 days in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Andheri (West) MLA and Mumbai BJP chief Ameet Satam said Thursday, 23 major decisions taken during the period had helped reshape civic governance in the city by promoting greater transparency. “Earlier, proposals used to be cleared by the civic standing committee through systemised cartelisation. This process of ‘understanding’ has been entirely abolished now, and projects are being cleared for public welfare,” Satam said on Thursday, while addressing a press conference at the civic headquarters, where he presented a report card of the 100-day performance of the BJP-Shiv Sena’s Mahayuti alliance.

“A result of this reformed system, the civic adminis-

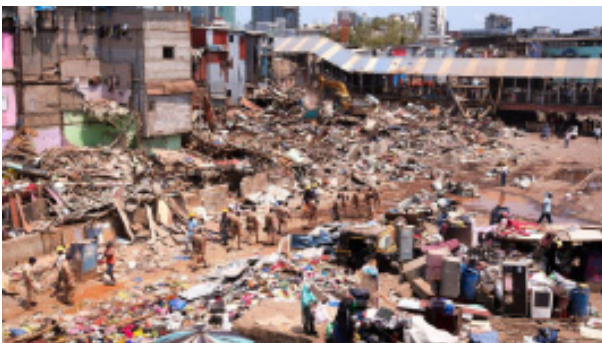
Ahead of Punjab Assembly elections, probe into 328 missing Saroops goes cold

GNS News Agency, May 21

What began as a politically charged probe into the disappearance of 328 saroops or copies of the Guru Granth Sahib has all but vanished from Punjab’s political discourse ahead of the election year, with no chargesheet filed, no fresh arrests made, and growing allegations that the investigation has been quietly pushed into cold storage. After the First Information Report (FIR) in the case was registered on December 17, 2025, following a five-year campaign led by Sikh activist Baldev Singh Wadala, the AAP government aggressively backed the investigation, hoping it would politically corner Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) president Sukhbir Singh Badal and dent the party’s support among Sikh voters ahead of the Assembly elections.

Initially, the strategy appeared clear: a high-profile probe into the missing saroops could damage the SAD(B) and potentially help the ruling AAP consolidate Sikh support. The police attested Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandak Committee (SGPC) employee Kamaljit Singh and Satinder Singh Kohli, a close aide of Sukhbir Badal, but both later secured bail. Since then, the probe has largely gone silent. In April, the Mann government shifted focus toward a new anti-sacrilege law, presenting it as a major initiative to protect Sikh sentiments. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also launched a high-profile “Shukrana Yatra”, attempting to position himself as a defender of Sikh interests ahead of the elections. Wadala, who had supported the Punjab Government’s anti-sacrilege legislation despite objections from the Akal Takht and SGPC, now fears the 328 missing Saroops case has been deliberately sidelined. “The SIT probing the case is sleeping,” Wadala told The Indian Express, while accusing the government of not doing enough in the case. Special Investigation Team chief Nanak Singh, however, maintained that the inquiry is continuing. “We are investigating and have sought more documents from SGPC. We expect to get them on May 27,” he said while acknowledging that no chargesheet has been filed yet. On where

Mumbai demolition drive: 16 people arrested after violent protests leave 4 policemen injured



GNS News Agency, May 21

A day after clashes broke out in Mumbai’s Bandra during the second day of Western Railway’s anti-encroachment drive, officials said on Thursday that 16 people have been arrested, while a manhunt has been launched for those who pelted stones at police and railway personnel, injuring four. The violence erupted during a demolition drive of unauthorised huts near Gate No 18 at Garib Nagar in Bandra East on Wednesday, following an order by the Bombay High Court permitting the removal of illegal constructions.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Dharmendra Singh Janak Singh lodged a First Information Report (FIR) saying that an eviction operation was being carried out between May 19 and May 23 under heavy police bandobast after notices were issued by the Western Railway. The demolition started at around 10 am on Wednesday, but at around 4.30 pm, a crowd of nearly 100 to 150 people allegedly gathered at the site, shouting slogans, demanding that the demolition be stopped, as per the FIR. Despite police personnel warning people using loudspeakers not to interrupt them, the crowd allegedly turned aggressive and started pelting stones and cement blocks, the FIR added. According to the FIR, some people allegedly attempted to attack officers by flinging cement blocks aimed at their heads. Security personnel reportedly used mild force to disperse the crowd, but when the crowd allegedly refused to stop, the police baton-charged the protesters and detained several alleged stone-pelters. The police said four police personnel were injured in the violence. While Constable Pratik Dagdu Jadhav suffered a fracture in his right thumb, other officers sustained injuries to their wrists and fingers. Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable Jitendra Kumar Sajjan Singh also suffered injuries to his nose. Public property was also damaged during the violence, and several civilians present near the demolition site sustained injuries in the stone-pelt-

tration has now mandated procurement of school stationery items and medical equipment from the government’s e-marketplace (GeM) portal, where there is full transparency without any favouritism to any contractors,” Satam said. The press conference was also attended by Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde, Leader of the House Prabhakar Shinde, and Deputy Mayor Sanjay Ghadi. Satam stated that in the last three months, tenders worth Rs 1,100 crore have been scrapped by the civic administration after the BJP councilors raised objections pertaining to the inflated cost of the tenders floated. Furthermore, he stated BMC was able to save Rs 270 crore by revising the Gargai Pinjal dam project — a key water supply project that has been pending since 2015. Satam highlighted the budgetary provisions made for promoting the Marathi language and for setting up AI and robotics labs in municipal schools. Furthermore, he added that a proposal has been floated to construct underground parking facilities beneath playgrounds, and the BMC will provide free HPV vaccines to girls below 14 years of age to prevent cervical cancer. “After the Mahayuti have assumed office, a policy for debris removal has been introduced, and a CSR portal is being developed for essential projects. A scam involving 87,000 fake birth and death certificates was exposed. Work on 1,900 km of roads has been completed, and by 2027, 93% of Mumbai’s roads will be concretised,” Satam added. Stating that a code system is being implemented for authorised hawkers, Satam said that a blueprint has been prepared in partnership with IIT experts to prevent waterlogging during the monsoon.



the 328 Saroops are right now, he said, “We are working on that only,” claiming there has been “substantive progress.” Wadala, however, pointed to the arrest and prolonged remand of Sukhbir Badal’s former personal assistant, Satinder Singh Kohli, after which, he claimed, the SIT became inactive. “Either they (police) got nothing, or got everything. We fear that both sides, the government and SAD(B), have reached a compromise,” he said. “When Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was summoned to Akal Takht by Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaji over objectionable videos, he arrived with two black bags. After that meeting, neither the chief minister nor the Jathedar spoke publicly about what was in those bags again. Were there dark deeds in those black bags, or did both sides put up a show and strike a deal?” Wadala asked. With Punjab elections ahead, Wadala made clear that his organisation would not allow the case to be quietly buried. Though Wadala recently met the Punjab CM, he has approached a court seeking a status report on the investigation. He said that after receiving the SIT’s status report, he would pursue both legal action through the Punjab High Court and a mass movement on the ground. “If the government makes the mistake of dropping this case midway, it could prove fatal for them,” he said.

ing. The arrested accused are from Garib Nagar, Behrampada, Dharavi and Andheri, the police said. A case has been registered under charges of attempted murder, including unlawful assembly, rioting, obstructing government officials from discharging their duties, damaging public property, and assaulting government employees of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against 100 to 115 people. Investigation is on, and officials are examining CCTV footage and other evidence to identify individuals involved in the violence. The slums located between Bandra railway station’s south foot-overbridge and Gate No 18 were allegedly constructed illegally. The operation aims to clear around 5,200 sq m of prime railway land, with over 400 unauthorised structures, including multi-storey makeshift homes made of tin sheets and small commercial shops, being demolished.

Tamil anthem row erupts after Cabinet swearing-in in Tamil Nadu

Chennai: A fresh political controversy erupted on Thursday when the Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu (Tamil invocation song) was rendered last in the sequence of songs recited during the swearing-in of the newly inducted Tamil Nadu ministers at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday. The Left parties took exception to the Tamil anthem being sung after Vande Mataram and the national anthem at the swearing-in ceremony held in the presence of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to mark his maiden cabinet expansion. As many as 21 TVK MLAs and two Congress legislators were inducted into the Cabinet on Thursday. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to the 23 newly inducted ministers. A similar row had surfaced when the Tamil anthem, which is traditionally sung at the commencement of state government functions, was recited third after Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana when Vijay was sworn in as Chief Minister on May 10. Stating that the Tamil Nadu Governor should prioritise the Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu, CPI state secretary M Veerapandian emphasised that the sentiments of the Tamil people should be taken into due consideration. “We reiterate that the Governor should pay more attention to prioritising the Tamil Anthem. We respect India’s national song and national anthem.

25 years later, Gujarat HC awards higher compensation to family who lost breadwinner in highway accident, making up for the “pain, shock and suffering”



Twenty Five years after a road accident left a transport contractor bedridden and in a coma for the final six years of his life, the Gujarat High Court more than doubled the 2014 compensation awarded to his family by a tribunal — raising the total award to Rs 12.12 lakhs. While categorically holding that the case was “required to be treated as fatal accident case” and the deceased could not be blamed for any negligence whatsoever for the accident. Bringing relief to a family that had fought a legal battle since the 2001 accident, Justice Nisha Thakore of the Gujarat HC allowed the appeal filed by the widow of the deceased, Champa Bhutani and her son against the 2014 judgment and award of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (Aux) in Gondal town of Rajkot district. The HC noted that the tribunal “committed grave error in treating it as a case of injury claims” as it was “required to be treated as fatal accident case”. The Court ruled that the cause of death— brain injury from the accident — had made it a fatal accident case in law, with the multiplier method applicable to dependency loss rather than future loss of income.

The Court considered the post mortem note, which recorded the cause of death as “cardio respiratory failure due to complications of coma-brain injury”. Rejecting the insurance company’s argument, citing another case of accident, the court said, “...in present case on hand, the injured has succumbed to fatal injuries as evident from the postmortem report...” The HC examined the compensation on legal principles for the criteria of negligence, income assessment, nature of the claim, and several heads of compensation and held that the Tribunal “ought to have objectively considered the amount of compensation under the head of pain, shock and suffering.” The order states, “The Tribunal failed to live to the object of beneficial legislation which otherwise aims at just and reasonable amount of compensation to be awarded.” The HC awarded Rs 3 lakh under the head, noting that “even after taking a very conservative view of the matter, it would be appropriate to consider the amount of Rs. 3 lakhs towards the head of pain, shock and suffering.” The HC directed the Insurance Company to deposit the enhanced compensation of Rs 6.99 lakhs with interest at 7.5 per cent per annum from the date of filing of the claim petition, within six weeks of receipt of the certified copy of the order. The total compensation payable, including the amount already awarded by the Tribunal, now stands at Rs 12.12 lakhs. The Tribunal at Gondal was directed to disburse the amount in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines on apportionment.

The case stems from a prolonged tragedy of the applicants. As per the petition, on March 19, 2001, the deceased, Bhagvanji Bhutani—a 45-years-old well-educated transport contractor running his business from a market yard in Gondal— was riding his motorcycle when it was struck by a speeding Matador vehicle on the National High-

Maharashtra Congress reshuffle: 69 new district chiefs named ahead of 2029 polls



GNS News Agency, May 21

In one of its biggest reshuffles in decades, the Maharashtra Congress on Thursday appointed 69 organisational district presidents in a bid to revitalise the party at the grassroots level, ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. New and young faces have been appointed in several districts as part of the party’s Sanghatan Srujan Abhiyan (SSA). Prashant Jagtap and Babajani Durrani, who quit the NCP(SP) to join the Congress, have been named Pune city east and Parbhani rural presidents, respectively.

In Nagpur, the party has decided to hand over the baton to Prafull Gudadhe, an arch-rival of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Gudadhe has been Fadnavis’s adversary for two elections now. Known for his focus on organisational work, he has been a constant voice against the BJP in Nagpur. Senior legislator and former minister Satej Patil will continue to head Kolhapur rural. In Vidarbha’s Chandrapur, where, despite emerging as the biggest party in municipal corporation polls, the Congress failed to secure the mayoral post due to infighting, the party has ap-

How a headless body on a Lucknow train exposed a chilling family crime

The mystery behind the headless torso and limbs found stuffed in a bag on a train at a Lucknow railway station has been solved — the victim was a 16-year-old girl, allegedly murdered by her family after she refused to end her relationship with a man. The Government Railway Police has arrested her 48-year-old father along with two relatives for allegedly killing her in an “honour” crime. The shocking discovery was made on May 16, on the Chhapra-Gomti Nagar Express that travels from Bihar to Lucknow via Gorakhpur. Once passengers had disembarked the train, the railway staff started a routine check of the compartments and found a trunk and a bag near a washroom in one of the sleeper coaches. Those arrested include the girl’s father, an e-rickshaw driver, his elder sister (victim’s aunt) and her 53-year-old husband (victim’s uncle), Superintendent

of Police (Railways) Rohit Mishra said. Police claimed the accused killed the girl with a gadasa — a sharp-edged agricultural weapon — at their home in Kushinagar district, dismembered the body and stuffed the parts in a bag and a steel trunk. Police said they went to the railway station, boarded the train arriving from Chhapra, and dumped the trunk and bag near the washroom inside a sleeper coach. Police said the accused, during questioning, admitted that they thought abandoning the body parts on a train would make it difficult for police to identify the victim or solve the case. “We are still searching for the victim’s head. The accused had claimed they threw it into a pond; we conducted a search there, but could not recover it,” Mishra said. Mishra said during investigation, they examined CCTV footage from railway stations where the train had halted.

The court also considered the submission that the attendant charges of Rs. 24,000/- were “inadequate and unrealistic” given that round-the-clock care had been required for six continuous years. Advocate PH Thakkar, appearing for the insurance company defended the award and argued that since the accident had occurred on a National Highway and the deceased was exiting the gate of the market yard at the time, it was “duty cast upon the person who is entering into the main road to take care of the surroundings”. The advocate also argued that applying minimum wages of Rs 2100 for skilled workmen with a 25% prospective rise yielded only Rs 2625, which is less than the Rs 3000 income the Tribunal had already awarded. Justice Thakore, who undertook a reappraisal of the evidence and the law, applied the Supreme Court’s 2013 ruling, which had struck down a similar finding of contributory negligence. The court order states, “It is apparent that the Tribunal has not assigned any reason to arrive at such a conclusion holding the deceased contributory negligence to the extent of 10%.” The Court further noted that independent appreciation of the FIR and panchnama showed the motorcycle being dragged 15 feet, clearly indicating the matador’s excessive speed. The court held that the Insurance Company had produced no legal evidence to prove that the deceased drove rashly or negligently. The argument that the deceased should have been more careful while entering the National Highway was examined and rejected, as the panchnama did not establish with sufficient clarity at what point the deceased had entered the highway.

pointed Shiva Rao Polisetti. He is known to be a mediator between the warring groups within the party. The Congress completely revamped its organisation in north Maharashtra, where it had a dismal presence. Presidents in Nandurbar, Jalgaon, and Nasik have been changed to make way for new leadership. The voices of dissent have already started rising from areas such as Gadchiroli and Panvel. “The main change and focus is on urban areas of the state. The new presidents have been named to bring a positive organisational change in the party. With the expansion of urban areas in the state, the party wants to bring in new faces to identify with the changing social and political nature of cities,” a senior party official said. Thirty-seven All India Congress Committee (AICC) observers have recommended names for presidents across 72 party districts in Maharashtra.

The observers visited various districts to consult with local leaders, current and former MLAs and MPs, local body representatives, existing district presidents, and state and national office bearers. No appointments have been made in Amaravati rural, Nagpur rural, and Malegaon city. Under the SSA, promoted by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC observers visited districts, spent days, interacted with local party workers and outsiders, and recommended three to six names as district chiefs. Of these, one name was chosen. States such as Gujarat and Haryana have already undergone this exercise. In Maharashtra, state party president Harshvardhan Sapkal had expanded the scope of the SSA, which began on March 26. Termed the “Sapkal pattern”, it not only recommended names for district and tehsil chiefs, but made almost 7,000 other appointments in party’s frontal cells, including youth, student, women, minority, OBC, SC, ST and social media.

300 accounts frozen, 229 mobile phones, 98 laptops, Rs 1.07 crore recovered: Ludhiana police bust ‘international cyber fraud syndicate’



43-year-old woman uploads CV on job portal, loses Rs 11 lakh to cyberscamPreliminary investigation has revealed that each operator handled approximately 8-10 calls on average per day. The Ludhiana police Friday claimed to have busted an “international cyber fraud syndicate having international players from Europe and North America.”The gang targeted foreign nationals and would “route money to India via hawala and other illegal channels” after fraudulently transferring it from the bank accounts of the victims, the police added.In a statement, the Ludhiana police said that 132 suspects have been held so far, and recoveries from them include Rs 1.07 crore in cash, 98 laptops, 229 mobile phones, and 19 vehicles. More than 300 bank accounts have been frozen, and more are underway, said Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapan Sharma.

“Income Tax authorities have been intimidated. An FIR under Sections 318(4), 319(2), 336(3), 61(2) BNS and Sections 66-C/66-D/75 IT Act has been registered at Cyber Crime police station, Ludhiana,” said the police.“Acting upon credible intelligence inputs regarding this syndicate involved in cyber fraud activities targeting foreign nationals through online deception and financial scams, simultaneous raids were conducted at multiple locations, including commercial premises near Sandhu Tower and Silver Oak. During the operation, a total of 132 accused persons were apprehended from different illegal call centres,” the police added.CP Sharma said the accused persons were operating applications on electronic devices targeting foreign nationals through sophisticated cyber fraud techniques.

“A fake pop-up warning, purportedly from Microsoft Company, regarding an impending virus attack or security threat would appear on the computer screen of the victim.

The pop-up also displayed a customer care number to be contacted by the victim. Simultaneously, the victim’s computer screen would become unresponsive or appear stuck due to the pop-up. When the victim contacted the displayed number, the call was redirected to the fraudsters through X-Lite Software, an internet-based dialer application used for routing inbound calls,” said the officer.“Each location consisted of approximately 8-10 teams, with each team comprising around 6-7 members. Every team had designated ‘openers’ and ‘closers’. The ‘opener’ would receive the incoming call and persuade the victim to download remote access software such as UltraViewer, thereby enabling remote access to the victim’s computer system. Thereafter, the victim was made to run fake or dummy scans on the system. During the process, fabricated warning pop-ups displaying issues such as compromised email accounts, hacked bank accounts, child pornography alerts, and other false security threats would appear on the victim’s screen. The victims were then induced to open their email accounts, banking applications, and other confidential information on their systems. Through screen sharing and remote access, the confidential data became accessible to the fraudsters. Subsequently, the victim was falsely informed that his/her bank account had serious security issues and that the call would be transferred to the bank representative concerned,” added Sharma.

“The call was then handled by the ‘closer’, who impersonated a bank official and falsely advised the victim that the money in the account was unsafe. The victim was then induced to transfer or part with money through one or more of the following methods, such as cash pickup from doorstep, gold pickup from doorstep after purchasing gold, purchase and sharing of gift cards such as Amazon/Apple gift cards, or wire transfer of money into fake foreign accounts. The cheated amount was thereafter routed to India through multiple hawala channels, cryptocurrency transactions, and other illegal financial mechanisms,” said the police.Preliminary investigation has revealed that each operator handled approximately 8-10 calls on average per day. The workers employed were being paid fixed salaries along with performance-based incentives. Further investigation is underway regarding digital evidence, money trail analysis, proceeds of crime, hawala transactions, cryptocurrency links, ownership and tenancy verification of premises used for operation of the call centres, and identification of other accused persons and facilitators connected with the racket, said the police.

Centre’s diesel hike may cause MSRTC fare burden again



GNS News Agency, May 21
Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) passengers may soon face another fare hike after the Centre’s nearly Rs 3 per litre increase in diesel prices sharply escalated operational costs for the state-run transporter.Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik told The Indian Express at a Town Hall on Friday that the government was assessing the fuel price revision’s financial impact, warning a fare increase could become unavoidable if diesel prices remain elevated.“We are reviewing the impact of the diesel price hike on MSRTC operations. Since fuel is one of the corporation’s largest expenses, a fare revision may become inevitable. However, no final decision or timeline has been fixed yet,” Sarnaik said.The Centre’s fuel price revision follows a spike in global crude prices amid escalating tensions in West Asia and supply concerns linked to disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial

global oil transit route.Following the increase, diesel prices in Mumbai rose to Rs 93.14 per litre, while petrol touched Rs 106.68 per litre, intensifying concerns for public transport systems heavily dependent on fuel.

For MSRTC, which consumes nearly 12 lakh litres of diesel daily to run its fleet of around 15,000 buses, the latest hike threatens to significantly worsen its already strained finances.“We are already facing losses of nearly Rs 120–130 crore every month. Fuel prices have gone up further now, and diesel remains one of our biggest operational expenses. If costs continue to rise, maintaining current fares will become increasingly difficult,” Sarnaik said.Officials said rising diesel, maintenance and operational costs have already placed substantial pressure on the corporation, which serves as a crucial transport lifeline for lakhs of passengers, especially in rural and semi-urban Maharashtra.

MSRTC had introduced a temporary 10 per cent seasonal fare hike earlier this summer and implemented a broader 15 per cent increase in January 2025 after nearly three years, citing rising fuel and maintenance expenses.MSRTC currently operates around 15000 buses connecting cities, towns and remote villages across Maharashtra, making it the state’s largest public transport body and a crucial mobility lifeline for lakhs of daily passengers, especially in rural and semi-urban regions where private transport options remain limited.Currently, MSRTC fares start at Rs 10 for upto a 6-kilometer journey by ordinary, non AC buses. Meanwhile, the maximum fare stands at Rs 1,845 for the Shivshahi AC service on the Pune-Nagpur route.

Haryana bars Parsvnath Developers, it’s directors from future licences

GNS News Agency, May 21
The Haryana Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) has barred the Parsvnath Developers Ltd. and its directors from obtaining any fresh licences in the state, citing alleged fraud, multiple criminal cases, mounting public complaints and non-payment of statutory dues.In an order, Director, Town and Country Planning, Amit Khatri said that several licences granted to the developer across Sonipat, Panipat and Rohtak had effectively come to a standstill due to alleged fraudulent activities and violations under the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975 and the accompanying Rules of 1976.

According to the order, Parsvnath Developers had been granted multiple licences between 2006 and 2010 for residential plotted colonies and group housing projects spread over hundreds of acres in Haryana. “These included licences No. 878-894 and No. 915-945 of 2006 for residential plotted colonies measuring 118.31 acres and 84.16 acres, respectively in Sonipat’s Sectors 9, 10, 17 and Sector 8. In addition, licences No. 1186-1188 and No. 1205-1206 of 2006 were issued for residential group housing projects spanning 18.94 acres and 28.11 acres, respectively in Sonipat’s Sectors 10, 11, 9 and 18,” it adds. The order also referred to licence numbers 163-171 of 2007 for a 162.48-acre residential plotted colony project in Panipat’s Sectors 38 and 39, as well as licence number 36 of 2010 for a 118.19-acre project in Rohtak’s Sectors 33-A and 33. Officials noted that “these licences were no longer valid and that the developer had failed to submit applications seeking their renewal”.

The order further highlighted that “several criminal cases against the company are pending before police authorities and courts in New Delhi. “Among them is FIR dated March 5, 2020, registered at Barakhambha Road Police Station under Sections 420, 406 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code. In addition, FIR numbers 82, 83, 85, 87, 88 and 89 of 2024 were also registered at the same police station under Sections 420, 406 and 34 IPC,” adds the order.Apart from the criminal proceedings, the department



said that it had “received numerous complaints from members of the public alleging cheating, fraud and failure by the developer to honour commitments made during the sale of plots and flats”. The order also noted that the “Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HREERA) had passed several orders against the company in connection with these matters”.

One of the major violations cited by the department relates to “unpaid External Development Charges (EDC) and Infrastructure Development Charges (SIDC)”. According to official records, the company had failed to deposit dues amounting to Rs 333.31 crore as of September 19, 2024.Observing that the company had shown “disregard towards provisions of the governing Act and Rules”, the department invoked “Section 12 of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975” to restrain the firm and its directors from securing any future licences in Haryana.The directors named in the order who have been barred from seeking any development licenses in future include Deepa Gupta, Rakshita Sharma, Rajeev Jain, Pradeep Kumar Jain, Sanjeev Kumar Jain, Subhash Chander Setia and Ashok Kumar.The TCPD also forwarded copies of the order to Deputy Commissioners and Town Planning Authorities of Rohtak, Sonipat and Panipat for necessary action besides formally notifying the Parsvnath Developers too.

Haryana government clears CBI probe against senior IAS officers in Rs 590-crore bank scam



The Haryana Government had handed the case to the CBI in late March, about a month after the fraud was detected.The Haryana Government had handed the case to the CBI in late March, about a month after the fraud was detected.The Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government in Haryana has formally granted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) permission to investigate the alleged role of several senior IAS officers in the Rs 590-crore IDFC First Bank fraud case.The permission was allowed under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA).

Among those named are Vineet Garg, a 1991-batch officer considered one of the state’s most senior bureaucrats, Pankaj Agarwal from the 2000 batch, and Mohammad Shayin from the 2002 batch. Two other officers, Pradeep Kumar (2011 batch) and R K Singh (2012 batch), who had been promoted from the Haryana Civil Services, are already under suspension.A senior officer confirmed to The Indian Express that with the state’s approval, the CBI can now

call these officers for questioning.Investigators are expected to focus on the administrative approvals that allowed government funds to be deposited in private banks, where they were later embezzled.

The decision comes shortly after a bureaucratic reshuffle on April 8, in which Vineet Garg was moved from his influential post as chairman of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board to the relatively low-profile role of additional chief secretary of the printing and stationery department. Garg has long been seen as a potential contender for the chief secretary’s position. Pankaj Agarwal, who previously oversaw irrigation and mines, was reassigned to the architecture department. Mohammad Shayin, once deputy commissioner of Chandigarh, is currently serving as commissioner of the Housing for All Department.The Haryana Government had handed the case to the CBI in late March, about a month after the fraud was detected. Initially, the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case on February 23 at its Panchkula unit. Investigators say the prime accused created multiple fake firms to divert government deposits into different accounts. More than a dozen individuals, including several bankers and four Haryana government officers, have been arrested.Authorities have also seized six luxury vehicles — three Toyota Fortuners, two Innovas, and a Mercedes — believed to have been purchased with illicit proceeds.During earlier remand proceedings, the CBI stressed the need for detailed questioning to trace the routing and use of the siphoned money and gold. The Enforcement Directorate is conducting a parallel probe into the money laundering aspects of the case.

BMC begins construction on 6-lane cable-stayed bridge to link Andheri and Goregaon by 2028

GNS News Agency, May 21
To create an additional north-south link, the BMC has charted plans to construct a bridge over the Goregaon creek which will connect two vital areas of Oshiwara and the Bhagat Singh Nagar with the Link Road.To create an additional north-south link, the BMC has charted plans to construct a bridge over the Goregaon creek which will connect two vital areas of Oshiwara and the Bhagat Singh Nagar with the Link Road.In what seeks to create a new link for commuters travelling along the busy Andheri, Oshiwara, Lokhandwala, and Goregaon pockets, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has begun the construction of a six-lane cable-stayed bridge that will traverse over the Goregaon creek. The project seeks to play a key role in decongesting the crucial Lokhandwala junction.

How will the project help citizens?
Currently, SV Road and the Linking Road, which serve as a crucial north-south corridor, experience heavy congestion throughout the day, further increasing during the peak commute hours. Akin to the Haji Ali junction, Lokhandwala circle near Millat Nagar is also prone to massive traffic logging. In a bid to create an additional north-south link, the BMC has charted plans to construct a bridge over the Goregaon creek, which will connect two vital areas of Oshiwara and the Bhagat Singh Nagar with the Link Road. By creating a second layer of signal-free route, the



project further seeks to decongest the critical Lokhandwala circle.Eventually, the civic body has also charted plans to connect the bridge with the proposed north corridor of the Mumbai Coastal Road.“Once constructed, the project will play a crucial role in connecting Oshiwara and Goregaon pockets through an alternative north-south route. It will aid citizens in the coming years, as new projects like the Motilal redevelopment project come in the area. In a bid to reduce the construction period, we have planned to incorporate the cable-stayed design, which requires less time and reduces environmental impact owing to fewer piers,” a senior officer from BMC told

From domestic help to MLA: Starting new job, Kalita Maji says she knows pain of poor



Kalita Maji, the newly elected MLA from West Bengal’s Ausgram, must get used to a different schedule. The 38-year-old, who worked as a domestic help before the polls, is set to start work as an elected public representative.“Now it is time to serve the people, all the people (in my constituency). So I will not be able to continue serving the few homes where I worked as a help. But they are close to me, and I will stay in touch with them. But now there is greater responsibility on my shoulders. I have to bring development to my constituency,” Maji told over the phone.“I belong to a poor family. So I know the pain of the poor and their needs. People have blessed me, and I will work for them,” she said.

Platipal Patra lives in the Guskara municipality of Purba Bardhaman district and is among Maji’s former employers. “We are happy and proud of her. She worked at my home for nearly a decade. We have big expectations of her. Obviously, she is an MLA and won’t come to our house daily. We will miss her. But I think she will work for the people,” Patra said.Chandrachur Patra is a relative of Platipal and a

local resident. “We all know her and love her. In 2021, she contested as a BJP candidate and lost. But this time she has won. Since 2010, she has been working as a house help, cooking and washing utensils. Everyone loves her. Now she is our MLA, and we have high hopes. She is from an underprivileged background and will understand the needs of the poor.”

Maji’s husband, Subrata, is a plumber and the couple has a son, who recently appeared for Class 12 exams. According to her election affidavit, Maji listed movable assets worth Rs 1,61,216. Immovable assets include the family’s asbestos-roofed home worth Rs 3,00,000.Maji took the oath as an MLA at the Bengal Assembly yesterday. “This is new to me. But I will learn quickly. I am grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and my party for this opportunity. I will work under the leadership of Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari.”Earlier, Maji had taken a month off from work to campaign for the election. At the time, she did not know whether she would be disappointed like the last time.

In the 2021 Assembly polls, Trinamool Congress candidate Abedanand Thandar defeated Maji in the reserved constituency by nearly 12,000 votes. A heartbroken Maji went back to work as a house help.This time, victory did not elude her. Maji defeated Trinamool’s Shyama Prasanna Lohar by 12,535 votes.Following her victory, Maji had said she was grateful that the Prime Minister put faith in her again and was delighted that she lived up to it.“My main focus will be to help and work for the development of the backward classes. Then there is work to ensure that proper roads are built and the drinking water supply reaches everyone’s home. I will also work for the youth and the safety and security of women,” she had said.Another focus, Maji said, is building a hospital to help the people in her village who have to travel to Burdwan town for treatment.

Osmania University announces PhD category-I admissions

Hyderabad: Osmania University on Friday released the PhD category-I admission notification for the academic year 2026. Online applications have been invited from eligible candidates across various faculties who have qualified and been awarded the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in national-level tests such as UGC, CSIR, ICMR, ICAR, DBT, INSPIRE, NFSC, and NFST.

OU Vice Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram said that, moving forward, the PhD notification will be released every academic year. This initiative is designed to streamline the academic calendar and ensure a predictable, transparent schedule for aspiring researchers.

Prof. Molugaram emphasized that the university administration is committed to fostering a culture of rigorous research and maintaining the university’s status as a premier hub for innovation.Online registration commences on May 20, with the last date for submission of applications



being June 10. The interview will tentatively begin on June 18. A detailed information brochure and PhD guidelines will be hosted on the university websites www.osmania.ac.in and www.ouadmissions.com from May 20.

Amazon MGM begins hunt for next James Bond, hires casting director



GNS News Agency, May 21

Los Angeles: The search for the next James Bond is officially underway, with Amazon MGM Studios auditioning actors to fill the role of Ian Fleming’s iconic British secret agent 007. According to Variety, the studio has hired acclaimed casting director Nina Gold to find a successor to Daniel Craig. The new actor will headline one of global cinema’s most enduring franchises with a screen history stretching back to 1962.

“The search for the next James Bond is underway. While we don’t plan to comment on specific details during the casting process, we’re excited to share more news with 007 fans as soon as the time is right,” Amazon MGM Studios said in a statement to the outlet. Gold, one of Hollywood’s most sought-after casting directors, is best

Six passengers from hantavirus-hit cruise ship quarantined in Australia

Melbourne: Six passengers from a cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak arrived in Australia on Friday for a quarantine expected to last at least three weeks. The Gulfstream long-range business jet carrying them from the Netherlands landed at RAAF Base Pearce outside Perth, the capital of Western Australia. The passengers and crew were to be moved to the nearby Bullsbrook quarantine facility.

Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday that the government would implement “one of the strongest quarantine arrangements in response to this virus outbreak you’ll find anywhere in the world.” The five Australians and one New Zealand citizen are expected to spend the three-week quarantine period in the facility, which had remained largely unused since it was built in 2022 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A decision had yet to be made on what precautions should be taken for the remainder of the 42-day potential incubation period identified by the World Health Organisation, Butler said. Butler said passengers of the cruise ship MV Hondius who returned to the United States and Britain would spend most of their quarantine periods at home. The six passengers all tested negative for the virus before they left the Netherlands and

Trump leaves Beijing with few wins but warm words for Xi

BEIJING, GNS News Agency, May 21- U.S. President Donald Trump left China on Friday with no major breakthroughs on trade or tangible help from Beijing to end the Iran war, despite two days spent heaping praise on his host, Xi Jinping. Trump’s visit to America’s main strategic and economic rival, the first by a U.S. president since his last trip in 2017, had aimed for tangible results to beef up his sagging approval ratings before midterm elections.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The summit was filled with pageantry, from goose-stepping soldiers to tours of a secret garden, but behind closed doors Xi issued a stark warning to Trump that any mishandling of China’s top concern, Taiwan, could spiral into conflict. During a huddle with reporters on the way back to the U.S., Trump said Xi told him he opposed Taiwan’s independence. “I heard him out. I didn’t make a comment...I made no commitment either way,” said Trump, adding that he will decide on a pending arms sale to Taiwan after speaking to Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te.

These were the first freewheeling remarks after two days in Beijing during which Trump stayed unusually restrained, with his off-the-cuff comments mainly focused on feting Xi’s warmth and stature.

DEAL In another sign of a diminished scale of the summit, Trump’s readout did not mention the broad structural reforms on which previous presidents pressed Xi. Unlike his previous trip in 2017, Trump did not discuss “structural reforms,” “global economic governance” or the “international trading system” with Xi, according to the readout. Even the deal touted as the biggest single deliverable from the meetings underwhelmed. Boeing stock fell 4% when Trump said on Thursday China would buy 200 Boeing (BA.N) jets, significantly fewer than the roughly 500 that sources told Reuters had been under discussion. He later added that the order could go up to 750 planes “if they do a good job with the 200.” U.S. officials said they had agreed deals to sell farm goods and made progress on mechanisms to manage future trade, with both sides expected to identify \$30 billion of non-sensitive goods. There were scant details of the deals, however, and no signs of a breakthrough on selling Nvidia’s advanced H200 AI chips to China, despite CEO Jensen Huang’s dramatic last-minute addition to the trip. Trump also left without official resolution to the rare earths supply problem that has dogged ties since China imposed export controls on the vital minerals in response to Trump’s tariff barrage in April 2025.

While the leaders struck a truce last October for Washington to lower tariffs in exchange for China keeping rare earths flowing, Beijing’s controls have caused shortages for U.S. chipmakers and aerospace companies. When asked if the two sides extended the truce beyond later this year, Trump said he and Xi “did not discuss tariffs.” Such an extension would be “the most basic benchmark” for the success of the summit, said Brookings’ Kim.

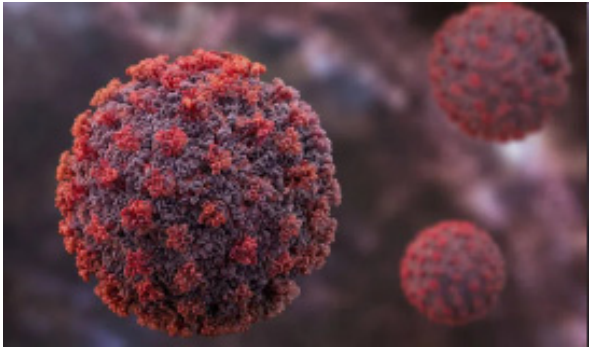
Xi’s remarks to Trump that mishandling Taiwan, the democratically governed island Beijing claims, could lead to conflict, delivered a sharp warning during a summit that otherwise appeared friendly and relaxed. Taiwan, 50 miles (80 km) off China’s coast, has long been a flashpoint in ties, with Beijing refusing to rule out use of military force to gain control of the island and the U.S. bound by law to provide it the means of self-defence. “U.S. policy on the issue of Taiwan is unchanged as of today,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio told NBC News. Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung thanked the U.S. for expressing its support.

BOEING SHARES SLIDE ON UNDERWHELMING

known for her work on HBO’s “Game of Thrones”, Netflix’s “The Crown” and five films in the Star Wars franchise. She has also done casting for critically-acclaimed films “Les Misérables”, “The Martian” and “Conclave”, and received an Oscar nomination for her work on “Hamnet,” in 2025, the first year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences introduced an award for casting. The film’s creative team is already in place.

Denis Villeneuve, the acclaimed French-Canadian director of “Dune”, “Dune: Part Two”, “Blade Runner 2049” and “Arrival”, will helm the project from a script by “Peaky Blinders” scribe Steven Knight. Amy Pascal and David Heyman will produce, with Villeneuve’s wife and creative partner Tanya Lapointe serving as executive producer. The upcoming project, tentatively called Bond 26, will be the first James Bond movie to be developed by Amazon MGM since the banner completed its acquisition of MGM Studios in 2022.

Last year, Amazon MGM announced a landmark joint venture with longtime Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, gaining creative control of the iconic franchise. Villeneuve, who has been a longtime fan of the 007 franchise, is currently completing “Dune: Messiah”, his third and final film in the Dune saga, slated for release in December 2026. Bond pre-production is expected to begin thereafter. Craig played 007 across five films – “Casino Royale” (2006), “Quantum of Solace” (2008), “Skyfall” (2012), “Spectre” (2015) and “No Time to Die” (2021). Before him, the role was held by Pierce Brosnan, Timothy Dalton, Roger Moore, George Lazenby and Sean Connery.



none had displayed symptoms, Butler said. Three people among the 11 cases in the hantavirus outbreak aboard the MV Hondius cruise ship have died. The ship was on a cruise from Argentina to Antarctica and then to several isolated islands in the South Atlantic Ocean when the outbreak was identified. With the evacuation of all passengers and many crew members completed, the MV Hondius is now sailing back to the Netherlands, where it will be cleaned and disinfected.



These were the first freewheeling remarks after two days in Beijing during which Trump stayed unusually restrained, with his off-the-cuff comments mainly focused on feting Xi’s warmth and stature

Trump says US and China are aligned on Iran, Tehran must make a deal soon



ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE/DUBAI,- U.S. President Donald Trump said his patience with Iran was running out and that Chinese President Xi Jinping had agreed during their talks in Beijing that Tehran must reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Trump said later that he was considering whether to lift sanctions on Chinese oil companies buying Iranian oil imposed by Washington ahead of his trip to China.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. But his comments gave little indication of whether Beijing might use its influence with Tehran to end a conflict it said should never have started. “We’ve settled a lot of different problems that other people wouldn’t have been able to settle,” Trump said on Friday after he met Xi in Beijing on the second day of talks which included the Iran war, Taiwan, trade and other issues. Xi did not comment on his discussions with Trump about Iran, although China’s foreign ministry issued a blunt statement outlining Beijing’s frustration with the Iran war. “This conflict, which should never have happened, has no reason to continue,” the ministry said. Iran effectively shut the strait to most shipping traffic in response to U.S.-Israeli attacks which began on February 28, causing an unprecedented disruption to global energy supplies.

WE WANT THE STRAITS OPEN The U.S. paused its attacks on Iran last month but began a blockade of the country’s ports. Tehran said it would not unblock the strait until the U.S. ended its blockade. Trump has threatened to attack Iran again if it does not agree a deal. “We don’t want them to have a nuclear weapon, we want the straits open,” Trump said in Beijing sitting alongside Xi. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Tehran had received messages from the U.S. indicating Washington was willing to continue talks. He did not immediately elaborate.

Iran, which denies it intends to build a nuclear weapon, has refused to end its nuclear program or relinquish its hidden stockpile of enriched uranium, to Trump’s frustration. “I am not going to be much more patient. They should make a deal,” Trump said in an interview aired on Thursday night on Fox News’ “Hannity” program, suggesting the enriched uranium only needed to be secured by the U.S. for public relations purposes. Oil prices rose around 3% to near \$109

America's most powerful CEOs don't have much to show from their China trip so far

BEIJING/SHANGHAI,- With red-carpet treatment, selfies and culinary diplomacy, America’s richest and most powerful executives - from Tesla’s Jensen Huang - sought to rekindle business ties with China this week at a leadership summit in Beijing. But as U.S. President Donald Trump flew out of Beijing on Friday afternoon, there was little clarity on what the summit delivered for the business delegation that was travelling with the president.

- underscores the importance of the Chinese market, even as political leaders navigate strained ties over trade, artificial intelligence and broader geopolitical tensions. Face-to-face meetings with Chinese officials and policymakers are crucial for U.S. executives seeking to understand and manage regulatory and policy hurdles, secure deals and expand their footprint in the world’s second-largest economy. Unlike the last U.S. presidential visit to Beijing early in Trump’s first term in 2017, which featured a larger CEO delegation and deals and memorandums of understanding valued at \$250 billion, the aim of this visit was to generate political goodwill, analysts said.

“Beijing never approaches a leadership summit of this sort from a purely transactional perspective,” said Feng Chucheng, founder and partner at Hutong Research, a Beijing-based strategic consultancy. “I wouldn’t use the size of deals to measure the outcome of the summit.” Its top priority is to find a mutually agreed ‘floor’ for the bilateral relationship and secure a set of guardrails to avoid uncontrolled, “unexpected escalation.” It remains to be seen whether the positive vibes will help unleash regulatory approvals, market access and investment opportunities, as firms face broader operational challenges in China beyond commercial dealmaking. Some executives plan to remain in China to continue meetings with officials after Trump’s departure and more deal announcements could be revealed in the coming days. What does appear to have been already agreed upon - according to comments from Trump, though an official announcement is pending - is the purchase of 200 Boeing

China placed an average of 127 orders per year from 2005 through 2017. Since then, Chinese airlines have ordered an average of 6 airplanes a year. While that would count as a concrete deliverable, it is less than the 500 expected and below the 300 planes purchased during the 2017 visit. A breakthrough also remained elusive on China granting permission for the sale of Nvidia’s second-most powerful AI chip, the H200, which has been cleared by the U.S.

New York state Gov honours Indian chef Vikas Khanna for his culinary contributions

New York: Chef Vikas Khanna became the first Indian in New York State to be honoured during Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month for his outstanding, inspiring artistic and culinary contributions. Last week, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul conferred a “Special Citation” on Khanna during the commemoration of AAPI Heritage Month in the state capital, Albany. Khanna, in a post on social media, described the honour as “deeply emotional and humbling” and added, “what makes this recognition even more meaningful is that it marks the first time an Indian has received this honour in New York State history.” Noting that AAPI is the fastest-growing community in the United States, representing more than 25 million people, cultures, stories, struggles, and dreams, Khanna said, “This was never just a personal milestone. It was a

a barrel on concerns over a lack of progress in resolving the conflict. After talks between Trump and Xi on Thursday, the White House said that Xi had made clear China’s opposition to any Iranian effort to charge a toll for use of the strait. Trump said Xi also promised not to send Iran military equipment. “That’s a big statement,” Trump said on “Hannity”.

Asked about U.S. sanctions on Chinese oil refineries buying Iranian oil, he told reporters on his plane home: “We talked about that and I’m going to make a decision over the next few days.”

IRAN SAYS IT DOES NOT TRUST THE AMERICANS The war has become a liability for Trump as it drags on towards key U.S. midterm elections in November. China has dismissed reports it had plans to supply weapons to Iran as “groundless smears”, but analysts doubt Xi will be willing to push Iran hard or end support for its military, given its value as a strategic counterweight to the United States. “I’m not asking for any favours, because when you ask for favours, you have to do favours in return,” Trump said, when asked if he had requested help. “We’ve wiped out their (Iran’s) armed forces, essentially. We may have to do a little cleanup work.”

Talks on ending the war, mediated by Pakistan, have been on hold since last week when Iran and the U.S. each rejected the other’s most recent proposals. Foreign Minister Araqchi said on Friday Iran would welcome any Chinese input, adding that Tehran was trying to give diplomacy a chance but did not trust the U.S. Iran is prepared to return to fighting as well as for diplomatic solutions, Araqchi said, reiterating that vessels not linked to states attacking his country could traverse the Strait of Hormuz. Before the war, about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas as well as fertilizer and other vital supplies passed through the waterway. Attacks on shipping have prevented almost all traffic although a huge Chinese tanker and another linked to Japan crossed the strait on Wednesday.

The UAE said it would speed up building a new pipeline to its Fujairah port just outside the strait, after a vessel heading to it was sunk this week and another was boarded and redirected to Iran.

LEBANON TALKS AIM TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE Thousands of Iranians were killed during the U.S. and Israeli air strikes, and thousands have been killed in renewed fighting in Lebanon between Israel and the Iran-backed group Hezbollah. With a fragile ceasefire in Lebanon due to expire on Sunday, discussions between Lebanese and Israeli officials were set to continue on Friday after what a senior State Department official said were productive talks on Thursday. Hezbollah opposes the talks, in which Israel is insisting on the group’s disarmament. Trump has said his aims in starting the war were to destroy Iran’s nuclear program, end its ability to attack neighbors and make it easier for Iranians to overthrow their government. Iran is seeking the lifting of sanctions, reparations for war damage and acknowledgment of its control over the strait.



for sale to some Chinese firms.

Asked repeatedly by Reuters about deals signed and progress on the H200 chip impasse, Huang replied only on Friday: “I love China, had a great time.” The Nvidia CEO was not initially included on a White House list, but joined the trip later after Trump picked him up in Alaska en route to Beijing, sparking hope that the trip could yield results in its long-stalled efforts to sell the AI chip to China. Huang strolled through scenic areas of Beijing with his entourage on Friday, stopping to watch buskers and visiting a street-level bar he had frequented on a previous trip to the capital. “The summit has much more on positive atmospherics than deliverables, or at least on what China will officially acknowledge,” said Han Shen Lin, the Shanghai-based China country director at U.S. consultancy firm The Asia Group. “Nonetheless, if Beijing doesn’t give Trump enough ‘wins’ to take home, the risk is that in his disappointment, Trump steps back and lets his more hawkish administration drive the bilateral relationship. This will undoubtedly take us on the road to escalation.” Laurie Chen is a China Correspondent at Reuters’ Beijing bureau, covering politics and general news. Before joining Reuters, she reported on China for six years at Agence France-Presse and the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. She speaks fluent Mandarin. Casey has reported on China’s consumer culture from her base in Shanghai for more than a decade, covering what Chinese consumers are buying, and the broader social and economic trends driving those consumption trends. The Australian-born journalist has lived in China since 2007.

statement of hope, identity, representation, and the power of diversity.”

In his remarks at the event on May 9, Khanna said that “to bring an Indian chef to this table, this is not just an honour for me, it’s a representation – that our stories matter, our culture matters.” He said New York City thrives and becomes a beacon of hope for the world “because we protect the most vulnerable and in this city, most of the time, the immigrants are the most vulnerable.” Governor Hochul celebrated AAPI Heritage Month in Albany, emphasising unity against divisive hate. She also highlighted that diverse cultures strengthen New York and promised to fight for and protect migrant communities. Honouring Khanna’s journey from Amritsar to New York’s, the citation described him as a “global culinary icon.”

Micro regional cuisine of Uttar Andhra



It was Sowjanya Narsipuram, a home chef from Srikakulam who documents the food of her region , recently introduced me to the cuisine of Uttar Andhra, or North Andhra. At first, I assumed it was just another clever rebranding of the familiar; perhaps a new spin to market something old. I was wrong. The 'new' was not in the invention, but in the discovery. Sowjanya focuses on the culinary traditions of Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam, and I could not help but wonder— how different could the food really be? As it turns out, quite a lot. "It's all in the ingredients," Sowjanya explained, patiently answering each of my doubts. "There's extensive use of pulses and beans. And in some dishes, it's the garnish — a sprinkling of mustard powder — that makes the flavours pop."

A person is shown from the chest up, holding their right hand to their forehead in a gesture of pain or distress. The image is heavily blurred and has a strong blue color cast, giving it a somber and ethereal feel. The person's face is partially obscured by their hand and the blur.

Vertigo affects people across ages and backgrounds but it often goes unrecognised. Image used for representational purposes only | Photo Credit: By <http://www.scientificanimations.com> - <http://www.scientificanimations.com/wiki-images/>, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=81575730> Many people, at some point in their lives, experience a strange, disorienting sensation — something that feels like the room is spinning, or their balance has suddenly vanished. In India, this is often brushed off as “weakness,” “low BP,” or simply being overworked. But what many don't realise is that this experience, commonly known as vertigo, is not a condition in itself, but a symptom, and in many cases, it can be effectively treated. Vertigo affects people across ages and backgrounds, but it often goes unspoken and unrecognised. It can appear suddenly or linger in episodes. One day, you may feel dizzy when getting out of bed; another day, it might happen while bending down to tie your shoelaces or turning your head too quickly. Some people feel nauseated, unsteady, or even anxious during or after an episode. What makes vertigo more distressing is how invisible it is — no fever, no visible injury, and so those who experience it are

The World Health Organization warned on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 that a major chikungunya virus epidemic risks sweeping around the globe, calling for urgent action to prevent it. The WHO said it was picking up exactly the same early warning signs as in a major outbreak two decades ago and wanted to prevent a repeat. Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease that causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating. In some cases it can be deadly.

"Chikungunya is not a disease that is widely known, but it has been detected and transmitted in 119 countries globally, putting 5.6 billion people at risk," said the WHO's Diana Rojas Alvarez. She recalled how from 2004 to 2005, a major chikungunya epidemic swept across the Indian Ocean, hitting small island territories before spreading globally and affecting almost half a million people. "Today, WHO is seeing the same pattern emerge: since the beginning of 2025, Reunion, Mayotte and Mauritius have all reported major chikungunya outbreaks. One-third of the population of Reunion is estimated to have been infected already," she told a press briefing in Geneva.

The symptoms of chikungunya are similar to those of dengue fever and Zika virus disease, making it difficult to diagnose, according to the WHO. Rojas Alvarez said that like 20 years ago, the virus was now spreading to other places in the region, such as Madagascar, Somalia and Kenya. "Epidemic transmission is also occurring in south Asia," she added. In Europe, imported cases have also been reported, linked with the outbreak in the Indian Ocean islands. Local transmission has been reported in France, and suspected cases detected in Italy. "Because these patterns of transmission were seen in the outbreak from 2004 onwards, WHO is calling for urgent action to prevent history from repeating itself," said Rojas Alvarez. She noted that the case fatality rate was less than one percent, "but when you start counting millions of cases, that one percent can be thousands" of deaths. "We are raising the alarm early so countries can prepare early, detect and strengthen all the capacities to avoid going through very large outbreaks." Rojas Alvarez explained that in regions where populations have little or no immunity, the virus can quickly cause significant epidemics, affecting up to three-quarters of the population. Chikungunya virus is transmitted to humans by the bites of infected female mosquitoes, most commonly *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. The latter, which is known as the tiger mosquito, is venturing farther

Sowjanya's culinary journey began with a sense of nostalgia — a desire to keep the food of her grandmother and mother alive. While she first relied on memory to recreate beloved dishes, she soon realised that was not enough. Driven by curiosity and a deepening connection to her roots, she began learning directly from her mother and aunts, steadily immersing herself in the food culture of Uttara Andhra. "The cuisine of this region isn't about overwhelming spice," she explained. "It's flavourful, yes, but the aroma doesn't always come from dry whole spices. It often comes from the core ingredient itself." She offers the junugulu boorelu as a case in point. At first glance, it resembles the more familiar poornam boorelu — deep-fried dumplings stuffed with sweet lentil filling. But take a bite, and you will know it is different. Here, the filling is made from cooked red beans (locally known as junugulu), which are ground into a coarse paste, mixed with jaggery and freshly grated coconut, then dipped in rice flour batter and deep-fried. "And no," she added with a smile, "Junugulu has nothing to do with pungulu (mini idli-batter fried dumplings)). The names may rhyme, but the dishes are poles apart." During our meal, Sowjanya laid out an impressive spread. There was aavapindi pulihora, a mustard and lemon-flavoured rice tempered with red chillies; oodala talimpu, barnyard millet sautéed in ghee with chillies and curry leaves; and minumala pacchadi, a coarse, spicy chutney made from black urad dal. Next came the curries: jeedi pappu kobbari paala kooru, a delicately spiced dish of tender cashews cooked in fresh coconut milk, and matki pappu, which was entirely new to me, but a comforting moth dal cooked with fenugreek leaves, a delicacy hailing from the tribal regions of Vizianagaram. Guna charu reminded me faintly of dappalam, but with a twist — it was made from semi-ripe jackfruit and moringa leaves, balanced with tamarind and jaggery. To finish, there was kala bhatti paramannam, a rice dessert made using desi black rice, coconut and jaggery, delicately perfumed with edible camphor and cardamom.

often not taken seriously. Further, it's also unfortunate, that many myths continue to surround vertigo, especially in Indian households. These include: It's just stress or tiredness Only women get this — it must be hormonal There's no cure, just adjust and live with it. It must be because of low blood pressure or sugar Scans and tests are a waste for something like this. Such layman opinions often contribute to delaying timely treatment. In truth, vertigo can often be traced to very specific causes, be it issues in the inner ear, nerve pathways, or certain kinds of migraines. The most common form, benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), is caused when tiny crystals inside the inner ear are dislodged and trigger brief spinning episodes with head movement. The good news is that many of these conditions can be addressed through a thorough evaluation and targeted therapy. This clinical framework mirrors global best practice, where ear-related vertigo is promptly identified using bedside tests and vestibular labs, reducing over-reliance on imaging or long-term medications.

Addressing the root causes Unfortunately, in many smaller towns, vertigo is still managed with symptomatic treatments and home remedies. These might help temporarily, but do not address the cause. Leading medical authorities, including the American Medical Association, emphasise that 80–90 percent of vertigo cases stem from peripheral (ear-related) causes. These are usually determined through clinical history and focused assessments. While central causes such as stroke, demyelinating disease, or tumours, must be excluded when neurological signs (vision changes, limb weakness, slurred speech) are present, they are significantly less common. Vertigo deserves to be talked about without embarrassment or dismissal. It's time we replaced myths with understanding, and hesitation with action. It is vital that when someone says, "the world is spinning," they should be met not with disbelief, but with support and with solutions grounded in medicine, empathy, and evidence.

“Old ships never die, they always return in upgraded form,” said Tripathi, during the commissioning ceremony. Nistar is both technologically and operationally significant, enhancing India’s and regional partners’ submarine rescue capabilities, with India set to emerge as a pre-

inches to 18 inches. So, what is so special about it? It is monoframe, minimalist design, on which you can slap 120 kg. Imagine being able to assemble and pull apart a wheelchair you can then pack in several parts into your car. Do remember to watch the demo video built into the article. Abhinay Deshpande writes about Gujarat launching India's first tribal genome project to tackle inherited diseases. The Tribal Genome Sequencing Project is an initiative by the government to sequence the genomes of 2,000 people belonging to tribal communities across 17 districts in the State is probably a prototype for other States to follow.

V. Geetanath writes of the AIC-CCMB planning trials for Chikungunya vaccine with indigenously developed mRNA technology while C. Maya reports on the Cy-TB test introduced by Kerala government to detect and treat latent tuberculosis infections. Both indicate India's growing prowess in healthcare research and also the need to innovate with local solutions for local issues.

The importance of vaccination cannot be understated, and here is a study that establishes that Global vaccine reserves helped avert 5.8 million infections, over 300,000 deaths since 2000. With routine vaccination declining and also impacted by cuts to the US' foreign aid, the study also highlights the ongoing need for an insurance policy against major outbreaks of diseases like cholera, Ebola and measles. The WHO-UNICEF said South Asia had achieved record immunization coverage; with India, Nepal leading progress. However, the situation is still desperate, as despite this progress, the UN says 14 million children did not receive a single vaccine in 2024.

It is so important to receive the protection conferred by vaccines, particularly because infectious diseases are still amidst us. Even diseases long believed to be dormant are raising their heads again. For instance, Afshan Yasmeen reported on a study that showed Scrub typhus has now become the most common infectious cause of acute encephalitis syndrome in southern India. Is the mind unique from the brain? The truth is that while these are distinct entities, one a physical processing organ, and the other influenced by subjective experience; there are areas that are distinctly in the intersection between the two. With World Brain Day being observed on July 22, there were quite a few articles pegged at that intersection. Dr. N. Diwakar Goutham writes on Empowering India's youth by supporting their mental health while S. Sabu brought to our attention The mental health of pilots following the Air India crash in Ahmedabad recently. Meanwhile Dr. Boopesh Pugazhendhi piece examines how Brain health requires life-long attention and preventive care, and Sheetal Potdar looks at how Mental fatigue can trick the brain into taking the easy way out. Dr. Karthik Kulanthaivelu looks at How interventional radiology offers scar-free precision treatment for strokes and beyond. Can we ever afford to ignore the country's non communicable diseases burden and the kind of impact it will have on individual and the national health? There's just one answer to that: No. Athira Elssa Johnson reports on this study that is likely to delight many of us: a simple two-minute walk can help both prevent hypertension and detect it early. Eminently more doable than hours at the gym, and we are none the worse for trying. She also quotes experts to say Disabilities arising from diabetes are under-recognised in India, making it a huge area of concern, given the large number of people living with diabetes in the country. Peripheral neuropathy, diabetic retinopathy and nephropathy are the most common diabetes-related complications, alongside cardiovascular dysfunction and autonomic nerve damage, and are areas that need to be addressed. Dr. S. Sadhanandham focuses on explaining why dyslipidaemia is the next big public health challenge in India, while Latha A. Kumaraswami writes on an expected meeting she had with the Pope and how that became a strike for kidney health. In our explainers series, this past week, we had a bunch across a variety of disciplines. Early diagnosis, simple lifestyle changes can prevent GERD complications: experts Dr. Karthik Madesh Ratnavelu focusses on snoring. He says, it isn't always harmless: sleep apnoea is the epidemic we're not talking about. Following this news: Trump diagnosed with vein condition causing leg swelling, our All You Need to Know About series explains chronic venous insufficiency. Dr. E. Prabhu and Dr. M.S. Senthil Kumar provide a primer on the story of nuclear medicine and its role in treating thyroid diseases. The next in a fine series of explainers on anaesthesia that we have carried in recent weeks, Dr. Subramanyam Mahankali talks about Anaesthesia in the digital age: from mysterious sleep to intelligent, personalised care. Gayatri Sabsarwal on how Rare diseases have a lot to gain from greater awareness For our tailpiece of the week, we pick this Interview with Gardiner Harris, author of The Dark Secrets of Johnson & Johnson, simply because of the sheer audacity of what Harris does in the book. Page by page and chapter by chapter, he uncovers the dark, and shocking secrets behind how pharmaceutical J&J works. Having grown up in a J&J town, Harris moves on, as a pharma correspondent, to question every known value that the company provided, and thereon, spurred by a personal experience, takes on the burden of unmasking. He provides evidence for willful neglect of side effects, influencing regulatory agencies, and unethical promotion of products. There is also a video embedded, in case you want to listen to the author himself, but you could also pick up the book for yourself. If you have a few extra moments, do take time out to read further: Dr. Dinesh Arabi At Tour de France, non-fictional 'supermen' test the limits of human endurance Zubeda Hamid Science Quiz: On zoonotic diseases Ashna Butani Thalassemia patients call for standardised tests to reduce transfusion-transmitted infections ICMR seeks collaboration for malaria vaccine production through tech transfer US may revise hormone replacement therapy warnings For many more health stories, head to our health page and subscribe to the health newsletter here.

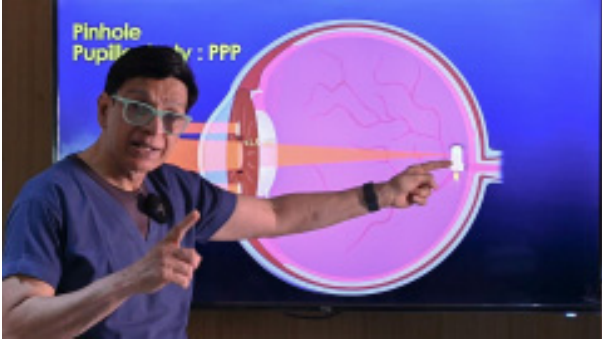
ferred partner in submarine rescue globally, said the CNS.

Tripathi said that only a few navies worldwide have such capabilities, and fewer nations develop them indigenously, with Nistar boosting India's maritime-based industry. Participating in the event, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth said the Indian Navy has a history of glorious victories and noted that Nistar will enhance India's global identity, proving that the Indian Navy stands as an equal among world powers. He highlighted that the Nistar that was decommissioned in 1989 was weighing 800 tonnes, is now revived with a weight of 10,500 tonnes, and is 120 metres long, reflecting Viksit Bharat's (Developed India) technological transformation. India shifted from importer to exporter, exporting defence goods worth Rs 23,622 crores and targeting Rs 50,000 crores, achieved through the efforts of 120 MSME sector personnel, said Seth.

How realme is building a smarter AIoT ecosystem for India's multi-device lifestyle

New Delhi: Modern life today runs across multiple connected devices. Consumers move through their day switching between calls, music, fitness tracking, work notifications, gaming, and entertainment without pause. According to an IDC report, India's wearable device market recorded 119 million shipments in 2024, with TWS earbuds accounting for 70.9 per cent share of the earwear segment. The challenge is no longer access to devices, it is the friction between them — interrupted transitions, manual controls, and disconnected experiences that slow users down. This shift is exactly where the realme AIoT ecosystem is positioning itself. realme's broader ecosystem strategy is focused on creating seamless connectivity between devices, reducing friction across daily interactions, and delivering a smarter, more intuitive connected experience for Indian consumers.

Hole in one: Pinhole pupilloplasty emerges as alternative to corneal transplants



Sometimes, it is the small innovations in health care, the repurposing of familiar procedures that holds the hope for a revolution. It is in the latter category that Pinhole Pupilloplasty (PPP) falls. Having been described initially in 2018, it has only recently emerged as a possible simple, low-cost alternative to corneal transplants.Amar Agarwal, chairman, Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospitals, who first described the procedure in 2018, says it was developed only as a technique to correct astigmatism and abrasions. "For seven years now, we have been performing PPP to correct high levels of astigmatism – a condition where the cornea is conical. Since then, the technique has been picked up by ophthalmologists across the world...in Russia, Vietnam too, apart from India. There is a small learning curve, but it will be easy enough for eye surgeons," he explains. Those who have already started doing the PPP procedure will just have to apply it for corneal transplant situations, he adds,PPP uses the simple optics principle – of controlling the light that enters the eye, in order to clarify vision. The cornea is the transparent outer layer of the eye. It bends (refracts) light to help focus it, and the pupil is the dark circular opening in the centre of the iris. Its role, like the aperture in a camera, is to adjust size to control how much light enters the eye. While the corneal transplant tries to address the damage to the cornea, PPP tries to restore vision by tackling the pupil. In PPP, the size of the pupil is reduced surgically, to 1.5 mm, thus blocking peripheral vision and allowing focused central rays inside the eye, ensuring that the image is clear and without distortion.This can bring the patient back to near 20/20 vision immediately after surgery, Dr. Amar says. For instance, Subbalakshmi, a patient who has travelled from Australia to get the PPP procedure done in Chennai, says

the moment the bandages were removed, three hours after surgery, she could see very well. "Almost immediately, I knew the sharpness of my vision had improved significantly after surgery. If I was a 5-6 on a visual scale pre-surgery, after the procedure, I suddenly went up to a 9.5," she says. Summoning another common metaphor to explain the scenario, Dr. Amar says: "If you consider the cornea as the front window, and let's say it becomes damaged due to injury, or there is a tear, there is an opaque area, or the cornea is conical, which is what happens in astigmatism. What will happen is that the rays of light will not reach the retina comfortably. All these patients are going to need eye transplantation at some point." The team at the hospital even worked with optics expert Jack T. Holladay to develop a pinhole pupil gauge, a tool used to gauge the pupil size suitable for each patient."When we did corneal transplants, we found that not all patients regained good vision, some continued to have a number of problems still – even if they could see, the vision was blurry," explains Dr. Amar. "That is when we said, 'hold on, why are we doing a transplant in this case, will PPP work better?' When we started seeing great results using PPP on these patients, it became clear that this was indeed a viable alternative to corneal transplants." Since then, they have done a 100 procedures, and the results have been satisfactory. In contrast, corneal transplants come with chances of rejection, a long healing time, the need to take drugs for an extended period, and seeing visual acuity...in fact, even no guarantee of restoration of vision," he adds.While children with corneal injuries are ideal candidates for the procedure, it works on adults who have had corneal tears or scar formation as well, apart from injuries. "In fact, if I have to choose between a corneal transplant and a PPP, I opt for the latter. Even when we perform corneal transplants, we do an extra PPP procedure, to improve the chances for the patient to see better," Dr. Amar adds. Not all people waiting for a transplant will benefit from PPP, clarifies Soundari S., regional head, clinical services, Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospitals. Some people will still require corneal transplants, but using PPP on those who will benefit from this procedure will make it possible to reallocate the available donor corneas to those who need them. Given that globally, there are more than 20 million people waiting for a donor cornea, and there is a desperate shortage of corneas, any other technique that can restore vision will come as a boon to patients, Dr. Amar says.

Takeaways from the Swachh Survekshan



9th rank; small towns such as Aska and Chikiti worked their way to the top three clean cities in their categories; and mid-size cities including Rourkela, Cuttack, and Berhampur moved considerably upwards. These trends create hope that cleanliness is not a preserve of only certain States. Cities from the south are yet to make any big mark in the clean city show with Bengaluru being the least inspirational. Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Mysuru were the best in the region. The National Capital Region presents an interesting medley: while the New Delhi Municipal Council areas and Noida ranked best for meticulous sanitation implementation, Delhi, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad improved their ranks irrespective of the negative reports they received in the public domain.The clean city basket has grown larger since one promising clean city was picked up from each State based on its progress and potential. Once cities are positively stamped, they tend to stay in the aspirational course. Understood this way, the 78 Swachh awards given were not too many.Setting up the cleanest cities as mentors to the most underperforming ones could help in the proliferation of multiple good practices among urban local bodies (ULBs). While Indore is a veteran in segregating the last gram of waste into six buckets at source — dry, wet, domestic hazardous, plastic, sanitary and e-waste; Surat has been making good revenue by selling sewage-treated water. Pune's waste management is anchored on cooperatives formed by ragpickers. Visakhapatnam made an eco-park from remediated legacy waste site. Lucknow produced an iconic waste wonder park. The Kuberpur area in Agra, once a toxic dumpsite, transformed to 47 acres of green, by engaging bioremediation and biomining technologies. Tourist destinations and places of high footfall received special emphasis in the survey. Prayagraj was awarded in the category of Ganga towns, and special recognition was extended to the recent Maha Kumbh for its sanitation management. India accounts for less than 1.5% of international tourist arrivals. Cities need to do much more than an occasional cleanliness drive to enhance tourist experience.The theme this year

The theme of 'reduce, reuse, and recycle (RRR)', advocated by the 2025 survey, carries the prospect of jobs, enterprise, and invigoration of self-help groups. The theme of the last survey was 'waste to wealth'. We are yet to raise the billions of rupees out of waste that is possible. For this, policy needs to better incentivise investors. Waste-to-energy plants are gaining traction but the private sector may be concerned about commercial viability.Citizens are yet to take meaningful action even though the RRR approach is entrenched in India's ancient traditions. While a universal resentment against open defecation has been achieved by SBM, a behaviour change movement fostering intolerance against waste and fighting against consumerism has been tough to initiate.As more cities get identified as hubs of growth, we must prioritise the management of 1.5 lakh tonnes of solid waste generated every day. A lot will depend on delivery at decentralised levels, especially by ULBs in enforcing segregation, collection, transport, and processing, including of the more challenging plastic and e-waste.The business of waste management in cities may look chaotic, but it remains possible. The rise of Surat from being a place of garbage three decades ago to the top place in the sanitation chart last year shows that this is a possibility in all cities in India.

Ants beat humans to medicine, agriculture, and innovation

Sydney: Think back to a time you helped someone move a heavy object, such as a couch. While at first the task may have appeared simple, it actually required a suite of advanced behaviours.The job needed verbal commands for social coordination ("pivot!") and anticipation of near-future events (moving other furniture out of the way). It also required a clear, shared vision of the final goal (which room to take the couch to).It's a small but satisfying example of human cooperation. But before we all get too pleased with ourselves, consider that ants – creatures with tiny brains and no capacity for speech – routinely pull off feats that rival, and sometimes exceed, our own.

Earth is literally crawling with ants. Scientists estimate there are at least 20 quadrillion ants on Earth. That's 20

followed by 15 zeros – more ants than stars in our galaxy!These incredible insects are amongst the most successful organisms on the planet. Part of the success comes from an ability to form complex societies, ranging from a few individuals to millions. And those societies, or colonies, are remarkably co-operative.Take, for example, ants' abilities to move large food items. To do it, they mobilise teams of dozens – or even hundreds – of fellow workers. Together, they efficiently work together to transport the load back to the nest.Longhorn crazy ants (Paratrechina longicornis) are even known to clear debris from a path before a heavy object arrives – seemingly anticipating its trajectory and preparing the way.One experiment pit longhorn crazy ants against humans, all tasked with moving T-shaped objects (scaled to body size) through tight spaces.

Secretly recorded conversations may be evidence, but erode spousal trust



In a landmark judgment in a divorce case (Vibhor Garg vs Neha), the Supreme Court has accepted the admissibility of secretly recorded conversations between a married couple as reliable evidence.Vibhor Garg had filed a divorce petition under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 in a family court at Bathinda in Punjab on the grounds of mental cruelty by his wife, Neha. ?The petitioner adduced conversations between him and his wife recorded by him over a period of time without her consent and knowledge to buttress his allegations of mental cruelty. The evidence was admitted by the family court. However, on appeal against its decision, the Punjab & Haryana High Court took an opposing view, holding the secretly recorded calls violative of the fundamental right to privacy as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. Justice Lisa Gill held that the conversations were in clear breach of the privacy rights, and set aside the decision of the family court.Aggrieved by this decision, the petitioner approached the Supreme Court, which on July 14 ruled in favour of the husband by accepting the recorded conversations, though they were made without the consent and knowledge of the spouse.Complete lack of trust

The Supreme Court Bench, comprising?Justices B.V. Nagarathna and?Satish Chandra Sharma, used the recorded conversations to conclude that the marriage in question had reached a point of a broken relationship, where one spouse was actively snooping on the other, denoting a complete lack of trust between them, the very bedrock of a marriage. In essence, the Supreme Court admitted the recorded conversations to decide on the broken marriage rather than as an absolute question of privacy laws.The court also relied on the exception provided in Section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act, which permits the disclosure of recorded marital communications in suits between married persons or proceedings in which one married person is prosecuted for any crime committed against the other.?The Bench?observed: "We do not think there is any breach of privacy in this case. Section 122 of the Evidence Act does not recognise any such right. On the other hand, it carves out an exception to the right to privacy between spouses and therefore cannot be applied horizontally at all."The Family Courts Act, 1984 grants a family court discretion to admit evidence, including reports, statements, documents, information, or other matters, that, in its opinion, will assist in effectively handling a dispute, even if that evidence might not meet the admissibility benchmark under the Indian Evi-

dence Act, 1872. This provision allows the family courts to consider a broader range of evidence, including recorded conversations, in deciding matrimonial disputes.The court recognised that instances of mental suffering were very private and recorded conversations assisted the family court in deciding the matter appropriately. It reaffirmed its commitment to a fair trial, an inalienable right provided by Article 21 ?of the Constitution.Important form of evidence

Call recordings have become an important form of evidence in legal proceedings. The Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 are the primary laws related to electronic records and the admissibility of these records. The admissibility of call recordings in Indian courts has been a matter of debate and controversy for several years.The K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) established privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court, in this case, has interpreted the right to privacy in the specific context of matrimonial discord, the exception provided in the Evidence Act, and the admissibility of relevant evidence in a family court proceeding to decide a case.

The judgment reaffirms?the admissibility of secretly recorded conversations, based on the precedent set in?R.M. Malkani vs State of Maharashtra. The admissibility of recorded electronic evidence was also examined in S. Pratap Singh vs State of Punjab, in which the Supreme Court accepted an unauthorisedly obtained tape-recorded conversation between two parties. The court evaluated the evidentiary value of the tape-recorded conversation and accepted it as evidence only because it was essential to resolving the case.Some believe the judgment will promote spousal surveillance and abuse of privacy laws to be used against an unsuspecting partner in future. Research established that women are generally at the receiving end in a family or a live-in relationship. The male counterpart enjoys greater coercive control. Admission of recorded conversations between spouses will create a greater atmosphere of suspicion, a trust deficit, and an abuse of privacy laws.The admissibility of call recordings in Indian courts depends on several factors, including the authenticity, accuracy, and reliability of the recordings, the relevance and probative value of the recordings to the issue at hand, and the circumstances under which the recordings were made. As technology continues to evolve, the admissibility of electronic evidence, including call recordings, will likely remain a subject of judicial scrutiny and interpretation.

The admissibility of electronic evidence, such as recorded telephone or mobile conversations and video clips, often raises concerns regarding the right to privacy. While electronic evidence is accepted in a court of law, it is not generally legal for individuals to record conversations without authorisation due to the violation of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution. However, in Vibhor Garg vs Neha, the Supreme Court has emphasised that the use of recorded conversations as evidence is admissible only in cases involving matrimonial or family discord.?Only time will tell if the courts in India will be liberal in accepting such evidence in other cases also.

Spare live animals, move to biological models

GNS News Agency, May 21

'Conducting experiments on laboratory-grown anatomical parts would also help the development of the nascent field of tissue-engineering or regenerative medicine'Conducting experiments on laboratory-grown anatomical parts would also help the development of the nascent field of tissue-engineering or regenerative medicine' | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockphotoAs human beings are superior to animals, and as animals instinctively rely on the benevolence, goodwill, and protective nature of man, we must fulfil our obligation to treat our fellow non-human beings with love, kindness, and respect.The issue of the suffering animals undergo in animal testing laboratories is known and so it is rational that humans must respond by finding solutions which can end the suffering of animals and bring peace to human hearts.A dimension to an ethical problemBefore animals came to be used in toxicity tests, humans were used in feeding experiments to assess the risk of toxicity in American food supply. The first systematic test of this kind was conducted between 1902 to 1904 on behalf of the United States government to test the toxicity of preservatives such as benzoate, borax, and formaldehyde in food products.A.L. Tatum, a toxicology researcher of the time, cites the following reason for the shift from human studies to animal studies: "People are rather unpredictable and don't always die when they are supposed to and don't always recover when they should. All in all, we must depend heavily on laboratory experimentation for sound and controllable basic principles." So, while discussing the ethical problem of the use of animals in research, it is wrong to presume that human subjects were always exempt from experimentation and testing. The rationalisation of the culture of moral indifference and inhumanity is the problem; once rationalised it can as easily be directed at humans as it is at animals.There is consensus today that animal testing is not effective in predicting harm to humans. The findings derived from experiments on animals are not always applicable to humans.The case for a shiftDevelopments in the field of tissue engineering or regenerative medicine have enabled us to cultivate at least the following anatomical parts: artificial animal muscle, artificial pancreas, artificial bladders, cartilage, bioartificial heart, blood vessels, artificial skin, artificial bone marrow, bioartificial bone and trachea. It would be ethical and kind to conduct experiments wherever possible using these rather than using animals. It is the request of this writer — to scientists, laboratories and research organisations — to consider doing medical, pharmaceutical and other experimentation and testing, wherever possible, on cells, tissues, and organs developed in laboratories. Spare live animals. Conducting experiments on laboratory-grown anatomical parts would also help the development of the nascent field of tissue-engineering or regenerative medicine.To make the replacement of animals with lab-grown organs a directive principle and an enforceable one, 'Chapter IV: Experimentation on Animals' of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 may be amended to include an article which says: 'Scientists, laboratories and research organisations should consider doing experimentation and testing, wherever possible, on lab-grown anatomical parts and bioartificial models of biological systems of humans and animals rather than on animals'.Animals cannot be protected merely by changing laws. If the laws which can protect them are inadequate it is because we have not accorded them their real status by recognising them as fellow beings who suffer just like us.We also need to bring about a change in our values, the scientific procedure in laboratories which makes the use of



animals inevitable, and create an awareness about animal suffering. The use of visual models on computers to understand the anatomical parts of animals has helped us do away with the practice of dissecting animals in biology classes and laboratories. We can definitely do away with all kinds of animal dissection for educational purposes and teach our students better anatomy by using 2D radiographic imagery and 3D visual models of the different organs and biological systems.But, for the purposes of experimentation and safety testing, it would be useful if we make a paradigm shift from animal models to ex-corpus models or artificial biological models. This we can do by coordinating the shift with tissue-engineering organisations which can produce and provide these artificial biological models. The field of regenerative medicine can help with this shift by modelling and replicating the required biochemistry and biological systems of the body outside the body and by producing bioartificial functional models of the organs.Let us make our civilisation more hospitable to life by changing our procedures, practices and laws wherever possible. Let us pledge to conduct experimentation and testing as far as possible on biological substances and learn to recognise the inherent sacredness and dignity of animals.

Shirish Tatikonda is the new AI lead of Lloyds Technology Centre in Hyd

Hyderabad: Lloyds Technology Centre has announced the appointment of Shirish Tatikonda as its new AI Lead in Hyderabad. Shirish will play a pivotal role in the AI Centre of Excellence, driving the development of cutting-edge AI solutions.Shirish has over two decades of experience in artificial intelligence, machine learning and joins from Walmart Global Tech, where he led the Data Science and Machine Learning Engineering group at Walmart Data Ventures. Prior to Walmart, he held senior roles at Target Corporation and IBM Research, where he architected large-scale AI platforms and pioneered applications powered by computer vision, natural language processing and advanced analytics.Shirish holds a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from Ohio State University. He has authored over 30 peer-reviewed publications and holds more than 10 patents in AI and machine learning. In his new role, Shirish will lead the AI team in its Lloyds Technology Centre in Hyderabad, developing capability locally and leading some of Lloyds Banking Group's AI use cases.

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.

"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), ammonia 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. As a result, core inflation – which measures the year-on-year change in prices after excluding food and fuel items, whose prices are volatile – surged more than a percentage point to 5% in April.

Two India-bound LPG tankers cross Strait of Hormuz as Iran Foreign Minister Araghchi visits Delhi



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar welcomes Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar welcomes Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi on Thursday. Two liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tankers broadcasting India as their destination have crossed the critical maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz between Wednesday and Thursday, ship tracking data indicates.

The two LPG carriers— Marshall Islands-flagged Symi and Vietnam-flagged NV Sunshine—are the first India-bound energy tankers to transit the fraught waters of the Strait of Hormuz in nearly two weeks. Notably, the crossings by Symi and NV Sunshine came just ahead of the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in Delhi, which includes Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi among the attendees. Ship-tracking data shows that both are broadcasting Gujarat's Kandla port as their intended destination, although the Shipping Ministry said that NV Sunshine is headed to the New Mangalore port. It is not uncommon for ships to change destinations mid-voyage.

Symi is carrying LPG from Qatar's Ras Laffan, while NV Sunshine picked up the fuel from the UAE's Ruwais refinery. According to the Shipping Ministry, Symi is carrying 19,965 tonnes of LPG, and is expected to arrive at Kandla in Gujarat on May 16, while NV Sunshine is carrying 46,427 tonnes of LPG and is expected to arrive at New Mangalore on May 18. The cargo on both vessels belongs to the country's largest refiner and fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation. Ever since the West Asia war began—leading to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz—India has been engaging with Iran at the diplomatic level to facilitate safe passage of the Indian vessels and even India-bound foreign vessels carrying critical cargoes like LPG. While a

few Indian ships made their way through the strait over a weeks-long period starting mid-March, transits of Indian and India-bound vessels were badly hit after the April 18 incident in which a couple of Indian ships were fired upon by Iranian forces as they attempted to cross the waterway. Iran suddenly closed the strait on that day—within a day of announcing unimpeded vessel movements through the waterway—leading to confusion among vessels that had lined up to cross the chokepoint. This incident, and subsequent similar ones with Iran and the US running their own blockades in the region, further hit the already constrained vessel movements through the strait.

The last India-bound vessel to have transited the chokepoint was the Marshall Islands-flagged LPG tanker Sarv Shakti, which made the crossing on May 2. So far, 10 India-flagged vessels—nine LPG tankers and one crude oil tanker—have crossed the Strait of Hormuz since early March. Additionally, a few foreign-flagged energy tankers had also arrived in India from the Persian Gulf after crossing the Strait. Currently, there are 14 Indian vessels stranded in the Persian Gulf, and a number of others that are foreign ships but carrying cargo for India. As per vessel tracking data, Symi, which had turned off its location transponder, started transmitting its location from the Gulf of Oman on Thursday; it is likely that it exited the Persian Gulf by crossing the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday.

NV Sunshine, on the other hand, had just crossed the strait when it stopped transmitting its location post midnight (India time). It began transmitting its location on Thursday afternoon from the Gulf of Oman. Switching off the transponder is referred to as "going dark" in shipping parlance, and is usually done by vessels in a bid to avoid detection. It has become common among vessels attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz. Data from ship tracking and maritime intelligence firm MarineTraffic shows that NV Sunshine sailed close to Iran's Larak island, taking a route that has been prescribed by Tehran for transiting the chokepoint, where vessel movements have reduced to a trickle amid the West Asia war. While the two tankers are estimated to be carrying just under a day's worth of India's LPG consumption, their transit springs hope for more energy supplies making their way to India in the coming days.

Around 40% of India's crude oil imports, 60% of its LNG imports, and a whopping 90% of its LPG imports came from West Asia through the strait, making the chokepoint particularly critical for India's LPG supplies. That's primarily the reason why India has prioritised the movement of LPG tankers over its other vessels through the Strait.

ITR filing process for AY 2026-27 officially begins

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Friday said that it enabled the filing of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the financial year 2025-26 (assessment year 2026-27) with the release of Excel utilities for ITR-1 and ITR-4 forms on e-filing portal. Announcing the update on social media platform X, the department said taxpayers can now access both the Excel utility and online filing options for the two forms. With the announcement of the offline utilities, the ITR filing process for AY 2026-27 has officially commenced. Now, taxpayers can fill out the forms offline and generate a JSON file and upload it to the Income Tax Department's e-filing website after completing verification. However, non-audit taxpayers are generally required to file their returns by July 31. At present, seven different ITR forms are available, depending on the nature of income and taxpayer category.

ITR-1—known as Sahaj—is meant for resident individuals, excluding not ordinarily resident taxpayers, having an annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh. ITR-4—known as Sugam—applicable to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms other than LLPs with annual income up to Rs 50 lakh. Earlier, the Central Board of



Direct Taxes (CBDT) had notified the ITR forms for AY 2026-27 with revised disclosure norms. The changes include additional reporting requirements related to long-term capital gains, losses from share buybacks and certain trading transactions. Notably, India's net direct tax collections recorded steady growth in the financial year 2025-26, rising 5.12 per cent year-on-year to Rs 23,40,406 crore, according to data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Harssh Limbachiya says younger son was in NICU for two days; why newborns need critical care



Scriptwriter Harssh Limbachiya recently revealed that his and standup comedian Bharti Singh's younger son, Yashveer, fondly called Kajju, was in NICU. "Our Kajju was in NICU. Oh my god. Aaj bhi, Kajju ke paida hone ke 2 din meri zindagi me hai hi nahi... mujhe yaad hi nahi hai," he told paediatrician Dr Vinit Samdani on their YouTube podcast. Dr Jaykishan Tripathi, consultant in pediatric critical care at KIMS Hospitals, Thane, said not every baby who goes to the NICU is critically ill. "Many newborns need short-term monitoring or special support right after birth. Common reasons for NICU admission include premature birth, low birth weight, breathing problems, infections, jaundice, feeding issues, or complications during delivery. In some cases, even babies born full-term may need NICU care if they face breathing difficulties or slow adaptation after birth. The goal of NICU care is to provide quick help and close monitoring during this crucial time," said Dr Tripathi.

How emotionally challenging can a NICU admission be for parents?

For many parents, seeing their newborn in the NICU

can be emotionally overwhelming. Dr Tripathi noted that the first few days after childbirth are typically filled with excitement and bonding, so an unexpected NICU admission can bring fear, helplessness, anxiety, and guilt. "Many parents say this experience is one of the most emotionally draining times of their lives. They find themselves surrounded by medical equipment, monitors, and uncertainty about their baby's health. Emotional support, regular counseling, and clear communication from doctors and nurses become very important during this time."

Can babies admitted to the NICU recover completely and lead healthy lives later?

Yes, in many cases, babies admitted to the NICU recover well and go on to lead healthy lives. "Neonatal and pediatric critical care has improved a lot over the years, helping even premature or fragile newborns survive and thrive. Early diagnosis, timely treatment, infection control, respiratory support, and proper nutrition all play key roles in improving outcomes. The length of NICU stay can vary based on the baby's condition, but many children who once needed intensive care grow up normally without long-term problems," said Dr Tripathi.

What should parents keep in mind during a NICU journey?

"It is a medical support system meant to help vulnerable newborns during a critical period. Staying emotionally connected with the baby, following medical advice, asking questions, and taking care of their own mental health are equally important. Even small moments like touching the baby, talking softly, or helping with feeding can strengthen bonding and positively affect both the baby and the parents during recovery," said Dr Tripathi.

‘Found nowhere else on Earth...’: The elusive, golden-furred Nilgiri Marten captures hearts online

A tiny flash of golden-yellow and chocolate-brown fur recently captured the imagination of wildlife lovers online. The elusive Nilgiri Marten, one of India's rarest mammals, was recently spotted in the Western Ghats. Taking to X, IAS officer Supriya Sahu shared a post describing the Nilgiri Marten as "one of nature's happiest little secrets."

She wrote, "The Nilgiri Marten is one of nature's happiest little secrets, with tiny feet, golden-yellow and chocolate fur, and playful agility leaping through the shola forests like a spark of joy. Found nowhere else on earth except the Western Ghats, this rare endemic beauty brings the spotlight on the precious and irreplaceable mountain ecosystems #wildwednesday #Nilgirimarten #endangered #wildlife incredible capture by R.Vidhya Vigashini #Endangeredspeciesday 15th May." The discovery of the endangered creature highlights underlying conservation-related concerns. According to wildlife photographer Indrajit Ghorpade, Founder of the Deccan Conservation Foundation, the Nilgiri Marten represents a much larger crisis unfolding silently across the Western Ghats.

A rare predator fighting for survival "There are hundreds of species that are rare, endangered, and threatened. The Nilgiri Marten is one of them," says Ghorpade. Found nowhere else in the world except the Western Ghats, the Nilgiri Marten is the only species of marten found in South India. Known for its elusive nature and energetic movements through dense forests, the species remains largely understudied due to its difficulty to spot in the wild. Ghorpade explains that fewer than 1,000 Nilgiri Martens are believed to survive today. "They are victims of unsustainable development, habitat loss, and shrinking home ranges," he says. While charismatic species like tigers dominate conservation campaigns and policy conversations, Ghorpade argues that lesser-known animals often remain overlooked despite facing equally severe threats. "Unfortunately, we are a tiger-centric country," he says. "Most of the Western Ghats where the Marten and other species like the Leopard Cat survive are under tremendous pressure." He points out that species without widespread public recognition often struggle to attract funding, research attention, or dedicated conservation programs. As a result, many endangered animals continue disappearing quietly without public awareness. "The victims are the life forms that need these fragile ecosystems to survive. The Nilgiri Marten is a classic example,"

Saina Nehwal praises ‘fighter mom’ Usha’s fitness commitment: ‘And she never gives up’



After impressing with her demonstration of Surya Namaskars, Saina Nehwal's "fighter mom," Usha Rani Nehwal, is setting major fitness goals with uthak baithak, or the Indian version of squats. "N she never gives up.. my mom who made me world number 1 ... fighter mom," wrote Saina in a post on her Instagram alongside the workout video. Impressed with her fitness first approach, we asked an expert about how traditional Indian movements can be powerful forms of functional fitness, especially with age.

"Uthak baithak, which resembles deep bodyweight squats, is more than just a traditional exercise. From a clinical perspective, it is highly effective for improving lower-body strength, balance, mobility, and joint flexibility. The movement primarily targets the quadriceps, glutes, hamstrings, and core muscles, all of which are essential for maintaining independence in later years," said consultant dietitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal. joint health Here's how you should care for your joint health One of the biggest benefits of such exercises is their impact on functional ageing. "The ability to squat down and stand up comfortably reflects good muscle strength and mobility, which are directly linked with reduced fall risk and better quality of life in older adults." What makes uthak baithak particularly beneficial is that it combines strength with mobility. "Unlike machine-based workouts, it trains the body in natural movement patterns used in daily life. It also improves blood circulation and supports joint lubrication through repeated controlled movement," said Goyal. Another important aspect is

the role of such exercises in bone health. Goyal stressed that weight-bearing movements stimulate bone density, helping reduce the risk of osteoporosis, especially in women after menopause.

Govt rejects portrayal of India as dumping ground for textile waste

New Delhi: The government defended India's textile recycling ecosystem against what it termed "misleading" international media portrayals, saying the country has one of the world's largest textile recovery and recycling networks supported by long-established reuse and repurposing systems, the Ministry of Textiles said on Thursday.

The government said that recent foreign media reports focusing on clusters such as Panipat selectively highlighted environmental and occupational concerns while ignoring the sector's progress in sustainability, regulation and technology adoption. "Broad characterisation of India's textile sector as environmentally negligent or structurally exploitative is misleading and not representative of ongoing regulatory strengthening and sustainability-focused interventions," the ministry said. According to the government, India generates around 7,073 kilo tonnes of textile waste annually. Citing the "Mapping of Textile Waste Value Chain in India 2026" study, it said nearly 97 per cent of pre-consumer textile waste generated during manufacturing is recycled.

Moreover, the government has rejected claims that India primarily acts as a dumping ground for Western fast-fashion waste, stating that over 90 per cent of the nearly 7.8 million tonnes of textile waste managed annually originates domestically, while imported waste accounts for only around 7 per cent. Referring to a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) report, the ministry stated that the textile waste ecosystem generates an estimated economic value of around Rs 22,000 crore annually.

Kalyani Priyadarshan and Tara Sutaria dazzle in white; Toxic star honoured



Kalyani Priyadarshan and Tara Sutaria made their Cannes Film Festival debut recently. Interestingly, both the stars chose white ensembles. Kalyani Priyadarshan and Tara Sutaria at the Cannes Film Festival 2026 venue. After scripting history last year with her film Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra, directed by Dominic Arun, which emerged as the highest-grossing Malayalam film of all time, actor Kalyani Priyadarshan recently added another significant milestone to her journey by making her debut at the Cannes Film Festival.

While celebrities usually opt for striking gowns and

ornate ensembles at such events, Kalyani stood out as she arrived in a sharply tailored white sleeveless blazer-style top with a deep V-neckline and structured lapels. The fitted bodice cinched at the waist before flaring into a peplum-style hem. She paired the top with a long, flowing white skirt and completed her look with diamond jewellery, including a layered necklace and rings.

"The jewellery took many days and many hours to make. But this look actually didn't take too long... maybe about an hour and a half," she told The Hollywood Reporter India. Expressing her elation at the opportunity to attend the festival, she noted, "I'm just like a little child who is really happy to be here." Tara Sutaria honoured at the Women in Cinema Gala. Meanwhile, actor Tara Sutaria also made her Cannes 2026 debut recently. In addition, she was honoured at the Women in Cinema Gala hosted by the Red Sea International Film Foundation. For the red carpet, she wore a classic white strapless satin gown by Vivienne Westwood, featuring a corseted bodice that added a couture-like sharpness. Talking about the honour, the Toxic star said, "It feels very, very special. I'm just so happy, I'm so humbled, I'm so thrilled to be in a room, full of women who are so celebrated and skilled, powerful, fabulous, beautiful, intelligent, just everything all at once. And to just celebrate our differences, our likenesses, our sameness, and to really celebrate coming together and this wonderful amalgamation of so many things that we share in common."

Madhuri Dixit and Triptii Dimri's Netflix film Maa Behen gets release date

Netflix has announced the premiere date of its upcoming crime-comedy Maa Behen, starring Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri and Dharna Durgaa. The film will premiere on June 4 on the streaming platform. The announcement was made on Madhuri Dixit's birthday, with Netflix unveiling the first glimpse of the film described as a "rooted crime-comedy packed with chaos, comedy, and full-blown kaand." The post was shared with the caption, "Dhak dhak ho raha hai? Tareekh note kar lo Watch Maa Behen, out 4 June, only on Netflix!"

Directed by Suresh Triveni, Maa Behen follows a dysfunctional mother-daughter trio, Rekha, Jaya and Sushma, whose lives spiral into chaos after a dead body suddenly appears in their kitchen. As they attempt to hide the truth, the family finds itself navigating lies, panic and intrusive neighbours in a fast-paced comedy of errors. The film stars Madhuri Dixit as Rekha, alongside Triptii Dimri and Dharna Durgaa as her daughters. Ravi Kishan also features in a key role. The ensemble cast includes Geetanjali Kulkarni, Arunoday Singh and Shardul Bhardwaj. Produced by Abundantia Entertainment in association with Opening Image Films, the film is backed by producers Vikram Malhotra and Suresh Triveni. The story has been written by Suresh Triveni and Pooja Tolani, who has also handled the screenplay and dialogues.

Speaking about the project, Vikram Malhotra, Founder and CEO of Abundantia Entertainment, said,



"Maa Behen is the kind of story that hooks you with its audacious premise and stays with you for its emotional truth. Beneath the chaos and the humour, it is a deeply human story about family, society and the choices people make to survive in this judgmental world." He added, "What excited us as at Abundantia was building a world that feels both wildly entertaining and instantly relatable. And of course, the opportunity to join hands with the amazing Suresh Triveni once again. I am very excited to work with Netflix to bring this unique and unpredictable crime-comedy to life." Ruchika Kapoor Sheikh, Director, Original Films, Netflix India, described the film as "a truly special addition" to the platform's slate. "Maa Behen is a truly special addition to our growing library of entertainers, a hilarious comedy full of surprises that begins with laughs and unravels in unexpected, exciting ways," she said in a press note.

Saif Ali Khan was rejected for Parineeta by Vidhu Vinod Chopra: 'You haven't faced pain'

Saif Ali Khan, for a large part of his career, was known as the 'metro-sexual' hero who often played romantic roles set in urban areas. Of course, he broke the clutter with films like Omkara, but regardless, a lot of filmmakers were wary of casting him in certain kinds of roles, and one such film was Parineeta. In a recent interview, Saif shared that producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra was not very keen in casting him in Parineeta as he believed that he did not have "that pain" that was required to play that role. In a chat with SHOWSHA, Saif described Vinod as an "amazingly encouraging" person and said, "He was making Parineeta and he said that he wanted to cast somebody else. He gave me a story about how that person's (the other actor that he wanted to cast) career hadn't worked out the way he wanted it to so he has pain and you don't have that pain. So he thought he was better." Saif laughed and recalled, "So I said, 'Since when is failure a prerequisite to getting a role?' We had a bit of a joke about that." He added, "I tried to convince him to give me a shot at playing Shekhar because he thought I am a bit more 'rom-com'. The example of the actor he wanted to cast was that his career has not worked out the way he wanted." Before the film's release in 2004, Vinod had shared with Telegraph India that Saif had initially met him for another role. "As for Saif, it has been a revelation. When he came to the office he was slated to do another role. He just said, 'I can do Shekhar'. And I saw the rushes and he has



truly done an incredible job," he said.

Saif is still quite proud of the work he did in Parineeta. In a 2025 chat with The Times of India, he recalled that playing Shekhar was a "challenge since he wasn't the usual romantic hero that I was used to playing." He added, "That gave me a chance to step into a more nuanced space as an actor and I found that deeply rewarding, it was a more classic role, based on Sarat Chandra's novel. It is that one performance where I channelled the class of a tiger and played it like that... I love my work in that film."

Ram Pothineni turns director with #RAPO23; plays a character called Veera in the film

Hyderabad: Telugu star Ram Pothineni, a multi-faceted performer who has consistently showcased his versatility on screen, on Friday announced he would be turning director with his upcoming film, tentatively being referred to as #Rapo23.

Taking to his X timeline to make the announcement, he wrote, "An exciting journey begins with all your love & blessings. Introducing 'Veera' in #RAPO23 - the story of a Lone Wolf. Genre: Psychological Action Thriller. Written & Directed by #RAPO. Produced by Krishna Pothineni. A @RAPO_Cinematics Production. December 2026 Release." It may be recalled that the actor, after turning a lyricist with his previous film 'Andhra King Taluka', had also surprised audiences by lending his vocals for the first time. Now, the actor has donned the director's hat, marking his debut as a filmmaker.

The project, formally announced on the occasion of his birthday, is set to be a stylish psychological action thriller – a genre rarely explored in Telugu cinema. #RAPO23 will be produced by Krishna Pothineni under the newly formed Rapo Cinematics banner. Interestingly with this move, Ram joins the elite league of stars-turned-directors such as Sr. NTR, Krishna, and Pawan Kalyan.

The makers also unveiled a striking birthday special poster that introduced Ram Pothineni's character as Veera on the occasion.



'Get out of bedroom': Farah Khan tells husband Shirish after seeing Palak Muchhal's walk-in closet



Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan is back with her cook Dilip in another episode of their interesting cooking vlog on her YouTube channel. This time, the duo visited music director-composer Mithoon and singer-lyricist Palak Muchhal's house in Mumbai. Along with a detailed tour of their beautiful luxury residence, the musical couple cooked healthy mushroom soup for their guests. In the video, Farah was amused to see Palak's huge closet, making her ask husband Shirish Kunder to move out of their bedroom so that she can build one for herself. In the beginning of the vlog, Farah entered their house with a tiffin of Paneer Makhni and called herself a big fan of Mithoon. While sitting in the living area, the couple revealed that they have been living in this house for over three years, and moved there right after their wedding. Later on, both Palak and Mithoon opened up about their love story and how they met each other. They also shared that the early years of their music career were not a cakewalk.

Mithoon and Palak Muchhal's house tour Mithoon and Palak Muchhal's house tour Mithoon and Palak Muchhal's house has a calm, inviting vibe. The singer and music director's house had very subtle and basic elements. From a mix of chocolate brown furniture to white-painted walls,

their living room had a calm vibe. The huge chandelier in the middle added to the lighting in the space. There was also a moving bar trolley and pictures of the couple framed in every corner. While a big TV was mounted in the drawing room, Palak and Mithoon didn't want one in their bedroom. "It is principally wrong to have TV in your bedroom, the projector is also behind us," Mithoon shared. The couple then moved on to the walk-in closet tour – full of luxe bags, clothes, and a green room mirror with lights, to get ready. An amused Farah Khan entered the room and said, "OMG, it is outstanding. This is what I want in my house." After which, Palak revealed, "He (husband Mithoon) got this room especially designed as per my needs – for all my bags and clothes."

"Have you watched Sex And The City? He also makes a beautiful closet for his wife," the filmmaker-choreographer asked. "No, I did not get inspired from there but I just thought of it on my own," Mithoon replied. Then, Farah stared towards the camera and taunted her husband, filmmaker Shirish Kunder. "This is the nicest thing you can do for your wife. Shirish, are you listening? Get out of the bedroom, so that I can cut it in half and make this," she laughed and mentioned. The walk-in closet had muted tones of grey and white, with bright lighting inside. Mithoon and Palak Muchhal house tour Mithoon has created a walk-in closet for wife Palak Muchhal

Palak Muchhal donates the earnings from her concerts to fund life-saving heart surgeries for underprivileged children. Under her 'Saving Little Hearts' initiative, she has already funded over 4000 surgeries, earning places in both the Guinness Book of World Records and the Limca Book of Records. "My mission is for heart patients. Even today, every concert is dedicated to this same mission. 4012 heart surgeries have already been funded, I started doing concerts at the age of 7," she revealed. When Farah asked about one of the dog plush toys, the singer revealed that she actually has 4012 dolls at her mother's residence – one for each surgery. Towards the end of the vlog, Palak Muchhal cooked Mushroom soup, while teaching the recipe to everyone.

Karuppu movie review: Suriya Sivakumar is in top form, but the film is not



Suriya Sivakumar, Trisha Krishnan Karuppu Movie Review: A deity walks into a courtroom, that is the premise of Karuppu, and on paper it should not work as well as it does. RJ Balaji wrings the best out of Suriya Sivakumar and delivers a film full of moments the fans will talk about for a while. But as the whistles fade, what is left is a plot that loses its way. One of Suriya's strongest performances in years is delivered in a film that is only half as good as he is. A district court somewhere in rural Tamil Nadu has been quietly taken over by Baby Kannan, played by RJ Balaji, a lawyer who runs the place like a personal fiefdom – those who can pay, win. The poor walk in with legitimate cases and walk out with nothing. When one such victim, out of options and out of hope, prays to the deity Karuppuswamy, the deity answers. He takes a human form and appears as a lawyer Saravanan, and decides to fix the court himself.

The story is rooted in Tamil folklore about Karuppaswamy and connects mythological tradition with a very present-day concern: how the legal system continues to fail ordinary people. Suriya is why this film works and why he is worth watching. He plays both the man and the deity without letting either feel like a costume change. While the courtroom scenes are patient and controlled, the fight sequences are loud and physical, making it exactly what the fans came for. And then there are the quieter in-between moments, where he carries the weight of the character without any help, and keeps you fixed to your seat.

After Kanguva and Retro, which did not land the way expected, this feels like Suriya finding his footing again. The hunger is clearly visible as Suriya transforms into a literal

god-like embodiment. The whistles in the theatre are real and they are earned. Trisha Krishnan, as Preethi, a fellow lawyer, is the emotional anchor of the first half. What works about their dynamic is that it is not romantic. They are colleagues who trust each other, and that turns out to be more than enough. Trisha does not waste a single scene and makes you wish the second half gave her more to do.

Sai Abhyankar's background score does a lot of the right things at the right times, especially around the interval block. G.K. Vishnu's cinematography keeps the film grounded, warm and rural, which stops the mythological elements from drifting too far from reality. The movie slips in a few references from Suriya's older films at well-chosen moments. By the time interval arrives, the emotional case has been made, the stakes are set, and you know the characters and their arcs. The second half introduces a new case in the court, and instead of opening the story up, it muddles it. The plot loses the thread it spent an hour building. Characters stop developing. The story stops going anywhere, and the audience, which was fully invested in the film till now, feels it.

Then there is the problem the film cannot fix — the director who doubles up as the film's bad guy. Behind the camera, RJ Balaji holds everything together. He keeps the tone from tipping into absurdity, which with a deity-in-a-courtroom story is genuinely difficult. In front of the camera as Baby Kannan, though, he does not convince. A villain of this kind needs to own the room, like the whole system is him. However, Baby Kannan never gets there. The performance is too light for the role, and when Suriya faces him in the film's big moments, there is nothing pushing back. It makes those moments feel smaller than they should. Ironically, the same person holding the film together as director is sinking it as the antagonist. This is the best Suriya has been in years, and that is not a small thing. He carries the film through its weaker stretches on effort alone, and in the moments where everything clicks, Karuppu is exactly what a Tamil mass entertainer is supposed to feel like inside a theatre. The reunion of Suriya and Trisha, their first film together in roughly two decades, works because they are not playing lovers. They are two lawyers on the same side, and that dynamic brings a warmth to the film that a forced romance never could have. Karuppu is flawed in ways it cannot hide. But it has Suriya at his most committed, a first half that delivers, and enough big moments to make the ticket worth it. Just brace yourself for the second half.

Sharib Hashmi on financial toll of his wife's cancer relapse: 'Can't afford to say no to any work'

Actor Sharib Hashmi has opened up about the difficult phase his family is going through after his wife, Nasreen, suffered a sixth relapse of cancer. While speaking about the emotional and financial challenges, the actor shared that he is trying hard to stay hopeful despite the situation becoming increasingly difficult. In a recent interview with Hindustan Times, Sharib said, "I am just trying to keep my mind in a positive frame, otherwise it will become very difficult for me to deal with it. The treatment is underway and thankfully she is responding to it positively. My wife is a big fighter, and seeing her spirit gives us hope too. But it is a long journey as the cancer has spread all over the body."

Sharib Hashmi's wife Nasreen was first diagnosed with oral cancer in August 2018 and has undergone five surgeries since then. Although she had been in remission after her last surgery in September 2024, the cancer returned earlier this year. Recalling how they discovered the relapse, Sharib shared, "Unhe do-dhai mahine se khaansi chal rahi thi and at that time, everyone was coughing due to the poor AQI. So, we thought it may be because of that. We got an X-ray done too, and there was no problem in it. But in mid-Feb, she got a blister in her mouth, and we immediately rushed to the doctor who asked us to get a biopsy and PET scan done. And in that, the new diagnosis was made."

He further revealed that while the cancer was previously limited to the mouth, it has now spread to the lungs,



bones, and areas near the heart and liver. Nasreen is currently undergoing immunotherapy and chemotherapy, with actor Tannishtha Chatterjee helping the family connect with her own doctor for treatment recommendations. Sharib admitted that the medical expenses have become overwhelming. "Main zyada se zyada samay uske saath bitata hun par mujhe paise bhi kamane hain as the expenses now are exorbitant. I need more work so that I can afford to pay my wife's medical bills as even my insurance can't cover the amount this treatment costs," he said. The actor also shared that he is currently prioritising work opportunities to support the ongoing treatment.