

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

15-year-old Vaibhav rewrites IPL history

AT 15, most teenagers are still learning to cope with school exams and adolescent uncertainty. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, meanwhile, is dismantling world-class bowlers under the brightest lights of the IPL. His astonishing 97 off just 29 balls for Rajasthan Royals against Sunrisers Hyderabad in New Chandigarh on Wednesday was an explosive innings. The knock, studded with 12 sixes and played at a staggering strike rate, helped him surpass Chris Gayle's long-standing record for most sixes in a single IPL season. That a teenager has overtaken a benchmark set by one of T20 cricket's greatest power-hitters underlines the extraordinary scale of the achievement. Interestingly, Gayle called Vaibhav the "new six machine" soon after.

What stands out even more is that Sooryavanshi appeared untouched by pressure, reputation or media glare. Falling short of a century by three runs would have devastated most players. His response — "Mere 100s lagte rahenge" — reflected an athlete already possessing rare self-belief and emotional composure. His rise also highlights how India's cricketing ecosystem has evolved. Vaibhav was inducted into the RR squad at just 13 years and 243 days old, becoming the youngest player ever to earn an IPL contract. The IPL, elite coaching networks and exposure to high-pressure competition at a young age are producing players with remarkable confidence and technical maturity. However, there is a need to guard against the dangers that accompany sudden fame. Prodigies such as Vinod Kambli, Prithvi Shaw and Unmukt Chand have struggled under the burden of premature stardom. Administrators must keep in mind that talent requires patient nurturing.

Arya Vysya Association Felicitates Class 10 Merit Students



“Khammam Madhira, May 30 indian Chronicle “The Madhira Mandal Arya Vysya Association felicitated students who secured more than 550 marks in the March 2026 Class 10 examinations. The felicitation ceremony was held at Sri Vasavi Arya Vysya Kalyana Mandapam in Madhira. “While several students were honored during the main event held on May 24, those who could not attend were felicitated in a special ceremony organized on Friday evening, May 29, at the same venue. “The meeting was presided over by Mandal Arya Vysya Association President Charugundla Narasimha Murthy. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Vasavi Arya Vysya Kalyana Mandapam President Kuruvella Krishna, Association Advisors Pullakhandam Chandrasekhar and Madhavavaru Nageswara Rao, and Vice President Mahankali Venkata Srinivasa Rao congratulated the students for their outstanding achievements and wished them greater success in their future academic and professional pursuits. “The meritorious students were honored with merit certificates, medals, certificate folders, shawls, water bottles, mementos, pens, and sweet packets as tokens of appreciation from the association. “The program was attended by Mandal General Secretary Kaja Chakradhar Rao, Treasurer Chede Rama Koteswara Rao, Kottagundla Harikrishna, and several other Arya Vysya community leaders. “The students and their parents expressed their gratitude to the Madhira Mandal Arya Vysya Association for recognizing and encouraging their academic excellence through such a grand felicitations.

Everyone Must Work for the Success of Membership Enrollment in Mallapur Division: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy

“UPPAL, MAY 30(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended as the chief guest at the SIR and BRS Party Membership Enrollment Preparatory Meeting organized by the BRS Party at SLNS Function Hall in Mallapur Division. “Addressing the gathering, the MLA called upon party workers to work collectively for the strengthening of the party. He emphasized that every party worker should take responsibility for making the membership enrollment drive a grand success. “Lakshma Reddy stated that the membership campaign is crucial for further increasing the party's support among the people. He urged party leaders and workers to ensure that Mallapur Division secures the top position in the constituency in terms of membership registrations. “He noted that the success of the membership drive depends on the dedicated and responsible participation of every party worker. “Former Mallapur Division Corporator, BRS leaders, party workers, and other members attended the meeting.”

Two Inter-District Theft Offenders Arrested for Series of Burglaries: CI D. Visweshwar



Stolen Property Worth ₹35,000 Recovered “Geesugonda, May 30 (Indian Chronicle): Geesugonda Police have arrested two inter-district offenders allegedly involved in a series of thefts reported across Geesugonda Mandal under the Warangal Police Commissionerate limits. Stolen property valued at approximately ₹35,000 was recovered from their possession, informed Circle Inspector D. Visweshwar. He further stated that the accused have a history of involvement in more than 33 theft cases. “According to police officials, on May 29 at around 3:30 p.m., Sub-Inspector G. Anil Kumar and his team were conducting routine vehicle inspections near the SRSP

Canal at Konayamakula village. During the operation, two individuals travelling on a motorcycle behaved suspiciously and attempted to flee upon noticing the police. Acting swiftly, the officers apprehended them and subjected them to questioning. “During interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing pump motors, iron materials, a motorcycle, and other valuables from agricultural wells and locations along the SRSP Canal in the villages of Rampur, Elukurthi, Shayampet, and Gorrekunta over the past ten days. “The arrested individuals were identified as Sura Ravi (35) of Karimnagar and M.D. Imran alias Imam (33) of Mahabubabad. Police recovered a Hero Splendor motorcycle, two 3 HP pump motors, cash amounting to ₹9,000, a motor valve, eight centering iron pipes, two buckets, two iron rods, and two metal containers from their possession. “Police records reveal that the prime accused, Sura Ravi, has been booked in 24 theft cases registered at Karimnagar, Keshavapatnam, Boyinpally, Manakondur, Mills Colony, and Intezar Ganj police stations. Meanwhile, M.D. Imran alias Imam is involved in nine theft cases registered under the jurisdictions of Mills Colony, Narsampet, Khanapur, Mahabubabad, Kagaznagar, and Geesugonda police stations. Suspect sheets are also being maintained against both offenders. “Circle Inspector D. Visweshwar commended Sub-Inspector G. Anil Kumar and the Geesugonda Police Station personnel for their alertness, swift action, and successful recovery of the stolen property.

Paths May Diverge, But Memories Endure Forever



— Grand Farewell for Police Personnel — CI D.Visweshwar “Transferred Personnel Honored with Shawls and Garlands Amidst an Emotional Atmosphere “Geesugonda, May 30 (Indian Chronicle) : In the noble profession of safeguarding public peace and maintaining law and order, transfers are a routine administrative process. However, farewell ceremonies for colleagues who have worked together at the same station are often deeply emotional and heartfelt occasions. Such a touching atmosphere was witnessed on Friday at the Geesugonda Police Station. “A grand farewell ceremony was organized within the premises of the Geesugonda Police Station, under the supervision of CID Visweshwar, for the personnel recently transferred from the station: Sub-Inspector Srinivas, Assistant Sub-Inspector Sudarshan, Head Constable Prabhakar, and Police Constables Mahender and Harikrishna. “On this occasion, fellow officers

and staff members recalled the invaluable services and cooperation rendered by the departing personnel, extended their heartfelt appreciation, and formally felicitated them. Their discipline, courteous demeanor toward the public, proactive approach in resolving issues, and the courage they displayed in handling challenging situations were widely praised as exemplary. Officials stated that police personnel play a pivotal role in maintaining law and order—particularly in rural areas—by remaining accessible to the public and being responsive to their needs. Their unwavering commitment to duty and professional integrity have earned them respect not only among their colleagues but also within the community at large. “The transferred personnel shared their experiences and emotional memories regarding their tenure at the Geesugonda Police Station.

They expressed their gratitude for the cooperation extended by the public and the support received from their fellow officers. They noted that it was precisely this spirit of coordination that enabled them to discharge their duties effectively. They remarked that the time spent in Geesugonda would remain a cherished and unforgettable chapter in their professional careers. “The event concluded with heartfelt best wishes for their future assignments, expressing the hope that they would achieve even greater success and attain higher positions in their careers ahead. Reflecting the deep camaraderie, unity, and mutual affection prevailing among the staff, the transferred personnel were felicitated with shawls and garlands as a token of respect and affection. “CID Officer Visweshwar and the police staff of the Geesugonda Station participated in the event and conveyed their best wishes to the transferred personnel.

Buttermilk Distribution Program Successfully Completes 29th Day Under Bonakal Arya Vysya Sangham

“Khammam, May 30 (Indian chronicle): “As summer temperatures continue to rise in Bonakal mandal headquarters, the buttermilk distribution program being organized under the leadership of the Bonakal Arya Vysya Sangham has successfully completed its 29th day, providing much-needed relief to the public. “On the 29th day, the donors for the program were Chede Venkateswara Rao, Ramadevi, and their family members, who actively participated in the service activity. “The initiative, which has been continuing uninterrupted every day, has been receiving appreciation from local residents. Cool buttermilk was distributed to motorists traveling along the main roads, laborers, traders, students, and villagers to help them cope with the scorching summer heat. Many beneficiaries expressed happiness, stating that the refreshing drink provided significant relief during the intense heatwave conditions. “Members of the Arya Vysya Sangham made special arrangements from early morning to ensure the smooth conduct of the program. Maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, they prepared and served quality buttermilk using fresh ingredients, which was widely appreciated. The public also lauded the dedication and service-minded efforts of the association members who have been participating in the program every day. “Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the Sangham stated that the buttermilk distribution program would continue throughout the summer season as part of their commitment



to social service. They expressed gratitude to the donors, businesspersons, members, and local residents for their support in making the initiative successful. “Local dignitaries remarked that such service-oriented programs greatly contribute to positive social change and praised the Bonakal Arya Vysya Sangham for setting an example for others through this noble initiative. “Among those who participated in the program were Arya Vysya Sangham president Chede Venkateswara Rao, Tellakula Srinivasa Rao, Pallapothu Gopi, Kalavala Lakshminarayana (Babu), Chennai Bhanu, Ranga Janardhan, Chede Sai Babu, Vechha Seetharamulu, Immadi Shetty Ramu, Pabbathi Brahmam, Kasturi, Anuradha, Saritha, Kameswari, Rajani, and several women members.

MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Assures New Sewerage Pipeline in Beerappa Gadda



“UPPAL, MAY 30 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): During the ongoing road construction works in Tirupati Galli, opposite the library in Beerappa Gadda Division, local residents requested that the severely damaged sewerage pipeline in the area be replaced along with the new road construction. “Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj and BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj were informed by the residents about the need for a new sewerage pipeline. Responding promptly, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj accompanied the residents to the residence of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and explained the urgency of replacing the old and damaged sewerage line. “MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy immediately spoke over the phone with Water Works Executive Director Pankaja and requested that a new sewerage pipeline be laid in the locality at the earliest. Executive Director Pankaja assured that orders would be issued to commence the installation of a new sewerage pipeline within a week. “The residents expressed their gratitude to former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj and MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy for their swift response and special initiative in addressing the long-pending drainage issue. “Among those present on the occasion were Kondal Reddy, Vanjari Narsinga Rao, Kavali Tirupati Yadav, Srinivas Yadav, Praveen Reddy, Venkat Reddy, Bhaskar Mudiraj, Maheshwari, Sugunamma, Uma, Padma, Suvama Tirupatamma, and a large number of local residents.

State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao Conducts Surprise Inspection of Warehouses



“Khammam, May 30 indian Chronicle: “State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao conducted a surprise inspection of the Warehousing Corporation godowns in Raghunadhapaalem Mandal of Khammam district on Saturday. “During the inspection, he examined the rice stocks being stored in the warehouses and reviewed various aspects related to storage management. He also inspected records pertaining to stock maintenance, security measures, and other operational procedures at the ground level. “As part of the inspection, the Chairman thoroughly verified the Stock Register and Staff Register, ensuring that all records were properly maintained and that warehouse operations were being carried out efficiently. He also reviewed the overall storage conditions and management practices in the godowns.

Police Commissioner Felicitates Retired Police Personnel



“Khammam, May 30 indian Chronicle: “Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt felicitated police personnel who retired from service by honoring them with floral garlands, shawls, and mementos at a ceremony held at the Police Commissioner's Office in Khammam. “Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner praised the retirees for their long and dedicated service in various departments of the police force, noting their valuable contributions to the department. He also appreciated the support extended by their family members throughout their careers. “The Commissioner conveyed his best wishes to the retired officers, expressing hope that they would enjoy a happy, healthy, and peaceful life with their families in the years ahead. “The retired personnel honored were: “B. Nageswara Rao, Sub-Inspector, Women Police Station (WPS) “N. Uppaiah, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Khammam II Town Police Station “M. Gurunadham, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Mudigonda Police Station “P. Prakash Rao, Head Constable, Madhira Town Police Station “P. Laxman Rao, Sub-Inspector, Communications Wing “Among those present at the event were AR ACP Narsaiah, Reserve Inspectors Kamaraju and others, along with Police Association President Venkateswarlu.”

Former Nelakondapalli Tahsildar Sentenced in Bribery Case

“Khammam, May 30, indian Chronicle: “Former Nelakondapalli Tahsildar Gundla Narasimha Rao has been sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment and fined ₹10,000 by the Special ACB Court in Warangal in a bribery case that dates back to 2011. “According to officials, while serving as Tahsildar of Nelakondapalli, Narasimha Rao allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹3,000 from a farmer for issuing a No Objection Certificate (NOC) related to agricultural land. Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). “Acting on the complaint, an ACB team led by then Inspector Venkateswara Rao conducted a trap operation in 2011 and caught the Tahsildar. Following investigation and trial, Warangal ACB Court Judge K. Deshpande delivered the verdict on May 29, 2026, awarding the accused two years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹10,000. “The prosecution was coordinated by the present ACB officials of the erstwhile Khammam district, including DSP Y. Ramesh, Inspector Shekhar, Public Prosecutor Jyothi Reddy, and Court Constable Narasimha Rao, among others, who assisted in securing the conviction. ?

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to inform to the general public at large that Sri Bakki Govardhan Yadav S/o Baki Narayana R/o Dhanora, Mdl Bheempur, Dist. Adilabad, is intending to avail loan from State Bank of India by mortgaging Agriculture land in Sy No. 16 measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas and In Sy No. 17 measuring 2 Acres 12 Guntas Situated at Gunjala(V) Mdl Bheempur, Dist. Adilabad to the Bank.

That, the Original Dharni document bearing No. 406/2022 was lost.

If any one has any claim, right, title or interest of any kind in the said property, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days of the publication of this Notice, with all documents of claim and title.

If Any one find the above document, please do hand over it to my client or the address given below.

If no objection is received within 7 days, then the bank will proceed to complete the other formalities for the mortgage and if any claim and objection arise, it shall be deemed to have been waived

Dt:30-05-2026
BIPIN KUMAR PATEL
Advocate
ADARSH Building,
N.H.No.44, Adilabad.
Cell: 9440005500

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Anganwadi Building: MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy



A Key Step Towards Modern Child Welfare Infrastructure: A ₹12 Lakh Project""Nallabelli/Warangal, May 30 (Indian Chronicle): Emphasizing the pivotal role that Anganwadi centers play in promoting child welfare and women's empowerment in rural areas, Narsampet MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy laid the foundation stone for a new Anganwadi building on Saturday in Nagarajupalli village, Nallabelli Mandal. This building is set to be constructed at an estimated cost of approximately ₹12 lakhs. ""Speaking on the occasion, the

MLA stated that the government places special priority on strengthening welfare services for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers by ensuring they receive quality early childhood education and nutritional support. As part of this commitment, he noted that dedicated Anganwadi buildings are being developed to create a more conducive environment for the effective implementation of welfare programs. ""He observed that once the proposed facility is completed, the availability of essential amenities for the children and women of the village will increase significantly. Reaffirming the government's commitment to rural development, he assured local residents that all necessary infrastructure and welfare programs required to fulfill their aspirations and needs would be implemented in a phased and systematic manner. Subsequently, as the MLA formally inaugurated the construction works, the villagers accorded him a grand welcome. They expressed their gratitude for the sanctioning of the project. Constituency Congress leaders, local public representatives, party workers, village leaders, Anganwadi staff, women beneficiaries, and a large number of residents attended the event.

GHMC Workers' Demands: CITU Uppal Secretary J. Venkanna Calls for Massive Participation in June 9 Dharna

""Uppal, May 30 (Indian Chronicle): CITU Uppal Circle Secretary J. Venkanna has called upon GHMC workers to make the dharna scheduled on June 9 at the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) Head Office, Tarnaka, a grand success to press for the fulfillment of various long-pending demands of municipal workers. ""On Saturday, CITU leaders J. Venkanna, M.D. Ghouse, and P. Raju conducted meetings with GHMC workers in Srinivasapuram, Gandhinagar, and Hyderabad Public School areas, distributing pamphlets and mobilizing support for the protest. ""Addressing the workers, the leaders urged them to participate in large numbers in the June 9 dharna and raise their voice against the implementation of the four Labour Codes introduced by the Central Government. They demanded the regularization of all municipal workers, implementation of a minimum wage of Rs. 26,000 per month, and immediate payment of wages to workers in all three municipal corporations on par with GHMC employees. ""The leaders also demanded the introduction of a Rs. 25 lakh insurance scheme for municipal workers who die in accidents while on duty. They called for the provision of employment to one family member of workers removed after attaining the age of 60 years, along with retirement benefits of Rs. 10 lakh, and Rs. 16 lakh for workers without legal heirs. ""Further demands included providing Rs. 30,000 towards funeral expenses for deceased workers, implemen-



tation of weekly holidays, festival holidays, and an eight-hour workday, and granting promotions to SAF personnel, Jawans, and Work Inspectors working in the three corporations. ""The leaders also urged the government to give municipal workers top priority in the allotment of Double Bedroom and Indiramma housing schemes, and to reform the biometric attendance system by ensuring attendance is recorded at the worksite itself. ""They stated that the June 9 dharna is being organized to secure these demands and appealed to all municipal workers to participate actively in the protest.

Action Against Structures Obstructing Nala Development Works



— Authorities Prepare to Act on 106 Obstructing Structures— MMC Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy Warns of Action if Garbage Is Not Cleared""UPPAL, MAY 30 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy has announced that action will be taken against encroachments along nalas (drainage channels) to facilitate ongoing development works. ""On Saturday, the Commissioner, accompanied by officials and staff, inspected areas including Devender Nagar, Nallacheruvu, and Uppal. During his visit to the Devender Nagar nala, he directed the Town Planning ACP to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into encroachments along the drainage channel. ""At the KCR Colony culvert area near the main access route of the Devender Nagar

and TV Colony nalas, mosquito larvae were detected. Observing that the larvae were still in the early stage, the Commissioner instructed the Entomology Department staff to intensify anti-larval operations throughout the Devender Nagar nala limits and ensure continuous monitoring to prevent mosquito breeding. ""Later, he reviewed sanitation conditions on Devender Nagar Nala Road and Church Colony Road. Finding the sanitation maintenance unsatisfactory and noting delays in garbage clearance by sanitation workers and the Ramky team, he directed officials to remove accumulated waste immediately and improve cleanliness standards. He also instructed that sweeping waste should not be left on roads and that Ramky personnel must regularly visit garbage collection points and ensure timely transportation of waste. ""The Commissioner subsequently inspected the ongoing SNDP nala development works at Uppal Nallacheruvu and reviewed the project's progress. Officials identified 106 structures obstructing the nala development works. He directed the Town Planning ACP to issue notices to the owners of these structures and expedite the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) process. ""Emphasizing the importance of removing encroachments and ensuring timely completion of the project, Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy stated that a special review would be conducted on the progress of encroachment removal and nala development works, and instructed officials to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe.

Grand Birthday Celebrations of IT Minister Sridhar Babu in Manthani

Peddapalli District, ""Manthani:-MANTHANI: May 30, 2026""The birthday of Telangana IT Minister and Manthani Constituency MLA, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, was celebrated on a grand note across Manthani on Saturday. Under the leadership of the Manthani Mandal Congress Party, local leaders and party workers organized a series of spiritual, social, and celebratory events, turning the town into a festive hub. ""Special Prayers and Rituals""The day commenced with special prayers, Abhishekams, and Archanas performed in Minister Sridhar Babu's name at the Sri Dattatreya Swamy Temple in Manthani town. Congress leaders sought divine blessings from the deity, praying for the Minister's long, healthy life, prosperity, and continued political ascent. ""Festive Atmosphere and Celebrations""Following the prayers, party workers gathered at the Ambedkar Chowk, where they burst firecrackers, cut a massive birthday cake, and distributed sweets among themselves and the public. A similar celebration took place at the Manthani Municipality under the leadership of the Municipal Chairman, where staff and leaders exchanged sweets and extended their wishes. Furthermore, a cake-cutting ceremony was held at the Agricultural Market Yard under the guidance of the Market Committee Chairman, where sweets were distributed among local farmers. ""Social Welfare and Relief Initiatives""In honor of the Minister's birthday, several charity events were organized to assist locals and commuters beating the intense summer heat. ""Hospital Visit: The SC Cell organized a fruit distribution drive for patients and staff at the Government Hospital. ""Buttermilk Distribution at Bus Stand: Former Mandal Youth Congress President, Erukala Praveen, led an initiative to distribute buttermilk packets to commuters and passengers at the Manthani Bus Stand. ""Support for Laborers: Under the leadership of Mandal Youth Congress President Sadula Srikanth, buttermilk packets were distrib-



uted to MGNREGA (Employment Guarantee Scheme) laborers in Gajulapalli village. ""Tributes to the ""Leader of People's Hearts""Speaking on the occasion, prominent local leaders—including Mandal Congress President Aili Prasad, Municipal Chairman Vodnala Srinivas, Agriculture Market Committee Chairman Kududula Venkanna, PACS Chairman Kotha Srinivas, SC Cell Division President Manthani Satyam, ERC Member Shashibhushan Kache, former MPP Konda Shankar, former Youth Congress President Erukala Praveen, RTA Member Manthani Suresh, former AMC Chairman Azeem Khan, and Councilors Yellanki vamshi, Laissetti Rajitha and Erukala Sravanthi—hailed Minister Sridhar Babu as the "guiding light of Telangana. ""Minister Sridhar Babu is a highly educated and visionary leader who works tirelessly for the development of both the State and the Manthani constituency. By delivering on promises like Indiramma houses and fine rice (Sanna Biyyam) for the poor, he has become like an elder son to every household. From improving roads and government hospitals to establishing infrastructure and creating employment for the youth, his impact is profound. We wish him a long, healthy life in the service of the people," the leaders stated. ""The mega celebration saw large-scale participation from public representatives, senior Congress leaders, former public repre-

16,840 Notebooks Arrive for Government School Students in Nelakondapalli



""Khammam Nelakondapalli, May 30 indian Chronicle: ""The distribution of notebooks for students studying in government schools has begun in Nelakondapalli mandal. Mandal Education Officer (MEO) B. Chalapathi Rao inaugurated the notebook distribution programme at the Mandal

Educational Resource Centre on Saturday. ""Speaking on the occasion, the MEO said that the State Government is providing notebooks free of cost to students of government schools this academic year. A total of 16,840 notebooks have been received for distribution among students of government primary and upper primary schools in the mandal. ""He informed that arrangements have been made to distribute the notebooks to students on June 2, coinciding with the Telangana State Formation Day celebrations. Free textbooks will be supplied to students on June 12, the reopening day of schools. ""Mr. Chalapathi Rao highlighted the facilities and benefits available in government schools and urged teachers to work towards increasing student enrolment. He stressed the importance of strengthening the "Badi Bata" enrolment drive and encouraged teachers to motivate parents to admit their children to government schools. ""CRPs, headmasters of various schools, and other education department officials participated in the programme.

24 Crore Sanctioned for Four Check Dams

1,200 Acres to Come Under Cultivation Irrigation EE Ramesh Reddy Inspects Kattukacharam Works

""Khammam Nelakondapalli, May 30 indian Chronicle: ""Irrigation Executive Engineer (EE) Ramesh Reddy stated that four new check dams are being constructed in the mandal at a cost of ₹24 crore. He inspected the ongoing construction works at the Kattukacharam check dam on Saturday and issued several instructions to officials and the contractor regarding the progress and quality of the works. ""Speaking on the occasion, he said that the check dams were sanctioned through the special initiative of Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. The projects are being taken up at Painampalli, Kattukacharam, Sankarigiri Thanda, and Ootavagu Thanda with an estimated expenditure of ₹24 crore. ""He said that nearly 1,200 acres of agricultural land would be brought under cultivation through these projects. A detailed action plan has been prepared to complete the works on a war footing and make them operational within three months. ""Ramesh Reddy noted that the check dams would help improve groundwater lev-



els and instructed officials to ensure strict adherence to quality standards during construction. ""He also warned that stringent action would be taken against anyone transporting soil from tanks without proper permission. Further, he advised against any activities that obstruct water flow and stressed the importance of protecting water resources. ""Irrigation DEE Manmadha Rao, JEs T. Nareish and Ruthvin Reddy, Quality Control Officer Ravikanth, and other officials participated in the inspection.

Uppal In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy Attends Malkajgiri Parliament Review Meeting at Gandhi Bhavan



""UPPAL, MAY 30(INDIAN CHRONICAL): A review meeting of the Malkajgiri Parliamentary Constituency was held at Indira Bhavan in the Gandhi Bhavan premises under the leadership of TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC Telangana In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan. Uppal Congress Party In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy participated in the meeting. ""Addressing the gathering, Meenakshi Natarajan directed party leaders to expedite the formation of booth agent committees, division committees, and affiliated organization committees in every Assembly constituency under the Malkajgiri Parliament segment. She emphasized that every party worker should

work collectively to strengthen the Congress Party at the grassroots level. ""TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud discussed the upcoming "SIR" process in the state and provided guidance on the strategies that party cadres should adopt at the grassroots level. He also offered suggestions and recommendations on measures required to strengthen the party organizationally in every Assembly constituency within the Malkajgiri Parliamentary constituency. He called upon party leaders and workers to take the welfare and development initiatives of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to every household. ""The meeting was attended by Malkajgiri Parliament Coordinator and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, District President Vajresh Yadav, Assembly Coordinators, Constituency In-Charges Mynampally Hanumantha Rao, Bandi Ramesh, Kolan Hanumanth Reddy and others. ""Speaking on the occasion, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy said that, in accordance with the directions of the party high command, the formation of booth agent committees and division committees in the Uppal constituency would be completed on a war footing. He stated that party workers would be actively involved in the SIR process and that the development and welfare initiatives being implemented under Revanth Reddy's leadership would be taken to the people, further strengthening the Congress Party at the grassroots level.

Fertilizers Must Be Sold as Per Government Norms: ADA Karuna Sri



""Khammam Karepalli, May 30 indian Chronicle: ""Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), Wyra Division, Tummalapalli Karuna Sri, has instructed fertilizer, seed, and pesticide dealers to strictly adhere to government regulations while selling agricultural inputs. She warned that strict action would be taken against those violating the rules. ""Speaking at an awareness seminar organized by the

Agriculture Department at the Rythu Vedika in Appaigudem on Saturday, Karuna Sri emphasized that fertilizers must be sold only at government-approved prices. Dealers charging higher prices would face departmental action, she cautioned. ""She also directed dealers to issue bills for every purchase of fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides made by farmers. Dealers were urged to sell only quality agricultural products and extend full cooperation to the farming community. ""Karuna Sri stressed the importance of conducting business transparently in accordance with Agriculture Department guidelines and ensuring that farmers do not face any inconvenience. ""Do Not Burn Crop Residue""During a farmers' awareness program held in Perupalli village, Karuna Sri advised farmers not to burn crop residue. Instead, she suggested incorporating the residue into the soil through ploughing, which helps improve soil fertility and enhances crop yields. ""She also urged all farmers to complete their farmer registration without fail. ""The program was attended by Mandal Agriculture Officer (AO) Bhattu Ashok Kumar, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Munni, fertilizer, seed and pesticide dealers from Singareni Mandal, and local farmers.

Will Strive for the Resolution of Construction Workers' Issues: State Vice President V.S. Prakash Reddy

""Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, May 30: ""Congress Party Labour Cell State Vice President V.S. Prakash Reddy stated that he would make every effort to address the various issues faced by construction workers. A group of construction workers met him and brought several concerns to his attention, highlighting the difficulties they face regarding employment opportunities, wages, implementation of welfare schemes, and protection of labour rights. They requested his support in resolving these issues. ""Speaking on the occasion, V.S. Prakash Reddy said that he would continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of construction workers. He assured them that their legitimate grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities and that he would remain committed to finding suitable solutions. He also emphasized the importance of safeguarding workers' rights and ensuring that they receive the benefits of government welfare schemes. ""The workers expressed their happiness and gratitude over his positive response and assurance of



support. As a mark of respect, they felicitated V.S. Prakash Reddy with a shawl and thanked him for his commitment to their cause. ""Construction workers, representatives of labour unions, and local leaders participated in the programme.

Women’s Empowerment is the Guiding Mission of the Congress Government: MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy



“Geesugonda, May 30 (Indian Chronicle): Affirming that the Congress government is firmly committed to ensuring the economic and social empowerment of women, Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy stated that enabling women to achieve self-reliance and excel in every sphere of life remains one of the government’s foremost objectives. He said the administration is implementing a series of welfare and development initiatives with the ambitious vision of transforming one crore women into millionaires. “As part of the Mahila Shakti Week celebrations, the MLA on Saturday laid foundation stones for the construction of Women’s Collective Buildings in the villages of Elkurthi Haveli, Arepalli, Chandrayyapalli, Gangadevipalli, Konayamakula, Viswanadhapuram, Ukkaal Haveli, Mariyapuram, and Shayampet in Geesugonda Mandal. “Addressing the gathering, Revuri Prakash Reddy said the Congress government is pursuing a people-centric governance model that prioritizes the aspirations and needs of citizens. He emphasized that the government is not only laying a strong foundation for women’s economic empowerment but is also expanding opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods. “The MLA observed that women play a decisive role in the development of both the

state and the nation, adding that women’s self-help groups have emerged as powerful instruments of social transformation. He noted that the Congress government had originally laid the foundation for the self-help group movement and is now taking proactive measures to strengthen and expand it further. “Highlighting the government’s financial support initiatives, he stated that the interest-free loan limit for women’s groups has been enhanced from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, while the government is also bearing the interest burden on bank loans to encourage greater financial participation and enterprise among women. “Revuri Prakash Reddy further said that several initiatives are being implemented to accelerate women’s economic progress, including free bus travel, management opportunities in petrol bunks, solar power generation units, rice mills, Mahila Shakti Super Bazaars, and V-Hub centres. To strengthen women-led enterprises, the government is establishing modern Women’s Collective Buildings at the village level, equipped with facilities for storage, display, value addition, and marketing of products manufactured by women. “The MLA said that the proposed Parkal Women’s Dairy Project is being launched with immense confidence in the capabilities and leadership of women and urged every woman to actively participate in the initiative. He added that under the leadership of Revanth Reddy, the government is according the highest priority to women’s welfare, empowerment, and inclusive development. “Reiterating the government’s vision, he said that strengthening the economic foundation of every family remains a key objective of the Congress administration. He expressed confidence that the Women’s Collective Buildings would emerge as vibrant hubs of economic activity and social progress, significantly contributing to women’s financial independence and community leadership. “He concluded by expressing his hope that women would continue to excel in education, employment, entrepreneurship, governance, and various other fields, becoming role models for future generations and catalysts for societal advancement. “The programme was attended by local public representatives, members of women’s self-help groups, government officials, Congress leaders, party workers, and a large number of villagers.

Khammam Municipal Commissioner Assures Release of Crore Library Cess Funds to District Library Organization



“Khammam May 30 Indian Chronicle: “The Chairman of the Khammam District Library Organization, Mr. M.D. Khader Baba, along with Secretary Mrs. K. Karuna Kumari and office staff members V. Akhil and J. Bhaskar Rao, met the Khammam Municipal Commissioner and submitted a memorandum requesting the release of the pending library cess funds collected within the jurisdiction of the Khammam Municipal Corporation. “During the meeting, they explained that library cess funds are the primary source of revenue for the maintenance and functioning of central, branch, and rural libraries under the District Library Organization. They



emphasized the urgent need to release the pending funds to support library operations, improve reader services, and develop infrastructure facilities. “Responding positively to the request, the Khammam Municipal Commissioner assured that ₹2 crore from the pending library cess funds would soon be transferred to the account of the Khammam District Library Organization. “Expressing happiness over the assurance, District Library Organization Chairman M.D. Khader Baba thanked the Municipal Commissioner for extending support towards the development and strengthening of libraries in the district.

Farmers' Vigilance Key to Controlling Spurious Seeds: Agriculture Officer



“Khammam Enkooru, May 30 Indian Chronicle: “Farmers must remain vigilant while purchasing seeds for the upcoming Kharif season to prevent losses caused by spurious seeds, said Mandal Agriculture Officer (MAO) Narasimha Rao. “Speaking at an awareness pro-

gram held at the Enkuru Mandal Panchayat Office on Saturday, he advised farmers to purchase seeds only from authorized dealers and to obtain a bill for every purchase. He also urged them to carefully verify labels, tags, and expiry dates before buying seeds. “The officer requested farmers to immediately inform Agriculture Department officials if they come across any information regarding the sale or illegal storage of counterfeit seeds. He emphasized that the use of quality seeds is essential for achieving higher crop yields. “Narasimha Rao also advised farmers not to burn crop residues. Instead, they should use waste decomposer solutions to convert agricultural waste into organic matter, which helps improve soil fertility and maintain soil health. “The program was attended by AEO Lahari, Head Constable Rajender, Home Guard Ismail, Panchayat Secretary Krishna, progressive farmer Meda Dharma Rao, Maloth Man Singh, and others.

Vikings PC Crowned CCPL Club League Champions



“Hyderabad, May 30 (Indian Chronicle): Vikings PC emerged as the champions of the CCPL Club League Hyderabad tournament, which was conducted over a period of ten weeks in the city, according to a statement issued on Saturday by Center Court Sports

and Entertainment co-founders Yashwanth Biyyala and Vikranth Rao. In the final held at CrossCourts Sports Club, Vikings PC reg-

istered a commanding 4-0 victory over Penguin PC to lift the championship trophy. Penguin PC secured a place in the final after defeating DRC Sports Foundation 4-2 in the Conference-A final. Meanwhile, Vikings PC qualified for the title clash by drawing 3-3 with Build Crew in the Conference-B final before clinching victory in the game-breaker by a score of 25-22. The league witnessed participation from more than 350 players, including 92 women athletes. Over 220 matches were conducted during the tournament, attracting an audience of more than 8,000 sports enthusiasts, the organizers said.

Limb Saved from Amputation Through Advanced Ilizarov Reconstruction

13 cm Bone Regeneration Successfully Achieved at TRR Ortho & Accident Care Hospital, Khammam



Khammam May 30 Indian Chronicle: “A remarkable limb-salvage surgery that prevented amputation and restored mobility to a patient has been successfully performed at TRR Ortho & Accident Care Hospital, according to renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Thota Lakshman Kumar. “Addressing a press conference at the hospital, Dr. Lakshman Kumar said that the institution was established just one and a half years ago with the vision of providing quality, reliable, and affordable healthcare services. Within this short span, the hospital has earned public trust by successfully managing several rare and highly complex orthopedic cases. “Major Orthopedic Success Stories “Dr. Lakshman Kumar highlighted several challenging cases treated successfully at the hospital: “Srilatha, who suffered a severe crush injury, underwent limb reconstruction using the Ilizarov technique, achieving 12.2 cm limb lengthening and successful limb preservation. “Uday, diagnosed with an infected non-union tibia, was treated successfully through the Ilizarov method, resulting in 6 cm limb lengthening. “Suresh, who had multiple fractures and an infected tibial fracture along with the challenge of a body weight of 130 kg, recovered well after treatment and achieved 8 cm limb lengthening through the Ilizarov procedure. “Prameela, who had been suffering for years from severe valgus deformity and osteoarthritis, regained a normal lifestyle after undergoing Total Knee Replacement (TKR) surgery. “Kuruva, who sustained eight fractures, a jaw fracture, and life-threatening blood loss in a violent assault, made a full recovery following multiple successful surger-

ies and is now living independently. “Radha, a school teacher who suffered 11 fractures, a head injury, and severe blood loss, was successfully treated through a series of surgeries over 20 days and returned to normal life. “Limb Saved from Amputation “One of the most significant achievements involved lorry driver Someswara Rao, who was admitted with severe crush injuries to both legs and extensive soft-tissue damage. His condition was so critical that amputation appeared unavoidable. “However, through 13 months of dedicated treatment using the Ilizarov technique and skin grafting procedures, doctors successfully reconstructed the damaged limb, including 13 cm of bone regeneration, ultimately saving the leg and restoring the patient’s ability to walk. “Team Effort Behind Success “Dr. Lakshman Kumar emphasized that these achievements were the result of collective efforts by the hospital’s doctors, anesthesiologists, nursing staff, physiotherapists, technicians, administrative personnel, housekeeping staff, and security teams. “He expressed gratitude to patients and their families for placing their trust in the hospital, as well as to social workers, public representatives, officials, well-wishers, and the media for their continuous support. “Commitment to Advanced and Affordable Healthcare “Reaffirming the hospital’s commitment to excellence, Dr. Lakshman Kumar stated that TRR Ortho & Accident Care Hospital will continue to provide advanced medical treatment, ethical healthcare practices, compassionate service, and affordable quality care to the people. “He said the hospital aims to achieve many more milestones with the blessings of patients, the dedication of its staff, and the support of the community.

Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta Inspects Uppal–Narapally Flyover Construction Works

“UPPAL , MAY 30 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, IAS, along with Chief Engineer Ashok Reddy, conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing construction works of the Uppal–Narapally Flyover on Saturday. “Officials from SRDP, the flyover construction agency, HMDA, Water Works Department, Traffic Department, Engineering Wing, and Town Planning Department participated in the inspection. “After reviewing the progress of the project, the Zonal Commissioner, Chief Engineer, and project officials instructed the construction agency representatives to strictly adhere to all safety standards during the execution of the works. They also directed officials to ensure that adequate barricading is provided at construction sites and that necessary precautions are taken to prevent inconvenience to the public during the course of the project. “The officials emphasized the importance of



maintaining safety and minimizing disruption to commuters while ensuring the timely completion of the flyover works.

Top Police Officials Inspect Chief Minister’s Tour Venues



“Indian Chronicle, Asifabad, May 30: Ahead of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s visit on June 1st, Komaram Bheem Asifabad District SP Nitika Pant and Adilabad District SP Akhil Mahajan jointly inspected the arrangements being made for the tour on Saturday. “The SPs visited the

proposed venue at Kothaguda in Kothari Gram Panchayat limits of Kerameri Mandal and reviewed the helipad being prepared for the Chief Minister’s arrival. They issued instructions to officials regarding security measures and directed them to ensure foolproof arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents during the visit. “The officers emphasized the need for effective management of vehicle parking, public movement, traffic regulation, and the availability of emergency services. Later, they inspected the arrangements for the Chief Minister’s public meeting to be held near Kagaznagar X-Road in Rebbena Mandal. “Using drone surveillance, the SPs reviewed the meeting venue, parking areas, and the entry and exit routes being arranged for the public. They also held a review meeting with concerned officials on security arrangements, traffic management, and measures to ensure public convenience. “The SPs directed officials of all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the successful conduct of the Chief Minister’s visit and public meeting. Officials from the Police, Revenue, Panchayat Raj, and other departments participated in the inspection.

Congress Leaders Urge Massive Participation in Chief Minister’s Visit

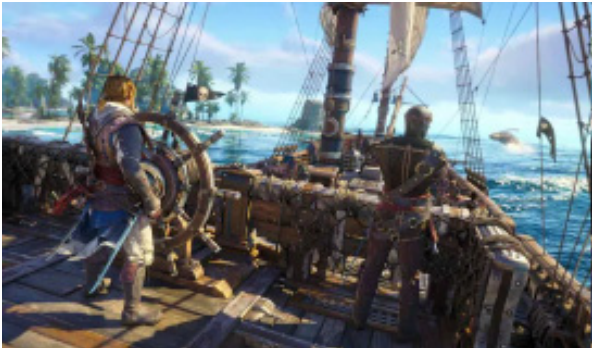
“Indian Chronicle, Asifabad, May 30: District Congress Committee (DCC) President Atram Suguna has appealed to party workers and supporters to ensure the grand success of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s visit to the district on June 1. “Addressing a press conference at the DCC office on Saturday, along with Constituency In-charge Ajmeera Shyam Naik, District Library Organisation Chairman Anil and Market Committee Chairman Mangat, Suguna said that the Chief Minister’s visit marks his first official tour to the district since the formation of the government. “She stated that the Chief Minister is visiting the district with a vision to accelerate the development of the backward Komaram Bheem district. The Congress government, she said, is committed to the welfare and upliftment of weaker and marginalized sections of society, particularly the PVTG communities. “Suguna further explained that several pending development projects in the district would be brought to the Chief Minister’s attention, with efforts being made to secure the necessary funds for their implementation. “As part of the tour, the Chief Min-

ister will inaugurate 28 Indiramma houses at Kollam Kothari village in Kerameri Mandal and interact directly with Kolan tribal community members. Later, a public meeting will be held at 5:00 PM near Kagaznagar X-Road. “She urged Con-



gress leaders, party cadres, and supporters from across the district to participate in large numbers and make the public meeting a grand success. Suguna also expressed confidence that the district would benefit from the second phase of Indiramma housing allocations and the sanctioning of nearly two lakh Aasara pensions.

Black Flag ‘Resynced’: So much more than a remaster or remake?



GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: Assassin’s Creed Black Flag Resynced is a ‘ground-up’ remaster of the 2013 classic that introduced fans worldwide to the life of assassin and pirate Edward Kenway and the open seas of the Caribbean.Offering players a unique experience of naval combat, Black Flag has, over time, emerged as an evergreen favourite for most fans of the franchise.Thus, with a Black Flag remake, both Ubisoft’s and the community’s excitement levels are at an unprecedented high. Such is the company’s confidence in Resynced that, with 2026 marking 40 years for Ubisoft in the gaming industry, this is their only flagship game launching this year.The India Preview Event

I spent three hours with parts of the game on May 17 at Ubisoft’s studios in Pune as part of their preview event. The Indian preview event for Resynced was one of four global events, with the others happening on the same days in Paris, San Francisco, and Singapore.The preview enabled firsthand conversations with studio members who

Promised job, ended up with Rs 128 crore ‘business’: How Delhi man was trapped in GST scam

GNS News Agency, May 30

On January 23, around 4 pm, a government vehicle was circling the labyrinthine lanes of Gokulpuri —a lower middle-class neighbourhood in Northeast Delhi, where localities are a mix of pucca houses and shanties. The car finally pulled up to a modest one-floor house inside gali number 20, and two officers from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) department stepped out to ring the doorbell. It was the house of Ankush (25), who, as per the GST records at that time, owned R K enterprises.

Ankush was at work. But his father Premchand was there, as GST officials told him that his son owed crores in taxes.“The officers told my father that I have a ‘firm’ called R K Enterprises. They told him that I made a ‘turnover’ of Rs 128 crore in just a couple of months, but no GST has been paid by me,” said Ankush.There was one problem though: Ankush had never owned a business.He was a contract-based ‘studio administrator’ with Physics Wallah, a coaching centre, which he joined in December last year. Premchand works for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The only property the family owns is their Gokulpuri home.

“They showed us a NOC signed by my father, which authorised our house to be used as an office. But it was signed in English. He doesn’t know English,” said Ankush over a call with As investigators began probing the case, they asked Ankush if he had ever shared his documents with someone else. He had, he told them, in September 2025, with his childhood friend Puneet.

“Puneet had promised me a job in the GST department. I was unemployed then, and my father was the only earning member in the family. I needed the job,” said Ankush, who lives with his parents and his younger sister.Puneet had asked for copies of his Aadhaar card, PAN card and other identity documents. Trusting him, Ankush handed them over.Police said those documents were allegedly used to register R K Enterprises, a proprietorship firm, without his consent. It was one of hundreds of shell companies allegedly created by a GST fraud network operating out of Delhi’s Daryaganj, involved in a scam estimated at Rs 130 crore.

On March 15, a team led by Sub-Inspector Naveen and Inspector Ramkesh of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), busted the racket and arrested seven people — Raj and his brother Dilip Kumar, Nitin Verma, Aman Kumar, Vibhash Kumar Mitra, Mohd Waseem and Abid. On May 22, the police finally got hold of Puneet, Ankush’s friend, as well.At the centre of the racket, police said, was Raj Kumar Dixit, a 39-year-old broker. ‘Raj had set up an office in Daryaganj, where he used to meet clients, both buyers and sellers. As a lot of business in real estate happens off the books, using cash, he got the idea to execute a GST fraud,’ said a police officer. Inside the ‘scam’

Under India’s GST system, businesses pay tax on goods and services they sell, but can also claim credit for the tax already paid on purchases. This mechanism, known as Input Tax Credit (ITC), is designed to avoid double taxation and forms a key part of the GST framework.

Investigators said the accused allegedly exploited vulnerabilities in this system by creating shell firms using stolen identity documents. These firms appeared legitimate on the GST portal despite existing largely only on paper.

Fake invoices were then allegedly generated showing business transactions that never actually took place. Using these invoices, firms could fraudulently claim ITC benefits or route money through banking channels while making it appear as legitimate business activity.Police said the fraud also exploited the fact that GST registration and invoice generation are largely digital processes that depend heavily on submitted identity documents and self-declared business transactions.“In the current scam, Raj and his associates lured individuals under the pretext of employment — like Ankush — and collected their identity documents for misuse,” Special Commissioner of Police (EOW) Garima Bhatnagar said.The racket, too, had been ‘perfected’ over five years.Since 2020, police said, Nitin and Aman scoured the crowded markets of Daryaganj in search of someone with cash, preferably traders who dealt primarily in paper currency. Meat sellers, they found, were ideal.

“They would identify traders who dealt heavily in cash and arrange cash deliveries to clients who needed unaccounted money converted into seemingly legitimate bank transactions,” a police officer said.According to investigators, a client seeking cash would transfer money into the bank account of a shell firm. In return, associates of the racket would allegedly deliver an equivalent amount of cash — after deducting a commission — sourced from cash-heavy businesses.Police alleged that the shell firms, created using stolen identities, were then used to generate fake GST invoices and show fictitious business transactions, allowing fraudulent ITC claims and helping disguise the movement of money.“Raj Kunar Dixit has lived all his life in Daryaganj, where his mother used to work as a tailor near

played key roles in game and narrative building and quality testing, alongside experiencing a limited early build of the game.

I dipped into the Animus and kicked off Resynced just after 3 PM on a gaming PC, which was connected to a PS5 controller. The game’s early build was far more polished and ready than I expected it to be.Everything from the game’s menus to the cutscenes had received a significant visual overhaul, and at times, even dialogues and interactions had changed from the original.The franchise’s signature parkour and free-running mechanics have been reworked, modernised, and brought in line with AC Shadows’ standards.When I donned my Assassin robes and found my way to Havana, what welcomed me was a gorgeous, bustling city, as everything has been reworked visually - from plants and foliage to structures and cities.More areas of the sea were available for underwater exploration, and gosh, the marine life is spectacularly detailed. I spent some time with the diving bell searching for lost medicine, and the underwater mechanics are fantastic.Similarly, the game’s open world has changed, as islands now have interesting titbits to uncover, and raiding a fort or fighting ships offers more to do than just focus on combat.The stealth mechanics have been modernised, too, as players can crouch with the press of a button, which makes eavesdropping missions so much more fun.Resynced is also notable because of the significant amount of work that the Indian teams have put in alongside Ubisoft Singapore. Having collaborated on other projects earlier, the familiarity shows, and the Indian team has contributed significantly. aspects of level design, the addition of new missions and plot points and designing an entirely new archetype called the ‘demolitionist’.



Ghata Masjid. Police said that to create fake bank accounts, he would often go near masjids in the area, and would convince poor people who lived near it to sell their bank accounts to him for Rs 15,000,” said a police officer.“He took me to the GST office in ITO. There was a lot of rush there. Then he called someone, and a man came and took me out of the line. He then went and sat behind a computer with a webcam, took my fingerprints and photo. It was done in minutes.”

Puneet told Ankush that soon a list would come, with names of candidates who would be getting a job.“I called him twice over the next month, but he kept saying it will happen, it will happen,” said Ankush. “In December I got another job and took it up. I haven’t talked to him since.Ankush remained unaware that all this while, a business was being set up in his name using his documents, by his childhood friend.After he filed a complaint, police lodged a case on March 24.

Joint CP (EOW) Nupur Prasad said, “A case was registered on March 24 at the EOW police station on receiving a complaint regarding fraudulent creation of a proprietorship firm, M/s R K Enterprises, using the identity documents of an unsuspecting individual on the false promise of employment in the GST Department.”According to investigators, the victim’s Aadhaar card, PAN card, electricity bill and biometric verification details were misused to create the firm without his knowledge.Investigators found that transactions worth over Rs 128 crore had been routed through R K Enterprises while fraudulent ITC worth around Rs 10 crore had been claimed.During investigation, officers identified the email ID that R K Enterprises was using, and found that the firm was still ‘live’. “A phone number linked to the email ID was found and traced to Daryaganj. We traced it and found that a man named Mohd Waseem was using it. He had also sold his account to Dixit, which showed transactions of Rs 61 crore,” said a police officer.Police later identified several accused, including Nitin, Waseem and Abid, who allegedly helped provide bank accounts and operational support for the fake GST transactions.Police said Raj Kumar and his brother Dilip were the main operators of the network and had allegedly created nearly 250 shell firms using forged documents.Two other accused, Vibhash and Aman, allegedly managed the registration and operation of these firms using stolen identities.Police said Vibhash, 34, reportedly acted as the group’s ‘accountant’. Originally from Panna, Madhya Pradesh, Vibhash had moved to Delhi in 2021. He had attempted the Chartered Accountancy exam but did not clear it. “In the process, he gained enough knowledge to assist Raj,” said a police officer.On May 22, police also nabbed Puneet and his friend Hemant Mulani, 24, an accountant based in Bhopal.“Puneet used to give ID copies of people to Hemant for Rs 5,000, which he accessed by promising them jobs. Till now, he has stolen the IDs of nine such people. Hemant would then use the IDs to create firms, and use his knowledge of accounts to claim input tax credit,” claimed a police officer.Police also found that many accounts used by Raj showed that money was being paid to the accounts of a man named Ashish Sharma for buying ‘flats’.

Two notices to Ahmedabad school flag ‘discrepancies’

GNS News Agency, May 30

Months after one of its students died in a stabbing incident, a private school, whose management was given back to it recently, here has been served two show-cause notices for ‘discrepancies’ in information it had shared with government authorities.This development comes after advocate general (AG) Kamal Trivedi, on April 28, informed the Gujarat High Court that the state would be withdrawing its December order taking over the school’s management.

In August last year, a Class 10 student, who was enrolled at the school’s Maninagar campus, died after being stabbed by a schoolmate. Following the incident, the school management was issued several show-cause notices. The fresh notices on the minority school, which has two campuses in Haripura (Khokhra) and Maninagar, were issued by the Director, Primary Education and the Gujarat Sec-

How PMC’s ‘Tanker Management Portal’ curbs malpractices of water tanker lobby



PMC staffers at the Pashan tanker filling station using the “Tanker Management Portal” on their cell phonesPMC staffers at the Pashan tanker filling station using the “Tanker Management Portal” on their cell phonesIn a move to curb the malpractices of the “water tanker lobby”, the “Tanker Management Portal”, an OTP based system started by the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) on an experimental basis, is giving good results.Three PMC staffers Bhagvan Nivdekar, Niranjan Chandere, Rameshwar Gundgal, deployed at the PMC’s tanker filling point in the premises of Pashan Water Pumping Station are systematically using the “Tanker Management Portal” on their cell phones since April 2025, ensuring the tankers are properly supplying drinking water to about 150 residential societies in Sus and Mhalunge area. The PMC has about 25 tanker filling stations in different parts of the city, from where drinking water is provided through several tankers, mainly to the residential locations that either do not have water pipelines or face water shortage often.Despite GPS trackers on all these water tankers, there have been multiple complaints of their involvement in water thefts. It was observed instead of supplying drinking water from PMC’s tanker filling points to designated residential societies, the tanker lobby was illegally selling it to other places in “black” and then provided contaminated water lifted from borewells to societies. The registers at the tanker filling stations were not maintained properly.As a solution to this problem, for the first time, the PMC officials got the “Tanker Management Portal” developed with the help of private experts, last year. The Pashan tanker filling station was chosen for the experiment.

Saurabh Sakate, Junion Engineer of PMC’s Water Supply Department said the residential societies in Sus and

Retired Bengaluru teacher loses Rs 24 crore in ‘digital arrest’, bank manager’s tip helps net 6 cyber criminals

GNS News Agency, May 30

A bank manager’s suspicion helped the Karnataka State Cyber Command (KSCC) police arrest six men who reportedly defrauded a retired woman in Bengaluru of Rs 24 crore.The accused were arrested from different locations – N Sivagnanam from Erode, Tamil Nadu; Akkach Mallick in Mumbai; Palak Bhai Patel and Amit Narendra Patel in Ahmedabad; Om Prakash Rajput in New Delhi; and Gaurav Kumar in Bihar. The victim, Laxmi Ramamurthy, 74, is a resident of Shivajinagar in Bengaluru.According to the police, the criminals targeted Ramamurthy after she sold a piece of land for several crores a few months ago. The accused contacted her in January, posing as law enforcement officers, and falsely accused her of involvement in money laundering activities. The suspects threatened her with serious legal consequences and placed her under round-the-clock video surveillance, claiming it to be a part of the “digital arrest” procedure.“The accused had made Ramamurthy transfer money to 23 mule bank accounts in 26 transactions between February 10 and April 24,” said a police officer.The woman, a retired teacher who earlier worked in Dubai, lives alone in an apartment, while her children live abroad. The police said the fraudsters manipulated the victim into believing she would be cleared only after all her finances were verified. To help in the ‘verification’ process, Ramamurthy transferred Rs 24 crore to several accounts in multiple transactions. However, as the demand for more money continued, Ramamurthy approached the bank to pledge 1 kg of gold to avail a loan.Suspecting some-



thing was wrong, the bank manager asked Ramamurthy about the need for the loan, but as she hesitated to share the information, he informed the police.

Later, Ramamurthy approached the police, who investigated the matter and found that the money was being siphoned by cybercriminals.So far, the police have recovered Rs 1.60 crore of the swindled amount from 22 bank accounts, and efforts are underway to recover the remaining amount. During the probe, the police also found that the accused were operating from a 10x10-foot shop in Gurgaon.During the investigation, the police, with the help of the National Cyber Reporting Portal (NCRP), were able to freeze several mule accounts used for laundering the proceeds of crime.

Feces, flies & broken promises inside Chandigarh’s govt animal shelter



GNS News Agency, May 30

As the summer heat beats down on Chandigarh, the basic infrastructure meant to keep these animals alive has completely broken down. At the entrance of the aviary and the canine blocks, their water bowls inside the birds’ and the dogs’ rooms remain empty. Dehydrated, panting animals were left staring at empty metal dishes.The situation in the cat ward was even more alarming. Set up on the first

floor, the room had zero ventilation and no operational exhaust fans, making it piping hot. The air inside was heavy, thick and suffocating, a toxic buildup of pet dander, ammonia, and stuffiness.On questioning the on-duty veterinary doctor about the unlivable conditions, he said, “This wasn’t even a cats’ room to begin with... we have just been using it like one.”Compounding the suffering was a power cut that lasted more than three hours. None of the air coolers worked. With no proper power backup or generator, the animals, many of them sick, injured or recovering, were left struggling in the heat inside concrete rooms.

‘Aggressive’ labels, guesswork medicineOne of the most disturbing issues raised by volunteers was the way animals are being classified and kept inside the shelter. One of the volunteers claimed that the facility does not even have the basic equipment needed for routine blood tests. Due to which, several dogs are allegedly being shifted to isolation or “aggressive” wards without proper tests.According to volunteers, many healthy and friendly street dogs picked up by municipal teams are being kept in overcrowded cages under the label“aggressive.”

ondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSHSEB) on May 14 and 16, respectively. The school has been asked to respond to them by May 25 and 29.Citing the Mumbai Primary Education Rules, 1949 and the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Act, 1972, one of the notices seeks information on the ‘approval from competent authorities’ to run two schools—at Haripura and Maninagar (near Church)—and additional classes. The notices have also sought details of the minority certificate issued to the school and clarity on the trust that manages the school, which “is not clear”.

The documents submitted to the district education officer mentioned ‘The India Financial Association of Seventh Day Adventists’, ‘The Council of Seventh-Day Adventist Educational Institutions’ and ‘Ashlok Education Trust’, one of the notices said.“As per a letter shared by the school on

June 12, 2025, informing students about the admission process for the academic year 2025-26, there are two schools mentioned-Haripura Campus and Maninagar Campus. Whether approval/certificate has been obtained for both these schools? If not, why should legal action not be taken...” it added.

Also, there are ‘discrepancies’ in terms of the school’s location.The management has also been asked to submit details of its ICSE affiliation, allowing it to run classes from IX to XII in Maninagar.The Maninagar campus has more than 10,000 students enrolled in its primary and secondary sections. While the school is affiliated to CISCE for Classes 1 to 12, it also has the state board’s approval to run the science stream for students of Classes 11 and 12.The education department has demanded information on whether any prior approval of the competent authority to run the

India gifts 134 police cabs to Sri Lanka to boost policing and road safety



GNS News Agency, May 30

Colombo: India on Monday handed over 134 police cabs to Sri Lanka in a ceremony held at the Presidential Estate, marking another significant chapter in the “multifaceted development partnership” between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding for the deal was signed in December 2024 during Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disسانayake’s state visit to New Delhi. “Handed over a fleet of 134 single cabs, funded through a grant of

SLR 300 million, to @SL_PoliceMedia in the gracious presence of President @anuradisanaayake,” Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha said in a social media post.

The initiative, undertaken at the request of the Sri Lanka Police, will contribute towards attaining objectives related to road safety, timely help to citizens in distress and maintenance of law and order, he added. The fleet handover marks yet another significant chapter in the multifaceted development partnership between India and Sri Lanka across all major sectors, the Indian mission said in a statement. Along with President Disسانayake, Sri Lanka’s Minister of Public Security, Ananda Wijepala, Deputy Minister Sunil Watagala and Inspector General of Police Priyantha Weerasuriya also attended the handover ceremony. The vehicles are scheduled to be distributed among police stations in the Northern Province, reported newsfirst.lk media portal. Speaking at the handover ceremony, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha reaffirmed India’s commitment to supporting Sri Lanka, noting that similar forms of assistance would continue in the future as part of ongoing bilateral cooperation. In recognition of the contribution, Inspector General of Police Priyantha Weerasooriya presented a commemorative memento to the Indian High Commissioner, the report said.

Microsoft cuts Claude Code access as AI coding costs surge

GNS News Agency, May 30

New Delhi: US-based technology firm Microsoft has begun scaling back access to Anthropic’s Claude Code among its employees and is redirecting engineers towards GitHub Copilot CLI as surging AI usage drives up enterprise computing costs, according to multiple reports. Reports said the technology company had earlier expanded access to Claude Code across thousands of employees, including developers, project managers and designers, to encourage experimentation with AI-assisted coding tools. However, the rapid adoption of the platform is now said to have significantly increased operational expenses. Despite the rollback, Microsoft’s broader partnership with Anthropic remains intact.

The company continues to maintain its multibillion-dollar Foundry agreement, which includes cloud infrastructure support and access to Claude models through Azure services. The development comes as several technology companies grapple with the rising costs associated with large-scale deployment of generative AI tools. In addition, Uber Chief Technology Officer Praveen Neppalli Naga had reportedly said that the company exhausted its entire 2026 budget for AI coding tools within the first four months of the year due to heavy employee usage.

The growing cost burden stems from the token-based pricing structure used by large language models, where



companies are charged based on the volume of text processed and generated by AI systems. Goldman Sachs has estimated that agentic AI systems could drive a massive increase in token usage by 2030 as businesses deploy AI agents at scale across operations. Research firm Gartner projected that while the cost of running advanced AI models may decline significantly over time, enterprise spending on AI could still rise because newer agentic systems require substantially higher token consumption per task. Earlier this month, several leading technology firms — including Meta Platforms, Oracle and Cloudflare — announced job cuts and restructuring measures as part of efforts to accelerate their shift towards artificial intelligence.

‘I am a big, big fan of Prime Minister Modi,’ says Trump

GNS News Agency, May 30

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he loves India and is a big fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a surprise live video call at an event in Delhi. Trump made the surprise call to an event marking the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, where he spoke to the US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, and Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State and the acting National Security Advisor. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar also attended the event.

During the call, the US President was heard saying, “I just want to say hello to everybody. I love the Prime Minister. PM Modi is great; he is my friend.” Addressing the Indian people, Trump said, “I just wanna say you are great. We have never been closer to India, and India can count on me and our country 100 per cent. If they need any help, they know where to call. They call right here. We are doing well. We are setting records. We have a record economy, a record stock market.” Further supporting India, the US President added, “Anything India wants, they will get. I am a big, big fan of Prime Minister Modi.” “It’s an honour to talk and say hello to Prime Minister Modi and let him know I am a big fan,” Trump said before concluding his call. Trump’s remarks came amid Rubio’s four-day visit to India, during which he extended an invitation on behalf of Trump for PM Modi to visit the White House.

The visit by the top US diplomat comes at a significant moment in bilateral ties, as both countries seek to



strengthen economic engagement following months of friction over tariffs and trade policies pursued by Washington. Observers view Rubio’s visit to India as an effort to reinforce confidence in the bilateral relationship and push forward negotiations on a comprehensive trade framework. Addressing a joint media briefing earlier on Sunday with EAM Jaishankar, Rubio expressed optimism about the progress achieved in ongoing negotiations. “We’ve made tremendous progress, and I think we’re going to wind up with a trade agreement between the US and India that is going to be enduring and beneficial to both sides, while remaining sustainable in a way that addresses the national interests that we have,” he said.

BLA claims responsibility for Jaffar Express attack in Quetta



GNS News Agency, May 30

Quetta: The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) on Sunday claimed responsibility for the blast targeting a shuttle of the Jaffar Express in the country’s Balochistan province, local media reported. A statement issued by the BLA’s spokesperson, Jayend Baloch, said that the BLA’s fidayeen unit “Majeed Brigade” carried out the attack. According to the statement, the Army personnel who were travelling by the train were targeted, the Balochistan Post reported.

A shuttle of three bogies connected to Jaffar Express, which was transporting Pakistani military personnel from Quetta Cantt to Quetta Railway Station on the occasion of Eid, was targeted by the attack. According to Haniff Abbasi, Pakistan’s Federal Minister for Railways, the explosion took place near Chaman Phatak when the train was on its route after departing from Quetta Cantt. Three coaches, including the engine, derailed while two bogies were completely overturned, he noted. “Twenty-seven people were killed, and 131 were injured due to the incident. The death toll might in-

crease as some injured personnel are in critical condition,” the report noted. The BLA also issued another statement revealing the identity of the attacker. According to the statement, the attack was carried out by 25-year-old Bilal Shahwani, alias Sain, a member and commander of the suicide unit of the Majeed Brigade. He was a resident of Sariab locality of Shaal area. He joined the Baloch Resistance Movement for Independence in 2020, the statement added. The BLA spokesperson also mentioned that their successful targeting of the Army personnel who were “secretly” moving from Quetta Cantt to the Jafar Express by shuttle train is a testament to the deep penetration of the BLA’s intelligence wing, “Zarab”, and the combat skills of Commander Bilal Shahwani. This decision shows that the Baloch national resistance has now gone beyond the traditional guerrilla method and transformed into a modern military structure where organisational commanders prioritise collective national goals over individual material roles, the spokesperson said.

Rupee rises 35 paise to 95.25 as crude prices ease, equities jump

GNS News Agency, May 30

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 35 paise to close at 95.25 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, registering the third straight session of gain, on optimism that the US and Iran were moving close to a peace deal even though they remained at odds over key issues, including blockades on the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran and US play down hopes for imminent breakthrough in war



NEW DELHI/DUBAI, Iran and the United States played down hopes for an imminent breakthrough in efforts to end their three-month-old war on Monday, with the top U.S. diplomat saying Washington will either “get a good agreement or deal with the country in “another way.” U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters in New Delhi that the U.S. would give diplomacy every chance to succeed before exploring “alternatives”, after President Donald Trump said on Sunday he had told his representatives not to rush into any Iran deal. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

There was a “pretty solid thing on the table in terms of their ability to open up the strait, get the strait (of Hormuz) open, enter into a very real, significant, time-limited ?negotiation on the nuclear matter, and hopefully we can pull it off,” Rubio said. Trump said in a post on Truth Social on Monday the deal will either be “great and meaningful, or there ?will be no deal at all.” Iran’s foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said in a weekly briefing on Monday that a conclusion had been reached on many ?topics, but that does not mean that “we’re close to signing an agreement”. The potential memorandum of understanding contains 14 points and is focused on ending the war and the U.S. naval blockade of the Strait ?of Hormuz, in exchange for Iran taking steps to ensure safe transit through the strategic waterway, he said.

At present the talks are not on the nuclear issue, which will be negotiated over a 60-day period ?if the framework accord is agreed, Baghaei said. Trump has said his key aim in the war is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon with its highly enriched uranium. Tehran has consistently denied it has any plans to do so. A day earlier, Trump wrote on Truth Social that the U.S. blockade on Iranian ships in the Strait of Hormuz would “remain in full force and effect

until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed”. Baghaei said the potential accord contained ?no specific details on management of the strait, through which about a fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied gas flows.

Iran will not charge tolls for ships to pass through the strait, Baghaei said. ?However, he added there would be a cost for services that will be offered, such as navigation and steps to protect the environment, under a protocol to be agreed with Oman, which shares the opposite shore of the ?waterway. Item 1 of 6 A woman holds an Iranian flag near an anti-U.S. billboard depicting U.S. President Donald Trump and the Strait of Hormuz, in Tehran, Iran, The strait has ?been effectively closed since the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran on February 28, with only a trickle of vessels passing through compared with about 125 to 140 daily before the conflict. Its closure has caused a spike in oil prices and triggered an energy crisis, which has driven up costs of fuel, fertiliser and food. Oil prices fell more than 4% to two-week lows on Monday, as optimism grew that the U.S. and Iran were moving closer to a peace deal. The two sides remain at odds on several difficult issues, such as Iran’s nuclear ambitions, Israel’s war in Lebanon with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia and Tehran’s demands ?for the lifting of sanctions and the release of ?tens of billions of dollars of Iranian ?oil revenues frozen in foreign banks. Iran’s central bank chief Abdolnaser Hemmati has travelled to Qatar following talks with a Qatari delegation in Tehran regarding Iran’s frozen funds, Iranian media reported on Monday. Iranian sources had told Reuters that in future stages, “feasible formulas” could be found to resolve the dispute over its highly enriched uranium ?stockpile, including diluting the material under the supervision of the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

TENUOUS CEASEFIRE Trump, whose approval ratings have been hit by the war’s impact on ?U.S. energy prices, and who ?has faced congressional efforts to curb his war powers, has repeatedly played up the prospect of a deal to end the conflict started by the U.S. and Israel. A tenuous ceasefire has held since early April. The president hit back at critics of his handling of the negotiations and his willingness to compromise with Iran. “If I make a deal with Iran, it will be a good and proper one ... So don’t listen to the losers, who are ?critical about something ?they know nothing about,” Trump posted on Sunday. The U.S.-Israeli bombing of Iran killed thousands of people in Iran before it was ?suspended in early April. Israel has also killed thousands more and driven hundreds of thousands from their homes in Lebanon, which it invaded in pursuit of militant group Hezbollah. Iranian strikes on Israel and neighbouring Gulf states have killed dozens.

Oil and LNG tankers exit Hormuz, heading for Pakistan and China

SINGAPORE, Ship-tracking data showed three liquefied natural gas tankers passed through the Strait of Hormuz in recent days, heading to Pakistan, China and India, as well as a supertanker with Iraqi crude for China after being stranded for nearly three months. The U.S.-Israeli war on Iran that began on February 28 has severely curtailed shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world’s oil and ?LNG supply normally flows. The Reuters Power Up newsletter provides everything you need to know about the global energy industry. Sign up here. A HANDFUL OF TANKERS HAVE LEFT THE GULF THIS MONTH

The vessels join a handful of supertankers ?leaving the Gulf this month via a transit route that Iran has ordered ships to use. Last week, three Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) made their way to China and South Korea with 6 million barrels of ?crude. LNG tanker Fuwairit crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Monday and is expected to discharge its cargo in Pakistan on Tuesday, LSEG and Kpler shipping data showed. The vessel, sailing under the Bahamas flag, loaded LNG at Qatar’s Ras Laffan port around March. The LNG tanker Al Rayyan has also passed through the waterway. Carrying a cargo loaded at Ras Laffan, it was last seen in the Gulf on May 22, and is now located outside the strait between Iran and Oman. It is expected to discharge its cargo in China on June 27, LSEG and Kpler data shows. QatarEnergy, which owns Al Rayyan, did not respond immediately to a request for comment outside office hours. A tanker managed by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) also crossed the strait. The Al Hamra was last seen on April 19 east of the strait. It reappeared on



ship-tracking data on May 23 off the coast of India, Kpler data shows. ADNOC did not respond immediately to a ?request for comment. Separately, the VLCC ?Eagle Verona, which exited the ?strait on Saturday, is expected to reach Ningbo port in eastern China on June 12 to discharge its cargo, LSEG and Kpler data showed. The Singaporean-flagged vessel chartered by Unipac, the ?trading arm of Asian refiner Sinopec. The Eagle Verona was among seven ships for which Malaysia had sought permission to transit, two sources had told Reuters. Five of the ships have since exited the waterway while two more remain in the Gulf. Sinopec and Malaysian state shipper MISC, ?which owns the vessel, could not be reached for immediate comment. Before the war began, ?shipping traffic through the strait averaged 125 to 140 daily passages. About 20,000 seafarers remain stranded on hundreds of ships in the Gulf.

Netanyahu admits difficulty influencing Trump decisions on Iran, sources say

JERUSALEM, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told confidants in private conversations that Israel has little ability to influence Donald Trump’s decision-making on Iran as the U.S. president ?negotiates a deal in the nearly three-month-old war, two sources said. Netanyahu’s comments, described to Reuters by two Israeli officials with knowledge of the conversations, come as Israel ?has largely been left out of talks to reach an initial deal to halt a war that began with joint U.S.-Israeli bombardment.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. Both the U.S. and Iran have played down hopes for an imminent breakthrough in talks, and they remain at odds over Iran’s nuclear ambitions, Tehran’s demands for the lifting of sanctions and Israel’s war in Lebanon with Hezbollah militants. Netanyahu is demanding the right to continue operations against perceived threats on all fronts, including Lebanon, a caveat that could derail ?a deal if Iran insists on a complete halt to Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon. NETANYAHU WILL ‘DO WHATEVER I WANT HIM TO DO’, SAYS TRUMP

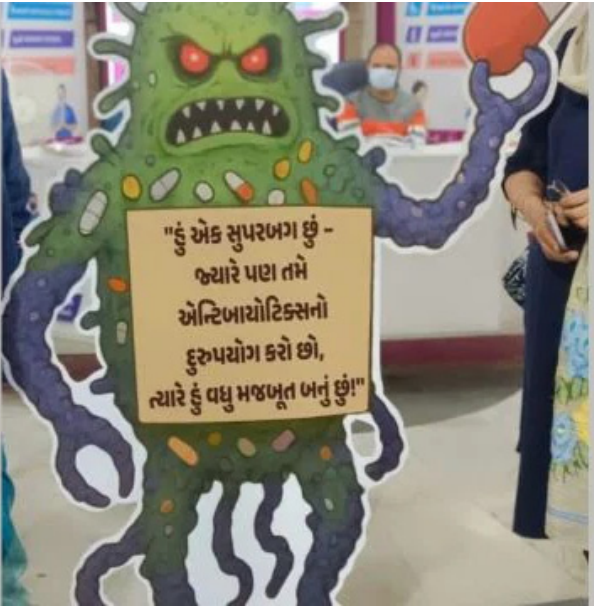
One of the Israeli officials, ?involved in Netanyahu’s private conversations, said the Israeli leader had expressed concerns about the memorandum of understanding currently being negotiated. Both of the sources spoke ?on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. The agreement would see Iran open the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the U.S. lifting its naval blockade, a senior Trump administration official said, followed ?by further negotiations on nuclear issues. The U.S. and Iran have been holding indirect talks mediated by Pakistan. Iranian sources have told Reuters that in future stages, “feasible formulas” could be found to resolve the dispute over its highly enriched uranium stockpile, including diluting the material under the supervision of the U.N. nuclear watchdog. Despite the agreement not immediately addressing Israel’s concerns over Iran’s nuclear programme and stockpile, Netanyahu ac-

knowledges that Israel “has no manoeuvre to influence the president right now,” the Israeli official said. Netanyahu’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump and Netanyahu have spoken by phone at least three times in the last week, a period during which Israeli ?officials said the country had made preparations for a return to joint air strikes with the U.S. on Iran, targeting energy infrastructure. After the first of their three conversations, on Tuesday night, Trump was ?asked by reporters what he told Netanyahu. “He’s a very good man, he’ll do whatever I want him to do,” Trump said. The two men spoke again on Friday night. On Saturday, after Trump held a joint call ?with leaders from ?the Gulf, Turkey and Pakistan to update them on the status of the Iran negotiations, Trump and Netanyahu spoke for a third time.

After that call, Netanyahu, who had yet to publicly comment on any emerging deal with Iran, said in a statement that he and Trump discussed the “memorandum of understanding to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and the upcoming negotiations toward a final agreement on Iran’s nuclear program”. Netanyahu said he and Trump “agreed that any final agreement... means dismantling Iran’s nuclear enrichment sites and removing its enriched nuclear material from its territory”. He also said Trump “reaffirmed Israel’s right to defend itself against threats on ?every front, including Lebanon”. Israel and Hezbollah have continued ?fighting despite an April 16 ceasefire, struck after ?the U.S. and Iran agreed to a broader truce. Israeli troops have remained deployed across a swathe of southern Lebanon and the military has continued to carry out air strikes targeting Hezbollah, while the militants have fired drones towards troops and into northern Israeli towns. NETANYAHU UNDER PRESSURE BEFORE ELECTION The deal’s emergence ?comes at a sensitive time for Netanyahu ahead of a national election he is projected to lose. His opponents have criticised him for having failed to ?achieve his stated objectives in the war. At the start of the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28, Netanyahu said

These initiatives have increased the savings among the women and students. In case of Kalaigarr Women's Rights Grants, the support is provided to needy women, whose income is less than ₹2.5 lakh per annum. This has decreased the number of people below the poverty line and their livelihood has been improved. Similarly, the Pudumai Penn and Tamil Pudalvan scheme have increased college enrolment rates. Apart from this, the Chief Minister has also directed surveys to verify the funds provided through these schemes are utilised for intended purpose. These measures have shown significant, measurable results in improving

Fighting Superbugs: Inside the pushback against rising Antimicrobial Resistance



German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, in his 1888 book ‘Twilight of the Idols’, says “What doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger.” This holds true for pathogens (tiny organisms that can cause disease) as well. What doesn’t kill them, makes them stronger. In August, the Guru Gobind Singh General Hospital in Jamnagar, one of the 19 tertiary care civil hospitals in Gujarat, got a case of a 6-day-old newborn from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of a private hospital with multi-drug resistant bacterial sepsis infection. Doctors immediately ordered a culture sensitivity report of the child’s blood. The results baffled them. The child, who had been in this world for less than a week, had developed resistance to a broad spectrum penicillin, Piperacillin Tazobactam, a third-generation broad-spectrum antibiotic Meropenem and an antifungal medication, Fluconazole, and a last-line drug, to some degree. Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the Jamnagar Civil Hospital Dr Maulik Shah who handled the case, says the child had sepsis caused by drug-resistant bacteria. “We carried out culture sensitivity tests and had to start with the highest possible antibiotics due to massive resistance, and the child managed to survive. But the case of this child is the tip of the iceberg,” says Dr Shah. Experts attribute the rise in antimicrobial resistance to either wrong medication or dosage, over-prescription, lack of course completion, drug use sans culture sensitivity testing and over-the-counter use of antibiotics.

During the AMR Awareness week (November 18-24), an audit was conducted for over 700 prescriptions for infection prevention and control across OPDs at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, the largest hospital in Gujarat servicing three neighbouring states. Of the 708 prescriptions given out, 138 containing at least one antimicrobial drug, were assessed in detail. The evaluation was done according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) AWARe (Access, Watch, Reserve) classification, and adherence to WHO prescribing indicators (on appropriate use). An average of 4.27 medicines were prescribed per patient, with about 79% using generic names. Over 90.15% drugs were drawn from the ‘Essential Medicines’ list. The findings showed majority antimicrobials were prescribed from the WHO ‘Access’ category, indicating relatively rational antimicrobial usage, while ‘Watch’ antibiotics accounted for one-third of prescriptions. ‘Reserve’ antibiotics were used minimally. About 10% of prescriptions were “difficult to interpret” and posed a potential risk for medication errors. The audit concluded that while antimicrobial selection remained largely appropriate, key issues requiring improvement included quality of documentation, clarity of dosing and follow-up instructions. Comparative data shared by Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, which is a nodal centre for national Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) reporting from Gujarat, shows an alarming rise in resistance, which increased in an average range of 10%-20% in just the last two years. The microbiology lab at the hospital conducts 800 to 1,000 culture sensitivity tests per day and it takes an average of 72 hours for results. Comparative data shared by Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, which is a nodal centre for national Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) reporting from Gujarat, shows an alarming rise in resistance, which increased in an average range of 10%-20% in just the last two years.

Explaining how the resistance rises, Dr Maulik Shah says, “If the correct dose is 10 mg and I prescribe 8 mg, on one hand the patient is not going to be cured due to lack of medication to kill the bug, and on the other hand, the pathogen gets the chance to grow resistance to it. If the dose duration is 10 days and the patient stops taking the medication because he feels well after 5 days, this also causes resistance in pathogens. Thirdly, if there are two forms of medication and I use oral instead of the recommended intravenous (IV) delivery mechanism, that too is problematic.” Dr Tushar Patel, a senior critical care intensivist and former President of Ahmedabad Medical Association (AMA), told The Indian Express, “Winter is the season of viral infections. But people self-prescribe antibiotics like Azithromycin to treat viral infections by purchasing them over-the-counter. After a week, the fever returns in some cases and may turn into pneumonia. People also take completely unrelated drugs for gram positive bacterial infection like boils, leading to resistance and sepsis infection. Then, there is an issue of drugs themselves not having enough active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in them. When therapeutic levels are not achieved, it causes resistance.”

Dr Shah said, “We are seeing that in many places, there is no antibiotic policy like in public sector hospitals where we carry out blood cultures to know sensitivity to drugs and then begin relevant drug regimens. It is surprising to many, but we still use Ampicillin (the base Penicillin class of antibiotics) and they work. We only step up the level of drugs only if the need arises, and only based on scientific evidence.” He notes how some medical practitioners use higher antibiotics by “bypassing protocol”. “When we investigated some hospitals, we found certain units directly using higher antibiotics. Over a period of time, pathogens (bugs) become drug-resistant, which is very alarming,” Dr Shah says.

The Gujarat Health Department’s GUJSAR Surveillance Report (July–December 2024) from 22 tertiary level public sector hospitals, found “high resistance levels among key pathogens”. For instance, 41% E coli and 46% Klebsiella spp Isolates were found resistant to Carbapenem. Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) in blood cultures was 45%, while Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE) accounted for 13% of Enterococcus isolates. The report also identified 11 Colistin-resistant XDR isolates, and two Enterococcus isolates resistant to both vancomycin and linezolid, indicating the emergence of highly drug-resistant strains.

The GUJSAR Surveillance Network data was taken

from 14,685 isolated samples which included six government medical colleges, 13 run by the Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society (GMERS) and 3 run by municipal corporations (two in Ahmedabad, one in Surat). This is the first state-scale data accumulated and submitted to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of the Government of India. This network also shares data with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) of the WHO. A Gujarat government AMR report, citing a 2022 statewide study by Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), notes how about 60% of samples tested were resistant to more than one class of antibiotics, and nearly 5% were pan-drug resistant. “The study also revealed that sources of resistant organisms spanned across sectors – 52% from human health, 27% from animal and fisheries sources, and 21% from the environment – underscoring the fact that AMR is not just a hospital or medical issue but a broader health concern,” the report said. This shows that efforts need to be made in all three sectors to make sure that drug resistance does not increase in the ecosystem.

In January, Medical Superintendent at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital Dr Rakesh Joshi put out a mandate that high-level microbials would be “authorised” for resistant infections alone, and would require approval. The need to prescribe them would have to be verified by culture sensitivity tests prior to authorisation for use. These included eight potent drugs including Colistin, with the scope of expanding this rule to four more medications.

Dr Joshi says, “These antimicrobials will be available for use by patients even in the middle of the night but the need for them have to be justified with culture sensitivity tests. Most patients reach a tertiary hospital like ours after getting treatment elsewhere and many of them already have resistance to several lines of treatment. Additionally, this will also help us get AMR data that will help in the effort to curb resistance to these drugs.”

Executive Director of the State Health System Resource Centre of the Gujarat Health department Dr AM Kadri sets an 18-month deadline to train and sensitise district hospitals to contain AMR and create a network of hospitals as part of the State Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (SAPCAR-G), which was initiated in May 2024. Notably, Gujarat became the sixth state in India to develop a dedicated state-level plan for AMR containment. Gujarat is taking a top-down approach in stewardship where it is trying to reduce antibiotic consumption at the tertiary level and then go down to secondary level and then to primary healthcare at the micro level. Dr Kadri said, “Apart from the AMR Stewardship Programme (AMSP) already running in 19 medical colleges and their associated tertiary level civil hospitals, we are also trying to bring in private sector hospitals who are doing it voluntarily. We are using AMR surveillance and culture sensitivity and antibiotic consumption data to get a consolidated picture of the entire state from tertiary care healthcare centres.” In the second phase, the 19 tertiary hospitals will sensitise and mentor district hospitals and then go down to sub-district level. On strengthening of testing labs in new medical colleges in peripheral districts, Dr Sumeeta Soni, Associate Professor of Microbiology at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital and Nodal Officer at GUJSAR, told The Indian Express, “In Phase-2 of the AMR, Superbugs and One Health Project, frontlined by the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), we have added microbiology labs in peripheral medical colleges as testing and surveillance centres for the state. They are being strengthened with equipment, manpower, financial support as well as data validation and verification processes. These new centres have tertiary hospitals in Valsad, Vadnagar, Godhra and Jamnagar. Three other hospitals in Ahmedabad Medicity (the expanded Civil hospital campus) including UNMICRC, IKDRC and GCRI have also been added to the reporting list.” On December 2, the Gujarat health department held a meeting on developing a modular course on training of trainers who can take the Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme (AMSP) down to the lower rungs of healthcare.

Dr Chetna Desai, Head of Department of Pharmacology at BJ Medical College, said the common goal is to reduce AMR and promote responsible use of antimicrobials. “We are currently deciding the course modules for various cohorts, including clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, post-graduate students, and even MBBS students. There are different course plans for all which will be followed by training in their respective institutions. To ensure uniformity, we have made a committee of faculty from various medical colleges,” she said. In the long run, said Dr Kadri, the state hopes that all major private hospitals join in the AMR Stewardship effort so that the AMR patterns can be identified down to the district scale so that even private medical practitioners and general physicians can know the resistance in their field of practice and geographical jurisdiction. For this purpose, the state is also building an AMR dashboard so that data can be seen by government officials and doctors and action can be taken at each level.

Regarding the inclusion of private sector hospitals in the race against AMR, Dr Chetna Desai said, “Currently, most of the larger corporate hospitals already have AMR programmes in place. We are trying to tie up with doctors’ associations and regional medical groups to see how we can rope in general practitioners and spread awareness among them as well.” Dr Mehul Shah, who is also President of the Gujarat State Branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA-GSB), told The Indian Express, “The private sector makes up for 80% of healthcare in Gujarat and unfortunately, the message about AMR hasn’t reached tier-3 cities and towns. We need preventive awareness at the grassroots level among the four pillars including small hospitals, pharmacies, patients and nursing homes. All four stakeholders need to be engaged in their particular niche. Today, we not only need a one-year roadmap but a 10-year strategy on how to make forward on this subject”. He added that a national conference at the end of this year will also have AMR in its core discussion.

GHMC expansion boosts salaries of teachers and staff

Hyderabad: The expansion of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) jurisdiction has become a boon for government school teachers and other government employees, as their monthly salaries are set to increase.

With new boundaries recently coming into effect, government employees are now eligible for a revised House Rent Allowance (HRA) and City Compensatory Allowance (CCA).

Previously, employees working within eight kilometres of the GHMC boundary were given 13 percent HRA. In some peripheral areas, they also received 11 percent HRA.

The political overtones in the a apolitical Nuh padyatra



A convoy of vehicles is led by a DJ-mounted truck blaring a patriotic Bollywood song from the '90s. It makes its way down a dusty, broken road in Punhana sub-division of Nuh, earlier known as Mewat. The song, ‘Mera mulk, mera desh, mera ye vatan,’ (My land; my country; this, my homeland) echoes through the air, shattering decibel limits, as the procession passes through a village. Behind the truck, a large white banner on a makeshift chariot reads ‘Vande Bharat Ekta Yatra’ in red letters, accompanied by pictures of India’s first Home Minister Sardar Patel and local hero Raja Hasan Khan Mewati, who resisted Mughal emperor Babur.

About 100 men, women, and children wearing garlands and waving the tricolour, walk behind the rath, their faces full of enthusiasm. As the padyatra (foot march) passes through a roadside settlement, a motorcyclist stops to inquire about the procession. “Yoh ke se?” (What is this?) he asks in a Mewati accent. A man in the crowd promptly replies, “Bhaichara yatra hai” (It’s a brotherhood march). The motorcyclist nods in approval, “Bhaichara toh acchi baat; bhaichara toh hona chahiye” (Brotherhood is a good thing; there should be brotherhood), before speeding away. The carefully crafted itinerary of the padyatra was planned across 10 days, beginning on November 27 from the historic Shahpur Nangli village, where locals claim people were hanged in 1857 for participating in the First War of Independence. It passed through a dozen Mewat villages, all connected with a history of sacrifices in the revolt. Mewat RTI Manch convenor Rajuddin Meo, the media coordinator for the padyatra, says the march will cover over 200 villages in Nuh, traversing a distance of 150 km.

The convoy continues its journey. The atmosphere is electric with the sound of patriotic songs, chanting, and cheering filling the air as the procession makes its way through the dusty roads of Nuh. As dusk approaches, the procession reaches Godhala village, stopping briefly at several villages along the way, where crowds welcome the padyatris with open arms. As the sun begins to set, the convoy comes to a halt at the village, and a large gathering forms on the roadside. Mukesh Vashisth, the media coordinator of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, steps forward, microphone in hand, and begins his opening remarks. Political overtones

With a charming smile, he says, “Ittefaqan Mewat se pyaar ho gaya hai,” (I have coincidentally fallen in love with Mewat), his words striking an immediate chord with the audience. The crowd erupts into applause, and Vashisth continues, his voice filled with emotion: “You might think that I have come to seek votes. But I have no such intention.” He then quickly brings in a reference to Raja Hasan Khan Mewati, the Muslim Rajput ruler of Mewat, to keep the audience glued. “I belong to Faridabad and have been coming to Mewat for the past couple of years at the behest of the Chief Minister. When I came here three years ago, I had an opportunity to participate in a programme on Raja Hasan Khan Mewati in a college. I read about him. But I was surprised to find that a hero like Hasan Khan, who fought against his own Muslim brother Babar for his motherland, is not being talked about much in Mewat.” A few minutes into his address — invoking Mewat’s culture, a history of patriotism, and a tradition of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood — the speaker subtly changes track to talk about the region’s backwardness and seven decades of political “misrule”. As a teenage boy on the rooftop continues to shower rose petals on him, he says, “A Mewati is so naive that he does not wash his hands for three days if his MLA shakes hands with him. You give so much respect to your political representatives. But what have you got in the return in these years?” Reiterating that he is not here for votes, Vashisth emphasises that he has taken it upon himself to travel 180 km on foot with his friends to awaken the people of Mewat. “I just want to make you think. You voted them to power for 70 years, but they ruined the future of your children. Despite having five Education Ministers from Mewat, it is still waiting for a university. Their children are studying abroad, but there is no place to study for your children,” he stresses, with a few in the crowd mumbling approval. Hope for the Mewatis

Nasir Qureshi, 52, stands amid the crowd near Hajipur Gohta village, garland in hand, eagerly awaiting the padyatra. He isn’t quite sure what to expect, but he knows that his community’s demands will be put forth to Chief Minister Nayab Saini at a rally during the culmination of the padyatra. “Yeh log hamari baat CM ke samne rakheenge. Bachcho ko acchi siksha mile. Yuva ko rojgar mile. Hum to yahi chahate hein,” Qureshi says, voicing the community’s hopes for quality education and employment opportunities for their children and youth.

Standing besides him, Junaid, 32, explains that the purpose of the padyatra is to awaken the youth and shed the stigma of communal violence that had rocked the region two years ago. Retired headmaster Rafeeq Ahmed Alvi echoes this sentiment, alleging that the violence was orchestrated to malign Mewat’s reputation and isolate it from the mainstream, keeping it backward. Mustakim, a local youth, sums up the local sentiment, saying that people had joined the padyatra with hope. He recounts instances where Vashisth had assured the community of government support: upgrading a high school to senior secondary level in Tirwara village, and promising a Khel stadium in another village. “For the locals, he is a representative of the government. And they expect that their demands put forth before him be accepted,” Mustakim says. Meo recalls the initial struggles of the padyatra: “We started with around 150 people on the first day, but by the end of the day only 40-odd people were left. On the third day, when we marched towards the villages in the foothills of Aravalis, starting from Malabh, only 20-odd people joined us.” He chuckles, “We’ve had our ups and downs, but the numbers have grown as more and more people learn about the padyatra and its purpose.”

The organising committee for the padyatra is headed by Jafaruddin Bhagoria, who wrote to the Nuh Deputy Commissioner on November 17, seeking necessary administrative support and arrangements for the smooth conduct of the event. The Deputy Commissioner appointed the Nuh City Magistrate the Nodal Officer for the overall coordination of all activities related to the padyatra. Local youth icon Anjum Aslam, a 25-year-old Supreme Court lawyer, is proud

to be part of the padyatra. She highlights the significant participation of women in the march. “Women in Nuh usually stay away from social and political events but they’ve turned up in large numbers to be part of this procession,” says Aslam, her face beaming with pride.

She recalls a gathering three days ago where over a thousand women attended, showering flowers on the padyatris, preparing food, taking pictures, and giving interviews to the media. “There’s a growing awareness among women about their rights and education and it’s amazing to see,” adds Aslam, secretary, Vande Sardar Ekta Aayojan Samiti, the organising committee. Underlying the significance of the padyatra, Sabila Jung, another woman participant, says that even today, Mewat lacks basic infrastructure: there’s no university, no railway line, no canal water. Additionally, there are long-pending demands, such as extending the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to Nuh near Marora and upgrading Nagina to a sub-division, she says, adding that the padyatra has become a means of bringing these fundamental issues into discussion.

In the afternoon, the padyatra halts outside a village for lunch arranged by the panchayat. In an interaction with the media, Vashisth, emphasises that the padyatra is a social initiative and is completely apolitical.

“A group of young people met me saying that there is a narrative that portrays Mewat negatively, saying people here don’t sing Vande Matram, don’t wave the tricolour, or don’t sing the national anthem,” says Vashisth, pointing at the young men and women surrounding him, all part of the committee who are organising the padyatra. He mentions they asked the youth to fill out Google forms, receiving 287 responses. “We didn’t take support from the police. The administration had offered, but we didn’t want to hold it under the shadow of the police,” he says. All arrangements for food, lodging, and night stays are made by the village or social activists, he claims. Vashisth vehemently denies that the padyatra has a BJP agenda. He says that it aims to shatter myths and promote Mewat’s cultural and historical legacy. “Many industrialists, including Gurgaon Industrial Association president K.K. Gandhi, have also been part of this yatra. It will help the image makeover for this region and also attract investment. All are welcome to the yatra except those who support fanaticism,” he states, adding that the event was kicked off with a Sarv Dharma Sabha.

Praise for the BJPA few minutes into the conversation, Mukesh blames the Congress and the previous political parties for neglecting the region, crediting the BJP government for promoting education and opening colleges. “Manohar Lal during his 10-year tenure as Chief Minister opened the ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes), but there are no jobs because there is no industry. Those who ruled for 70 years never thought about it. There were no colleges offering post-graduation courses before a few institutes introduced it during the Manohar Lal government,” says Vashisth.

He adds that the people of the region were treated as “political slaves” during the previous governments. Addressing a nukkad Sabha (street-corner meeting) Vashisth appeals to the crowd to vote for the party and the candidate that gives them colleges and universities and talks about industry. “Don’t sell your votes for laddoos. Worry about the future of your children,” he proclaims. The padyatra’s “social” label has been met with scepticism by the locals. Imran Khan, a Pinangwan village shopkeeper, says, “It’s a saffron political agenda wrapped up in a social message.” He points out that the inclusion of Vande Mataram and Sardar Patel’s images are clear nods to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and BJP ideologies, while Raja Hasan Khan Mewati’s reference is a calculated move to win over local Meo Muslims and boost the padyatra’s credibility.

Haryana Gau Sewa Aayog’s lone Muslim member Aas Mohammed, a former BJP block-level president, says that the yatra initially faced opposition in some areas with the locals threatening to pelt stones and not allowing it to enter the villages but the situation was brought under control. The padyatra’s organisers had touted big-name attendees, including Union Minister Manohar Lal and Chief Minister Nayab Saini, but both failed to show, fuelling speculation about the event’s lukewarm reception. Some suggest the organisers deliberately avoided a high-profile presence to downplay the event’s political undertones.

Nuh, one of 112 Aspirational Districts identified by the Niti Aayog, remains Haryana’s most backward — struggling with education, health, financial inclusion, agriculture, and basic infrastructure. The district has an over 90% Meo Muslim population and has been a Congress stronghold, with the party sweeping the three Assembly constituencies in the 2024 polls. The Meo Muslims also hold the key to Sohna and Hatina Assembly constituencies in Gurugram and Palwal districts. The BJP’s attempts to break into this stronghold have been unsuccessful, with only a handful of high-profile defections, including Zakir Hussain, Naseem Ahmed, and Aizaz Ahmed, joining the saffron camp. The history of lynching and communal violence hasn’t helped the BJP’s cause in the region.

AI skill demand in India’s CDMO sector jumps 178%: Report

New Delhi: India’s contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) sector is seeing a rapid realignment of hiring toward AI-enabled capabilities, with AI-linked skill demand up 178 per cent over the past two years, a report said on Thursday.

The report from HR solutions provider CIEL HR said the overall sectoral hiring rose 52 per cent from 2023 to 2025, while AI-linked demand climbed from 6.2 per cent to 17.2 per cent in 2025.

The technology and digital roles showed the highest AI demand at nearly 38 per cent. Demand for AI-led skills is expanding beyond traditional technology roles into core functions such as research and development, quality and analytics.

Overall hiring saw the momentum shifting from manufacturing to capability-intensive roles amid sustained capacity expansion and rising complexity in outsourced pharmaceutical programs.

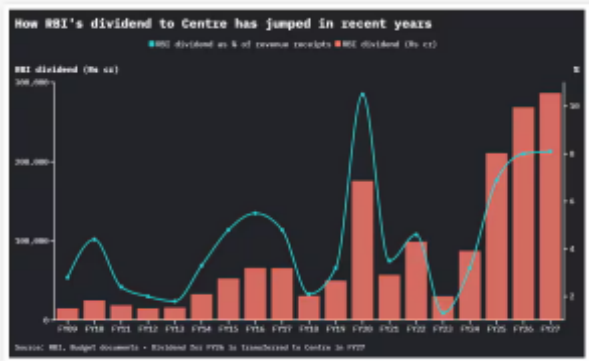
The report said that manufacturing and operations remained the largest single segment with 1,820 roles in 2025. However, these functions showed the slowest growth among role families at about 8 per cent year-on-year.

Hiring momentum is increasingly shifting away from labour intensity toward automation, planning accuracy and quality predictability.

The report flagged a widening execution gap between demand and available talent, particularly in high-value



Reserve Bank of India cut its risk buffer citing macro factors, dividend to Centre rose by Rs 92,000 crore



The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday approved the transfer of a record Rs 2.87 lakh crore to the Centre as surplus — or dividend — for 2025-26. But it would have been much lower had the board not reduced a key risk buffer to 6.5% from 7.5%.The RBI said its board decided to keep the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) at 6.5% of the central bank's balance sheet — which expanded 20.6% in 2025-26 to Rs 91.97 lakh crore — “taking into consideration the current macroeconomic factors, financial performance of the Bank and maintenance of appropriate risk buffers”. According to calculations by The Indian Express, had the CRB been maintained at the 2024-25 level of 7.5%, the dividend to the Centre would have been around Rs 92,000 crore lower at Rs 1.95 lakh crore. When the CRB is lowered, the amount the RBI must transfer to its Contingency Fund — a rainy-day fund meant to meet unexpected and unforeseen contingencies, including depreciation in the value of securities the central bank holds, risks arising out of monetary and exchange rate policy operations, and systemic risks — decreases. This raises the dividend payable to the Centre.

Last year, the RBI had internally reviewed its Economic Capital Framework and the board approved widening the CRB range to 4.5-7.5% of the balance sheet from the 5.5-6.5% recommended in 2019 by an expert committee led by former governor Bimal Jalan. The Economic Capital Framework provides a rule-based system for the provisions the RBI must make against the risks it faces. These provisions are to be made from the revenue it generates in the normal course of its operations and after it has met its expenses. The Contingent Risk Buffer, or CRB, comprises the RBI's provisions to cover any potential risks — be it credit, op-

erational, financial, or related to monetary stability — and is the proportion of the balance sheet that must be set aside as a buffer.Over the years, the RBI's dividend has become an increasingly important source of income for the government and now makes up around 8% of its revenue receipts, up from around 5% a decade ago. And the increase in the dividend due to the lowering of the CRB to 6.5% will be an enormous source of relief to the government whose finances have been stretched by the West Asia war: a rise in the fertiliser subsidy bill, a hit to tax collections because of cuts to the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel, and likely lower dividends from public sector oil marketing companies who are incurring heavy losses. According to Gaura Sengupta, IDFC First Bank's Chief Economist, the West Asia war poses a fiscal slippage risk to the Centre of around Rs 1.6 lakh crore — or 0.4% of GDP — assuming the Rs 10 per litre cut in petrol and diesel excise duty is only for six months. The Centre is targeting a fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP for the current fiscal. This is the first time the RBI's board has ever reduced the CRB and comes after it was raised three years in a row. When the CRB is raised — as it was in 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 — the amount the RBI must transfer to the Contingency Fund increases. This reduces the dividend the Centre gets. In 2024-25, the RBI's balance sheet grew to Rs 76.25 lakh crore; 7.5% of this is equal to Rs 5.72 lakh crore, which was maintained across the various funds of the central bank: the Contingency Fund, Asset Development Fund, capital, and Reserve Fund. These four together make up the RBI's Available Realised Equity (ARE). The ARE divided by the size of the balance sheet is equal to the CRB. Had the RBI retained the CRB for 2024-25 at 6.5% instead of raising it to 7.5%, the dividend to the government would have been higher by Rs 76,000 crore or so at Rs 3.45 lakh crore, calculations show. But with the Centre's finances in a good position last year, there was no need for an outsized dividend. As it is, even after the CRB hike, the dividend was a then record Rs 2.69 lakh crore. Meanwhile, the CRB was raised by 50 basis points each in 2022-23 and 2023-24. This reduced the dividend to the government by Rs 31,724 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 35,239 crore in 2023-24, calculations by The Indian Express show. “With the revival in economic growth in 2022-23, the CRB was increased to 6.00%. As the economy remains robust and resilient, the Board has decided to increase the CRB to 6.50% for 2023-24,” the RBI had said in May 2024.

Heated to 45°C and soaked for 3 days: Inside India's Bullet train track slab factory in Surat

Around 56 kilometers far from Surat in Gujarat, at a 14-acres factory, over 200 workers are manufacturing a part of a track system being used for the first time in the country. Arjun Yadav, a site worker from Uttar Pradesh, slides out his digital depth caliper and fixes it to one side of a 4.5 tonnes track slab — which looks roughly like a double-edged razor blade. The machine reads 191 mm. Relieved, he marks “OK” on its surface. This is the 36,112th number of the track slab manufactured at the Kim, one of the two facilities in Gujarat for the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project. What Yadav measured was the thickness of the track slab, which was prepared after more than 12 hours of the rigorous work. Even a minor error could have marked it redundant. This is what will eventually hold the rail.

The country's high-speed dreams are now being expedited with faster laying of track slabs, which is among the last works before bullet trains will run, as the 48-km Surat-Bilimora stretch of the 508-km project is scheduled to be completed by August 2027. The entire corridor from Ahmedabad to Mumbai is targeted to be made operational by 2029. According to the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd, the government agency behind the implementation of bullet train projects, a total of 2.05 lakh track slabs is required for the entire project. Out of this, 75,473 track slabs have been casted in two units, another one is in Anand, and 35,327 slabs have been laid over track bed on the viaduct.

The track slab is one of the most unique features of the Japanese high speed system, so much so that even the word Shinkansen is derived from it. This is different from the ballasted track system that the Indian Railways uses for its projects. “In Japanese, Shin means new, Kansen means track. It is, quite literally, a new track,” said an official of NHSCR.

The Kim facility is the largest one, which will provide track slabs for Vapi to Vadodara section of the project. It was started in September 2023. Out of the 96,000 slabs, 36,000 have been supplied. Its peak capacity is to cast 120 slabs in a day. Inside the cavernous factory, the Italian bar cutting machine of schnell group runs at a full flow. It cuts 11 types of bars in different dimensions (shape and size) with the smallest one of 4.84 meters and the longest of 106 meters. In one minute, it cuts 30 bars, and in a day it cuts over 10,000 bars. The steel cage for this has arrived from Japan, there cannot be even a millimeter of error. The cage is created with 11 types of bars and then it is put in the Japanese moulds. One cage weighs 300 kg. The spreader bucket moves vertically and horizontally with the concrete aggregate-cement admixture. The four vibrators are deployed in the mould for concrete compaction. The steam pipe from a boiler outside runs down the mould which heats up the concrete for 12 hours at 40-45 degree celsius. Then it is submerged in treated water for three days for curing. A total of 4.5 tonnes of concrete is poured into one slab. After this process, there are a total of nine gauges which are used



to check the properties. There are two pages of a checklist to check 16 items and over 50 points.

Manu Maheshwani, lab incharge and Deputy Manager of IRCON, works at the compressor testing machine. He said the sample for each track slab is collected during the moulding. To check its strength, it should achieve a minimum 50 mpa (megapascal). It is checked two times, first after three days, second after 28 days. Along with this, a cement cube is tested for quality, aggregate test, water test of its PH and TDS. In total more than 30 tests are done to verify that a particular track slab can be used for the Bullet train. He said a particular electrical resistance test is conducted to check that the signals are not passed from the track to the slab. “A 6 volt current is passed through the rail for checking the rail fracture. The current should only pass through the rail, not the slab,” said the man. This is a unique system for high speed rail. Indian Railways does not have it, but the metro performs the same function. Railways only have it in the yard area.

Sanchit Garg, overall incharge and Joint General Manager of IRCON, said 16 engineers came from Japan to give the training. “The factory area, the shed part, is 200 meters. For the lab test, the machines used are Indian made only,” he said. Ravindra Singhal, Senior Track Expert, says three types of machinery have been deployed at the site — Japanese, Italian and Indian. “In Japan, this kind of factory is for 20-30 slab casting in a day. This is a much larger factory than theirs. They have a factory every 20-30 kilometers. Around 1,000 people have been trained for it. They were taught under the 15 courses conducted with JARTS (Japan Railway Technical Service),” said Singhal. Outside the 200 meters main workshop, trucks are lined up to load precast slabs and take it to one of the 13 track construction bases. One of the trucks goes to the Vaktana base, part of Surat-Bilimora section, where slabs are lifted to 23 meters above the ground to be placed on the viaduct. Then comes the role of four key machines — Flash Butt Welding Machine, Rail Feeder Car, Track slab laying Car and Cement Asphalt Mortar injection car; all lined up on the viaduct. They came together to lay a track slab, before the rails could be laid over it.

West Asia crisis will raise fuel costs for common people: Sitharaman

Mumbai: Hours after the fourth hike in pump prices for petrol and diesel in 11 days, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the crisis in West Asia is not just a geopolitical issue, but it will lead to higher fuel costs for the common people. Speaking at the 27th foundation day event of Sidbi here, she said the government is sacrificing Rs 1 lakh crore of revenue by cutting the excise duties on diesel and petrol.

“The West Asia crisis is not only a diplomatic or geopolitical issue. For businesses and common people, it can mean higher fuel cost, delayed cargo, costlier shipping, shortage of inputs, pressure on working capital and uncertainty in export orders,” the finance minister said.

Petrol prices were raised by Rs 2.61 a litre and diesel by Rs 2.71 on Monday, marking the fourth increase in less

than two weeks that extended a delayed pass-through of soaring global crude oil costs triggered by the West Asia conflict. The latest increase brought cumulative hikes since May 15 to nearly Rs 7.50 per litre. She acknowledged that it is a challenge for the small business units to plan for the future, and also added that the crisis, which has been running for over 80 days now is also a challenge for countries, including India. The government's approach is focused on protecting citizens, supporting micro, small and medium enterprises, safeguard exporters and keeping supply chains moving and maintaining economic stability, she said. The minister said the government has taken a series of steps to protect exporters, including the simplification of customs formalities, which ensured that enterprises were able to bring back cargo, reroute them or store and trans-ship the stranded cargo.

Diabetic Sunita Ahuja travels with makhana and khakra: ‘Need to eat every two hours’



Sunita Ahuja, 58, recently said that, as a diabetic, she takes snacks with her whenever she travels. “Since I have diabetes, when I travel, I take makhana or foxnuts, khakra, and some diet chips. Because when I travel by road, it sometimes takes 1-2 hours. As a diabetic, I need to eat every two hours. So, I eat a little bit of these. I don't eat onions and garlic until my temple visit is over,” said Ahuja. Dt Amreen Sheikh, chief diettitian, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, said frequent, smaller meals can help keep blood sugar levels steady, especially for those who experience fluctuations. “Eating every 2 to 3 hours prevents long gaps that may cause sudden spikes or dips. However, this approach isn't the same for everyone. Meal frequency should be adjusted based on a person's medication, lifestyle, and glucose patterns. The focus should be on consistency rather than constant snacking,” said Sheikh. She carries makhana, khakra, and diet chips while travelling. Are these good choices? Makhana

and khakra are smart options. “They're light, easy to portion, and can be low on the glycemic index when made properly. The issue with ‘diet chips’ is that they can be misleading. Even if they're labelled as healthy, they might still have refined ingredients or hidden sodium. The important part is to read labels and control portions. Whole, minimally processed snacks are always safer,” said Sheikh.

What should people with diabetes prioritise while planning travel snacks?

Balance is important. “A good snack should mix complex carbohydrates with protein or healthy fats to slow down glucose release. Options like roasted chana, unsalted nuts, or a small fruit with seeds are good choices. Hydration also matters. Dehydration can impact blood sugar control more than people think,” said Sheikh.

Are there any risks in eating too frequently?

Yes, if it's not managed well. “Constant grazing without portion control can lead to taking in too many calories and unexpected sugar spikes. The goal isn't to eat more often but to eat smarter at regular intervals. Structured eating with mindful portions is more effective than impulsive snacking,” said Sheikh.

One practical tip for managing diabetes on the go?

Plan. “Bring familiar, reliable foods instead of relying on what's available outside. Also, pay attention to how your body reacts what works for one person may not work for another. Managing diabetes is very personal, and being aware is just as important as making food choices,” Sheikh said.

How tigers secretly communicate across forests



Tigers are constantly communicating, not through spoken sounds, but through a system of scent markings, scratches, calls, and behavioural signals invisible to most human eyes. To wildlife experts, these hidden clues form a sophisticated “language” that helps scientists understand tiger movement, territorial dominance, breeding patterns, and even personality traits. According to Indrajit Ghorpade, Founder, Deccan Conservation Foundation, these territorial signs are crucial not only for the animals themselves, but also for conservation efforts. “Territory marking helps scientists and the Forest Department understand range, territory, and tiger movements. Knowledge is key to policy and conservation planning,” Ghorpade explained.

What are the invisible messages tigers leave behind?

Unlike social animals that rely heavily on group interactions, tigers communicate through subtle environmental signals. Their forests function like giant information boards filled with coded warnings and invitations. “Markings establish presence,” said Ghorpade. “Scent and urine, gland secretions, and even calls and oral communication, these combinations convey various messages and moods.” These messages can serve multiple purposes. A dominant tiger may warn rivals to stay away, while a tigress in heat may

‘Father would be happy I wasn’t asking for money’: Saif Ali Khan on success; why financial freedom matters



Saif Ali Khan recently reflected on his decades-long journey in cinema and how success, for him, is closely tied to independence and responsibility. Looking back on his career, which began in 1993, he admitted he feels content with what he has achieved so far. “I'll be happy with what I've got. It's much more than I thought I'd get. My father would be so, so happy that I wasn't asking him for money. He'd be thrilled. It's every dad's dream,” he said in a conversation with Times Now, while speaking about how his late father, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, would have viewed his success.

Saif also spoke about how becoming a father himself changed the way he thinks about achievement and adulthood. “It's my dream. That's the dream, that they are successful, is what I mean. That they are standing on their own feet,” he added, referring to what he hopes for his own children. Saif shares daughter Sara Ali Khan and son Ibrahim Ali Khan with former wife Amrita Singh, both of whom have entered the entertainment industry, while his younger sons, Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan, with wife Kareena Kapoor Khan, are still growing up. His comments draw attention to a broader conversation about parenting, financial independence, and how parents measure their children's success beyond fame or status. Saif's remarks also reflect the emotional shift many parents experience as they move from building their own lives to hoping their children develop resilience, responsibility, and a sense of self-worth.

So why does financial independence often hold such deep emotional significance for parents?

Dr Sakshi Mandhyan, psychologist and founder of Mandhyan Care, tells indianexpress.com, “In my practice, I notice that for most parents, financial independence is emotionally symbolic. It is not only about earning enough money. Rather, it represents the key aspects of emotional maturity and the ability to stand steady in life. Parents feel reassured when they see their child managing adulthood with confidence and self-reliance.” At the same time, Dr Mandhyan says that she has seen families unintentionally make achievement the main source of approval. “When this

happens, children slowly begin believing they are lovable only when they are successful. Psychologically, this creates a sense of performance-based self-worth, which can become emotionally exhausting later on in life.”

She frequently encourages parents to value the person as well as the achievement. “Appreciation for honesty, resilience, kindness, emotional balance, and effort matters deeply, too. Children grow more securely when they know they can go through the continuous cycles of success and failure or struggle, and still remain emotionally valued within the family.”

How emotionally supportive and mature family relationships influence a child

“I observe that children not only listen to what parents say. They absorb how relationships feel around them,” states Dr Mandhyan. When adults handle disagreements with respect and emotional steadiness, the child usually grows up feeling safer internally. She adds that even in separated families, children cope far better when they are not forced to choose sides emotionally. When both parents remain emotionally present and respectful, the child spends less energy worrying about conflict and more energy exploring their own identity and interests. “I also see that emotionally mature homes permit children to think independently. They feel less fearful of disappointing others and more comfortable making career choices that genuinely fit them. Confidence develops quietly in such environments. The child comes to learn that support is available even during mistakes or failure. This emotional security net becomes the foundation for better decision making and stronger self-belief in their later life stages,” concludes Dr Mandhyan.

Gold, silver rise up to 2 pc amid softer dollar and easing crude prices

Mumbai: Gold and silver prices traded higher on Monday, rising up to nearly 2 per cent, supported by a weaker US dollar and softer crude oil prices as investors assessed prospects of progress in US-Iran peace negotiations. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) were trading 0.36 per cent or Rs 566 higher at Rs 1,59,245 at 10:48 am. The yellow metal touched an intraday high of Rs 1,59,500, up 0.51 per cent or Rs 821 from the previous close of Rs 1,58,679. It recorded an intraday low of Rs 1,59,014, reflecting a gain of 0.21 per cent or Rs 335.

‘Want to score 200 in a T20’: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on his next big ambition



GNS News Agency, May 30

Most young cricketers dream of scoring their first T20 century. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is already thinking far beyond that. In a candid chat with former England captain Kevin Pietersen on The Switch, the youngster revealed an ambition that instantly grabbed attention – he wants to score 200 in a T20 innings and break Chris Gayle's iconic record

of 175*. What made the moment memorable wasn't just the scale of the dream, but how casually and confidently he spoke about it. The conversation began with Pietersen asking whether he enjoyed celebrating half-centuries. Sooryavanshi's response was short, almost dismissive. "No, not that much." That single line revealed plenty about his mindset. For him, fifty runs aren't an achievement to celebrate – they're only the beginning. Pietersen then asked whether he preferred batting first or chasing in T20 cricket. Once again, the youngster kept it simple. Even in today's era of explosive batting, a T20 double century still feels almost unimaginable. The highest individual score in men's T20 cricket remains Gayle's unforgettable unbeaten 175 during the 2013 IPL season. Pietersen, clearly amused and impressed by the youngster's attitude, wrapped up the interaction by telling him that sessions like these would help prepare him for achieving such milestones. Meanwhile, Sooryavanshi's IPL franchise strengthened the mood around the camp by securing a place in the IPL 2026 playoffs after a 30-run win over Mumbai Indians on Sunday.

Former MI coach picks his IPL 2026 winners: ‘Most complete side’

GNS News Agency, May 30

Former India all-rounder Robin Singh backed the Gujarat Titans as his favourites to win the IPL title this season, pointing to the side's overall balance in both batting and bowling and highlighted GT's pace attack, particularly the impact of Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj. "If I had to pick one team to lift the IPL trophy from here, it would be the Gujarat Titans. They just look the most complete side in the competition. Their bowling & batting is looking solid. Kagiso Rabada and Siraj have proved to be a lethal combination," Robin wrote on X. If I had to pick one team to lift the IPL trophy from here, it would be Gujarat Titans. @gujarat_titans They just look the most complete side in the competition. Rabada has enjoyed an outstanding season with 24 wickets in 13 matches. The South African quick has consistently delivered breakthroughs for GT, both with the new ball and during the death overs. Siraj, meanwhile, has picked up 17 wickets and has complemented Rabada effectively with the new ball. The pair have regularly troubled opposition batters with their pace and movement, giving GT an edge in crucial phases of matches.

The combination of a stable top order and an in-form pace attack has made Gujarat one of the most balanced sides in the competition. Captain Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan have also been at the centre of GT's batting



success this season. Sudharsan has scored 638 runs in 13 matches and is the leading run-getter of the tournament, heading into the Playoffs. The left-hander has provided consistency at the top while also accelerating when needed, giving GT solid starts in several matches. Gill has matched that consistency closely with 616 runs in 13 games. The GT skipper has led from the front throughout the campaign, playing a key role in building partnerships and controlling innings at the top of the order. GT finished the league phase in second place on the points table with 18 points in 14 matches and will take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in Qualifier 1 in Dharamshala

‘Still India’s most unique T20 batter’: Suryakumar should remain T20I captain, says ex-selector



GNS News Agency, May 30

Suryakumar Yadav has endured a prolonged run of poor T20I form over the last two years, with his aggregates also plummeting in the IPL 2026 season. While he finished his season with a half-century against the Rajasthan Royals in Mumbai on Sunday, Suryakumar only amassed 270 runs in 13 innings, averaging 20.76 this season. Even as he powered India to their third T20 World Cup title as captain in March, Suryakumar the batter has coped intense scrutiny, with calls for his removal as skipper gaining pace through the IPL.

However, former chief national selector MSK Prasad cautioned against a hasty decision in axing Suryakumar. Prasad backed the 35-year-old to rediscover his touch, while also hailing him as the most versatile T20I batter India has produced. "In modern T20 cricket, matches are not won only through technique – they are won through intent, innovation, fearlessness, and the ability to change games within a few overs. That is exactly why Suryakumar Yadav remains one of the most valuable players in India's T20 setup. Even when debates arise around form or consistency, removing

a player like Suryakumar from the Indian T20 side would be a massive mistake," Prasad wrote in a Cricbuzz column. "He is still India's most unique T20 batter.

"There are very few batters in world cricket capable of playing 360-degree cricket as naturally as Suryakumar Yadav. His ability to access unconventional areas of the field makes him nearly impossible to bowl to once he settles," remarked Prasad. Prasad added that India can take the next cycle of the T20 World Cup, starting June, to groom future leaders under Suryakumar. "I feel the selectors and team management should now start grooming the next generation of T20 leaders under Suryakumar's guidance. Players like Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma and Ishan Kishan can be developed as future T20 captains for India." Prasad also reaffirmed Suryakumar's unique strengths as a T20 bat. "Whether it is scoops over fine line, inside-out lofts over cover, or flicks behind square off good-length balls, Suryakumar brings a skillset that very few Indian batters possess."

However, with a dip in form and his characteristic shots failing, questions have been raised over a purported wrist injury Suryakumar affecting his form since last year. Prior to the match against Rajasthan on Sunday, Suryakumar cleared the air and quashed rumours of such concerns. "First of all, I'd like to clear the air a little bit. The people talking about a wrist injury are either pure physios or people who don't understand cricket. Because if I really had a wrist injury or such a problem, then the shots I've been playing in practice and in matches, especially my flick shots, which are completely wrist-based and depend on hand-eye coordination, I wouldn't have been able to play those shots," Suryakumar told the broadcasters. "But I don't want to say much about that because it's not in my control. These are all uncontrollable factors, and I don't pay too much attention to them.

‘Don’t make such statements’: Ex-India batter slams Riyan Parag’s ‘mental toughness’ remark



"I am definitely not fit, I was not supposed to play tonight and not play another game as well, but it was all mental toughness. Jofra [Archer] is hard as a rock, Jaddu bhai has got a couple of niggles but he has got the sword and he should be fine," Parag said during the post-match presentation.

GNS News Agency, May 30

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag faced harsh criticism from former India batter Manoj Tiwary for his comments on his and his teammates' fitness after the crucial win over the Mumbai Indians on Sunday. After RR held fort

at the Wankhede Stadium during a victory that sealed their qualification for the Play-offs, Parag was asked about fitness issues in the camp that have seen him and senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja being in and out of the XI in recent matches. Parag claimed that he was not fit to take the field against MI and endured the rigours of a hot day on the field due to his mental fortitude. "All mental toughness" "I am definitely not fit, I was not supposed to play tonight and not play another game as well, but it was all mental toughness. Jofra [Archer] is hard as a rock, Jaddu bhai has got a couple of niggles but he has got the sword and he should be fine," Parag said during the post-match presentation. Tiwary, however, slammed Parag's statements and questioned why the captain was required to make unclear statements. Last week in Delhi, Parag said that Jadeja was dropped from the XI due to workload management issues. However, batting coach Vikram Rathour would later reveal that the veteran India all-rounder was out of the side due to injury concerns.

"I could not understand what he was trying to say through that statement. Saying that he was injured, and he played through mental toughness, and even before this, he said that Ravindra Jadeja is being rested due to workload management, then the fielding coach is saying something else, so there are a lot of things here," Tiwary said on Cricbuzz. "He can be happy that he has taken the team to the playoffs as a captain. So, enjoy, but while enjoying it, do not make such statements that no one understands," added Tiwary.

Gukesh on criticism from ex-world champions: ‘My performance is way below expectations’



A smile appears on Gukesh's face when he is asked about the relentless criticism being hurled his way by multiple ex-world champions. These are men like Magnus Carlsen, Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov whose words carry immense gravitas in the sport. "Most of the criticism I don't see," says Gukesh with a smile, as Carlsen, one of those who has been unsparing in his assessment of Gukesh's form over the last 18 months, sits a few inches to his left at the pre-tournament press conference of Norway Chess. But then, the 19-year-old offers some blunt self-assessment.

"There is some criticism that I have heard and I think the criticism is fair," says Gukesh. "I have not been performing well in the last 18 months and even I would say

(the same thing.) My performance is way below expectations. They have the right to say what they feel and I have the right to do my job as best as I can." In six months from now, Gukesh will fight another world championship. But as compared to the one he fought in 2024, this 2026 one will be a different challenge. After all, last time around, the teenager was trying to dethrone Ding Liren. Now, he will be defending the crown that rests uneasily on his head.

"There are different mindsets going into both situations. As many people have said, defending a world championship title is more difficult than actually winning it the first time. For sure, there's a lot of expectation and pressure of not wanting to lose the title. But, I think, at the end of the day, the basic thing is to play good chess," he says. Carlsen, speaking later at the press conference, disagrees. Defending a title, Carlsen emphasises, is easier because the world champion just has to play one match while the challenger has to earn his spot after jumping through multiple hoops like the Candidates, the Norwegian World No 1 points out. Kasparov had also suggested that should Sindarov defeat Gukesh in December this year, Carlsen would be tempted to play in the world championship cycle again. "It's not really about me, is it?" Carlsen says. "It's about these two guys. They're so young and really exciting players to watch. It's going to be a fantastic match whatever happens. But whatever happens it's not going to affect me. So I'm just going to follow that world championship as a chess fan."

A bit of Pep Guardiola in every English football game, from Premiership to Sunday leagues

Ten years is too short to be called an era, but Pep Guardiola's decade with English football is an era unto its own. Ten years of stacking trophies, of varied sizes, shapes and values; ten years of building an identity and heritage for a club that had languished in the shadows of the more historic institution in the neighbourhood, and ten years of re-fashioning the ideals and values, methods and style of the English game.

He would be immortalised as the greatest Manchester City manager, as one of the greatest of the league, but his biggest legacy is that he changed the footballing mentality of a stubborn nation that claims to have discovered the game. He found the league in English and left it Guardiola-esque. Precisely for this reason, his time in England can't be fully quantified. To call him a supreme tactician would be to limit his aura to the numerous innovations and inventions he produced with various iterations of City; to belittle the supreme man-manager he was, in how he coaxed his men to buy his unusual theorems, in how he made them function like an orchestra; to disregard the revolutionary he was, in how he burst the physicality myth in England with his short, small and twinkle-toed footballers; to forget the romantic that resides in him, who till the last day didn't instruct his men to tackle or resort to set-piece fixations; to ignore the rebel that rebelled his own ideas; to neglect a generation of managers he mentored.

Manchester City fans holds a sign thanking the coach Pep Guardiola during his last match as a manager during a Premier League match against Aston Villa on Sunday. (AP Photo) Manchester City fans holds a sign thanking the coach Pep Guardiola during his last match as a manager during a Premier League match against Aston Villa on Sunday. (AP Photo) Guardiola is an unrepeatable footballing life, a blend of all the greatest managers that had strived and succeeded on English shores and made it arguably the most competitive in the world. If Alex Ferguson was the colossus team-builder, Arsene Wenger the aesthete, Jurgen Klopp the radical, Jose Mourinho the shape-shifter; Guardiola was all and more, perhaps outdoing them all. He was everything that English football had been in the last ten years; and he would be everything that English football would be in the next decade, from style and tactics to the very length of grass they play on these days.

To pinpoint a singular narrative thread that captures Guardiolismo is difficult. Arguably, it is how he tore up the prevailing concepts of English football and rewrote them. After City finished 15 points adrift of champions Leicester City in the first season under him; the lack of physicality in the midfield was debated and perceived as the biggest stumbling block between him and glory. Next year, he added even shorter players who became champions touching the century mark. He defended the crown next year, and in the next eight years built a dynasty that was as indomitable as Ferguson's. Every team now plays from the back, everyone wants ball-playing defenders, craves for pass-metronomes, demands inverted full-backs, and once-upon-a-time false nines. But when every other manager was busy learning from Guardiola, Guardiola was busy unlearning himself, challenging his core ideas, tweaking and tinkering his



methods to suit the ever evolving game, driven by a quest to think ahead of the pack. The man that sculpted the greatest false nines of all time in Barcelona, Lionel Messi, chiselled the most destructive conventional nines of this milieu, Erling Haaland. The man that installed midfielders at the heart of the team once, then thrust the creativity keys to the men on the wings. He who made goalkeepers with ball control fashionable purchased a classic shot stopper in his end days. Where once he fixated over control and possession, he began to invest in individual quality. He adapted to the English game too, especially in realising the importance of the second ball after the first season.

At the heart of Guardiola is perhaps not a tactician or a romantic, but a student of the game, aware of the game's infinite possibilities, football as a game of chess in hurry. The conduit of ideas on the field, Xavi Hernandez once summed up Guardiola's nature beautifully: "He's a perfectionist. If Pep decided to be a musician, he would be a good musician. If he wanted to be a psychologist, he would be a good psychologist. He is obsessive; he would keep going until he got it right. He demands so much from himself. And that pressure that he puts on himself, those demands are contagious – it spreads to everyone." Perhaps, in the end, the intensity was too much for him to sustain for a decade. It ate away into the pleasures of winning, week in and week out. Perhaps, his departure is just a physical one. He will lurk invisibly in boardrooms and on the playing field through his ideas and methods, from the Premier League to Sunday Leagues. If Guardiola were to watch a game, any game in any tier of the country, he would be surprised at how he can see shades of himself in other managers, in their fundamentals and sensibilities, in how they conduct the play, in how they think about the game. English football would miss Guardiola, but what he embodied would live through a generation of managers he had influenced and groomed. His successor at City, Enzo Maresca, and the man that denied him a fairytale farewell, Mikel Arteta, were his assistants. He managed Bayern Munich's Vincent Kompany, Como's Cesc Fabregas (rated highly), Xabi Alonso and Xavi. Guardiola, thus, is perhaps the closest English football had to Johan Cruyff. And all he required were ten years, an era unto itself, to stamp his greatness in English football, in a way that cannot and will not come again.

Gukesh says playing World Championship at home would be ‘lot of fun’

In little less than a week from now, the window for prospective host cities to bid for hosting the World Chess Championship will shut. And D Gukesh, the boy who will defend his crown from Javokhir Sindarov in November-December, thinks that playing a world championship match on Indian soil would be "a lot of fun." "A World Championship match, if it's in India, it will be super cool," Gukesh said at the pre-tournament press conference on Sunday ahead of the first round of Norway Chess. "It will attract a lot of energy around it. I will be very happy to play a World Championship match in India."

Reports from Tamil Nadu have indicated that the state government is preparing to bid for the upcoming World Championship in six months' time. FIDE has announced that the tentative slot for the 14-game battle royale will be from November 23 to December 17 later this year. Playing a World Championship match at home is treacherous business, one that has made former world champions like Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand balk. Unlike other sports, many elite grandmasters do not believe that there's anything like home advantage when it comes to being in the cauldron of pressure that is a World Championship match. In fact, Carlsen was so opposed to the idea of playing a World Championship match on home soil that he famously forced Stavanger to pull out from bidding for the 2020 World Championship.

"The pressure of playing at home can be almost inhumane. Contrary to most other sports, playing at home for Magnus is absolutely not an advantage," Henrik Carlsen, Magnus's father, had written in a Facebook post in 2019. "A World Championship match is by far the most demand-

ing challenge for a chess player, and if the player at the same time feels the match must be won, the pressure is almost inhumane in the weeks that the match takes place, and before." The man who lost the world champion's throne to Carlsen, Vishy Anand, also revealed recently that he was not happy at having to play the 2013 World Championship in his backyard of Chennai.

But it was at that world championship in Chennai where the ambitions of many of India's current lot were sparked. Gukesh was one of those whose dream of becoming a world champion someday was fuelled by witnessing the 2013 World Championship games from close quarters. At the 2024 World Championship, where Gukesh was crowned the youngest world champion in chess history, India had two cities, New Delhi and Chennai, in the running to host the event before Singapore had prevailed. In his fledgling career, Gukesh has had mixed results at marquee tournaments played in India. At the 2022 Chess Olympiad in Mahabalipuram, Gukesh had shown imperious form but stumbled in the final round against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, a loss which cost India a team gold. At the FIDE World Cup in Goa last year, Gukesh had crashed out in the third round of the tournament after a defeat to Frederik Svane. Gukesh confirms Olympiad participation After enduring 18 months of wretched form since becoming world champion, Gukesh and his team made the decision to withdraw from some classical tournaments this year. Accordingly, some events from the Grand Chess Tour were struck off his calendar. That's why, unlike Vincent Keymer, Praggnanandhaa, Wesley So and Alireza Firouzja, Gukesh was not in Bucharest to play in the Super Chess Classic Romania last week.

Randeep Hooda turned down Aurangzeb role in Chhaava: ‘Too much Hindu-Muslim narrative’



When Chhaava released in 2025, it not only emerged as one of the highest-grossing films of the year but also earned widespread praise for Akshaye Khanna’s powerful portrayal of Aurangzeb. However, before Akshaye came on board, the role was reportedly offered to Randeep Hooda. At the time, Randeep was already dealing with controversies surrounding his film Swatantrya Veer Savarkar and decided against taking up another politically sensitive

project. Explaining his decision, the actor said he “didn’t want to get into the whole Hindu-Muslim thing.” Recently, Randeep opened up about why he turned down Chhaava. “I love Laxman as a director and as a person. He had first approached me for Aurangzeb in Chhaava. At that time, I was extremely underweight and had my head shaved because I had just wrapped shooting for Savarkar and was busy with post-production. I was also dealing with an IP court case. There was already so much Hindu-Muslim narrative surrounding everything that I just didn’t want to go down that road again,” he told Zoom. Randeep Hooda added that his long-standing association with producer Dinesh Vijan played a role in his new collaboration. “I have worked with Dinesh since his first production, Cocktail. I had a small role in that film because, honestly, I needed money to pay for my horses back then. Since then, we have shared a good relationship. I also admire his sensibilities as a producer, and that’s how this new project happened. I am glad to be a part of it,” he said. Randeep Hooda is now set to collaborate with Laxman Utekar on Eetah, a biopic based on legendary Marathi Tamasha artist Vithabai Narayangaonkar. The film will star Shraddha Kapoor in the titular role, while Randeep will reportedly play her romantic interest.

Ranveer Singh banned by film body over Don 3 exit, Farhan Akhtar demands Rs 45 cr damages

The Federation of Western India Come Employees (FWICE) has taken a strong stand against Ranveer Singh for his sudden, unceremonious exit from Farhan Akhtar’s directorial Don 3. The film body has issued a non-cooperation directive against Ranveer, alleging that he failed to respond to their invitation to appear in person and discuss the issue despite three reminders. “On 11th April, Farhan filed a complaint. Three weeks before the unit was to leave for shoot, Ranveer left the movie,” said Ashoke Pandit, Chief Advisor to FWICE, while addressing the media in Mumbai on Monday.

After they invited Farhan and his producing partner Ritesh Sidhwani, of Excel Entertainment to tell their side of the story, Ritesh appeared personally at the FWICE office while Farhan attended the meeting remotely on Zoom since he was in London. “They narrated the full incident for two hours. They also presented all the expenses incurred on pre-production, which are accounted for and audited. These include hotel bookings, location bookings, and overseas travel bookings for over 200 workers. Everything is on paper. Nothing is hearsay,” said Pandit.

All the pre-production expenses add up to Rs 45 crore, which Excel Entertainment has demanded as damages from Ranveer Singh. “Ranveer had signed a contract with Excel Entertainment for three films. The entire recce was in his presence. The inputs for script were made in his presence. A promo was shot with him to announce the film,” underlined Ashoke Pandit. As part of due process, the FWICE then invited Ranveer Singh to appear before them to present his side of the story. However, despite three reminders every 10 days, the actor didn’t respond to their requests. It was only last Saturday, on May 23, that his secretary sent them a mail, arguing that the FWICE doesn’t have the jurisdiction over this matter, so they can’t demand his presence. The secretary also offered to meet them on Ranveer’s behalf. FWICE members further explained why the film body decided to take a strong stand against Ranveer. “When a federation is inviting you to talk, you say it’s not our domain. We know our jurisdiction. It’s a trade union. We don’t appreciate him saying that. We’ve taken a stand in the interest of the producers and the industry,” said Ashoke Pandit. “We’ve decided to send a message to the industry that a superstar is not bigger than the law. We’re issuing a non-cooperation directive until he decides to meet us personally,” said BN Tiwari, FWICE president. “None of our sitting workers across India — including technicians, spotboys, etc — will work with Ranveer Singh,” added Ashok Dubey, General Secretary, FWICE.

“We request all producer bodies to support us because



any actor can leave a project by flatly saying that he doesn’t like the story,” said BN Tiwari. “When a film is stopped suddenly, thousands of workers’ jobs get hampered. It’s a big loss for the producers and the workers. We’ve always maintained a fair balance between the producers and the workers. Tomorrow, if a producer removes a director or a technician at the last minute, we’ll take a similar stand. We should ensure people are not humiliated like this,” added Ashoke Pandit. He confirmed that top actors and producers like Aamir Khan, Siddharth Roy Kapur, and Shibashish Sarkar tried to mediate, but all talks fell through. Pandit further said that since FWICE has over 5000 sitting members and 32 affiliated craft unions, the non-cooperation directive will affect Ranveer Singh’s future projects, including ad films, because all the technicians, workers, and vanity van suppliers are the same. On whether Ranveer still proceed with Jai Mehta’s zombie apocalypse thriller Pralay, backed by Hansal Mehta and Applause Entertainment, Pandit stated, “It’s a producer’s risk. We’ve warned the producers that if they go ahead, it’s going to be their loss. This stand should have ideally been taken by producer bodies.” He further pointed out that nearly five lakh workers are employed in the film industry, stressing that it is “not just about the actors.” “We all respect him. This is not personal. He’s a very important person of the film industry. He’s brought the audience back to the theatres,” said Ashoke Pandit, referring to Ranveer Singh’s blockbuster franchise Dhurandhar, which reportedly earned over Rs 3000 crore worldwide this year. “We celebrate and respect his stardom. But you can’t take a stand of being aloof from the industry,” added Pandit. “Bachche jab kharab ho jate hain, unko sahi karna padta hai,” concluded BN Tiwari.

6: Emotional Hema Malini accepts Dharmendra’s Padma Vibhushan



Padma Awards 2026: President Droupadi Murmu presented the Padma Awards 2026 to the winners during an event held at the Ganatantra Mandap in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on Monday, May 25. The event was attended by Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others.

On the occasion, the President honoured iconic Bollywood actor Dharmendra, who passed away in November 2025, with a posthumous Padma Vibhushan. His second wife, actor-politician Hema Malini, accepted the award on his behalf, appearing visibly emotional. On the Padma Awards’ official website, he was cited as “one of the most versatile and successful actors in the history of the Hindi film industry. Popularly known as the ‘He-Man’ of Bollywood, [He] left an indelible influence through 300 films.” Dharmendra was conferred with the Padma Bhushan in 2012.

BJP MP Hema Malini received the honour awarded to her late husband and legendary actor for his contribution in the field of Arts in the field of arts, legendary Malayalam actor Mammootty, ace playback singer Alka Yagnik, and advertising legend Piyush Pandey (posthumous) were honoured with the Padma Bhushan. While Mammootty and

Alka are yet to get their awards, Piyush Pandey’s wife, Nita Pandey, arrived to receive the Padma Bhushan for him. Actors R Madhavan, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Satish Shah, Murali Mohan, and Rajendra Prasad were also awarded the Padma Shri. Madhavan, however, was not present on the occasion.

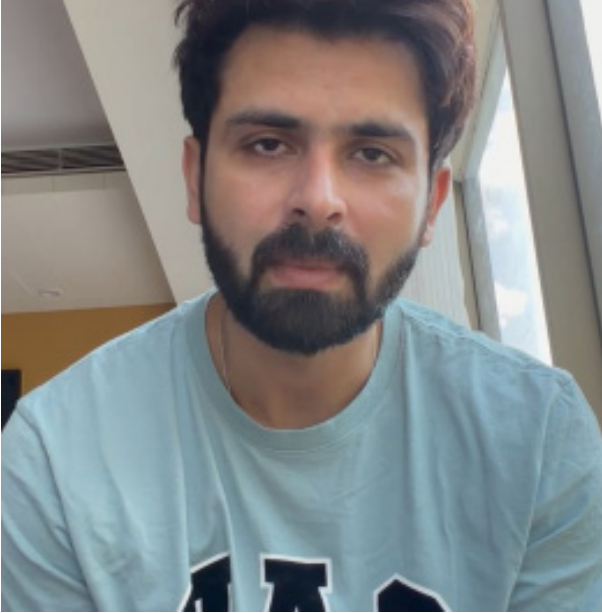
What are the Padma Awards?

The Padma Awards recognise the impeccable contributions made by civilians in various fields, including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, and civil service, among others. In 2026, a total of five persons were awarded the Padma Vibhushan, 13 the Padma Bhushan, and 113 the Padma Shri. During the May 25 ceremony, the President reportedly conferred two Padma Vibhushans, six Padma Bhushans, and 58 Padma Shri awards. The remaining awards will be distributed in the second round of the ceremony to be held later. The awards were announced on the occasion of Republic Day in January.

Karan Johar reacts to David Dhawan’s retirement from films

New Delhi: Filmmaker Karan Johar got emotional after David Dhawan’s retirement announcement and said he had a bittersweet reaction to the news. Dhawan announced his retirement from directing on Saturday at an event in Mumbai. His upcoming directorial “Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai”, which features his son Varun Dhawan alongside Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde, will be his last film. Johar shared a note on his Instagram story on Sunday and said he is a filmmaker responsible for creating an entire genre of films. “Yesterday I went to Davidji’s celebration and he told me this was going to be his last film...

Shoaib Ibrahim’s father suffers brain hemorrhage: ‘Had internal bleeding’



On Saturday, actor Shoaib Ibrahim revealed on social media that his father had suffered a second brain stroke and was hospitalised. Now, in his latest YouTube vlog, the actor shared that his father had suffered a brain haemorrhage and not a stroke. He also opened up about his wife Dipika Kakar undergoing a PET scan after recently being diagnosed with new cysts. Shoaib Ibrahim on his father’s health condition In his vlog posted on Monday, Shoaib said, “As you all know, my father has been hospitalised after he got a stroke. We initially thought it was a stroke, but this time it was a brain hemorrhage. He is not doing well. The last time he had a stroke, there was a blood clot in his brain, which paralyzed him on the left side. But he was talking, and he recovered quickly; however, this time he had a lot of bleeding, and it had spread, causing speech issues for him.”

“There has been an issue on the right side of his body. From what I can sense, his right vision has also been affected. The good thing is his blood pressure is under control. When we admitted him, it was on the higher side. His BP was over 180. Doctors say that it is common to become drowsy when bleeding happens. Papa is not reacting at all. The swelling has reduced, and they will perform a procedure on his brain. They will make a hole in his skull and remove the blood clots so that it doesn’t spread. They are waiting for the swelling to subside. They don’t want to rush with things; they are closely monitoring him for two days. Along with his regular medication, Papa also used to take a blood thinner, which also became an issue. So they have to wait due to this for 3-4 days,” Shoaib added.

An emotional Shoaib also opened up about how difficult it has been for the family to see his father in this condi-

Shwetha Menon says women in power face bias amid AMMA row: ‘I am being cornered’



With a new storm brewing in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), a fear has gripped the Malayalam industry that it might once again be pushed into the turbulent days like those it traversed following the release of the Justice Hema Committee report in 2024, when it was embroiled in shameful controversies. As the war of words continues within the organisation, both its members and the general public are keenly observing to see if a resolution is anywhere in sight. After former AMMA joint secretary Ansiba Hassan levelled serious allegations against fellow actors Tiny Tom and Lakshmi Priya, and also claimed that she received no support from the organisation’s president, actor Shwetha Menon, amid all the turmoil, has reacted to the controversy. Alleging that she’s being “cornered,” Shwetha noted that a few within the association have issues with women in leadership positions. “When a woman is at helm, there is very little respect”

Admitting that there has been a communication gap in certain matters, the actor said the issues would be resolved as soon as possible. She also maintained that despite all this, the general body meeting scheduled for June remains her top priority. “From the very first meeting itself, I realised that people had issues with a woman being in power. We no longer have figures like Mammootty or Mohanlal leading us. Now, when a woman is at the helm, there seems to be very little respect. I’ve managed to survive this long only because I react and fight back. There are issues, and they need to be resolved. We will discuss all of these issues in the general body meeting. Many members are waiting for it,” Shwetha told Manorama News. ‘I am being cornered,’ alleges Shwetha Menon Throwing her weight behind the current executive committee of AMMA, the actor noted that it had done an impressive job ever since it assumed office. “I am not tired of any of this. Every day is a new day for me, and I see it that way,” she added. However, she admitted to feeling isolated in the current scenario. “I feel like I am being cornered. I feel like that is the agenda.” Don’t Miss | Lakshmi and Aishwarya: The iconic mother-daughter duo who appeared as Mammootty’s leading ladies Adding to the sense of internal disconnect, actor Maala Parvathi recently claimed there is a gross miscommunication in the organisation, with members not being informed about key matters. “There is a clear administrative failure within AMMA. We are not being informed about anything. We only come to know that meetings are happening, but there is no proper communication with the members. Earlier, when Edavela Babu was the general secretary, everything was shared via email and updates. That system is completely missing now,” she told

tion. “It’s a difficult time. God is testing us one after the other. I have faith in him, and all your prayers. It will all be well in the end. We are all very emotional. I don’t like seeing him in this state. In the vlogs, you must have seen that we all treated him like a child; we pamper him. But to see him not react at all is very difficult. I have not called my mother to come and see him in the ICU. I don’t want her to see him like this. Saba is with me, and Dipika went to see him once.” Recalling the moments before his father’s health deteriorated, Shoaib said, “This happened on Saturday morning, the previous night we all sat together. Papa saw his IPL match. He saw a new film, woke up at 3:30 am to go to the washroom, but around 8 am, when he woke up, he was in this condition. When I first saw him, he was trying to say something, but his speech was not clear, so I understood this was the case. Then we brought him to the hospital, and learned that he had internal bleeding. I will keep you posted on his health. I have requested that anyone who has gone for Hajj please pray for him and Dipika there. It is very important for us.” Shoaib Ibrahim also spoke about Dipika Kakar’s health condition. He said, “Dipika also has a PET scan today, and we are tense about it. As we told you earlier, the MRI had shown some signs to worry.” In an earlier vlog, Shoaib spoke about her health and said, “As I had mentioned earlier, Dipika has two new lesions. The doctor has asked us to wait for a month before he can operate on them. We followed up with the doctor. A new MRI and blood reports have been done; the reports are not fine. She has a PET Scan scheduled for tomorrow, and based on that, Dr Somnath will tell us the further course of treatment.”

Dipika Kakar was diagnosed with liver cancer last year, the actress has been undergoing treatment for the same. In March this year, she had two new cysts that had occurred, which were also operated on; however, in April, once again, Dipika was diagnosed with two tiny cysts. Talking about it the couple had said, “The cysts are so small that they wouldn’t have been seen in a CT scan, but since MRI is sensitive, they were spotted. They are very small now, so we cannot take any action on them for now. We will repeat this scan after a month. It has become like a routine now; we have to get scans done frequently. We have to keep a close watch; God forbid if anything is seen in the scans, we can immediately treat it, like we did with the cyst recently.” Nawaz Javed Kochra is a seasoned entertainment journalist at The Indian Express Online, bringing nearly a decade of expertise to the forefront of cultural reporting. With a focus on the television and Over-The-Top (OTT) landscapes, he has established himself as a prominent voice in the industry, known for his high-profile celebrity interviews and insightful coverage of the Indian entertainment sector. Experience & Career Nawaz holds a Master of Arts in Communication and Journalism from Mumbai University, providing him with a rigorous academic and ethical foundation. In his 11-year career, he has navigated through several of India’s leading media

Onmanorama.

Reacting to Ansiba Hassan’s allegations against Tiny Tom, Maala said they might not be baseless, as she considers the former to be a smart person. After stepping down as AMMA’s joint secretary, Ansiba claimed that Tiny was the reason behind her resignation. She also accused him of spreading baseless rumours about her interactions with others and even referring to her as a “jihadi.” Tiny refuted the allegations later. “Ansiba is someone I consider smart, bold and honest. So when she says I was called a jihadi, that is a very serious matter. This is no longer something that can be treated as just an internal issue of the organisation. I don’t believe Ansiba would lie, and at the same time, I don’t think Tiny Tom is someone who would attack a woman. But there is clearly a lot of gossip and loose talk surrounding this entire issue,” Maala noted. “Honestly, I feel disappointed because we all supported this committee. This is not personal, but it feels like some people may not have the ability to properly guide an organisation like AMMA,” she added. Reacting to Ansiba Hassan’s allegations, AMMA executive committee member and actor Joy Mathew claimed he did not believe Tiny Tom would make such communal remarks against her. “There are many members who are not mature. Right now, these are allegations. When women raise allegations, people tend to believe them immediately, but we still do not know the truth. If Tiny Tom has faced such an allegation, then he should face it legally.

Adivi Sesh takes a break after non-stop work: Been a really intense few months

Mumbai: Actor Adivi Sesh, who has had a gruelling year due to a demanding shooting schedule for “Dacoit – Ek Prem Katha” and “G2”, has finally hit the pause button as he is all set to jet off for a holiday to the US. Sesh said, “It’s been a really intense few months with back-to-back shoots for Dacoit and G2, and I think this break was absolutely necessary not just physically, but mentally as well. When you’re constantly in the middle of demanding schedules, you don’t always get the time to pause and take it all in.” The actor said the response to “Dacoit” has been incredibly heartening, especially with the film connecting with audiences across both Hindi and Telugu markets. “I wanted to take a moment to celebrate that with the people who matter the most to my family and close friends. And there’s no better way to do that than spending some quality time together. He said that for him, the trip is about “switching off, reflecting, and recharging before I step into the next phase of work.” Post-production on G2 is going to be quite intensive, and I want to go into it with a fresh perspective and renewed energy. Sometimes, taking a step back is just as important as pushing forward. This break is my way of doing that just breathing, being present, and coming back stronger,” he added. Sesh, who was born in Hyderabad and was raised in California, stepped into the world of cinema in 2002 with a small role in “Sontham” starring Aryan Rajesh and Namitha and in 2010 as a lead actor and director with the romance Karma.