



Saraswati Antya Pushkaralu to commence today at Kaleshwaram

BHUPALPALLY: Saraswati Antya Pushkaralu will commence with the first holy dip by Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham pontiff Sri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swami at the Triveni Sangam in Kaleshwaram on Thursday morning. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla is also scheduled to take a holy dip later in the day. Endowment Minister Konda Surekha and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu are overseeing the arrangements at Kaleshwaram. The Health department has set up 10 temporary

medical camps, two 20-bed hospitals and devotees. Signboards and barricades have been installed at dangerous spots along the ghats. Officials said elaborate arrangements, including carpets, pandals, drinking water facilities, tent cities, temporary roads and separate changing rooms for women, have been made for pilgrims. About 245 acres have been earmarked for parking and a one-way traffic system will be implemented from May 21 to June 1. The administration has arranged 90 free shuttle buses from parking areas and bus stands to the Pushkar ghats. Meanwhile, the Warangal Region TGSRTC is operating 3,360 special buses with

5,772 trips from various depots to Kaleshwaram during the festival period, according to state regional manager of the corporation S Bhavani Prasad. Meanwhile, Chief Minister A Revanth

rangements for the event to be held from May 21 to June 1. He directed officials to ensure that pilgrims visiting for holy Pushkar baths do not face any inconvenience and regulate

Reddy called on people to participate in Saraswati Antya Pushkaralu with devotion. He said the government made elaborate ar-



traffic to ensure smooth movement of people. Revanth advised pilgrims to take necessary precautions to protect themselves from heatwave.

and supporters. "Speaking on the occasion, Minister Komatireddy said Rajiv Gandhi was a visionary leader who ushered India into the 21st century and laid the foundation for the growth of the IT and telecom sectors in the country. He

Telangana Govt Hikes Minimum Wages, Bringing Financial Relief to Workers



Hyderabad: The State government has decided to increase minimum wages to workers across Telangana bringing much needed relief for them financially. This was stated by the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy while interacting with media persons here on Thursday. Explaining the decisions taken as per the report of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on the increasing minimum wages of the workers, he said the Government's decision would benefit as many as 1.11 crore workers. "During the BRS regime, as many as 1.11 crore people suffered due to non-fixing of minimum wages for workers. The Cabinet Sub-Committee formed

on minimum wage hike consulted all sections and made key recommendations. It divided the workers into unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and high skilled categories," he explained. To determine the wages of workers, the government has divided the zones into three zones. Zone-1 includes municipal corporations, Zone-2 municipalities and Zone-3 rural areas. In Zone-1, the wages of unskilled workers have been increased from Rs. 12,750 to Rs. 16,000, the wages of semi-skilled workers from Rs. 13,592 to Rs. 17,000, the wages of skilled workers from Rs. 13,772 to Rs. 18,500, and the wages of high skilled workers from Rs. 14,607 to Rs. 20,000.

The decision taken by the government will come into effect from June 1. Welcoming the verdict of the Supreme Court on caste census, Revanth Reddy, "We consider it as an honor that the Supreme Court also supported the Telangana decision. We conducted a caste census along with the population census in Telangana and presented all the details to the people." Telangana has become a model for the country in terms of caste census in the population census. The Modi government should immediately include caste census in the population census and provide a suitable place to the weaker sections in all sectors.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Pays Rich Tributes to Rajiv Gandhi on His Death Anniversary

"Hyderabad: "State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary. "The Minister offered floral tributes to Rajiv Gandhi's portrait at his residence in the Ministers' Quarters in Hyderabad in the



presence of Congress

leaders, party workers

in the country. He

said the technological progress witnessed in India today was a result of the reforms and initiatives introduced during Rajiv Gandhi's leadership. "Describing Rajiv Gandhi as a leader who sacrificed his life for the unity and integrity of the nation, Minister Komatireddy called upon people to work towards fulfilling his ideals and vision for a progressive India.

Kerala MLAs Arrive for Swearing-in on Foot, Bicycle, Vehicles

Thiruvananthapuram: The newly elected MLAs arrived at the Kerala Legislative Assembly for their swearing-in by different modes -- on foot, cycle or vehicle on Thursday. The three BJP MLAs -- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, V Muralidharan and B B Gopakumar -- arrived on foot at the Assembly complex along with their party workers and supporters. They walked to the Assembly after paying floral tributes at

the Martyrs Column in Palayam here.



On the other hand, Congress MLA elect from Puthuppally Chandu Oommen, son of former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy, arrived on a bicycle wearing a shirt with an image of his father on it. Oommen had campaigned on a bicycle

during the Assembly election period. Other MLAs arrived in their respective vehicles. By 9 am, most of the newly elected legislators were seated inside the House ahead of their swearing-in by Pro-tem Speaker G Sudhakaran. The Congress-led UDF won 102 of the 140 seats, while the LDF got 35 and the BJP got 3. The swearing-in of Chief Minister V D Satheesan and the 21-member Cabinet, including him, was held on May 18.

Trump Senate Funding Setback

President Donald Trump on Tuesday forcefully defended his White House ballroom after about \$1 billion in related Secret Service funding was kicked out of a Senate Republican bill over the weekend. Standing in front of the ballroom construction site amid renderings of the project, the president sought to blunt criticism that taxpay-

ers could subsidize the effort, insisting the ballroom itself would be financed entirely through private money and Congress is only being asked to fund related security projects. "This is all my money and donors' money," Trump said. "This is tax free." He added that "Congress is approving money for security. Some of it may go here for additional security. I don't know. But this building, I put up the

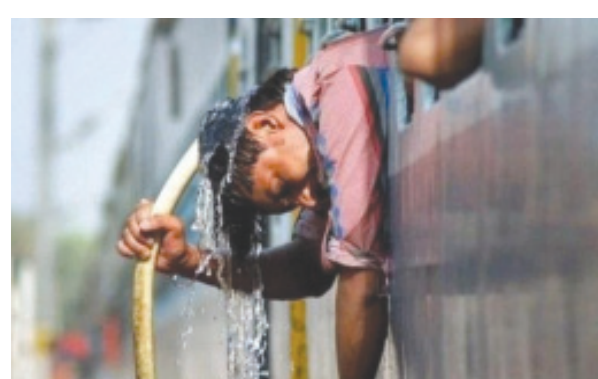
money to build this building. Along with a lot of great patriots." The Senate parliamentarian dealt a blow to the GOP effort when she ruled the provision violated Senate reconciliation rules, complicating Republican plans to

advance the funding without Democratic support. Elizabeth Warren, through the chamber's parliamentarian, struck the entire Secret Service provision because it included funding that fell outside the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee, which included the

language in their portion of the immigration enforcement bill. The administration estimated that approximately \$220 million of the \$1 billion in Secret Service funding would go toward the ballroom project. "All of this is paid for by myself," Trump continued. "We are making a gift. This is a gift. This is not going to be paid for by the taxpayer." On Monday, Semafor reported that Trump pressed Senate Majority



APSDMA Issues Heatwave Warning



Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has issued a severe heatwave warning for several mandals across the state on Monday. Severe heat waves are likely to impact 28 mandals across Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and

Parvathipuram Manyam districts, while heatwave conditions are expected in another 21 mandals. "Severe heat wave and heatwave conditions are likely to prevail in several mandals across the state on Monday," said Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority

(APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain in an official press release. Jain further said maximum temperatures are expected to soar between 42 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius, and districts likely to be hit are Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Palnadu, Markapuram,

NEW YORK: Elon Musk's SpaceX rocketed toward Wall Street on Wednesday, filing plans for what could become the largest initial public offering in history as the company seeks to raise up to \$75 billion on the public markets. If successful, the listing of the rocket and satellite giant would dwarf any IPO in history and cement Musk's status as



one of the most consequential entrepreneurs of his generation. After the IPO, Musk would be the CEO, CTO, and Chairman of the Board, the filing revealed. US media reports say SpaceX is

hoping to raise \$75 billion and win a valuation of as much as \$1.75 trillion when it begins trading as early as next month. The filing of the S-1 prospectus -- a document companies are required to present to the SEC before listing on a public stock exchange, providing potential investors with detailed financial information, possible

Friday, May 22, 2026

Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities

(On the occasion of "International Tea Day" on 21st May)

There is no shortage of tea lovers all over the world. For many, a day does not pass without sipping a cup of tea. The aroma of tea parades through the villages before dawn. Tea is a common drink for hospitality. The day does not begin without hot tea or the taste of tea. Tea is the nectar of everyone, regardless of the rich or poor. When tea is boiled in water and made into a decoction and sugar is added, the rich and rich flavors of tea spread throughout the body, the brain is stimulated, and the nostrils are awakened. There are people who drink tea dozens of times a day. Tea is used to increase one's concentration, to dispel one's sleepiness, to fill one with energy, and to help one fall asleep. Tea has become an integral part of our lifestyle. There are very few people who are not accustomed to tea. To raise awareness about the importance of tea, "International Tea Day" has been observed annually on 21 May since 2020. The theme for International Tea Day 2026 is "Fostering Growth and Inclusion". Similarly, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the theme is "Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities". "World Tea History:" The history of world tea is 5,000 years old. More than 13 million people worldwide derive their livelihood from tea. The credit for introducing tea to India goes to 'Robert Fortune'. Tea, which is a part of the lifestyle of Indians, has also become a weakness. Tea is called 'cha' in Chinese Mandarin. It is also called 'chaye' in party. It is believed that the word 'chai' has come from these. It is called 'sha' in Arabic, 'chaye' in Russian, and 'chai' in Swahili. In many places, it is called 'tea'. We see that drinking tea has become a habit. The leaves of a tree named 'Camellia sinensis' are dried, powdered and boiled in water to make the fragrant drink 'chai'. Tea, which was recorded in China in 59 BC, has spread rapidly around the world. Chinese physician 'Huda Tuo' first mentioned tea in his writings. Drinking tea became a fashion among the Portuguese in the 16th century and the British in the 17th century. Later, during the British colonial rule, tea entered India and became a habit among the people. "Types of tea :“ Chemically, tea powder contains about 3 percent caffeine. Along with caffeine, tea also contains small amounts of polyphenols, theobromine, theophylline, and stimulants called clathrine. The caffeine chemical in tea increases alertness. There are many types of tea. Of these, black, green, oolong, white, dark, and yellow teas are the most important. Regionally, there are also types like matcha, masala, jaggery, Earl Grey, herbal, puer, and flavored teas. It is based on four principles: harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility. "Tea Capital of the World - Assam:" Dibrugarh is called the "Tea City of the World" and Assam is called the "Tea Capital of the World". First bitter, then sweet. Finally, tea provides a taste that lasts in the mouth for a long time. The first Assam Tea Company in India was started in 1839.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

Adilabad Praja Vani pilot report launched, mandal-level rollout planned

Hyderabad: State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Chinnareddy on Tuesday, May 19, launched the pilot project report on the implementation of CM Praja Vani in Adilabad district, announcing that the public grievance redressal programme would be extended to the mandal level in the coming months. Speaking at the launch at Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Praja Bhavan, Chinnareddy, who also serves as the in-charge of CM Praja Vani, said officials and staff must approach petitioners with a positive attitude if the programme was to deliver meaningful outcomes. He said the state



government had already expanded Praja Vani, which was initially held at the state and district levels, to the division level, and that mandal-level sittings were being planned as the next step. "With

a progressive mindset, the roots of problems can be understood and the path to resolution becomes easier," he said, adding that grievances were being addressed with patience under the programme.



Jurala Project desilting works to be taken up by Telangana govt

Hyderabad: Telangana Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar has announced that the desilting of the Priyadarshini Jurala Project (PJP) will be taken up on par with the de-silting of the minor irrigation tanks across the state. Referring to the Jurala Project—where massive silt accumulation has caused the water storage capacity to drop below 8 TMC—he stated that proposals have been submitted to the DRIP (Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project) to facilitate desilting and thereby enhance its water storage capacity. He added that the desilting works to be undertaken under DRIP would not only significantly boost water storage levels but also further improve the safety and maintenance of the reservoir. Similarly, he emphasized that desilting operations in minor irrigation tanks should be carried out prior to the onset of the monsoon season.

Tiger attack near Achampet puts Telangana villagers on edge

Nagarkurnool: A tiger strayed into agricultural land on the outskirts of Achampet mandal late at night and killed a bull belonging to a marginal farmer, triggering widespread fear among residents of Shivaru Thanda hamlet and surrounding areas. The animal entered a field owned by Pathlavath Mothya Naik, attacked livestock tied near the plot and killed a large bull on the spot. It devoured nearly half the carcass before retreating into the adjoining forest, according to villagers. Naik, who depends entirely on farming for his livelihood, said the loss of the bull had caused him financial damage of around Rs 80,000, pushing his family into distress. The incident has left farmers in the area reluctant to venture into their fields, particularly during early morning and late evening hours. Residents questioned what assurance they had that the animal, having attacked livestock, would not turn on humans next, and urged the Forest Department to act swiftly.



Villagers have demanded the installation of protective fencing along agricultural boundaries bordering the forest and increased patrolling in vulnerable areas. They have also called on forest authorities to pay immediate compensation to the affected farmer.

Bajrang Dal protest after Hanuman idol destroyed in Hanamkonda, 21 held



Hyderabad: A Hanuman idol was reportedly destroyed at New Shayampet Circle in Hanamkonda, triggering anger among devotees, following which a large number gathered at the site and staged a sit-in on the main road, causing massive traffic. The situation escalated when members of the Hindutva organisation Bajrang Dal joined the protest demanding the miscreants immediate arrests. As police were called in, the demonstrators were dragged from their spot. At least 21 Bajrang Dal workers have been arrested. A case has been registered.

Mulugu SP warns of strict action against erring mills

MULUGU : Amidst growing unease among farmers over the delay in lifting and transporting their produce, and alleged weighing irregularities at rice mills, Mulugu Superintendent of Police (SP) Sudhir Ramnath Kekan on Monday visited the paddy procurement centre at Jangalapalli and reviewed the ongoing purchase process. He also interacted with the farmers at the centre. Farmers informed the SP that shortage of transport facilities was delaying shifting of paddy to rice mills. They also alleged that excess quantities of paddy were being deducted during weighment at rice mills. The SP assured farmers that the issues would be taken up with the officials concerned and necessary steps would be taken to prevent any injustice. Later, he also visited the Sri Mata Agro Tech Parboiled Rice Mill at Abbapur village, where he reviewed paddy storage facilities, processing methods, daily procurement capacity and quality assessment procedures. He also examined the weighment system at the mill. The SP directed the management to ensure transparent procurement and warned that strict action would be taken if irregularities in weighment were found.

Second phase of Indiramma houses, new pensions from June 2: Minister

Hyderabad: Telangana Labour and Mines Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy on Tuesday, May 19, announced that the second phase of Indiramma house distribution and fresh pension sanctions will begin from June 2, while also laying foundation stones for development works worth several crore rupees across Patancheru constituency in Sangareddy district. Speaking after laying the foundation stone for road works worth Rs 8.30 crore from Patancheru to Bhanur village, the minister said 3,500 Indiramma houses have been sanctioned for each Assembly constituency and that allotments were being made strictly to genuine beneficiaries. Taking a dig at the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, Venkatswamy alleged it had misled people with its



double-bedroom housing scheme, and said the Congress government was delivering on its promise of home ownership for the poor. He said the Indiramma housing scheme draws inspiration from former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's "Garibi Hatao" vision. On welfare measures, the minister said ration cards were being issued to all eligible families and that many deserving individuals

who had been waiting for pensions would receive them from June 2. He also assured residents that narrow roads in the Patancheru area would be widened, adding that discussions with the Roads and Buildings Department secretary would be held to initiate the expansion works. On the occasion, Venkat swamy unveiled a portrait of former Chief Minister T Anjaiah and paid floral tributes. He also recalled the contributions of Indira Gandhi during her tenure as Medak Lok Sabha member, saying her efforts led to the establishment of the Visakh factory in Medak district and several central government institutions in the region.



Hyderabad Voice

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Meerpet police arrest pseudo cop gang for extortion

Hyderabad: The Meerpet police on Tuesday arrested a six-member gang of pseudo policemen, who were allegedly extorting money from people. The arrested are Aeka Sandeep Kumar (26), Devara Shetti Girish (35), Beeram Shiva Reddy (24), Rakesh Singh (30), Gantala Sai Ram Reddy (24) and Kakarla Pavan Sai (24). One of their associates, Anand, is absconding. "The seven persons formed a gang and stopped a lorry loaded with rice."



Grand Telangana State Formation Day Celebrations at Parade Grounds on June 2

Hyderabad: The state government will celebrate the Telangana Formation Day in a grand manner at the Parade Ground, Secunderabad on June 2, with elaborate arrangements being made by various departments for the ceremony. Senior officials reviewed the preparations during a meeting held at the Secretariat on Tuesday. Special chief secretary, roads and buildings, Vikas Raj directed officials to ensure flawless arrangements. He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would first visit Gun Park on the day and pay tributes to Telangana martyrs at the Martyrs' Memorial before participating in the main official function at Parade Ground. During the review meeting, officials discussed arrangements to be made at Parade Ground and Gun Park. Vikas Raj instructed every department to appoint a nodal officer to ensure coordination among various agencies for smooth conduct of the programme. He directed the police department to make security arrangements along the routes to be used by dignitaries and ensure traffic management and parking facilities at Parade Ground. Officials were asked to prepare a detailed traffic route map and take measures to avoid traffic congestion in and around the venue. The roads and buildings department was instructed to arrange waterproof shamanias and barricading at the venue in view of possible weather conditions. Civic authorities were directed to ensure sanitation works, cleanliness and drinking water facilities at the venue and surrounding areas. To create a festive atmosphere, the cultural department was asked to organise performances by artistes. Power department officials were instructed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, arrange generators and illuminate prominent locations in the city, including the Assembly, Secretariat, Charminar, Praja Bhavan and other government offices with decorative lighting. The information and public relations department was directed to make arrangements for live telecast and wide publicity of the Formation Day celebrations. Officials of all departments were asked to work in coordination to ensure successful conduct of the programme. Vikas Raj also instructed all departments to begin joint rehearsals at Parade Ground from May 25. The meeting was attended by special chief secretary Navin Mittal, home secretary Shikha Goel, DG (law and order) Mahesh Bhagwat, ADG (Intelligence) Vijay Kumar, TGGenco CMD S. Harish, I&PR special commissioner G. Mukunda Reddy, HMWS&SB MD K. Ashok Reddy, senior police officials and representatives of various departments.

B.Tech Student Held for Raping Classmate in Ibrahimpatnam

Hyderabad: The Ibrahimpatnam police arrested a B.Tech student for raping his classmate in his house in a drunken condition. The student hailing from Choutuppal in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district was pursuing B.tech third year from a college in Rangareddy district. He along with his classmate came to Dilsukhnagar to drink tea on May 14. While returning, he purchased liquor and consumed it at a secluded place on BDL Road. He also forced his classmate to consume liquor. As the girl was in an intoxicated condition, the student took her to his room in Ibrahimpatnam and violated her. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim, the police booked a case under relevant provisions of BNS and arrested the accused on Monday.

Sridhar Babu and Vakiti Srihari Attend Hyderabad's One of Its Kind Celebrity Singers Antakshari, Tara Rum Pum

Hyderabad: Music, entertainment, and nostalgia came together in spectacular fashion as AIRO successfully organised VAA The OG's "Tara Rum Pum - Celebrity Singers Antakshari" at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. The much-awaited event witnessed an overwhelming response from music lovers and entertainment enthusiasts, who gathered in large numbers to enjoy an evening filled with melodies, laughter, and high-energy performances. Presented as a unique "Battle of the Bards", the event featured celebrity singers and performers engaging in an entertaining Antakshari competition that kept the audience captivated throughout the evening. From evergreen classics to chartbuster hits, the performers showcased their musical talent and stage presence, creating a vibrant and electrifying atmosphere inside the stadium. The audience enthusiastically participated by singing along, cheering for their favourite teams, and enjoying the nostalgic musical journey curated during the event. The lively performances, spontaneous musical exchanges, and engaging interactions made "Tara Rum Pum" a memorable entertainment spectacle for attendees of all age groups.



Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pradeep Kondiparthi, Organiser - AIRO, said, "We are delighted with the tremendous response received for 'Tara Rum Pum'. The event was envisioned as a celebration of music, entertainment, and togetherness, and it is heartening to see audiences thoroughly enjoying every moment of the evening. We thank all the performers, partners, and attendees for making this event a grand success." Dr. Neelima Vemula, Director - Visionary Achievers Alliance, said, "The energy and enthusiasm witnessed at the event were truly phenomenal. 'Tara Rum Pum' successfully brought together people from different walks of life through the uni-

versal language of music. We are happy to be associated with such a vibrant and entertaining initiative." Organisers expressed happiness over the grand success of the event and thanked the audience, participants, partners, and supporters for making the evening a huge success. The event was creatively curated by The Station, which added a distinctive entertainment experience through seamless execution and engaging presentation. With its successful debut, "Tara Rum Pum - Celebrity Singers Antakshari" has set a new benchmark for live musical entertainment events in Hyderabad, leaving audiences eagerly looking forward to future editions.

Telangana gig workers thank Governor for signing welfare Bill, raise concerns



Hyderabad: A delegation of gig workers led by Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' Union (TGPWU) president Shaik Salauddin met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday, May 19, thanking

him for signing the Gig Workers Bill and raising concerns about conditions facing the state's over four lakh platform workers. The union representatives expressed gratitude to the Governor for assenting to the bill, say-

ing it would play a crucial role in securing the rights, welfare and social security of gig and platform workers. The Governor, in turn, appreciated the union's work and assured the delegation of his full support.

SIT probes social media posts alleging influence over Telangana HC judge

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, VC Sajjanar, has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe a case involving social media posts that claimed Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar was influencing a High Court judge. The SIT will conduct the investigation under the supervision of Joint CP (Law & Order) N Swetha. The complaint was initially lodged with the Charminar police by High Court registrar B S Chiranjeevi, following the circulation of what he described as "concocted news" on social media. The case was subsequently transferred and re-registered with the Hyderabad Cybercrime Police for further investigation. According to the complaint, the social media post alleged that Bandi Sanjay was using various means to protect his son, Bandi Sai Bhageerath, and attempting to influence the police, mainstream media and social media. It further alleged that he was attempting to influence Justice T Madhavi Devi, a senior vacation judge of the Telangana High Court, by helping a close family member advance in their career if anticipatory bail was granted to his son in a POCSO case. Police registered a case under Sections 353(1)(c), 353(2) and 267 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched an investigation. In connection with the case, the police have reportedly apprehended a person.

Water board GM worth Rs100-cr



Hyderabad: Sleuths of the Anti-corruption Bureau have arrested Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewer-

age Board General Manager S L Kumar in a disproportionate asset case, following raids. Local Job Listings

Kumar has been working as GM of the Red Hills division. During the raids, ACB officials unearthed disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 100 crore, including farmlands, villas and gold ornaments. Officials said: "Kumar is working as the GM of the Red Hills division. An excessive assets case has been registered against him. In this connection, ACB officials conducted raids at Kumar's residence in Mallapur, Secunderabad. During these raids, officials identified that he possessed assets worth Rs.100 crore. Apart from Kumar's residence, searches were also conducted at the houses of his relatives." During the searches, officials were shocked to see illegal assets at Kumar's house. Officials seized Rs.1.10 crore in cash, around one kilogram of gold ornaments and 2.5 kg silver from his residence. They identified that he owns 3 flats in a gated community in Hyderabad, six open plots and owns three acres of land in Nizamabad.

Telangana sets May 31 deadline for new staff health scheme data

Hyderabad: The Telangana government on Tuesday, May 19, directed all state departments and drawing and disbursing officers (DDO) to collect and upload comprehensive health data of government employees, pensioners and their dependents by May 31 as part of efforts to roll out a new Employees Health Scheme through an exclusive Employee Health Care Trust (EHCT). The Finance Department, in a memo, asked all Secretariat departments, heads of departments, pension sanctioning authorities and DDOs to upload the data through their Integrated Financial Management Information System-Human Resources (IFMIS-HR) module logins before the deadline. The data to be collected covers government employees, pensioners and their family members and dependents, the memo said. Administrative departments have been asked to closely monitor the data collection process and ensure accurate and timely uploads within the stipulated period. The move follows a government order for the formation of the EHCT, which will oversee implementation of the new health scheme, including the issuance of health cards, and a meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary on May 14.

Hit-and-Run Incident: Woman Killed, 2 Injured in Kamareddy

Hyderabad: In a hit and run incident, a woman died while her husband and son escaped with injuries after the motorcycle on which they were travelling was hit by an unknown vehicle at NH-161 in Begumpur village in Kamareddy district. The deceased has been identified as Reshma. The police rushed the injured to a nearby hospital where the doctors kept them under observation.

Revanth Reddy Asks MLAs to Fast-Track Land Acquisition for Palamuru Project



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Tuesday instructed MLAs from Mahbubnagar district to complete land acquisition process for the Palamuru-Ranga

reddy lift irrigation project on a war footing. Participating in a meeting with district Ministers and MLAs at MCR HRD, he made several key suggestions regarding the irrigation projects of erstwhile Mahbubnagar district. He ordered that land acquisition for other projects in the district be completed as soon as possible. Revanth Reddy said he will ensure that payments were made immediately without any delay for acquiring land for the project and clarified that the government is ready to pay the pending bills for other projects in the district. The Chief Minister asked the district ministers to hold a review with officials concerned on the irrigation projects in the district and monitor the progress of the projects from time to time.



Telangana Rising 2047

State Aiming for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Future, Says Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said the state government was working towards building a sustainable, inclusive and environmentally responsible future in line with Telangana Rising – 2047 vision. He was speaking at two-day national review meeting on 'Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0', inaugurated by Union urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Delhi on Tuesday. The meeting was organised to strengthen urban sanitation, cleanliness and solid waste management systems. Bhatti explained the scientific waste management systems, sustainable urban development initiatives, sanitation programmes and circular economy measures being implemented in Telangana. Bhatti said the state government was introducing 9,596 electric Swachh Auto Tipplers in core urban regions. These electric vehicles will help reduce carbon emissions from municipal operations and promote cleaner transportation systems. He said the vehicles are being designed with separate compartments to facilitate four-way source segregation and QR-code based monitoring for efficient door-to-door waste collection. In the case of the Jawaharnagar dump yard in Hyderabad, technical assistance and advisory support was being obtained from IIT Bombay. The objective, he said, is not merely cosmetic intervention, but the creation of a long-term environmental management and continuous monitoring system. He also informed that around 22 lakh metric tonnes of waste spread over nearly 40 acres at the Autonagar dump site are being processed through biomining, with nearly 30 percent of the waste already processed. The reclaimed land, he said, would not be reused for dumping, but developed into parks, sports facilities and public infrastructure in the future.



BRS demands probe into Congress MP's 'illegal mining' on SC/ST lands

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday, May 19, demanded a judicial inquiry into alleged illegal transfers of SC/ST assigned lands in Mahabubabad district and black granite mining operations it linked to Congress Rajya Sabha MP and Chief Minister's advisor Vem Narender Reddy. Addressing a press conference, BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank alleged that assigned lands belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) beneficiaries in Arpanpally village of Kesamudram mandal were fraudulently transferred to Vem Narender Reddy's son, Vem Krishna Bhargav Reddy, through the state's Bhu Bharati land records portal. He further alleged that around 15 acre of such land was being used for black granite mining through a firm, Sri Sai Krishna Granites, operated in the name of Vem Narender Reddy's wife, Vem Vijayalakshmi. Krishank cited land passbooks, survey records, mining department documents and election affidavits to support his claims. The BRS leader also accused district officials, including then Mahabubabad collector Advait Kumar Singh, of approving ownership changes despite the lands being classified as assigned and prohibited in government records. He alleged a possible quid pro quo, claiming that officials who facilitated the approvals were subsequently rewarded with prominent postings. Advait Kumar Singh was later appointed Special Secretary to Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, Krishank noted.

Minister Seethakka Writes LLM Entrance Exam, To Pursue Constitutional Law

Hyderabad: Telangana Minister Dasari Anasuya (Seethakka) appeared for an entrance examination to pursue a master's in law. She appeared for the Telangana PG Law Common Entrance Test at a college in Moulali on Monday. The Minister continues to pursue academic excellence after having already completed LLB, an LLM in Corporate Law, and a PhD in Political Science from Osmania University. Her thesis was on 'Social Exclusion and Deprivation of Migrant Tribals of Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State - A Case Study of Gotti Koya Tribes in Warangal And Khammam Districts.'



Gear Up for Extended GHMC Polls in Sept-Oct: BJP State Chief N. Ramchander Rao to Cadre



HYDERABAD: BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao has urged party workers to be fully prepared for the upcoming corporation elections in areas carved out of the erstwhile GHMC, stressing their significance for state politics. He called on the cadre to work with discipline, unity and focused booth-

level effort. Rao was speaking at a meeting of party division presidents and senior leaders from the GHMC limits at the BJP city office in Barkatpura, which was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Rekha Sharma of Haryana, a former chairperson of the National Commission for Women. Noting changes from the GHMC delimitation process, Rao said the number of wards had risen to 300 and, according to reports, could increase further to 350. Citing reports that elections are likely in September or October, he said the party must be fully ready. He noted that in the 2020 GHMC polls, the party won 48 seats on its own despite facing the combined strength of BRS and the MIM, which reflected growing public confidence in the BJP across Hyderabad. Rao said that the party maintained a strong Parliamentary presence in the GHMC limits and added that a strong showing in the corporation elections is essential.

Moinabad double murder accused planned to kill at least 6 other women, suspect cops

HYDERABAD: Vikarabad police suspect the accused in the sensational Moinabad double murder case planned to eliminate their creditors one by one. This suspicion was based on the complaint of six potential victims who say they were saved by providence. Citing the complaint, police said the accused — Kareema Begum, her husband Abdur Rahman and their relative Nayeem — had murdered two women, Abida Begum and Mahbub Bee, and had invited the six others to the same farmhouse on the pretext of repaying money borrowed from them. The six women, all residents of Indira Nagar, told police that the accused had borrowed amounts ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh from them over a period of time. Investigators said the accused had repeatedly assured them that the money would be returned and asked them to visit the farmhouse to collect it. Some of the women, however, delayed their visits due to personal reasons.

Telangana govt. increases age Limit for Government job aspirants



The Telangana State Government has announced a significant boost for unemployed youth by increasing the upper age limit for direct recruitment into government posts. The Telangana State Government has announced a significant boost for unemployed youth by increasing the upper age limit for direct recruitment into government posts. The new orders raise the maximum age from 34 to 44

years, in accordance with the Telangana State Subordinate Services Rules. This age relaxation will apply to all direct recruitment notifications issued by various government agencies across the state and will remain in effect for one year. This decision opens up new employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of unemployed individuals, especially those who had previously exceeded the age limit due to delays in issuing job notifications over recent years. Since the formation of Telangana, recruitment processes for many key positions, including Group-1 services, faced considerable delays. As a result, the government had previously relaxed age lim-

its, but those orders recently expired. The latest move aims to clarify the age eligibility criteria and expedite the recruitment process. While the typical maximum age for government jobs is 34, the new relaxation allows candidates up to 44 years old to appear for examinations. This development has generated renewed hope among job seekers, with expectations that a large number of job notifications across various departments will be issued soon. The government's decision is seen as a step towards accelerating employment generation and filling vacancies swiftly.

Medical Shops Shut Nationwide in Protest Against Online Pharmacies



A nationwide strike by pharmacy trade associations, including AIOCD and TTCDA, has led to the closure of thousands of medical shops across India on Wednesday, including in the Telugu states. In Telangana, over 25,000 shops remained shut, with 12,000 in Hyderabad alone failing to open. In response, Telangana Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha instructed health officials to ensure that the public faces no inconvenience. He ordered pharmacies within all government hospitals, including Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and neighbourhood clinics (Basti Dawakhana), to remain open 24 hours on Wednesday. The Director General of the State Drug Control Administration (DCA) announced that measures had been put in place to ensure the availability of emergency medicines.

PM Modi Highlights Clean Energy, Innovation At India-Nordic Summit

Centre to Bring Separate Laws on Pesticides, Seeds to Protect Farmers: Chouhan



Bhubaneswar: Union agriculture and farmers' welfare minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said the Centre would introduce two separate legislations on pesticides and seeds to safeguard farmers from spurious farm inputs and ensure better quality control in the agriculture sector. Addressing mediapersons on the sidelines of the Eastern Zonal Agriculture Conference here, Chouhan said fake pesticides and substandard seeds were being sold in markets by "unscrupulous elements," adversely affecting farmers and crop productivity. The Centre is bringing two separate bills — one on pesticides and another on seeds. Strict provisions will be made to deal with those involved in selling fake and low-quality agricultural inputs," he said. Responding to questions on fertiliser availability amid global geopolitical tensions, the Union minister acknowledged that India's imports had been impacted but asserted that there was no shortage for farmers. There is no denying that geopolitical tensions have affected imports. However, there has been no disruption in fertiliser supply and the

country has adequate stocks to meet farmers' requirements," Chouhan said. The minister said the Union government was now focusing on integrated farming and crop diversification to improve soil health and enhance farmers' income. He noted that excessive dependence on paddy and wheat cultivation was not sustainable in the long run. Farmers need to diversify towards pulses, oilseeds and horticulture crops. Integrated farming is essential both for improving incomes and maintaining soil fertility," he said, adding that India must achieve self-reliance in pulses and edible oils. Chouhan also announced that under the Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission, the Centre would procure the entire quantity of pigeon pea, urad and lentils offered by pre-registered farmers through central nodal agencies till 2030-31. The initiative will ensure assured markets and remunerative prices for farmers while strengthening India's self-sufficiency in pulse production," he said. The one-day Eastern Zonal Agriculture Conference focused on issues such as crop diversification, storage, marketing, use of modern technology and support systems for farmers.

Oslo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit here on Tuesday, underlining a significant push towards deepening strategic and economic cooperation between India and the Nordic nations. In a post on X, PM Modi shared details of the high-level meeting, stating that he "Participated in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, which reflected the growing depth and dynamism of India's partnership with the Nordic region." The summit brought together leaders from India and the Nordic countries -- Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, -- to map out a collaborative blueprint for future growth, emphasising environmental stewardship and cutting-edge technological partnership. Detailing the core agenda of the multilateral talks, the Prime Minister added, "Our discussions focused on several aspects, including sustainability, innovation, clean energy, emerging technologies and strengthening cooperation for a peaceful and prosperous future." The engagement highlights India's expanding geopolitical footprint in Northern Europe, focusing on shared governance philosophies



and collaborative efforts to address global challenges through sustainable models. Reaffirming the foundational principles guiding the inter-regional partnership, PM Modi noted that "India and the Nordic countries are united by shared democratic values, trust and a common commitment towards human-centric development." Ahead of the main summit discussions, PM Narendra Modi also engaged in a series of high-level bilateral meetings with the leaders of Iceland, Finland and Denmark. These interactions mapped out a collaborative matrix for trade expansion, climate action and technological integration. The targeted bilateral talks allowed the leaders to review the broader trajectory of India's relations with these economically vibrant Northern European nations. Stepping into intense diplomatic parleys, PM Modi

first met with Icelandic Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir to unlock fresh opportunities in green technology and maritime wealth. Reflecting on the warmth of the interaction, PM Modi shared on social media, "Had a wonderful meeting with Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir of Iceland. India deeply values the friendship with Iceland." The two leaders explored strategic collaborations across renewable sectors, including carbon management and sustainable fishing. Highlighting Iceland's unique economic strengths, PM Modi noted, "Iceland's prowess in sectors relating to the Blue Economy is admirable. We are hopeful that the historic India-EFTA TEPA will give an impetus to trade and investment linkages as well."

India could save Rs 7 lakh crore through simultaneous polls, says JPC chief

India could save nearly Rs 7 lakh crore and potentially boost GDP by 1.6 per cent if elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are held simultaneously, Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chairman PP Chaudhary said on Tuesday, making a case for the proposed 'One Nation, One Election' framework. Chaudhary, who heads the 41-member parliamentary panel examining the proposal, was speaking after a meeting with Gujarat government officials in Gandhinagar's GIFT City during the committee's three-day visit to the State. The JPC, constituted to scrutinise the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, held discussions with senior bureaucrats, including Chief Secretary M.K. Das, BJP representatives, and secretaries of various departments. Following the meeting, Chaudhary said the State government had offered detailed inputs on aspects that had not been examined earlier. "We have instructed them to prepare a comprehensive report, which can subsequently be followed as a role model by other state governments across India so that they submit their reports in that format," he said. The report, he said, should assess the likely impact of simultaneous elections on sectors including industry, labour migration, employment, GST collections, tourism, education, and the broader economy.



SC Allows Euthanasia for Rabid, Incurably Ill Stray Dogs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court for the first time on Tuesday allowed euthanasia for rabid, incurably ill, or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs to curb the threat to human life. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria issued a slew of directions to deal with the rising population of stray dogs in the country. The bench emphatically stated that preventing the euthanasia of stray dogs is the most important direction it is issuing to authorities and officials of civic bodies. It said the civic authorities may resort to euthanasia in areas where the stray dog population has reached alarming proportions and where frequent dog bites or aggressive attacks pose a continuing threat to public safety. The action, as well as other legal measures, may be taken after an assessment by veterinary experts and in strict accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, the Animal Birth Control Rules 2023 and other applicable statutory protocols, the bench said. The top court passed the order in a suo motu case, initiated on July 28 last year, over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

Did YCP Conclude They Can Not Win If TDP & JSP Are Together?

Professor Nageshwar in a video revealed something that has become a Talking Point in AP Politics. Pawan Kalyan and Nadendra Manohar reportedly went to Delhi and asked Amit Shah to get YS Jagan Mohan Reddy arrested immediately. Nageshwar says Amit Shah asked Pawan Kalyan to remember that they enjoy the Support of all 25 MPs in the state and also added Chandrababu Naidu is their 'Instant Friend' but Jagan Mohan Reddy is a 'Longterm Friend'. Leaving aside the au-

thenticity, it is important to note that the entire YSR Congress Ecosystem is concentrating on foiling this alliance at any cost. Probably, they have come to a conclusion that they can not win 2029 unless they are divided. We can come to this conclusion by watching YSR Congress Social Media Teams in the last one month or so. We have seen them put pressure on Pawan Kalyan by saying how he should show courage by going alone in the coming elections. They are pressuring him by citing the example of how

Thalapathy Vijay did in the recent Tamil Nadu election. They are pumping air in Vijay and are hoping that would embarrass Pawan Kalyan and ensure he comes out of the alliance. And now, this story by Professor Nageshwar. Maybe this story has been planted intentionally to grow distrust in both the parties. If we observe clearly, Professor Nageshwar did tie Janasena and BJP in one pack and separated TDP. He planted a seed of doubt in the TDP Cadres which may create distrust.

Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi Warns Of 'Economic Storm' In Rae Bareli, Attacks PM Modi Over Fuel Prices And Foreign Travel



Rae Bareli: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to his parliamentary constituency Rae Bareli, alleging that the country was heading towards a severe economic crisis that would hit youth, farmers and small traders the hardest. Addressing people in Rae Bareli, Rahul Gandhi said an "economic storm" was approaching and

warned that Uttar Pradesh would face a major economic shock because of the changes made in the country's economic structure by the Modi government. He said the impact of the crisis would not be felt by industrialists such as Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani or by the Prime Minister, but by ordinary citizens, including workers, farmers, youths and small businessmen. "Very difficult times are coming. Instead of taking action, the Prime Minister is advising people not to travel abroad, while he himself is travelling around the world," Rahul Gandhi said. The Congress leader also attacked the Centre over rising fuel prices and inflation. He said petrol prices were continuously increasing and inflation was "touching the sky", while the government remained indifferent to public concerns. Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister, Rahul Gandhi said Modi tells people not to buy gold, to purchase electric vehicles and avoid foreign travel, but then goes abroad himself. He claimed that the coming economic crisis would be unprecedented and impossible to stop. During the interaction, Rahul Gandhi also sought to strengthen his emotional connect with voters in Rae Bareli.

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Education

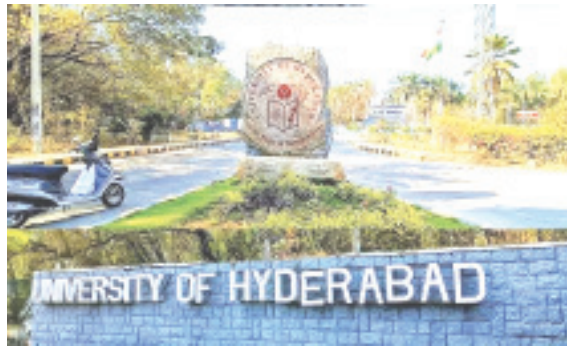
VOICE OF WORDS

Friday, May 22, 2026



JNTUH announces exam schedule for TG PGCET 2026

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, on behalf of the Telangana Council for Higher Education, released the schedule for the TG PGCET 2026 examinations on Monday. The crucial entrance tests will be conducted from May 28 to May 31, 2026, across various regional centres. The examinations are scheduled to be held in two sessions daily, running from 10 AM to 12 Noon and 2 PM to 4 PM. Tested subjects encompass civil engineering, electrical engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering, electronics and communication, pharmacy, biotechnology, aerospace engineering, food technology, chemical engineering, architecture, biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, and several other branches. A total of 26,005 candidates have registered for TG PGCET 2026, with computer science and IT recording the highest share at 10,006 applications, followed by pharmacy with 8,248 and electronics with 2,703. Candidates must report to centres well in advance, with entry permitted from 8:30 AM for the morning session and 12:30 PM for afternoon slots. Biometric verification including thumb impressions and photographs is mandatory, requiring hall tickets, valid ID proof, and ballpoint pens. Electronic gadgets, calculators, mobile phones, and personal belongings remain strictly prohibited inside halls. Late entry will not be allowed even by a single minute, and candidates must return rough sheets before leaving. Convener K Venkateswara Rao emphasised that marks will be displayed immediately after exams based on the preliminary key, though final ranks will follow the official key release.



UoH Named Lead Knowledge Institution

Hyderabad: The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been nominated as the Lead Knowledge Institution (LKI) for Telangana under NITI Aayog's State Support Mission (SSM), tasked with providing research-based policy support and technical expertise across key sectors. The Telangana planning department identified UoH for its multidisciplinary research strengths to aid evidence-based governance and policy planning. Under the initiative, the university will work with government agencies on policy inputs, monitoring and evaluation, data analytics, sectoral studies, thematic action plans and capacity-building programmes. The collaboration will span economics, agriculture, industry, infrastructure, health, education, urban development, technology, entrepreneurship and human resource development. The initiative also aims to support Telangana's Vision 2047 goals through inclusive, research-driven policy frameworks. UoH vice-chancellor in-charge Prof. J. Anuradha said the nomination was a matter of pride and an opportunity for faculty and researchers to translate academic knowledge into actionable policy. She urged departments and centres to contribute actively, adding that the university's R&D Cell would coordinate the mission to strengthen evidence-based governance in the state.

Young Achievers Shine in GREAT Examination 2025-26



What begins with curiosity in a classroom often grows into confidence beyond it. At Birla Open Minds International School, Amravati, that journey recently turned into a proud moment of achievement as students excelled in the GREAT Examination. Organised by the Dr. Homibhabha Foundation, the examination encourages students to think beyond memorisation and strengthen their logical reasoning, analytical thinking, and scientific aptitude. For many students, preparing for the examination became a journey of discovery, solving challenging questions, learning to think critically, and believing in their own abilities. Their dedication is reflected in exceptional performances in the General Reasoning & English Aptitude Test, with several students earning Certificates of Excellence for their remarkable achievement. One of the most inspiring moments came with Grade 5 student Kashvee Prashant Harle securing the position of District Topper. Along with this accomplishment, Kashvee was also recognised at the District Level in the AYSA, Aspiring Young Scientist Award 2025-26, making the achievement even more special. Speaking on the achievement, Principal of Birla Open Minds International School, Ms Suneetha K., said, "At our school, we believe education goes beyond textbooks. Such achievements reflect curiosity, critical thinking, and the confidence to explore new ideas. We are proud of our students and remain committed to nurturing future innovators and leaders." Behind every certificate was a story of persistence, curiosity, and countless hours of learning. The achievement stood not only as a recognition of academic excellence but also as a reminder that young minds flourish when encouraged to question, explore, and dream bigger.

Telangana POLYCET 2026 counselling schedule announced



The academic year 2026-27 will start on 9 June, with an orientation programme scheduled for the same day and 10 June.

The Department of Technical Education has released the schedule for the Telangana Polytechnic Common Entrance Test (TG POLYCET) 2026 counselling. The first phase of counselling will commence on 27 May, with online registration and slot booking available from 21 to 31 May. Certificate verification will take place from 29 May to 1 June, and web options can be exercised from 29 May to 3 June. Provisional seat allotment is expected on or before 6 June, followed by fee payment and self-reporting from 6 to 9 June. Candidates must report to their allotted colleges on 8 and 9 June. The academic year 2026-27 will start on 9 June, with an orientation programme scheduled for the same day and 10 June. The final phase of registration will see slot booking on 15 June, certificate verification on 16 June, and web options on 16 and 17 June. Seat allotment for this phase will be announced by 20 June, with fee payment and self-reporting between 20 and 22 June. Students are required to report to their colleges on 22 and 23 June.

Australia Bans New International Student Course Registrations At Private Colleges For 12 Months

Australia has announced a temporary freeze on new registrations for private colleges and training organisations seeking to teach international students, as the government moves to tighten oversight of the country's student visa system. The Albanese government said on Monday that new applications for CRICOS registrations, the official approval needed to enrol overseas students, will be suspended for 12 months for providers offering vocational education and English-language courses. The move follows concerns raised in the Nixon Review, officially known as the Rapid Review into the Exploitation of Australia's Visa System, which found serious weaknesses in the country's immigration and international education sectors. Australian authorities said the suspension is aimed at improv-

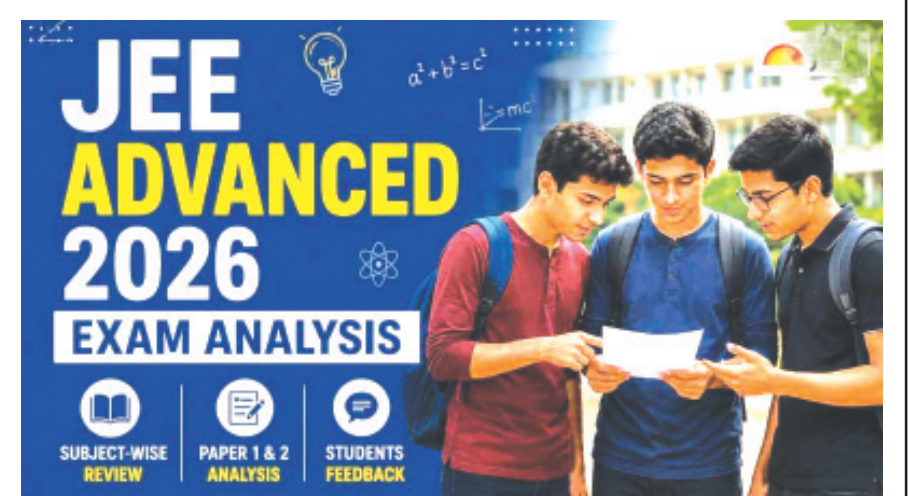


ing integrity within the international education system and preventing misuse of student visa pathways. The restriction will apply to new applications submitted to the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), the national regulator for vocational education providers. However, public institutions, including government schools, TAFE institutes and public universities, will not be affected by the pause. Existing providers already approved to teach international students can continue operating and will still be allowed to expand campuses or update courses when qualifications are replaced. Assistant Citizenship Minister Julian Hill said Australia remains open to genuine international students, but stressed that stronger safeguards were needed to maintain trust in the system. According to Hill, the government became con-

cerned over the growing number of new private providers entering the market despite student numbers in some sectors beginning to slow down. He said the temporary freeze would help regulators investigate integrity concerns and assess whether the market had become overcrowded, particularly in vocational education and English-language training sectors. The government also argued that Australia's reputation as a study destination depends heavily on education quality, student experience and proper regulation of providers. Despite the stricter approach, the government has maintained that Australia continues to welcome genuine international students. Officials said the latest measure is targeted at preventing "dodgy" or low-quality operators from entering the sector, while ensuring students receive proper education and support.

CBSE Dismisses Glitch Claims In Class 12 Re-evaluation Portal, Says System Functioning Properly; Students Report Login Issues

New Delhi: Amid complaints of technical glitches by students in the CBSE Class 12 re-evaluation portal, the board on Tuesday claimed that the system is functioning properly and only a few login-related issues were reported earlier in the day. However, several students took to the social media platform X to report glitches, claiming that the portal had crashed and they were unable to log in or submit applications. Speaking to PTI, CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said he had received "a few" phone calls in the morning from students who were unable to log in, but no complaints were reported thereafter. "Sometimes when candidates open the same page, an earlier saved page opens again. I asked them to restart the computer. After that, no phone calls have been received by me," he said. He also advised students facing temporary issues to try again after some time. "If sometimes they are not able to do it, it is not that they will continue to remain on the application for a longer period.



JEE Advanced 2026 examination Analysis

The JEE Advanced 2026 examination was widely described by experts as moderate-to-tough, with a strong emphasis on time management, conceptual clarity, and mental endurance. While many students were academically prepared for the concepts covered in the paper, the real challenge emerged in handling lengthy and calculation-intensive questions within the limited duration of the exam. According to Ujjwal Singh, the examination rewarded strategic thinking and composure as much as subject knowledge. "JEE Advanced 2026 was a well-balanced but demanding examination that tested not just conceptual understanding, but also time management, accuracy and mental endurance. While many students were familiar with the concepts, the real challenge lay in solving lengthy and calculation-intensive questions within limited time," he said. Experts noted that Paper 1 was relatively balanced, though still lengthy. Mathematics and Physics sections required deep conceptual understanding and careful calculations, while Chemistry was considered comparatively scoring for well-prepared students. Paper 2, however, was viewed as more difficult and time-consuming. Students reportedly faced multi-step Mathematics problems, calculation-heavy Physics questions, and Chemistry sections that required careful interpretation and analytical thinking. Many candidates found it difficult to complete the paper despite knowing the underlying concepts. "Paper 2, in particular, pushed students on pressure handling and smart question selection. Overall, this year's paper rewarded strategic thinking, composure and stamina as much as academic preparation," Singh added. Academic experts observed that this year's examination focused less on rote syllabus coverage and more on problem-solving ability, accuracy, and efficient decision-making under pressure. They believe the paper clearly differentiated students who could maintain consistency and focus throughout both sessions from those who struggled with time allocation and fatigue. Overall, JEE Advanced 2026 was seen as an examination that tested not only academic preparation but also the ability to perform effectively under sustained pressure.

VOICE OF WORDS

HEALTH

Weather changes and your lungs: Why asthma and allergies flare up with seasons



Seasonal changes can worsen asthma and allergies due to triggers like pollen, pollution and humidity. A doctor explains how weather impacts lung health and shares simple, practical tips to manage symptoms and breathe easier. You've probably noticed it yourself. A sudden change in weather, and breathing feels just a little harder. A cough lingers longer, allergies spike, or your chest feels tight for no clear reason.

This is more than simply a mental problem. There can be a direct influence on your lungs if you suffer from asthma or allergies, due to seasonal changes. But knowing why this occurs can help to prevent it.

Why your lungs react to weather changes

"The air we breathe changes with every season, bringing in dust, pollen, humidity and pollution, all of which can affect the lungs," says Dr Harish Verma, Associate Director, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care, ShardaCare Healthcity. These changes can trigger symptoms like coughing, wheezing, breathlessness and chest tightness, particularly in people with sensitive airways.

What each season does to your respiratory health

Effects caused by seasons may not apply all year round. Spring usually features higher levels of pollen, which irritates the air passages and causes allergic reactions. In winter, the air is cold and dry, constricting air passages, causing breathing difficulties, especially among people with asthma. The rainy season is characterised by increased humidity, providing ideal conditions for the growth of moulds and dust mites, allergens.

Abrupt changes in temperature, such as moving from a warm room to chilly air, may shock the airways and cause coughing and wheezing.

Some environmental allergens gain prominence depending on the season:

- Pollen, especially in the spring and early summer seasons
- Air pollution varies from season to season
- Cold air is irritating to the airways
- High humidity levels with mould growth during the rainy season
- House dust and dust mites in indoor environments
- These environmental triggers cause inflammation in the airways.

Simple ways to protect your lungs

Not all symptom management calls for drastic measures; little steps can make a big difference:

- Check daily air quality and stay indoors if conditions are poor
- Take medication as directed and have an inhaler handy
- Ensure indoor air is free from dust and pollution
- Cover your mouth and nose during the winter months
- Stay away from personal triggers at all times

When you should see a doctor

If there is a deterioration in any symptoms, such as cough, breathlessness, or wheezing during changing seasons, then it would be wise to visit a physician. Early treatment will avoid problems and improve the quality of life for the individual. Seasonal changes are an inescapable reality, but the associated discomfort need not be. Some simple precautions can allow for a smoother passage through the seasons without lung problems. Because your lungs work for you every day, and they deserve the same consistency in care.

Taking gym supplements regularly?

Nephrologist says these 5 blood tests are important



A nephrologist explains why people consuming gym supplements regularly should monitor kidney health every six months through routine blood and urine tests, especially when following high-protein diets or using creatine, pre-workouts and muscle-gain supplements.

Protein shakes, creatine, pre-workout supplements, and muscle-building supplements are among the most widely used supplements by people working out in gyms. But how are they impacting your health? As per Dr Bhanu Mishra, Consultant Nephrologist at Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, one should think about checking their kidney function at least once every six months if they take gym supplements frequently. He further clarified that although most supplements are not necessarily dangerous if taken wisely, they can put undue pressure on your kidneys due to their high consumption, dehydration, and irregularity.

Why is kidney monitoring is important for regular supplement users

Dr Mishra mentions that a regular blood test is essential for evaluating the efficiency of kidney function in individuals taking a high-protein diet

and supplements.

The blood tests advised by most physicians include the following:

- Serum creatinine
- Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)
- Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR)
- Electrolyte Profile
- Uric Acid Levels

These indicators help the physician evaluate the effectiveness of the kidney in eliminating waste products, regulating fluid regulation, and reacting to an increase in protein intake and supplements.

Are gym supplements harmful to the kidneys?

The doctor clarifies that most supplements are not inherently dangerous when taken in moderation and under proper guidance. However, certain habits may increase kidney-related risks.

These include:

- Excessive protein consumption
 - Poor hydration
 - Use of unreliable or counterfeit supplements
 - Overuse of stimulants
 - Anabolic steroid use
- Dehydration combined with heavy supplementation can particularly affect kidney function because the

kidneys already work harder to process excess protein and metabolic waste products.

Why hydration matters more than many realise

One of the simplest but most ignored habits among fitness enthusiasts is proper hydration. According to the nephrologist, drinking enough water becomes essential for people consuming protein-heavy diets and supplements because hydration supports the kidneys' filtration process. The doctor also advises against mixing multiple stimulant-heavy pre-workout formulas, which may increase strain on the body unnecessarily. Instead, he recommends sticking to:

- Balanced nutrition
- Moderate supplementation
- Trusted supplement brands
- Consistent hydration
- Urine tests may also reveal early warning signs

Apart from blood investigations, Dr Mishra says routine urine tests and urine protein tests can provide additional information about kidney health. These tests may help identify early signs of kidney stress or damage before symptoms become obvious.

The doctor adds that some individuals need to be even more cautious while using supplements, especially:

- People with diabetes
- Individuals with hypertension
- Those with a family history of kidney disease
- For such groups, regular monitoring becomes particularly important. The fitness industry often pushes extreme routines, rapid muscle gain and aggressive supplementation strategies online. However, health professionals insist that health benefits must always take precedence.

Can eating watermelon really cause death?

Experts separate facts from viral rumours

Recent reports linking watermelon consumption to deaths have sparked panic online, but doctors say the fruit itself is not dangerous. Experts explain that contamination, poor storage and spoiled fruit may lead to food poisoning symptoms. Recent reports of deaths allegedly linked to watermelon consumption have triggered panic and confusion across the country, especially after incidents reported from Mumbai and Chhattisgarh started circulating widely online. Viral messages and videos have further fuelled fears, leaving many people wondering whether eating watermelon during summer is actually dangerous. But doctors say the fear surrounding watermelon itself is largely misleading. According to Dr. Chhya Vaja, Internal Medicine Expert at Apollo Spectra Mumbai, watermelon is generally safe to eat, and there is no scientific evidence suggesting that the fruit itself can directly cause death.

What happened in Mumbai and Chhattisgarh?

Concerns around watermelon consumption grew after multiple deaths reported from Mumbai and Chhattisgarh were allegedly linked to the fruit. In Mumbai, four members of a family reportedly died within hours after



gienic handling.

During summer, watermelon is widely sold at roadside stalls and is often kept exposed to heat for long hours after being cut. Experts say bacteria such as E. coli and Salmonella can contaminate the fruit surface and enter the edible portion if proper hygiene is not maintained.

This may lead to symptoms such as:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain
- Acidity
- Stomach cramps
- Viral foaming watermelon videos have added to the panic

Important safety tips while eating watermelon Doctors recommend:

- Washing the outer surface properly before cutting
- Avoiding pre-cut watermelon sold uncovered outdoors
- Eating freshly cut pieces instead of stored fruit
- Using clean knives and chopping boards
- Storing cut watermelon in refrigeration
- Experts also advise buying fruits from trusted vendors and checking for visible damage before purchase.

consuming watermelon, while in Chhattisgarh, a 15-year-old boy also reportedly died after allegedly eating the fruit. The incidents quickly went viral online and triggered panic on social media, with many users questioning whether watermelon had become unsafe to consume during summer. However, doctors say investigations are still important before directly blaming the fruit itself. Medical experts stress that contamination, food poisoning, improper storage or unhygienic handling are more likely concerns than watermelon naturally becoming "toxic".

Why watermelon is being linked to illness

Doctors explain that the real concern is not the fruit itself, but contamination, improper storage and unhy-

VOICE OF WORDS

WOMEN

7 herbs that stimulate hair roots and prevent hair fall, according to an Ayurvedic expert



Strong hair isn't built on fancy shampoos or trendy serums it begins at the roots. Yet, in today's world of stress, pollution, and chemical overload, roots are often the first to suffer, leading to thinning, hair fall, and early greying. The secret? Nurture the roots, and growth takes care of itself. According to Dr Palak Garg, Ayurveda Gut health and Hair health expert at Avimee Herbal, Ayurveda has all the answers! Ayurveda has been saying this for centuries, and now modern science agrees.

7 herbs that stimulate hair roots

1. Bhringraj (Eclipta alba) : Known in Ayurveda as the "king of herbs for hair," Bhringraj improves blood circulation in the scalp, ensuring roots receive essential nutrients and oxygen. Regular use of Bhringraj oil helps reduce thinning, restore natural shine, and even delay premature greying. By fortifying roots from within, it lays the foundation for thicker, more resilient strands.

2. Amla (Indian Gooseberry) : Amla is rich in Vitamin C, minerals, and antioxidants that revitalise hair follicles. By stimulating activity at the root level, it supports new growth and preserves density. It also enhances collagen production, which strengthens the scalp's connective tissues and reduces breakage. With its natural cooling effect, Amla soothes irritation while shielding hair from environmental stressors.

3. Fenugreek (Methi Seeds) : Packed with protein and nicotinic acid, fenugreek seeds directly nourish roots and rebuild the hair shaft. This reduces shedding while improving thickness and texture. Their natural compounds also hydrate the scalp, keeping it soft and balanced. As a result, roots remain well-nourished and capable of supporting healthy, voluminous hair.

4. Neem (Azadirachta indica) : Neem acts as a natural scalp cleanser, thanks to its powerful antibacterial and antifungal properties. By preventing dandruff and irritation, it ensures follicles stay unclogged. Neem also soothes inflammation, restores scalp balance, and provides deep nourishment. With roots free from obstruction and dryness, hair growth is stimulated naturally.

5. Hibiscus (Rosa sinensis) : Hibiscus is often regarded as one of nature's finest hair tonics. Rich in nutrients and amino acids, it energizes dormant follicles and promotes keratin production, the protein responsible for hair's strength. Used as an oil or paste, hibiscus conditions the scalp, reduces breakage, and reinforces roots, resulting in thicker and shinier strands.

6. Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera): Ashwagandha supports hair growth from the inside, addressing internal factors that weaken roots. By reducing cortisol the stress hormone directly linked to hair fall it creates a healthier internal environment for growth. Ashwagandha also boosts blood circulation and provides antioxidant protection, ensuring roots stay nourished and active. Over time, this adaptogen strengthens follicles and prevents stress-related shedding.

7. Aloe Vera : Aloe Vera's hydrating and soothing properties make it a natural scalp conditioner. It removes dead skin buildup that often blocks follicles, ensuring unobstructed growth.

Rich in vitamins and minerals, it moisturises roots and prevents dryness: a common cause of weak, brittle hair. By maintaining a balanced scalp environment, Aloe Vera supports stronger, fuller growth.

Dermatologist weighs in on lasers vs traditional methods



Are lasers the future of skincare, or do traditional methods still hold value? A dermatologist explains how high-tech treatments compare with creams, serums, and home remedies, and why both play a role in achieving healthier, youthful skin. The beauty industry is no stranger to change, and skincare is no exception. From home remedies to serums on the shelf, traditional skincare has had its reign for maintaining smooth, healthy skin for a long. While indeed one of the steps in a daily routine, traditional products are often superficial.

That's where high laser technologies come into play. Backed by science, they not only treat the surface but also rejuvenate deeper concerns, delivering faster and longer-lasting results. We recently reached out to Dr Keer thana Kalva, MD-Dermatology, Chief Aesthetic Dermatologist, Inform Clinics, Hyderabad, to elaborate more on the recent trends in beauty.

What are the limitations of traditional skincare?
"Moisturisers, serums and home-made remedies can certainly help keep the skin hydrated and soft.. But most of these products only act on

the outermost layer of the skin." "They rarely penetrate deep enough to fix issues like pigmentation, scarring, or structural changes in the skin. Traditional skincare can improve the look and feel of the surface, but it does little to remodel or rebuild the skin from within. That's why problems such as acne scars, sun damage, and wrinkles often persist despite diligent use of creams and lotions," she added.

How high-tech laser treatments work Laser technologies use light and heat energy to stimulate the body's natural healing process. Unlike topical products, they can reach different depths of the skin, triggering cell renewal and collagen production where it matters most.

Common treatments include:

- Laser resurfacing for acne scars, wrinkles, and sun damage.
- Fractional lasers which create tiny, controlled injuries to kickstart collagen repair.
- Microneedling with radiofrequency for skin tightening and texture improvement.
- LED light therapy for acne and overall skin rejuvenation.
- Hair removal lasers target follicles without harming surrounding skin.

There are several creams and lotions that can reduce the irritation caused by razors. But you can also use certain ingredients that are easily available at home. Here are some easily available home remedies to soothe razor burns. A lot of women use razors to shave, which sometimes causes redness or burns. This usually happens because your skin tends to get irritated. While these can be troublesome, it is important that you apply products that can help soothe your skin and reduce the irritation.

While there are several creams and lotions that can reduce the irritation, you can also use certain ingredients that are easily available at home. They help to easily calm the skin and reduce redness. Here are some easily available home remedies to soothe razor burns.

Home remedies that help soothe razor burns

Coconut Oil : This is rich in fatty acids that helps to deeply moisturise the skin and reduce irritation. Its antimicrobial properties can help prevent infections from tiny cuts while soothing redness. Simply apply a thin layer after shaving to keep skin soft and calm.

Oatmeal : Oatmeal has soothing

and anti-inflammatory properties that makes it ideal for calming irritated skin. A paste made with oatmeal and water can be applied to razor burns to reduce redness and itching. It also gently exfoliates the skin, thereby, preventing ingrown hairs.

Aloe Vera Gel : This ingredient is known for its cooling and healing properties and it is one of the best remedies for razor burns. It hydrates the skin, reduces inflammation and provides instant relief from burning sensations. While fresh aloe gel works best, you can also use store-

bought gels.

Apple Cider Vinegar : Apple cider vinegar has natural anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties. It helps reduce itching, prevents infection and restores the skin's pH balance. Dilute it with water and apply gently with a cotton ball to avoid irritation.

Cold Compress : A simple cold compress or even a clean and damp washcloth placed on the affected area can immediately reduce redness, swelling and irritation. It helps calm inflamed skin and provides relief.

Why awareness is still low

Despite their effectiveness, many people hesitate to consider laser treatments. Money, unawareness, and the high marketing of over-the-counter products have a huge influence. Traditional skin care anthropology really feels much nearer; one takes a cream from the store and goes back home, while lasers are slightly less common or scary.

However, lasers often turn out to be a better long-term investment. The effect disappears the moment one stops applying the serum, while the effects of laser treatment continue to improve skin health for weeks or even months after every session.

Long-term benefits of laser treatment

There is no doubt that lasers' most prominent advantage is their long-lasting effect. Stimulating collagen and cell turnover, they continue working well after the procedure. Improvements in skin texture, tone, and elasticity are still seen for months, in some cases even years, following the treatment.

The other disadvantage of laser therapy, as compared to a normal skincare routine, is that results with traditional skincare measures are transitory in nature.

Skincare is not about choosing one over the other. The purpose of maintaining daily skincare with cleansing and moisturising is obvious.

However, scars, pigmentation, or ageing are problems that need more intense laser treatment interventions that can deliver results nowhere close to traditional means of skincare. Such science-led approaches that revive the skin from within and not merely externally certainly seem to be the future of beauty in this ever-evolving landscape.

Coconut oil to apple cider vinegar: Try these easily available home



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International News

VOICE OF WORDS

Friday, May 22, 2026

Under Trump pressure, EU eyes deal to end trade standoff



STRASBOURG: The EU hopes Tuesday to strike a deal towards implementing its nearly year-old trade pact with the United States -- with an increasingly impatient Donald Trump threatening steep new tariffs unless it is done by July 4. The 27-nation bloc struck an accord with Washington last July setting levies on most European goods at 15 percent, but to the US president's frustration a final version of the text still needs nailing down on the EU side. "A deal is a deal," the US mission to the EU posted on X Monday, saying the bloc "must live up" to the agreement sealed in Turnberry, Scotland, between Trump and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen. Negotiators from the EU's parliament and capitals will meet Tuesday night in Strasbourg to push for a compromise that would allow the bloc to meet Trump's deadline and hopefully turn the page on more than a year of transatlantic trade battles. Short of that, Trump has warned the EU should expect "much higher" tariffs -- and has already vowed to raise duties on European cars and trucks from 15 to 25 percent. The tariff blitz unleashed by Trump before the Turnberry accord, including hefty levies on steel, aluminum and car parts, jolted the bloc into cultivating trade ties around the world. But the EU cannot afford to neglect the 1.6-trillion-euro (\$1.9-trillion) relationship with the United States, its largest trade partner. Cyprus, which holds the rotating presidency of the EU, said its goal "remains, the swift implementation of the EU-US joint statement". To reach a com-

promise with member states, parliament is under pressure to renege on several amendments it added to the text in March which the Americans consider unacceptable. The head of parliament's trade committee, Bernd Lange, struck an optimistic note, saying the sides had "already made a lot of progress". "I hope we can reach a compromise, including new propositions," Lange said. But first, he needs to hammer out a common stance between the parliament's different factions, which looked set to keep haggling until the last moment. The EU parliament's conditional green light came after months of delay caused by Trump's designs on Greenland and a US Supreme Court ruling striking down many of the president's levies. The assembly's largest force, the conservative European People's Party to which von der Leyen belongs, is now pushing hard to implement an accord it says is vital to ending a period of damaging uncertainty for EU businesses. EPP lawmaker Zeljana Zovko told AFP she was "confident that we will get it done". The EPP has firm support from the hard-right ECR party, whose shadow rapporteur on the file, Kris Van Dijck, also said he was "cautiously optimistic". But several political groups had yet to make their position public as of Monday night, and it remained unclear how far the majority would compromise to get a deal. Lawmaker Kathleen Van Brempt of the Socialists and Democrats, parliament's second-biggest group, said they would "engage constructively" but fight for safeguards "to guarantee stability, predictability and protection for European businesses and workers".

Putin visits China to reaffirm Russia ties as Xi also seeks stable US relations after Trump summit

BEIJING: Russian President Vladimir Putin is traveling to China to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping less than a week after U.S. President Donald Trump wrapped up his own trip to Beijing. Putin is scheduled to be in China on Tuesday and Wednesday in a visit likely to be closely watched as Beijing seeks to maintain stable relations with the United States while also preserving strong ties with Russia. The Kremlin has said Putin and Xi plan to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries, but also "key international and regional issues." The visit coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Sino-Russian Treaty of Friendship signed in 2001. Putin said in a video address released before his visit that bilateral ties are at "a truly



unprecedented level" and the relationship plays an important role globally, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday. There is "no connection" between Trump's visit to China and Putin's, presidential aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters Monday, noting the trip by the Russian leader was agreed in advance, several days after Putin and Xi spoke via videoconference on Feb. 4. "The Trump visit was about stabilizing the world's most important bilateral relationship; the Putin visit is about reasserting a long-standing strategic partner," said Wang Zichen, deputy secretary-general for the Beijing-based think tank Center for China & Globalization. "For China, these two tracks are not mutually exclusive." Putin last visited China in September 2025 to attend the annual summit of the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tianjin, watch a military parade honoring the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and hold talks with Xi. At the time, Xi called his counterpart an "old friend" while Putin addressed Xi as "dear friend." In China, "old friend" is a very rare diplomatic term used by the government and party to describe favored foreign people. In April, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Beijing and met Xi, who described the bilateral relationship as "precious" in the current international context. Xi said China and Russia needed to use a stronger strategic collaboration to defend their legitimate, shared interests and safeguard the unity of Global South countries.

Russia unleashes another aerial barrage on Ukraine as the war's long-range strikes escalate



KYIV: Russia targeted eight regions of Ukraine in its latest nighttime drone and missile barrage, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, with local authorities reporting that the strikes wounded more than two dozen civilians, including three children. Russian forces fired 524 attack drones and 22 ballistic and cruise missiles, Zelenskyy said. The city of Dnipro and the surrounding central region of Ukraine bore the brunt of the attack, officials said. The barrage continued a recent spiral of long-range strikes that have grown in scale following a May 9-11 ceasefire that US President Donald Trump said he asked Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin to observe but which had little impact. There is no sign a peace deal is taking shape despite U.S. diplomatic efforts to end Russia's invasion. Russia hammered Ukraine over several days last week, flattening a Kyiv apartment building where 24 people died. One of Ukraine's largest drone strikes on Russia killed at least four people, including three near Moscow, and wounded a dozen others, authorities said Sunday. In more than four years of war, Ukraine has built up its own long-range capabilities. It has been hitting oil facilities that represent a vital part of the Russian economy.



Ukrainian drone attack kills Odisha man working in Moscow, injures 2 others

BHUBNESWAR: A man from Odisha's Ganjam district, who had been working in a company in Russia, was killed while two others suffered injuries in a drone attack by Ukraine in the Moscow region, an official said on Monday. The deceased was identified as 30-year-old A Rameya, a resident of Madhabandha village under Chikiti block. He had returned to Russia around two months ago after spending some time in his village during leave. Rameya had been working as a structure fitter in a construction company at the Gazprom oil refinery for more than a year. Efforts are underway to bring his body back to India, the official said. The injured persons

were identified as G Tejeswar Reddy (22) and G Khetrabasi Reddy (35), both residents of Kotharsingh village under Rangelunda block in Ganjam district. Officials said the incident took place on Sunday when Ukraine launched a drone strike on Moscow. Chandreya Reddy, who works in the same company as Rameya in Moscow, informed the family over the phone that the three men were waiting for a bus after completing their night shift when the drone attack occurred. "When we heard about the incident around 5 am local time, we tried to go to the spot, but the security forces did not allow us. The injured persons are undergoing treatment in different hospitals

in Moscow," Reddy was quoted as saying by one of his family members in Ganjam. Rameya's friend later informed the family about his death. The family subsequently approached Ganjam district Collector Keerthi Vasani to facilitate the return of the body. "We have received information regarding the unfortunate death of Ramaya in Moscow. We contacted the office of the Resident Commissioner in Delhi. The Resident Commissioner is contacting the Indian Embassy through diplomatic channels as per protocol to bring his mortal remains to Odisha," the collector told reporters. Authorities are trying to bring the body back as quickly as possible, the official added.

Israeli troops intercept vessels from a flotilla trying to breach the blockade of Gaza

ANKARA, Turkey: The Israeli military intercepted Monday boats off the coast of Cyprus, part of the latest wave of flotilla activists attempting to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza. More than 50 vessels departed from the port in Marmaris, Turkey, last week in what the organizers of the Global Sumud Flotilla described as the final leg of their planned journey to Gaza's shores. The organization's livestream on Monday showed activists aboard several vessels putting on life jackets and raising their hands before a boat carrying Israeli troops approached. Wearing tactical gear, they boarded the ship, and the livestream abruptly ended. Many of the ships are currently off the coast of Cyprus. Other footage showed Israeli forces on speedboats approach-



aching and instructing the activists to move to the front of the boat. At least 17 boats were intercepted in the first three hours of the operation, according to Global Sumud Flotilla's tracker. Organizers said the boats were intercepted 250 nautical miles from the shores of Gaza. Unlike previous interceptions, which mostly took place under the cover of night, the Israeli military boarded the boats in broad daylight. Israel has maintained a blockade over Gaza since Hamas took control of the territory in 2007, a year after winning Palestinian parliamentary elections. The blockade restricts the move-

ment of goods and people in and out of Gaza. Egypt has also occasionally closed the Rafah crossing, which, before the current war, was the only border crossing not under Israel's control. The flotilla organizers said they expect the activists to be taken to the port of Ashdod, in southern Israel. Activists on previous flotillas were brought to the same port, where some were processed and immediately deported, while others requested a trial and were detained. Israel accuses flotilla of being a provocation as Turkey condemns attack. An hour prior to the interception, Israel's Foreign Ministry called on activists to "change course and turn back immediately." "Once again, a provocation for the sake of provocation: another so-called "humanitarian aid flotilla" with no humanitarian aid."

US Extends Sanctions Waiver to Ease Energy Pressure on Vulnerable Countries



Paris: U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday announced another 30-day extension of a sanctions waiver allowing purchases of Russian seaborne oil to aid "energy-vulnerable" countries hit by the Iran war, reversing plans not to grant an extension. Bessent said in a posting on X that the Treasury was issuing the 30-day general license after a previous waiver lapsed on Saturday. This will allow temporary access to Russian oil and petroleum products stranded on tankers without violating severe U.S. sanctions on Russian oil majors, he said. A source familiar with the decision

had told Reuters that the second waiver extension was requested by poor and vulnerable countries that cannot get Gulf oil shipments due to the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. "This extension will provide additional flexibility, and we will work with these nations to provide specific licenses as needed," Bessent said. "This general license will help stabilize the physical crude market and ensure oil reaches the most energy-vulnerable countries." Trump's Pompeo Bessent, who last month told the Associated Press that no further extension of the Russian oil sanctions waiver was planned, on Monday argued that the measure would help reroute existing supply to countries most in need, allowing them to compete with China for previously sanctioned oil.

VOICE OF WORDS

BUSINESS

Govt Clarifies No Plan To Monetise Gold Held By Temples



The government on Tuesday clarified that there is no plan to monetise gold held by temple trusts or any religious institution in the country. Any media report or social media post suggesting otherwise is false. "Clarification on false claims on monetisation of temple gold holdings. Speculation and rumours suggesting that the Government is planning to introduce a monetisation scheme for gold held by temple trusts, or any religious institution, across the country are completely false, misleading, and without any basis," the Ministry of Finance clarified in a post on X (formerly Twitter). The government said that certain media reports and social media posts were circulating with claims that the government was planning to issue gold bonds to temples in exchange for temple gold reserves or that a proposal had been approved for monetisation of temple gold holdings. The government denied such claims to calm fears among the people. It asked citizens not to circulate such unverified reports. It also clarified that claims suggesting gold plates on temple towers, doors, or

other temple structures would be considered as "Strategic Gold Reserves of India" are false, misleading, and entirely baseless. "Citizens are requested not to believe or circulate such rumours. Spreading unverified information creates unnecessary confusion and may mislead the public. The Government urges all citizens to rely only on official communications issued through authorised channels. Any information regarding policy decisions or government schemes will be shared through official press releases, government websites, and verified public communication platforms," the ministry said in a statement released by the Press Information Bureau. This is the second time in less than a week that such a clarification has come from the government. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had clarified that there was no government plan to tax foreign travel. The government is facing challenges in maintaining forex reserves amid rising crude oil prices. Fuel price hikes, import tax on gold, and voluntary austerity measures are among the various steps taken by the government to manage the crisis.

Rupee At Record Low Of 96.47, How Weak Currency May Make Fuel, Travel And Gadgets More Expensive

Mumbai: The Indian rupee has slipped to a record low of 96.47 against the US dollar, increasing concerns over rising costs for consumers and businesses. The fall in the rupee comes at a time when global crude oil prices have crossed USD 100 per barrel due to growing tensions in West Asia and strong demand for the US dollar globally. While the impact may not be visible immediately, a prolonged weakness in the rupee could slowly make several daily and lifestyle expenses more costly for Indians.

Why Is The Rupee Falling?

India imports more than 85 percent of its crude oil needs from other countries. When crude oil prices rise, Indian companies need more dollars to buy oil from global markets. This increases demand for the US currency and puts pressure on the rupee. Apart from expensive oil, a stronger dollar and rising US bond yields have also weakened many emerging market currencies, including the Indian rupee. Global investors often move money towards safer US assets during uncertain times, which further increases dollar demand and weakens currencies like the rupee. A weak rupee directly affects imported goods because companies need to spend more rupees to buy products priced in dollars. Items such as smartphones, laptops, cameras, gaming consoles and other electronic gadgets may become more expensive if the rupee continues to weaken. Businesses importing machinery, chemicals or raw materials could also face higher costs. Many companies may eventually pass on some of these increased costs to consumers through higher prices. The falling rupee can also affect Indians travelling abroad. Since every dollar now costs more in rupee terms, hotel stays, shopping, food and trans-



port overseas become more expensive. Families sending children abroad for education may also face higher expenses. Tuition fees, rent and living costs in countries like the US, UK, Canada and Australia could increase significantly when converted into rupees. Higher crude oil prices combined with a weaker rupee can increase India's overall fuel import bill. If oil prices remain elevated, petrol and diesel prices may come under pressure. Rising fuel costs usually increase transportation and logistics expenses. This can lead to higher prices for groceries, food delivery, consumer goods and several everyday items, adding to inflation pressures on household budgets. Not every sector loses when the rupee weakens. Export-oriented industries such as information technology and pharmaceuticals can benefit because they earn revenue in dollars. When converted into rupees, these dollar earnings become more valuable. Indians receiving money from relatives abroad may also gain, as remittances convert into more rupees during periods of currency weakness.



The United States on Monday extended the waiver on buying Russian oil for a month, providing relief to India. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced that Russian crude oil-laden vessels stranded at sea could be bought by countries facing an energy crisis for the next 30 days. "@USTreasury is issuing a temporary 30-day general license to provide the most vulnerable nations with the ability to temporarily access Russian oil currently stranded at sea. This extension will provide additional flexibility, and we will work with these nations to provide specific licenses as needed. This general license will help stabilise the physical crude

US Extends Waiver On Russian Crude Oil Purchase In Relief To India

market and ensure oil reaches the most energy-vulnerable countries." Bessent said in a post on X. The move is expected to provide relief to India, whose imports of Russian oil had increased in the last few months after the start of the war in West Asia. Until last year, Russia was the biggest supplier of crude oil to India. However, the Narendra Modi government had to almost end its crude oil purchases from Russia in February after the United States imposed additional tariffs on Indian goods in order to sever trade ties. However, the US-led war against Iran led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key passage for

global energy trade. In March, the US announced a waiver for Russian oil. The waiver has been extended twice since then. While India has maintained that its purchase of Russian oil is based purely on commercial considerations, market experts see the extension of the waiver as a relief for Indian companies. "Regarding the American waiver on Russia, I would like to emphasise that we have been purchasing from Russia earlier, before the waiver also, during the waiver also, and now also. So, it is basically the commercial sense, which should be there for the OMCs (oil marketing companies) to purchase.

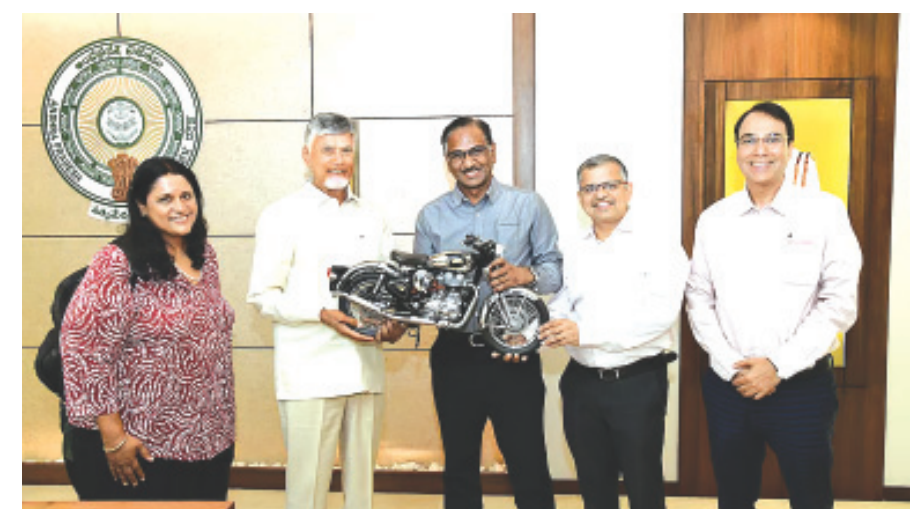
US Justice Department drops all charges against Adani, case closed permanently



"with prejudice". "The Department of Justice has reviewed this case and has decided, in its prosecutorial discretion, not to devote further resources to these criminal charges against individual defendants," the filing stated. US regulatory and legal investigations involving the Adani Group have been resolved over the past few days.

The court subsequently ordered that the indictment against Adani and others "be dismissed with prejudice". The dismissal means the case cannot be reopened. The closure marks a dramatic turn in a case that had threatened to disrupt the Adani Group's global expansion plans. The SEC and DOJ cases, filed in late 2024, had alleged that the Adanis orchestrated a USD 265 million bribery scheme involving Indian officials to secure solar power contracts and concealed the arrangement from US investors and lenders while raising capital. According to people familiar with the matter, the case turned in Adani's favour after prosecutors found no clear US linkages and insufficient evidence to sustain the allegations. The decision followed months of legal engagement between US prosecutors and a team of American law firms representing the Adanis, including Sullivan & Cromwell, Nixon Peabody, Hecker Fink, Norton Rose Fulbright and Bracewell. The legal teams

made a series of submissions and presentations to US authorities during the review process. In submissions filed before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York on April 7, 2026, Adani's lawyers challenged the SEC's fraud proceedings, calling them an "impermissibly extraterritorial application" of US securities laws. The defence argued the case involved "Indian defendants, an Indian issuer", securities not traded on US exchanges and alleged conduct occurring "exclusively in India". The filings stated the SEC "lacked necessary jurisdiction", failed to establish actionable misstatements and could not directly link either defendant to the bond offering. The lawyers also argued that the SEC had "recast" unviably anti-bribery allegations into securities fraud claims. According to the submissions, there were "no investor losses", all bond obligations had been honoured and Gautam Adani "did not authorise the issuance of the bonds". The case had faced growing scrutiny from legal experts over whether US authorities had stretched securities laws to pursue conduct centred outside the United States.



Royal Enfield to set up Rs 2,500 crore manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh

Royal Enfield is setting up a new manufacturing facility in Tada (Tirupati), Andhra Pradesh with an investment of Rs 2,500 crore and an annual capacity of 9 lakh motorcycles. This would be the company's first facility outside Tamil Nadu. "The proposed project involves an investment of nearly Rs 2,500 crore and a manufacturing capacity of 9 lakh motorcycles per annum. The project will include a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, testing track, R&D centre, and a dedicated vendor park ecosystem," said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He added that the project is expected to generate nearly 15,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities,

creating significant economic activity and industrial growth in the region. Naidu stated that he has assured continued support from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in ensuring speedy clearances and accelerated execution. "Our goal is to help complete the project in 18 months instead of the proposed 24 months. Our Speed of Doing Business will ensure the project moves faster, and now Royal Enfield must match it with equal Speed in Project Execution," the chief minister wrote on social media platform X. Currently, the Eicher Motors-owned company, has a capacity of around 14.6 Lakh motorcycles per year, which is close to full utilisation. In February 2026, Royal Enfield an-

nounced a Rs 958 crores investment for capacity expansion in Cheyyar Tamil Nadu which will increase the total capacity to 20 lakh units. B. Govindarajan, Managing Director - Eicher Motors Ltd., and Chief Executive Officer - Royal Enfield said, "We currently operate four world-class manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu, with a total projected capacity of 2 million units annually. This investment in Andhra Pradesh will augment that capacity and provide the impetus for our next phase of growth." Royal Enfield sales in the financial year 2025-2026 grew by 23% to 1,238,659 units. This was the second consecutive fiscal year when RE's total sales breached the 1 million unit mark.

Friday, May 22, 2026

VOICE OF WORDS SPORTS

Indian Women Hockey team announced for Australia tour

Hyderabad: Hockey India has announced the Indian women's hockey team for the upcoming Tour of Australia, scheduled from May 26 to 30 in Perth. The four-match tour will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium, with matches scheduled on May 26, 27, 29 and 30. The tour will prepare the team for the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025-26, scheduled to take place in Auckland from June 15-21. The Indian team heads into the tour on the back of a strong showing in Argentina earlier this year, where they displayed plenty of fight to secure two wins in their four-match series. Since then, the group has been training hard at the national camp at SAI Bengaluru, sharpening key aspects of their game as they prepare for a busy international season ahead. Salima Tete, a bronze medallist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, will lead the side for the upcoming tour. She will have plenty of experience alongside her with the likes of Savita, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Lalremsiami and Navneet Kaur, as well as exciting young talent including Sonam, Hina Bano and Lalanthluangi. Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam will be the reliable options in the goalkeeping department for the upcoming tour. In defence, Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Lalanthluangi and Jyoti will feature alongside Shilpi Dabas, who has earned her maiden senior team call-up. Lalanthluangi has also received her maiden senior team



call-up. Salima Tete will lead the midfield department alongside experienced campaigners such as Neha and Lalremsiami, while Sakshi Rana and Sunelita Toppo will look to continue impressing. Deepika Soreng and Sonam, who is yet to make her senior international debut, are also part of the midfield unit. Navneet Kaur will be expected to continue her fine goalscoring form as she leads the forward line comprising Baljeet Kaur, Deepika, Annu, Ishika, Hina Bano, who is yet to make her senior international debut, and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal. Sharing his thoughts on the squad, Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne stated, "We have picked a squad with a good balance of experienced and

young players, some of whom will get their first minutes at the international level. It's important to keep developing players, and the best way to do that is under pressure in international matches. These players now have the chance to show their best, and I am looking forward to seeing their performances." Further expressing his expectations from the Australia tour, he added, "This tour is to prepare for the upcoming Nations Cup. I want to see the level of performance we saw in our last two matches in Argentina and build consistency in our performances. That is the level we need to reach, and we have to continue improving so we can perform even better."



We will prepare to host National Games: TN Sports Minister Arjuna

CHENNAI: Aadhav Arjuna, the sports minister of Tamil Nadu, visited the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in the city on Monday morning along with J Meghanatha Reddy, IAS, member secretary SDAT. He visited the volleyball courts, football facility, skating rink where children were practising and interacted with them. He also visited the badminton facility and checked out the various construction work going on for outdoor basketball and so on. Arjuna, who is also the secretary of the Tamil Nadu Olympic Association, said that Tamil Nadu should strive to host the National Games in the near future. "Even a small State like Uttarakhand has hosted the National Games. We will engage with the Central Government and in consultation with the Chief Minister, develop infrastructure across districts and prepare to host the National Games," Arjuna said. A former basketball player himself, Arjuna stressed on the need to develop infrastructure and make the children take up sports. The 44-year-old is the president of the Basketball Federation of India and had been promoting basketball in the state even before he became a sports minister. He is also a former Sports Hostel student in the city and thus, he understands the needs of athletes. "Sport is as important as education. That is the vision of the Chief Minister. Under the leadership of the CM (C Joseph Vijay), we have begun an excellent journey of governance through the Cabinet. We inquired and reviewed the ongoing construction works here, the quality of hostel food, and the needs of athletes and coaches," said Arjuna. He expressed concerns over rising drug culture in the state and believed that sports could put the youth back on track. "The reason sports assume importance today is the rising consumption of drugs and alcohol among youth. Brazil faced a similar challenge. The government promoted sports and organised the FIFA World Cup. Young people spent their time and energy on sports, and football eventually became a major force in the country. For any developing nation, sport can be an important tool to channel youth energy constructively. It also plays an important role in generating employment," he added. He said that he'll look to raise awareness by bringing in better facilities for Olympic sports across the state. "The infrastructure in Tamil Nadu is not up to international standards. We will develop facilities in all districts and zones, and ensure awareness about Olympic sports is introduced to children from the age of 6 to 8 years," he signed off.

Big Bash League 2026-27 Opener Likely To Be Held At MA Chidambaram Stadium In Chennai



Chennai: In what could be considered a historic first for Indian cricket, the opening match of the upcoming season of Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) could be played at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, multiple reports claimed on Monday night. According to these reports, a

five-member delegation of Cricket Australia officials was in Chennai on Monday to recon the Stadium and also watched the Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Chennai Super Kings' clash with Sunrisers Hyderabad at Chepauk, held a final discussion on the matter with officials

of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA). TNCA sources also claimed that the opening match of the 16th edition of the Big Bash League (BBL 2026-27) is all set to be held at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Sources said that the move is likely to get approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). A CA representative declined to confirm that anything has been decided but acknowledged that the matter was discussed. "We are not able to confirm anything. We are exploring the potential of Chennai in partnership with the Australian Government to deepen the India-Australia relationship. Nothing confirmed as yet, and we are working closely with our friends in BCCI," the representative said. Indian players, even those retired from international cricket, to participate in T20 franchise leagues abroad. Only those who have quit all forms of cricket in India are allowed to participate in T20 leagues abroad. If the BBL gets the final nod from the BCCI, it will also have to consider the fact that the BBL has players from Pakistan, while the Indian government does not allow Pakistani sportspersons to play in India unless they are part of a multinational event approved by the International Federation.

Ranveer, Arvind bag a silver each



Hyderabad: G. Ranveer of Mudhole School and A. Arvind of Veepana gadia School won a silver each in the South India wrestling championship for boys and girls at Puducherry. The two are students of TSWREIS State Sports Academy, Shaikpet (wrestling boys). The Telangana Residential Degree & Junior Colleges PDs and PETs Association Chairman Dr. Rama Laxman, along with other officials Narsaiah, Chander, and Harikishan congratulated the medalists and the support staff.

Arsenal on the verge of Premier League title after beating Burnley

LONDON: Arsenal closed in on a first Premier League title in 22 years by seeing out a tense 1-0 win over Burnley on Monday in its penultimate game of the campaign, thanks to Kai Havertz's first-half goal. The result means second-placed Manchester City must end Bournemouth's 16-game unbeaten run on Tuesday to take the title fight into the final weekend. Even so, Arsenal will be crowned champion if it beats Crystal Palace away on Sunday. It would be Arsenal's first league title since 2004, when the "Invincibles" went unbeaten under Arsene Wenger. Current manager Mikel Arteta is two wins away from delivering the club's greatest ever season as Arsenal also plays Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final on May 30. "It's been an amazing season so far. We've got one big one left here (in the league) and then the Champions



League final," Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard told the Emirates crowd in an on-field interview. "Just a little bit to go now and we're going to give it all. We have to keep going.

The Suryakumar Yadav quandary and way forward for Indian T20I team

CHENNAI: It is not often that a T20 World Cup-winning captain's place in a side comes into question immediately after. Not in Indian cricket at least. Until 2026. Two months after Suryakumar Yadav lifted the T20 World Cup trophy in Ahmedabad, the Indian skipper's future with the national team seems to be under the scanner. Surya rose up the ranks through his consistent performances in the IPL between 2018-2021 before becoming India's best T20I batter in the four years that followed. However, despite not losing a single series as skipper and winning the ICC title, Surya has come under the scanner. The India T20I skipper — Shubman Gill leads in Tests and ODIs — has been going through prolonged lean patch and it has continued through the ongoing Indian Premier League season as well. In 11 matches, Surya has scored 195 runs at 17.72 average and 144.44 strike rate. Surya has made it clear that he wants to lead India in the 2028 T20 WC and the Olympics shortly after helping India defend the title in March. "...definitely the next goal is the Olympics, Olympic gold and also the T20 World Cup that year. Don't forget," the captain had said with a wide grin. However, putting into context that he is 35, add the injury concerns, and the next big event is two years away, informal discussions are



expected to take place on the way forward for Surya and the T20I team when the selection committee meets on Tuesday to name the squad for the Afghanistan ODIs and lone Test match. The squad for Ireland T20Is, meanwhile, may be picked shortly after the IPL. At a time when Indian cricket is going through transition in all three formats — the Test team is still settling in, finding new stars; the ODI team has a relatively new captain with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli still around; last year Gill was named Surya's deputy before being dropped from T20Is — the focus in the next cycle will be in ODIs.



Kamal Haasan's Seyon With Sivakarthikeyan



Hero Sivakarthikeyan has teamed up with director Sivakumar Murugesan for a devotion-infused action entertainer, *Seyon*, produced by Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran under the RaajKamal Films International and Turmeric Media banners. The first look poster hinted at spiritual symbolism, with strong visual parallels to Murugan. The film *Seyon* has gone on floors today, as officially announced by the makers, who also unveiled a brand-new poster. A fierce-looking Sivakarthikeyan stares ahead while flames engulf one side of the frame, his stern expression setting the tone. The poster's blend of fire, darkness, and traditional textures creates a gritty, intense mood. The soundtrack is composed by Santhosh Narayanan, with Vivek Vijayan handling cinematography and San Lokesh in charge of editing.

Unlike Salaar, Dragon Glimpse May Unleash NTR Fully

Excitement is rapidly building around the upcoming glimpse of *Dragon*, starring Jr NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel. Ever since the makers announced the special glimpse video, fans have been eagerly waiting for the first major visual treat from the film. The buzz intensified even more after reports confirmed that the glimpse will have a runtime of nearly four minutes. However, alongside the hype, social media discussions have also brought back memories of *Salaar*. Many movie lovers recalled how Prashanth Neel created huge anticipation for the *Salaar* glimpse but revealed only a brief shot of Prabhas without clearly showing his face for most of the teaser. That strategy had sparked mixed reactions at the time, despite eventually adding mystery and curiosity around the film. Now, fans believe the situation with *Dragon* could be different due to the longer runtime of the glimpse. Even if Neel chooses to maintain suspense and avoid fully revealing NTR throughout the video, audiences are confident they will still get a proper look at the star in action.



Neha's Yellow Lehenga That Stole Every Heart

Neha Shetty made her full-length role in *Gangs of Godavari* two years ago, but the film unfortunately turned out to be a box office flop. Her role did not go down well with audiences, and she faced heavy trolling on social media for her performance. It was a tough and disappointing start for someone who had big hopes riding on the film. Since then, Neha has not landed another full-length movie role. The wait for her next big project has been longer than her fans expected. However, she has kept herself very much in the public eye through stunning appearances and photoshoots. Her glamour has only grown stronger with time. Whether it is a beautiful yellow lehenga or traditional jewellery, Neha carries every look with confidence and grace. Her style speaks louder than any film announcement. Fans remain hopeful and excited, knowing that her best on-screen chapter is still yet to come.

Can Janhvi Repeat Rangasthalam's Samantha Magic?



The trailer of *Peddi* has just been released and it is already creating strong discussions among audiences. Starring Ram Charan in the lead and featuring Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, the film promises a rural-action backdrop with emotional sports drama as its core. Janhvi Kapoor's character in the trailer has sparked comparisons with *Rangasthalam*, where Samantha Ruth Prabhu delivered one of her most celebrated performances. While both characters are different in writing and tone, the rural setting, dialect, and emotional texture have led to inevitable parallels among fans. In the trailer, Janhvi makes a sincere effort to adapt to the rustic role, and her screen presence stands out in several moments. However, some viewers feel there is still scope for more refinement in dialogue delivery and emotional intensity to fully match the depth of the character. That said, if *Peddi* turns out to be a strong success, it could mark a major turning point in Janhvi Kapoor's South Indian career. A well-received performance in a big-ticket film like this could elevate her popularity and open more opportunities in Telugu cinema. For now, all eyes are on how the film shapes up on the big screen and whether the final performance will win over audiences completely. *Peddi* is the second film for director Buchi Babu Sana after *Uppena* and he has been hyping the film to another level in all his interviews. AR Rahman scores music.

Calling Co-Star "Fu*king Hot," Rashmika Crosses The Line?



National Crush Rashmika's rise to stardom in North is unmatched to any other actress of South India in recent times. She has achieved pan-India popularity with big hits and garnered a respectable image because of her down to earth persona besides her on-screen charisma. She hardly courted any big controversies so far with her behaviour. But, her recent comments during the promotional event of her upcoming film *Cocktail 2* raised many an eyebrow and sparked a big debate.

In fact, she left fans and the media shocked with a distasteful remark on her co-star. The incident happened during the song launch event of *Cocktail 2* in Mumbai on Sunday. While enthusiastically praising her co-star Kriti Sanon's stunning appearance, the actress accidentally let an F-bomb slip, triggering a wave of mixed reactions online. The *Pushpa* actress immediately realised that she uttered an expletive and couldn't control her laugh. But, she quickly refrained from going any further and asked her words to be censored. However, the damage has already been done. "Something in *Cocktail 2* was just so different," Rashmika began. Turning directly to Kriti, she gushed, "You look hot. That the world knows... and you are fu*king hot!" Realizing her slip-of-the-tongue a second too late, Rashmika instantly covered her mouth in shock. She hilariously quipped, "Oh sorry! Silence that!" prompting laughter and loud cheers from the venue's crowd. Shaking off the blunder, the actress continued to shower love on her co-star, saying, "She's amazing, like look at her. There's too much love happening." While her crude comment was laughed off on stage, it clearly appeared like Rashmika went overboard which is so uncharacteristic of her usual behaviour. Given that she has always been maintaining a dignified attitude despite her growing image beyond South Indian cinema due to big hits in Bollywood and also the fact that she recently got married to Vijay Devarakonda, these unnecessary comments doesn't go well with both media and moviegoers.

Actress Twisha Death Mystery Deepens With CCTV Shock

The death of Twisha Sharma, an MBA graduate from Noida who acted in the Telugu film *Mugguru Monagallu*, is creating unrest in the media. She passed away at her matrimonial home in Bhopal has sparked a major controversy, with her family alleging dowry harassment, physical and mental abuse, and attempts by her in-laws to influence the investigation. Amidst many speculations and facts surrounding her death, the CCTV footage that surfaced online reveals chilling details. The CCTV showcases Twisha walking towards the rooftop of her Bhopal home shortly before her death. Later, she was carried downstairs by her husband and two others. The CCTV visuals also show the attempts made to administer CPR on Twisha. At the same time, the timing error is also pointed out in the footage. On May 12, Twisha was found hanging at her residence in Bhopal's Katara Hills



area on May 12. She had married Bhopal-based lawyer Samarth Singh, son of retired sessions judge Giribala Singh, in December 2025 after meeting through a dating app. The police are looking into this as a suicide case but Twisha's family has claimed she was under severe emotional distress and wanted to leave Bhopal shortly before her death. A six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to investigate allegations of dowry harassment, assault, and possible destruction of evidence.