

# HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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### MITCH MARSH TON, PRINCE YADAV HELP LSG STUN RCB IN THRILLER

STADIUM 11

### VAANI KAPOOR RADIATES CONFIDENCE IN SENSATIONAL BEIGE CORSET FASHION



BOX -OFFICE 12

## SHORT TAKES



Vijay's TVK warns all 107 MLAs will resign if DMK, AIADMK form govt: Sources

Amid the ongoing political deadlock in Tamil Nadu, the Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) is considering a mass resignation of all its 107 MLAs if either the DMK or the AIADMK is invited to form the government, party sources said.

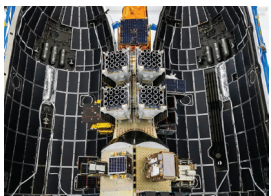
TELANGANA 05



8th Pay Commission: Govt employees push for 5-year pay hikes. Is it practical?

As part of its exclusive 8th Pay Commission coverage, IndiaToday.in spoke to union leaders demanding salary revisions every five years. We also asked experts whether such a move would help employees or strain government finances further.

MONEY MATTER 09



Mission Drishti— India's Leap in Space

India's first privately built Earth observation satellite, "Mission Drishti," developed by Bengaluru-based startup GalaxEye, has marked a major milestone in the country's space sector. The world's first OptoSAR technology-based satellite combines electro-optical and synthetic aperture radar systems to provide continuous Earth

OPINION 06

## BRS slams BJP for assault on MLA's office; accuses Bandi Sanjay of inciting violence

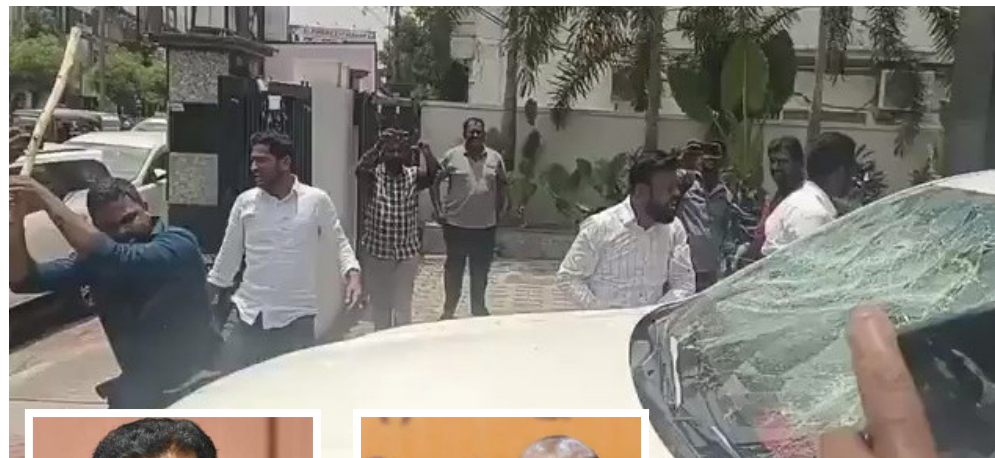
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has strongly criticised the assault carried out by BJP supporters on the camp office of Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakara, as well as on the vehicle of MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, which occurred on Thursday.

The party's leadership accused Union Minister for State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar of inciting violence and undermining the democratic environment in Karimnagar.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao described the incident as reprehensible, asserting that BJP members acted like hooligans, invading the MLA's office, vandalizing vehicles, and causing property damage in broad daylight. He expressed disappointment that the police stood by without intervening, labeling the situation as disgraceful. Former minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao further remarked that the Union Minister had become a mere auxiliary for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, engaging in intimidation and theatrics to divert attention from the latter's failures.

Instead of addressing the



concerns raised by BRS leaders, Harish Rao claimed Bandi Sanjay encouraged his party members to attack opposition figures.

"Despite holding the position of Union Minister responsible for internal security, he showed a total lack of respect for his role and



for democracy," he stated. Harish Rao also denounced the incident and questioned the existence of law and order in the state, considering that even the offices of elected representatives were not secure. He called for immediate action against those involved and

cautioned that ongoing assaults could compel citizens to take to the streets to protect democracy. In a separate press conference held in Hyderabad, BRS Legislative Council deputy leader L Ramana accused Bandi Sanjay of disrupting the peaceful political climate in Karimnagar and called for the enforcement of the PD Act against those implicated in the assault. He highlighted the decline in law and order, referencing a recent daylight robbery at a jewelry store in Karimnagar and the reported harassment of Malkajgiri police commissioner Sumathi in Hyderabad.

## Uttam pushes for speedy completion of Dindi lift irrigation scheme

HYDERABAD



Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed the irrigation officials to complete the level fixation for the offtake point of the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme immediately facilitating process for speedy completion of the project.

Following an elaborate discussion with the Gutta Sukender Reddy, Chairman of the state legislative coun-

cil, who met the Minister in his chambers on Thursday on the progress of works pertaining to the project, he instructed the Irrigation Secretary, E Sridhar and ENC (General), Ramesh Babu to finalise immediately the level at which water has to be drawn to the approach channel of the lift scheme from the Yedula Reservoir of the Palamuru Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## Cong govt ruining farmers' livelihoods, says Harish Rao

HYDERABAD

Senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday accused the Congress government in Telangana of "destroying the livelihoods of farmers" and failing to fulfil the promises made to various sections of the society.

Addressing a large-scale meeting of party workers at Kodad in Suryapet district, the former Minister launched a sharp attack on the ruling Congress government and local Congress leadership, while asserting that the future belongs to the BRS party.

Harish Rao alleged that the Congress had deceived unemployed youth, students, women and retired employees by failing to implement promises such as two lakh jobs, fee reimbursement for students and Rs.2,500 monthly assistance for women.

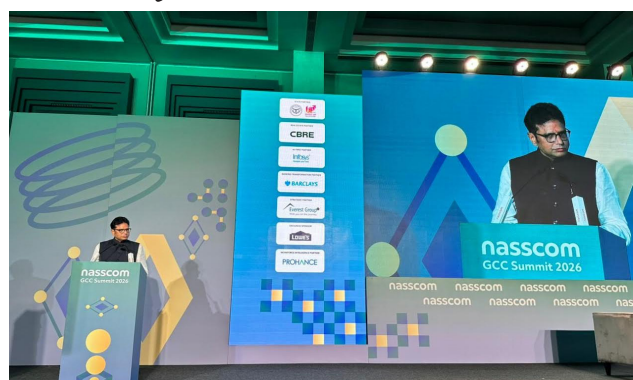
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## Hyderabad to be developed as a global city in 10 years: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

Telangana Information Technology and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Thursday said the State government was pursuing a planned vision to transform Hyderabad into a global city over the next decade by attracting large-scale international investments and building future-ready infrastructure.

Addressing the "NASSCOM GCC Summit 2026" in Mumbai on the theme "Beyond Policy: Designed to Win the Global GCC Race", the Minister said the government had adopted the "Telangana Rising Vision 2047" framework with the goal of increasing the State's contribution to the country's GDP to



10% by 2047. Mr. Sridhar Babu said several cities across the world were facing the consequences of unplanned urbanisation and "urban collapse", and asserted that Hyderabad would avoid such pitfalls through long-term planning

and infrastructure expansion. He said the government had initiated a series of major projects, including Bharat Future City, AI City, Metro Rail expansion, development of new airports, the Regional Ring Road (RRR), Musi river reju-

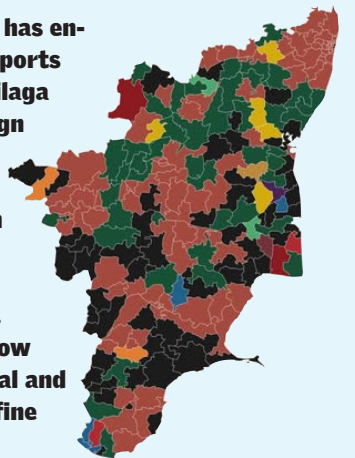
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### TVK MLAs POISED FOR MASS RESIGNATION THREAT AS DMK-AIADMK ALLIANCE TALKS HEAT UP - A HIGH-STAKES GAMBLE IN TAMIL NADU'S POLITICAL THEATRE

Tamil Nadu on the edge: TVK's resignation threat rocks post-poll chaos as DMK and AIADMK face charges of a backroom power stitch-up

Tamil Nadu's post election turbulence has entered a dangerous new phase after reports emerged that all MLAs of Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam are prepared to resign en masse if DMK and AIADMK join hands to form a government. The dramatic warning has transformed an already fractured mandate into a full blown political confrontation over legitimacy, morality, and public trust. What began as an electoral upset is now threatening to become a constitutional and emotional showdown that could redefine the future of Dravidian politics itself



SPECIAL 02

## Gadkari lauds Telangana's transport reforms, road safety measures

HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has appreciated the Telangana Government's proactive initiatives in transport reforms, road safety and public welfare.

In a letter to Telangana Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Gadkari praised key initiatives including the abolition of transport check posts, integration of VAHAN / SARATHI platforms, establishment of Automated Driving Testing Tracks and implementation of Road Safety Audits. The Central minister said Telangana's reforms are in line with the Centre's vision of digital governance, seamless transport administration and



enhanced road safety. Gadkari also commended the State Government's efforts in promoting sustainable mobility and organising awareness programmes during National Road Safety Month.

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# 3 TIMES BETTER

SHORT NEWS

### Family development through women's financial empowerment : Peethadhipathi Dr. Umar Alisha



**PITHAPURAM:** If women are financially empowered, the family will develop, said the ninth Peethadhipathi of Sri Vishwa Vigyan Vidya Aadyathmika Peetham, Dr. Umar Alisha Swamy. On Thursday morning, the PMO Products i.e. Prakriti Matru Organic Products, set up in the new ashram premises of the local Sri Vishwa Vigyan Vidya Aadyathmika Peetham, were formally launched by Peethadhipathi Dr. Umar Alisha Swamy. Speaking on the occasion, Peethadhipathi Dr. Umar Alisha Swamy said that the women's wing of Sri Vishwa Vigyan Vidya Aadyathmika Peetham is working to bring out the skills in women's power and pave the way for their financial stability. Peethadhipathi Dr. Umar Alisha said that Peruri Komali has been appointed as the women's coordinator for this program. Women who want to be participants in the women's self-reliance program should get trained by Komali. About 90 women participated in this program. The products made by the women were first purchased by Peetham Convener Peruri Suribabu, who received some products from the holy hands of Swamy. Later, many PMOs purchased the products. All the women of Sri Vishwa Vigyan Vidya Aadyathmika Peetham participated in the women empowerment program under the leadership of Peruri Komali with unity. Peetham head Dr. Umar Alisha Swamy blessed all the women participating in this program. Program coordinator Komali Swamy welcomed them and offered a vote of thanks at the end of the program.

# Tamil Nadu on the edge: TVK's resignation threat rocks post-poll chaos as DMK and AIADMK face charges of a backroom power stitch-up

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Tamil Nadu is no longer witnessing routine coalition calculations. What is unfolding now carries the smell of rebellion, betrayal, panic, and high voltage political brinkmanship. The atmosphere in Chennai's corridors of power has turned electrically tense. Late night meetings. Closed door consultations. Strategic leaks. Phone lines burning non stop.

And now the biggest shockwave of all. Reports indicate that TVK legislators are willing to resign collectively if the state's two traditional enemies, viz. DMK and AIADMK attempt a post poll understanding to keep Vijay away from power. If this happens, Tamil Nadu will enter one of the most explosive political confrontations in its recent history. This is no ordinary pressure tactic. This is political warfare.

### THE DRAVIDIAN RIVALS NOW FACE A CREDIBILITY TEST

For decades, DMK and AIADMK built their political identity by portraying each other as existential threats to Tamil Nadu's future. Election after election, cadres fought fiercely on the streets. Leaders attacked each other relentlessly from public platforms. Entire political careers were constructed around mutual hostility. Now suddenly, whispers of cooperation are circulating. That alone has triggered enormous public curiosity and suspicion. If such an arrangement materialises purely to prevent TVK from staking claim, the political optics could become devastating for both parties. Voters may ask a blunt question: If these rivals can unite overnight after spending years branding each other dangerous, what exactly was the ideological battle all about? This is where Vijay senses opportunity. And danger.

### VIJAY IS PLAYING THE POLITICS OF MORAL AGGRESSION

The proposed resignation strategy is not merely about arithmetic. It is about narrative. TVK wants to project itself as the uncompromising force refusing to legitimise what it may describe as an opportunistic survival alliance by the old establishment. The message is sharp and emotionally loaded: "We sought a mandate for change. If the old order joins hands only to stop us, we will take the fight back to the people." That is the emotional battlefield TVK is attempting to create. It is risky. But politically potent. Because Tamil Nadu's electorate is emotionally charged after this election. A large section of younger voters already sees Vijay as a disruptor challenging entrenched power networks. Mass resignation could amplify that perception dramatically.

### BUT HERE COMES THE CONSTITUTIONAL REALITY CHECK

If TVK MLAs resign, the government formed by rival parties would not automatically collapse. Vacancies would trigger by elections in those constituencies alone. Governance machinery would continue unless numbers inside the Assembly become unsustainable. So the resignations, if executed, would be symbolic before being

structural. But symbolism in Tamil Nadu politics carries enormous force. Public perception shapes momentum. Emotional narratives shape future mandates. And Vijay understands the power of dramatic political messaging better than most conventional politicians. The risk however is equally enormous. Critics may accuse TVK of

irresponsibility. Opponents could portray the resignations as political immaturity rather than principled resistance. Voters expecting governance may begin questioning whether perpetual confrontation is replacing practical politics. This is the tightrope Vijay now walks.

### THE BIG QUESTION: MASTER-STROKE OR MISCALCULATION?

There are two sharply different possibilities emerging. SCENARIO ONE: DMK and AIADMK move closer tactically, believing stability matters more than rivalry. TVK retaliates with resignations. Public sympathy surges behind Vijay. Fresh elections become politically unavoidable later. TVK returns stronger than before. SCENARIO TWO: The resignation gamble backfires. Voters perceive the move as emotional overreaction rather than strategic maturity. The established parties stabilise governance while TVK risks appearing impatient and inexperienced. This is why the coming days are extraordinarily critical. Every move now carries long term consequences.



## Strengthen surveillance on excise crime...

Review meeting in Excise Department - Secretary CT & Excise Raghunandan Rao

HYDERABAD

Revenue Secretary CT & Excise Raghunandan Rao said that revenue will increase only when the Excise Department takes necessary measures to curb NDPL, NDPS, illegal liquor (natu sara) manufacturing and transportation. A review meeting was held at Abkari Bhavan on Thursday afternoon with Excise officials, chaired by Revenue Secretary Raghunandan Rao and Prohibition & Excise Commissioner C. Harikiran.

The meeting reviewed the performance of the Excise Department for the year 2025 as well as up to April this year. He stated that performance reviews will be conducted once every three months at the district and divisional levels, and rankings will be assigned accordingly.

Special focus was given to liquor sales under the Excise Department during the review. He stressed that crime control should be result-oriented.

Raghunandan Rao said that better performance by Excise officials would lead to better outcomes. He emphasized that more attention should be given to areas where crime control has not been effective, rather than only focusing on achieved results.

He added that only by improving professional skills can the functioning of the Excise Department be strengthened. He also instructed that employee-related matters such as promotions, medical bills, and filling of vacancies should not remain pending. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Syed Yasin Qureshi, Excise Academy Director Suresh Rathod, Joint Commissioners Anjan Rao (Enforcement) and David Ravikanth (Headquarters), Deputy Commissioners of Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medak, Khammam, Nalgonda, Adilabad, Mahbubnagar - P. Dasharath, Anil Kumar

## Keeping Humanity Alive Globally

(On the occasion of "World Red and Red Crescent Cross Day" on 08 May)

World Red Cross and Crescent Day is celebrated annually on 08 May to mark the birthday of Henry Dunant, the founder of the "International Red Cross", who was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901. The day is a global observance dedicated to promoting the humanitarian efforts of the "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement". This day honours the tireless work of volunteers and staff who provide essential services to people in urgent need, during health emergencies and natural disasters. It also serves to raise awareness about the principles of the movement, which are based on neutrality, impartiality, and humanity. The International Committee of the Red Cross formed in 1863 has 192 National Societies, making "Red Cross

and Red Crescent Movement" the largest humanitarian network in the world today.

### Keeping Humanity Alive: Hope, Help, Heal:

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was first celebrated in 1948 as a way to honour the efforts of its founder, Henry Dunant. The day was by "International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC)" to promote the humanitarian principles of the movement and to recognise the invaluable contributions of its volunteers and staff worldwide. The official theme of 2026 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is "Keeping Humanity Alive", to celebrate those who give their lives, time, and talent to ease the suffering of others and protect their inherent human dignity. In a time of unprecedented crises and loss, it's also a poignant reminder of the daily dangers faced by human-

itarian workers and to ensure their life-saving work is fully respected and protected.

This global observance is a reminder of the power of kindness, voluntary services, and unity in the face of crises such as war, natural disasters, health emergencies, hunger, and many more. On this day, let's appreciate the courage and efforts of volunteers who served in difficult conditions such as war-torn areas, disaster zones, and remote communities to provide food, medical services, shelter, and emotional support. "Keeping Alive Humanity" is both a tribute to those on the ground and a call to support their voluntary work by spreading peace, kindness, and hope through their actions. The works of the Red Cross is proof that even in chaos, humanity endures.

**Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy**  
Principal & Associate Professor  
(Rtd) 9949700037

## MP Vaddiraju lashes out at Congress and BJP



HYDERABAD

BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra strongly criticized the national parties Congress and BJP, alleging that they are engaging in "collusive politics" and conspiring to weaken the existence of regional parties.

He said the Congress party, which is in power in the state, has failed in governance, while the Central government has neglected Telangana's development. Referring to the Congress and BJP as "Chota Bhai and Bade Bhai," he remarked that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had visited Delhi 69 times and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Home Minister Amit Shah on several occasions. Speaking to media representatives who met him at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday, MP Ravichandra said both national parties are indulging in "diversion politics." As part of this, he sharply criticized Union Minister Bandi Sanjay and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for allegedly making irresponsible remarks against senior BRS leaders.

Ravichandra stated that it was highly objectionable for Bandi Sanjay, who holds the important responsibility of maintaining law and order, to make inappropriate comments against BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao. He further alleged that Revanth Reddy, despite holding the

office of Chief Minister, has been using offensive language against opposition leaders, including statements such as "I will rip out intestines and hang them around the neck," "I will play marbles with eyeballs," and "I will unleash violence," which he described as disgraceful.

The MP alleged that when such comments are condemned, cases are being fabricated against leaders of the main opposition party, and they are being subjected to harassment and attacks.

He condemned the attacks and vandalism targeting the official camp offices and vehicles of MLAs Gangula Kamalakar and Padi Kaushik Reddy, calling them shameful acts.

Ravichandra also expressed concern that Bandi Sanjay, despite being a Union Minister responsible for maintaining peace and order, was making provocative comments at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Telangana, potentially creating tensions in the state.

Finally, he advised both Bandi Sanjay and Revanth Reddy to refrain from unnecessary and inappropriate remarks and instead focus on securing more funds from the Centre for the development of Telangana.

## CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

## Cong govt ruining farmers' livelihoods, says Harish Rao

FROM PAGE 1

He claimed that promises made to Muslim minorities remained unfulfilled and accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of discontinuing welfare benefits introduced for minorities during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Mocking the Chief Minister's style of governance, Harish Rao remarked that Revanth Reddy's administration could be summed up as "Big talk, little action" (Baat meind mein, kaam pakodo mein), alleging that the government's words were lofty while its performance remained poor.

He further alleged that funds earmarked under the SC/ST Sub-Plan were not reaching beneficiaries and claimed that no benefits had been extended through the SC and ST Corporations during the Congress government's tenure so far.

Praising the previous BRS regime, Harish Rao said large-scale development and irrigation expansion had taken place under KCR's



leadership through projects such as Kaleshwaram and Phase-2 of the SRSP project. He questioned whether Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy had managed to bring Godavari waters to Kodad during his earlier tenure as Minister.

The BRS leader also compared paddy procurement under the previous and present governments. Even

during the COVID-19 pandemic, KCR had ensured uninterrupted implementation of the Rythu Bandhu scheme and arranged special trains to bring labourers from Bihar for unloading paddy stocks, he noted.

Claiming that 93 lakh metric tonnes of paddy were procured during the pandemic period under the BRS government, Harish Rao al-

leged that the Congress government had procured only 17 lakh tonnes so far during the current Rabi season despite announcing a target of 90 lakh tonnes. "While the Corona virus claimed human lives, this Congress government is destroying the livelihoods of farmers and tormenting them at every moment", he alleged.

## Uttam pushes for speedy completion of Dindi lift irrigation scheme



FROM PAGE 1

He also wanted the works on the Dindi lift irrigation scheme barrage at Pothireddypalli village to be taken up immediately by obtaining Finance related clearance by May 15.

The Minister also emphasised the need for enhancing the carrying capacity of the AMRP SLBC main canal from 2,400 cusecs to 4,000 cusecs before taking up the cement concrete lining works. It may need further enhancement to 6,000 cusecs once the project is completed. He stated that the government has sanctioned Rs 443 crore for cement concrete lining of the high-level canal of the SLBC and the widening of the canal would be the priority ahead of the lining works, he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Dindi lift irrigation scheme will help address water woes in seven assembly constituencies covering 228 fluoride-affected villages extending an irrigation support to 3.61 lakh acres. As part of the scheme, four online reservoirs and five offline reservoirs would come up with

a combined storage capacity of 25.31 TMC. The head works of the scheme were divided into four packages which included the barrage at the Pothireddypalli village and a 16 km tunnel, he said.

So far as the Dindi balancing reservoir was concerned, 95 per cent of the works were completed by the state government, a major part of it being the achievement of the present government. A stretch of the spill-way remained incomplete due to submergence problem affected three village involving rehabilitation and forest land of 180.14 hectares in Nalgonda and Nagarkurnool districts, he said.

The Minister said the stage -I forest clearance was expected in a month's time. He instructed the officials to call the tenders for erection of the gates on the Dindi balancing reservoir immediately.

Uttam Kumar Reddy reviewed the progress in preparation of revised estimate to complete the Pendlipaka Balancing reservoir. He favoured it to be taken up with the high-powered committee. He wanted it to be placed before the state cabinet in its next meeting. (NSS)

## Hyderabad to be developed as a global city in 10 years: Sridhar Babu

FROM PAGE 1

He said the State was preparing a comprehensive roadmap to transform GCCs from conventional back-office operations into "global value centres". Inviting industrialists to invest in Telangana, Mr. Sridhar Babu highlighted Hyderabad's strong talent ecosystem and availability of skilled professionals across sectors. He urged companies to contribute towards taking the "Made in Telangana" brand to the global stage. NASSCOM Chairman Srikant and president Rajesh Nambiar were among those present.



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# GSHS Invites Applications for 2026-27 Admissions

HYDERABAD

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS) at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has invited applications for admission into its Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs in the disciplines of Social Sciences and Humanities for the academic year 2026-27.

Announcing this in a press release, Dr. Shamul Tharu, In-Charge Director, GSHS, stated that admissions will be based on valid scores obtained in national or state-level entrance examinations. Candidates may also qualify through the GITAM Admission Test (GAT) 2026. The Phase-3 GAT examination is scheduled to be held on May 17, 2026, and interested applicants can submit their applications on or before May 14, 2026.

At the undergraduate level, GSHS



offers B.A. programs with majors in Psychology, Economics, English, History, Political Science, Journalism and Media Studies, Sociology and Cinematic Arts and Design. These programs are designed to provide students with a strong foundation in their chosen disciplines while enhanc-

ing analytical, creative, and communication skills. As part of the liberal education program, students can take over 600 subject combinations based on their interest and ambition.

At the postgraduate level, the school offers M.A. programs in Applied Psychology, Economics, and English,

focusing on advanced theoretical knowledge, research capabilities, and practical applications.

The doctoral programs include Ph.D. offerings in Applied Psychology, Economics, English, Political Science, and Sociology, aimed at fostering high-quality research and academic excellence in these fields.

GSHS emphasizes holistic education by integrating academics with sports, co-curricular engagement, and community interaction. State of the art teaching labs, extensive internship immersion, and a research focused faculty help provide relevant and comprehensive instruction. GITAM is committed to nurturing students beyond academic achievements, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to society through informed perspectives and critical thinking.

The university maintains a strong academic ecosystem, with over

28,000 active students from across India and 52 countries, a network of more than 96,000 alumni worldwide, and over 1,800 faculty members—95% of whom hold Ph.D. qualifications. The institution has recorded 3,728 placement offers, with the highest package reaching ₹1.4 crore.

Additionally, nearly 32.8% of students benefit from merit-based scholarships, including up to 100% fee waivers covering tuition, food, and accommodation.

### Important Dates:

- Last date to apply: May 14, 2026
- GAT Examination & Personal Interview: May 17, 2026
- Announcement of Results: May 20, 2026
- Last date for fee payment (scholarship candidates): May 24, 2026
- Final date for admission: May 30, 2026

# 'NHRC Registers Case on Velugumatla Incident'

HYDERABAD

Senior Advocate Rama Rao Immaneni has lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) over the Velugumatla incident. Acting on the complaint, the Commission has registered a case.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Rama Rao stated that the NHRC taking cognizance of the Velugumatla incident reflects the failure of the state government's administration. He said the development clearly shows that the government has completely failed in delivering justice to the victims. He described it as deeply concerning that the country's apex human rights body had to intervene in the matter of alleged human rights violations. He demanded immediate action against those responsible and urged the authorities to provide jus-

stice, security, and adequate compensation to the affected families. Rama Rao also called upon the government to initiate strict action against officials who were negligent in protecting the lives and rights of the people.

### VARIOUS WORKS FOR LHB COACHES AT DBWS

E-Tender Notice No.: DBWS-NIET-06-2026-27. Dated: 05-05-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of the work: Standardization of piping and clamping diagram layout of piping for FIBA, Air Spring and Air Suspension control equipment and provision of additional Dirt Collector in BP line before FIBA device in all LHB coaches at DBWS. Estimated Tender Value: ₹61,87,695/- inclusive of GST @18%. Bid Security: ₹1,23,800/- E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 27-05-2026 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 27-05-2026. The complete information about the tender document of above tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 27-05-2026 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Chief Workshop Manager/  
Mechanical Workshop/Dibrugarh  
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# Development should never come at the cost of nature

- Saving KBR is not just about protecting trees
- It is about protecting life, balance, and the future of our city

HYDERABAD

A peaceful human chain protest was organized today at KBR National Park Jubilee hills, Hyderabad by Parisar-samvad – Telangana Chapter, in solidarity with the protection of KBR National Park and its eco-sensitive environment.



Open E Tender Notice No. E-02-CPOH-RYP-2026 Dt.06.05.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following work up to 29.05.2026, 15:00 hours and the date mentioned against.

SI, No. 1 Tender No. E-02-CPOH-RYP-2026 Name of work Crimping and Replacement of damaged Hydraulic hoses to Track machines at CPOH/RYP (62 Machines) for 2026-27 and 2027-28. Period of completion 24 Months Tender value Rs. 2,20,84,782.50/- E.M.D Rs.4,41,700/- Date of Closing 29.05.2026. (Item One only)

1. Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "www.ireps.gov.in". 2. The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "www.ireps.gov.in" before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender. 3. The Tender Notice also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Dy. Chief Engineer, CPOH, S.C. Railway, Rayanapadu. 4. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Deputy Chief Engineer/CPOH, Rayanapadu

E-Tender Notice No. C-SG-PT-IPMPLS-BZA-GTL-GNT-03 Dated: 05.05.2026

Dy.CSTE/Projects/Tele/SC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the for the following work.

Tender Number and Date C-SG-PT-IPMPLS-BZA-GTL-GNT-03 Dated: 05.05.2026 Name of Work Telecommunication Works for Provision of IP-MPLS in Vijayawada, Guntakal and Guntur Divisions of South Central Railway Estimated Project Cost Rs. 31,18,34,709.27/- Bid Security Rs. 62,36,700/- Completion Period of Work 12 Months Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date) 08.06.2026 at 11:00 hrs Bid Opening Date 08.06.2026 after 11:00 hrs Validity of Offer 120 Days from Bid Closing Date Cost of Tender Booklet Rs.0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Dy. CSTE/Projects/Tele/Secunderabad

E-Tender Notice No. C-SG-PT-IPMPLS-BZA-GTL-GNT-02 Dated: 05.05.2026

Dy.CSTE/Projects/Tele/SC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the for the following work.

Tender Number and Date C-SG-PT-IPMPLS-BZA-GTL-GNT-02 Dated: 05.05.2026 Name of Work Telecommunication Works for Provision of IP-MPLS in Secunderabad and Nanded Division of South Central Railway. Estimated Project Cost Rs. 16,23,90,243.96/- Bid Security Rs. 32,47,800/- Completion Period of Work 12 Months Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date) 08.06.2026 at 11:00 hrs Bid Opening Date 08.06.2026 after 11:00 hrs Validity of Offer 120 Days from Bid Closing Date Cost of Tender Booklet Rs.0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Dy. CSTE/Projects/Tele/Secunderabad

E-Tender Notice No. B-E29-TRD-TNDR-06/2026-27 Dt:06.05.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical/TrD/Vijayawada acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders for the following works.

Tender No.: B-E29-TRD-TNDR-06/2026-27

Name of the work Strengthening of OHE through stone pitching, soil filling with raising of muffs including associated OHE modification works in connection with safety in BZA Division. Approx. value (Rs.) Rs. 1,87,82,718.00 Completion period 12 Months Bid Security (EMD)Rs. Rs. 3,75,700/- Date of closing 25.05.2026 Cost of Tender form-Nil For full details and conditions visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

N.B: If date of opening happens to be a holiday, the tender will be opened on next working day.

Sr. DEE/TrD/Vijayawada

The protest was conducted in response to the ongoing plans that may lead to large-scale cutting of trees and further shrinking of the eco-sensitive zone surrounding the park. Environmentalists and concerned citizens expressed deep concern that such actions would severely affect biodiversity, disturb ecological balance, and endanger several species dependent on this green habitat.

# Osmania University Announces Key Administrative Appointments to Strengthen Academic Governance



HYDERABAD

In a significant move to bolster academic leadership and administrative efficiency, Osmania University has announced several key appointments across its diverse de-

partments. The official orders were formally handed over today by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kumar Molugaram, during a ceremony held at the University Administrative Building.

The following appointments have been made to steer the university's vision toward academic excellence and research innovation:

Dr. G. Udayalaxmi, from the Department of Geophysics, has been appointed as the Head of the Department (HoD).

Prof. Srinu Naik has been entrusted with the dual responsibility of Head of the Department and Chairperson, Board of Studies (CBoS) for Textile Technology.

Prof. J.L.N. Rao has been granted an extension of his term as the Director of the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, ensuring continued leadership in this critical area of international research.

While presenting the appointment orders, Prof. Kumar Molugaram emphasized the university's commitment to merit-driven leadership and institutional growth. He urged the new appointees to work toward the holistic development of their respective departments and to foster an environment of cutting-edge research and student-centric administration.

The university community congratulates the new functionaries and looks forward to their contributions in upholding the prestigious legacy of Osmania University.

Tender Notice No: 2-MECH-NMGHSFS-TPY-26-27 Dated 04.05.2026

Dy.CME/CRS/TPY acting for, and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

SI, No 1 Description of work Tender No: 2-MECH-NMGHSFS-TPY-26-27 Dated 04.05.2026 Conversion of NMG coaches to NMGHS-FS Coaches at Carriage Repair Shop-Tirupati Approx. Cost (In Rs.) Rs. 3,76,28,602/- Bid Security (in Rs) Rs.7,52,600/- Period of completion 12 Months from the date of commencement of work Date of Closing 26.05.2026 @11.00 Hrs.

Website particulars [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen Office of the chief workshop manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati

For further Tender Conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Chief Workshop Manager Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati A217

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

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## SHORT TAKES

### Housing security is a symbol of dignity, not just shelter: Adhuri

**HYDERABAD:** Declaring that the Congress government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is ushering in a new era of social and economic empowerment for the underprivileged, Nalgonda district in-charge Minister and SC, ST Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar asserted that the Indiramma Housing scheme must emerge as a benchmark model in the erstwhile Nalgonda district. The Minister stated that a house for a poor family is not merely a shelter, but a symbol of dignity, security and social stability. He observed that the Telangana government is moving ahead with a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating rural poverty through welfare-driven governance, housing security and transparent land administration reforms. Adhuri Laxman Kumar was speaking during the high-level review meeting on Housing and Revenue matters held at the Housing Corporation Headquarters on Thursday under the chairmanship of Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. The meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with MLAs and public representatives from Bhongir, Nakrekal, Tungaturthi, constituencies.

# A House for Every Poor Family

- Permanent Solution to Land Disputes
- A New Era Begins in Telangana with a Housing Revolution and Revenue Reforms
- Appointment of Additional MROs
- No negligence or mistakes will be tolerated
- Review Meeting for Unified Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar Districts
- Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

### HYDERABAD

Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the people's government is working with the goal of providing every poor person with a house of their own and ensuring clear land ownership rights for landholders. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Telangana government is moving forward with the objective of bringing permanent change to the lives of the poor. The minister stated that a house and land symbolize self-respect for every family and that providing a secure future for the poor is the government's commitment. He said that the government is implementing the ambitious "Indiramma Houses" scheme with the aim of bringing dignified change to the lives of poor families. Under this scheme, financial assistance of ₹5 lakh is being provided for the construction of houses on beneficiaries'



own land. He added that nearly four lakh houses have been sanctioned, marking the beginning of a housing revolution across the state.

As part of district-wise reviews being conducted with public representatives on housing and revenue issues, the minister held a review meeting on Thursday at the Housing Corporation headquarters with in-charge ministers, ministers, MPs, MLCs, MLAs, district collectors, and officials from the Housing, Revenue, and Forest departments of the unified Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts.

The meeting was attended by Legislative Council Chairman Gupta Sukhender Reddy; Nalgonda in-charge minister and SC/ST Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar; Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Vakati Srihari, and Jupally Krishna Rao; Planning Board Vice Chairman G. Chinnna Reddy; Government Adviser Jitender Reddy; and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister stressed that officials should work in coordination with local public representatives regarding ground-level implementation of welfare schemes. He said that if the entire district administration functions in coordination, problems can

be resolved immediately at the local level. He directed district collectors to work in line with the government's objectives.

He stated that the highest level of authority in implementing the Indiramma Houses scheme has been entrusted to district collectors. The minister instructed collectors to ensure that beneficiaries who have received proceedings and whose first installment has been credited to their accounts receive all subsequent installments on time.

He further directed officials to ensure complete transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Indiramma Houses scheme, making sure only eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits. He warned that any irregularities or mistakes in this matter would not be tolerated.

Collectors were also instructed to take necessary measures to issue house-site pattas to eligible beneficiaries on lands previously acquired for Indiramma housing but left unused. The minister said the government is also considering providing another opportunity to beneficiaries who had earlier been sanctioned houses under the Indiramma scheme but could not complete construction for various reasons. He particularly instructed Hous-

ing Department Project Directors in districts to carry out their duties responsibly, act as coordinators between beneficiaries and higher officials, and pay special attention to resolving issues. He warned that negligence in this regard would not be tolerated.

The minister also directed that beneficiary selection for double-bedroom housing schemes, regardless of the stage of construction, should be completed by the 20th of this month. He urged local public representatives to actively participate in the process and emphasized that only eligible poor families should be selected as beneficiaries.

### Appointment of Additional MROs

The minister said the government is taking steps to construct new buildings for Revenue and Registration offices across the state. He instructed district collectors to ensure these offices are established in locations easily accessible to the public.

He further announced that in mandals with populations exceeding one lakh, an additional Tahsildar would be appointed based on requirements. District collectors were asked to prepare proposals accordingly.

## Thalassemia, an Inherited Red Blood Cell Disorder

(08 May on the occasion of "International Thalassemia Day")

Finding the Undiagnosed, Supporting the Unseen".

### No Complete Cure, Can It be Controlled?

Thalassemia, a hereditary blood disorder, is estimated to affect about 3.4 percent of the world's population. Statistics show that more than ten thousand children in India are affected by thalassemia every year. Thalassemia patients often experience a decrease in hemoglobin levels and fatigue. If the disease becomes more severe, anemia can occur and blood transfusions may be necessary in emergencies. There is no complete medical cure for thalassemia, but we should know that the only thing we can do is keep the disease under control.

### World Thalassemia Day-2026 Theme:

International Thalassemia Day, which was established in 1994 at the initiative of Thalassemia International Federation, discusses issues such as providing proper awareness to the patients and their caregivers, explaining the symptoms of the disease, and taking medical advice. It has become a tradition to observe "International Thalassemia Day" every year on 08 May across the world to discuss issues such as increasing awareness, giving confidence, and providing appropriate support among thalassemia patients. The theme of International Thalassemia Day-2026 is "Hidden No More :

Since it is a hereditary disease, it is best to conduct a couple's thalassemia diagnosis test before marriage. Thalassemia patients should continue to eat nutritious food, do physical activity as per the doctor's advice, vaccinate normal children, and educate patients. Symptoms such as bone weakness, heart problems, yellow skin, growth retardation in children, swelling of the abdomen, and dark urine are common.

Symptoms such as swelling of the liver, forehead, cheeks, and spleen are also seen in patients. Thalassemia patients are also at risk of jaundice. Although there is no proper treatment for thalassemia, which is a hereditary blood disorder, we should be aware of medical treatments that can help in controlling the disease. Thalassemia, a disease caused by a deficiency in red blood cells, is divided into three types, namely alpha, beta, and delta. Treatments for the disease vary depending on the type of thalassemia.

On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day, let us consider it our minimum duty to provide adequate courage to thalassemia patients, to hold hands and to help those in need, and to curb thalassemia deaths.

Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, 994970037

## Good News for Women Self-Help Groups from Minister Seethakka

### HYDERABAD

Minister Seethakka announced that interest-free loans for each women's self-help group will be increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh. She assured that the government itself will pay the interest on bank loans up to ₹10 lakh taken by every women's group. Minister Seethakka also announced that the government will spend ₹2,500 crore this year towards interest payments on loans taken by women's groups. Women's self-help groups expressed their gratitude to the minister. The meeting echoed with applause. Minister Seethakka's Remarks Our government is working with the slogan: "Women's empowerment is Telangana's progress." We are working with dedication for the economic empowerment of women. Development becomes complete only when women come out of poverty. That is why we are providing interest-free loans to help women grow financially.

We are working with the goal of making one crore women millionaires. Our government is giving priority to women in all sectors. We have handed over 40% of crop procurement centers to women's groups. This year, we will provide bank loans worth more than ₹26,000 crore to women. This is a milestone in women's economic empowerment. It will provide financial security to lakhs of families. In the past, women could not even get loans of ₹10,000. Now banks are giving those same women loans worth lakhs of rupees. I joined the Naxalite movement because of poverty. Ordinary people suffered due to exploitation by money-lenders charging high interest. Unable to bear their suffering, I took up the gun. It is from that experience that I resolved to provide interest-free loans to women. Until now, eligible women's groups were provided interest-free loans up to ₹5 lakh. Now we are increasing that

amount to ₹10 lakh. To reduce the burden on women, we are providing double the loans without any interest burden. Women's groups are maintaining good repayment records with banks. Nirmal district has achieved zero NPA status. Congratulations to DRDO Vijaya Lakshmi. All districts should achieve 100% loan repayment to banks like Nirmal district. Women's groups should uphold the trust and confidence of bankers. Bankers should provide loans to women's groups through simple procedures. We are giving guarantees to banks. We take responsibility for full repayment. If loans are given to individuals, there is a risk of default. But if you support women's power, your money will remain secure. Thanks to all bankers who are supporting women's groups with loans. Minister Seethakka honored district DRDO officials and district federation presidents who showed excellence in loan utilization and repayment.

## 'Operation Sindoor' is a symbol of India's bravery

- A strong warning to forces sheltering terrorism
- BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao

### HYDERABAD

On the occasion of the successful completion of one year of "Operation Sindoor," carried out by the Indian Army to destroy terrorist bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, grand celebrations were held at the BJP state office in Nampally. The event, organized under the leadership of the BJP Retired Army Cell, was attended by BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao as the chief guest. He first paid rich tributes to the martyrs who lost their lives at the hands of terrorists. Later, while cutting a cake and greeting party workers, he praised the Indian Army for retaliating against the Pahalgam attack by striking terror camps such as Lashkar and Jaish, eliminating terrorists and demonstrating India's valor. He stated that this success reflects the Narendra Modi government's firm stance on national security. Speaking to the media on the occasion, Ramchander Rao said the nation would never forget the brutality of terrorists who allegedly asked innocent



Indian tourists in Pahalgam about their religion before shooting them dead. He said the Pakistan-backed terrorists who cruelly killed 26 Indians must realize that this is not the old India, but a new India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He explained that within just a few days of the Pahalgam incident, the Indian Army completed the operation with high precision in just 22 minutes under the supervision of women officers. He said the operation not only destroyed terrorist bases but was also completed successfully without any loss of life on the Indian side. However, Ramchander Rao expressed disappointment over the behavior of Congress leaders regarding what he described as a historic

achievement that should make the country proud. He alleged that Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, were behaving like representatives of Pakistan and China. He criticized Congress leaders for previously demanding proof of the Balakot surgical strikes and for now raising inappropriate questions about the Army, calling it against the spirit of patriotism. He accused the Congress party of never standing firmly with the Indian Army and said insulting soldiers both inside and outside Parliament had become habitual for the party. He further stated that just as the country celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas, people would also proudly remember "Operation Sindoor." Finally, responding to political de-

velopments in Telangana, Ramchander Rao strongly condemned the personal remarks allegedly made by BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar. He stated that the BJP would not remain silent if anyone made false allegations or personal attacks against BJP leaders and would respond appropriately. He added that criticism and counter-criticism are natural in politics, but people holding responsible positions should speak with dignity. He clarified that if individuals engage in behavior that damages personal reputation, BJP workers may naturally react strongly, though the party does not support violence under any circumstances.

## We will fight on behalf of Pharma City farmers

- Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha

### HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha warned that they would wage a battle in support of the Pharma City farmers. She demanded that the lands acquired for Pharma City be immediately returned to the farmers. Kavitha participated in a round-table meeting held on Thursday at the Bashir Bagh Press Club on the topic "What is happening in Pharma City?" and expressed solidarity with the farmers. Speaking on the occasion, she demanded the cancellation of GO 31, which was issued for land acquisition for Pharma City. She warned that they would not tolerate farmers being harassed in the name of Pharma City and Future City under any circumstances. She criticized both the previous and present governments, saying the earlier government shamelessly lied regarding Pharma City lands, and the current government is continuing the same lies. She said these governments lack the courage to speak the truth. Kavitha stated that Telangana Rakshana Sena would stand at the



forefront and fight on behalf of the affected farmers. She said their approach is "to question, to fight, and to resolve," and clarified that they would continue the struggle until the problems of Pharma City farmers are resolved.

### Farmers' lands must be returned

Kavitha demanded that the lands acquired for Pharma City be returned to the farmers immediately. She alleged that lands were taken without the consent of the farmers. She said the previous government had brought GO 31 for land acquisition for Pharma City. Though the Congress government had promised to cancel the GO, after coming to power it had betrayed the farmers, she alleged. Instead of canceling GO 31, the government expanded land acquisition in the name of Future City

from 13,500 acres to 30,000 acres, she said. Kavitha recalled that the previous government had claimed to have acquired 13,500 acres for Pharma City. However, she said 3,500 acres in Kandukur mandal and 6,500 acres in Yacharam mandal were actually assigned lands. She criticized the BRS government for ignoring court stay orders related to those lands. Now, she alleged, the Congress government is also misleading the courts and the public with false claims. While telling the court that Pharma City would continue, the Revanth Reddy government has begun acquiring these lands for Future City, she said. She made it clear that they would not allow injustice to be done to farmers under any circumstances. Questioning, fighting, and resolving is our policy. Kavitha said that struggle is the only path if people's problems are to be solved. She said that regardless of what other parties do, they would stand firmly with the Pharma City farmers. "Our policy is to question, fight, and resolve," she said. She pointed out that in Velugumatla, justice was delivered to victims only after they undertook a hunger strike until the issue was re-

solved. Kavitha said that stubborn governments can only be brought down by determined resistance. She urged everyone to unite and decide collectively on the course of action needed to secure justice for farmers. She added that because people were not fighting strongly enough, governments were ignoring even court stay orders. She called for the agitation to continue until the government backs down. Future City is a deception Kavitha alleged that the Revanth government is deceiving people in the name of Future City. She accused the government of trying to build Future City on a foundation of lies — such as claims about bullet trains, ₹6 lakh crore worth of MoUs, and data centers. She questioned whether people were being pushed toward pollution in the name of data centers. She said the noise generated by data centers would make it impossible even for birds to survive, and claimed that countries like the United States are no longer establishing such centers. She said no one has yet assessed the damage these projects could cause. Kavitha questioned how farmers would survive if they were given compensation of only ₹8 lakh per acre.

## BJP wave in Telangana with Modi's visit...

- Revanth Reddy is a master of diversion politics
- The power purchase inquiry is all drama!
- Padi Kaushik Reddy is a "cartoon character"...
- He should stop blackmail politics
- N.V. Subhash fires at Congress-BRS alliance politics

### HYDERABAD

BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subhash said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana is going to mark the beginning of a major political change in the state, and that both the Congress and BRS parties are frightened by the overwhelming public response towards Modi. He stated that the people of Telangana are giving a grand welcome to Narendra Modi on his first visit to the state after assuming office as Prime Minister for the third time. He said that after the results of the five Assembly elections, the BJP is rapidly growing in the state, and that the people of Telangana have come to the conclusion that development is possible only if the BJP comes to power. He also recalled that



the Centre has already allocated infrastructure projects worth around ₹12.5 lakh crore to Telangana. Subhash criticized the Revanth Reddy government, saying that it is staging new dramas in the name of a "power purchase inquiry" only to divert public attention from the massive response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting. He mocked the sudden Cabinet meeting and the demand for a CBI inquiry into the two-year-old Lokur Commission report, calling it purely a part of diversion politics. Referring to Congress' victory in Kerala, he alleged that Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy tried to create a narrative portraying himself as the reason behind the UDF's victory in Kerala, but that dissatisfaction emerged even within his own party. He further alleged that discussions are taking place over Telangana funds being spent in Kerala.

On the other hand, N.V. Subhash strongly criticized BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, saying his behavior resembles that of a "cartoon character." He said that Kaushik Reddy, who unexpectedly won in Huzurabad, is indulging in blackmail politics. He alleged that Kaushik Reddy practices "corpse politics" for votes and said that such a person making objectionable remarks against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar reflects political bankruptcy. Subhash expressed anger that KTR and Kaushik Reddy are spreading false propaganda by claiming that if Bandi Sanjay uses cloves, it means he consumes tobacco. He said, "Bandi Sanjay publicly swore before God that he does not consume tobacco. Can Kaushik Reddy or KTR similarly swear that they do not consume drugs? When Bandi Sanjay challenged them to undergo a DNA test, there has been no response so far." He recalled that Bandi Sanjay began his political career as an ordinary party worker and rose to become a corporator, MP, state president, again an MP, and now a Union Minister. He said that trying to gain political recognition through cheap allegations against such a leader is proof of Kaushik Reddy's bankrupt politics.

## Appi Reddy requested the State Chief Electoral Officer to conduct awareness programs

for all recognized political parties on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. AMARAVATI, MAY 7:

Appi Reddy stated that the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is a highly crucial matter directly related to democratic rights.

- He remarked that several doubts and concerns are being expressed regarding voter additions, deletions, corrections, transfers, verification, and digital processing procedures.
- He appealed for special awareness programs for representatives of political parties to ensure transparency, clarity, and equal understanding in the electoral process.
- He demanded that complete details be provided regarding the procedures followed in the SIR process, timelines, security measures, grievance redressal mechanisms, and the responsibilities of political parties.
- Appi Reddy requested the State Election Officer to organize special awareness and orientation programs at both district and state levels.
- He opined that conducting such programs would enhance public confidence in the electoral process and improve coordination between election officials and political parties.
- He clarified that the participation of political parties is crucial in identifying and resolving the issues of genuine voters.
- He urged that complete transparency be maintained in the SIR process to ensure free and fair elections.

# Vijay's TVK warns all 107 MLAs will resign if DMK, AIADMK form govt: Sources

Amid the ongoing political deadlock in Tamil Nadu, the Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) is considering a mass resignation of all its 107 MLAs if either the DMK or the AIADMK is invited to form the government, party sources said.



The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) may consider a mass resignation of all its 107 MLAs if either MK Stalin's DMK or Edappadi K Palaniswami-led AIADMK moves ahead to form the government, party sources said on Thursday, signalling growing unease within Vijay's

camp amid an ongoing political stalemate.

The warning, though not officially articulated by Vijay himself, reflects rising frustration inside the party as post-poll negotiations remain inconclusive and the numbers game continues to stall government formation.

The development came a day after reports suggested that the DMK opened back-channel talks with its long-rival AIADMK in a bid to keep the TVK from taking charge. The DMK got 59 seats, while the AIADMK managed 47 in

the April 23 Assembly polls.

According to sources, the TVK leadership is particularly upset over what it believes is a tacit alignment between the DMK and AIADMK to prevent Vijay from taking office, despite his party emerging as the single-largest formation in the Assembly.

Leaders see recent political signals from both Dravidian majors as an attempt to keep TVK out of power, even as neither party has the numbers to independently form a government.

"The mandate is fractured, but the largest party cannot be ignored," a senior TVK functionary said, capturing the mood within the camp.

The TVK won 108 seats in the Assembly polls, including two seats won by Vijay. With Vijay expected to vacate one seat per constitutional rule, the party's effective strength stands at 107 MLAs. It has the backing of the Congress, which adds five more members, taking the tally to 112 - still short of the majority mark of 118 in the 234-member House.

The party has been actively reaching out to DMK allies - including the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), the Left parties and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), but a firm commitment has not yet come through.

## Southern Railway Athlete Ms. E. Bharanica to represent India in International Pole Vault Event

CHENNAI, MAY 7:



Champions

Southern Railway continues to make its mark in the national and international sporting arena, with its athletes delivering exceptional performances. Ms. E. Bharanica, Senior Clerk in the Office of Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Southern Railway and an accomplished pole vaulter of Indian Railways, has been selected to represent India in an upcoming International Pole Vault competition to be held in South Korea next week. Ms. Bharanica has been in outstanding form, recently setting back-to-back National Records in 2026, clearing 4.22 metres at the 1st Indoor National Athletics Championship and improving it further to 4.23 metres at the Combined Events & Pole Vault Competition, establishing new benchmarks in Indian pole vaulting. Her consistent excellence at premier competitions is reflected in her Gold medal performances at the 64th Open National Athletics Championship (2025) and 63rd Open National Athletics Championship (2024), where she represented Indian Railways with distinction. She also clinched Gold with a Meet Record at the 64th Inter-State National Athletics Championship (2025), reaffirming her dominance in the discipline. On the international stage, Ms. Bharanica has represented India at the Asian Indoor Games (2024, Iran) and other global meets, in addition to securing a Bronze medal at the Busan International Pole Vault Meet (2022), demonstrating her ability to compete at the highest level. Southern Railway takes immense pride in her achievements and extends its best wishes for her forthcoming international assignment.

**SRSA continues to nurture Pole Vaulting**

Ms. Bharanica's achievement adds another glorious chapter to the rich pole vaulting legacy of the Southern Railway Sports Association (SRSA). The institution has consistently nurtured champions, including former national record holders Smt. V.S. Surekha and Shri K.P. Bimin. Carrying this legacy forward, Ms. Bharanica has emerged as a torchbearer of the current generation, breaking national records twice in a single year. Further strengthening the future of the pole vaulting discipline, Southern Railway has inducted promising young talents such as Gowtham, Pavithra, and Sakthi Mahendran, who have won laurels in national championships, ensuring sustained excellence in athletics. Southern Railway is emerging as the powerhouse of outstanding sports stars under the aegis of Shri R.N. Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway. The patronage for sports and continued encouragement of Shri Vipin Kumar, Additional General Manager, Shri Ganesh, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer & President, Southern Railway Sports Association, other Principal Heads of Departments, Divisional Railway Managers, and their teams enables athletes to achieve excellence at national and international levels.

# Collectors should make field visits

AMARAVATI:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu advised the district collectors to come out with innovative ideas by adopting technology to achieve highest public satisfaction level in delivery of government services including welfare programmes. He asked them to utilise social media platform to inform people about the achievements. He dedicated his recent Business Reformer of the year award to entire team of officials from state level to village level by stating it as a collective achievement of AP team.

Addressing the seventh Collectors conference at Secretariat today, the Chief Minister made it clear that top priority should be given for public satisfaction and gave a mandate to officials to achieve more than 90 per cent public satisfaction in all services. He asked the district collectors of all 28 districts including two newly formed districts, to make every district as an innovation hub to empower people and to achieve development and in implementation

give top priority for public satisfaction over government services:CM  
District collectors should compete with each other in development:CM  
Investments pouring in as AP wins trust at national and international level:CM  
All Government services to be made online by December:CM  
Officials asked to utilise social media platforms for better communication on achievements



of welfare schemes.

The Chief Minister stated that by introducing 28 best policies, the coalition government is able to win the trust at national and international level and as a result investments pouring in. He said through 17 SIPP meetings approved 23 lakh Crore investments with employment potential to 24 lakh people in the past 23 months. He said the state is marching forward towards green energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia production



and able to make Visakhapatnam as Technology hub with the arrival of Google data centre. In addition Amaravati is emerging as Quantum valley.

The Chief Minister stated that revenue records should be finalised by March 2027 to win the confidence of people. There should be zero error and tolerance in revenue systems. He stated that ratings will be given to both ministers and district collectors basing on their performance. Following the principle of seeing

is belief, secretaries, Heads of departments and District collectors should go for field visits to know public reactions personally. He said that district collectors should compete with each other in performance and development of their concerned districts. He said the best practices of collectors will be followed in other districts and the particular collector will be made as a mentor. Citing the example of recent tenth class results, the Chief Minister said that

instead of taking credit by leaders, the state government given advertisement with top achievers of Government schools indicating the performance of government schools on par with corporate schools.

Stating that the government is successful in bringing down the purchase cost of power by 30 paise and efforts are on to further reduce the purchase cost by another 30 paise making the true down a reality for the first time. He said all the government services should be made available online by December. He stressed the need for making AP as a logistics hub. Collectors should take initiative to educate farmers towards demand driven agriculture practices. The Chief Minister said officials should put an end to moving of files and initiate steps to focus on results to win the public appreciation over speedy delivery of government services. Later the Chief Minister explained on the achievements of coalition government for the past 23 months including more than hundred schemes and super six programme.

## West Bengal to get a stable and good government: Majhi

BHUBANESWAR: (MAY 7)

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday said West Bengal will get a stable and good government, which will be formed by the BJP for the first time in the state. The BJP secured a landslide victory in the recently concluded elections in West Bengal, bagging 207 seats in the 294-seat assembly and ending the 15-year rule of the TMC government led by Mamata Banerjee. Majhi, who was appointed as the party's co-observer for West Bengal, said, "The Bengal elections result came in favour of the BJP. It is a great opportunity to work under Union Home Minister Amit Shah as a co-observer."

# Bengal post-poll violence: 5 BJP workers injured in bomb blast in North 24 Parganas

Unidentified assailants allegedly hurled crude bombs at BJP workers in Panihati, injuring five people. The attack came hours after Chandranath Rath's killing, prompting political allegations and a police probe. Canning Narayanpur clash and political violence

Five BJP supporters have been injured allegedly in a bomb blast in Panihati in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred late on Wednesday night, hours after Chandranath Rath, a close aide of BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, was shot dead by motorcycle-borne assailants,



which led to the saffron camp accusing the TMC of unleashing retaliatory violence. The bomb blast occurred near St Xavier's Institution in Panihati. Unidentified assailants hurled crude bombs at a group

of BJP workers, injuring at least five people, police said, adding the injured were admitted to the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. According to local sources, BJP workers were interacting

with residents on Dutta Road in Panihati's Ward number 2 when a group of motorcycle-borne persons allegedly targeted them with bombs before fleeing. The BJP alleged that the attackers were backed

by the ruling Trinamool Congress, an allegation denied by the Mamata Banerjee-led party. A senior police official said, "We have started an investigation and are examining CCTV footage from the surrounding areas to identify those involved. Raids are being conducted to nab the accused." A heavy police deployment has been made in the area. "We are maintaining strict vigil and appealing to people not to spread rumours. Necessary steps are being taken to maintain peace," the officer added. Incidentally, the area where the blast occurred is located near the residence of newly elected BJP MLA Ratna Debnath, the mother of the RG Kar Hospital rape victim.

## Chief Minister of Goa Inaugurates Road Under Bridge at Vasco-da-Gama

HUBBALLI, MAY 6:

Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant, inaugurated the newly constructed Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Vasco da Gama today. The project serves as a vital link connecting Vasco city with Dabolim Airport, Madgaon, and other parts of South Goa, thereby significantly improving regional connectivity. The Upgraded underpass with 4.0 m vertical clearance enables ambulances, fire engines, and other emergency vehicles to pass through freely, eliminating the need for a 12 km detour. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said, "This Road Under Bridge is a significant

step towards improving urban mobility and ensuring safer, faster connectivity for the people of Goa. It reflects our commitment to modern infrastructure and public convenience." The ceremony was attended by Sadanand Shet Tanawade, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); Ramesh Tawadkar, Hon'ble Minister for Art & Culture, Tribal Welfare & Sports; Mauvin H. Godinho, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Industries, Trade & Commerce, Panchayat Raj, Protocol & Legislative Affairs; MLAs Krishna V. Salakar and Sankalp Amonkar; and Smt. Bela Meena, DRM Hubballi, along with senior railway officials.

# Kerala MLA resists as Congress leader tries to hug her, video sparks row

In a now viral video, a Kerala Congress leader is seen trying to hug a newly-elected woman MLA, ignoring the latter's attempt to evade the embrace and push him away.

A video from the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram has gone viral after senior Congress leader Cherian Philip was seen attempting to hug newly elected Kollam MLA Bindu Krishna during a legislative party meeting, despite her apparent reluctance and discomfort. The video of the incident, which took place in the



presence of party leaders and journalists, has gone viral and sparked backlash against Congress and Cherian Philip.

The clip shows 48-year-old Bindu Krishna arriving at the venue and greeting members of the media before walking towards the party office entrance.

Dressed in a white and yellow saree, she is first seen shaking hands with a party worker before being approached by 71-year-old Cherian Philip. Bindu Krishna appeared to extend her hand for a handshake. However, Philip moved forward to hug her instead. In the video, he is seen

placing one arm around her neck while trying to lower her outstretched hand. Krishna appeared visibly uncomfortable and was seen resisting the gesture and pushing him away. Even after she stepped back, Philip allegedly appeared to make a second attempt to hug her before she folded her hands and walked ahead. The video further shows several journalists and party workers present at the spot smiling during the interaction, a detail that has also drawn criticism online. Social media users reacted strongly to the incident, with many accusing Philip of ignoring clear signs of discomfort. Several users said personal boundaries should be respected immediately

once unwillingness is expressed, regardless of political seniority or public setting. Some users described the act as inappropriate and demanded action against the senior leader. One user wrote, "She is MLA? My god, and this 'Vulture' tries to eve teasing her and tries to hug and kiss." Another said, "Whatever the intention was, when a woman clearly steps away and pushes someone aside, that boundary should be respected immediately. Public life and political seniority are never excuses for unwanted physical contact." Another user criticised the incident sharply, calling the behaviour "shameless" and demanding disciplinary action as well as police action.

## Nagpur college student rapes, impregnates stepmother; arrested

The accused, Akshat Srivastava, entered the 26-year-old woman's room on April 10 and assaulted her sexually. When the survivor reported this to her husband, the latter asked her to stay silent. A 21-year-old college student named Akshat Srivastava has been arrested by the Nagpur Police for allegedly raping his stepmother. The incident resulted in a four-month pregnancy for the 26-year-old survivor. As the police complaint reads, the woman met 55-year-old Vikas Srivastava, a manager at a private bank, in 2024 for the prospect of a job. However, their relationship flourished with time and ended up in a marriage, which Akshat, Vikas's son, disapproved of. The complaint further suggests that the domestic dispute

became a regular occurrence in the household, with Akshat severely torturing the woman. The survivor reported a few incidents to the police. On April 10, 2026, Akshat entered her room and allegedly assaulted her sexually. He also threatened the woman with death after assaulting her. The survivor told her husband about the incident. However, instead of supporting her, Vikas asked her to stay silent in maintaining the family's social standing and securing his son's future in academia. Nonetheless, the woman reported the incident to the local police station, and based on her complaint, the police registered a case and started investigating the incident. A few days after the investigation, they apprehended the accused.

EDITORIAL

Mandate 2026

**THE HALF-BUILT BRIDGE:  
INDIA'S SOLAR SURGE FACES  
THE BATTERY BOTTLENECK**

India reached a historic milestone on April 25 as peak electricity demand scaled a record 256.1 GW. During the afternoon peak, solar plants shoulder-lifted 21.5% of the load—the highest contribution ever recorded—offering a definitive proof of concept that the nation's solar infrastructure is capable of significant performance when the sun is at its zenith. However, a deeper look at the full 24-hour cycle reveals a more complex reality. When averaged across the entire day, solar's contribution dropped to just 10.8% of total generation, and its impact after sunset was virtually non-existent at a mere 0.1%.

The disconnect between installed capacity and actual output remains stark. Since 2022, solar's share of India's total electric capacity has nearly doubled, jumping from 15% to approximately 28% by early 2026. Yet, its contribution to generation on peak-demand days has only moved from 5.6% in 2022 to the current 10.8%. This gap highlights a critical systemic failure: the issue isn't a lack of solar panels, available land, or national ambition, but rather the acute inability to store generated electrons for later use via large-scale battery systems.

The shortage of storage has become so severe that states with high solar production are frequently instructed to halt supply to prevent grid instability. The consequences of this "curtailment" are financially draining. Between late May and December 2025, India was forced to waste 2.3 terawatt-hours (TWh) of solar energy—roughly 18% of an average monthly output. In October 2025 alone, 0.9 TWh was lost. Because producers must be compensated for this "lost" power, the public exchequer effectively pays for electricity that is never even delivered to the consumer.

This crisis is compounded by the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast of a below-normal monsoon at 92% of the Long Period Average—the first such warning in 11 years. A drier, hotter summer inevitably leads to surging daytime demand, making it more urgent than ever for solar to handle the "heavy lifting" of the national load.

Fortunately, the economics of energy storage are shifting in India's favor. The cost for standalone two-hour battery storage plummeted from ₹2.21 lakh per MW per month in early 2025 to ₹1.48 lakh by the end of the year. The primary hurdle now is execution. As of late 2025, only 0.7 GWh of battery storage was operational, with a modest 2 GWh expected to come online by December 2026.

To bridge this gap, central and state governments must pivot their strategy. The focus needs to shift from simply issuing tenders to the actual commissioning of projects. Moving forward, every new solar auction should be paired with mandatory co-located storage requirements. Furthermore, the government must address the financial hurdles facing low-tariff projects that were bid too aggressively to be viable. Without integrated storage, India's massive solar capacity remains a half-built bridge—impressive in scale, but unable to carry the nation to its destination.

**Mission Drishti —  
India's Leap in Space**

**INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATELY BUILT EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE, "MISSION DRISHTI," DEVELOPED BY BENGALURU-BASED STARTUP GALAXEYE, HAS MARKED A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE COUNTRY'S SPACE SECTOR. THE WORLD'S FIRST OPTOSAR TECHNOLOGY-BASED SATELLITE COMBINES ELECTRO-OPTICAL AND SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS EARTH OBSERVATION IN ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS, DAY AND NIGHT. LAUNCHED ABOARD SPACEX'S FALCON 9 ROCKET, THE 190-KG SATELLITE HIGHLIGHTS INDIA'S GROWING PRIVATE SPACE CAPABILITIES AND OPENS NEW POSSIBILITIES IN DEFENCE, AGRICULTURE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, AND INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING.**



"Mission Drishti" satellite marks a significant milestone in India's space sector. GalaxEye has developed this satellite, which has gained global recognition as the world's first OptoSAR technology-based system. It is capable of continuously observing the Earth in all weather conditions, both day and night.

GalaxEye is an Indian space technology startup based in Bengaluru. Founded in 2021 by young engineers from the IIT Madras Hyperloop team, the company emerged during a rapid growth phase of India's private space sector. Unlike conventional Earth observation systems that depend on a single sensor, GalaxEye focuses on multi-sensor integration, combining optical and radar data to deliver more accurate and reliable Earth insights.

"Mission Drishti" took shape as a 190-kilogram satellite, making it India's largest privately built Earth observation satellite. It was developed by IIT Madras alumni and successfully launched into orbit aboard the Falcon 9 rocket built by SpaceX in California, USA. This launch marked a significant moment, showcasing India's growing private space capability on the global stage.

Mission Drishti is the world's first OptoSAR satellite, integrating Electro-Optical (EO) imaging and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology on a single platform. EO systems provide high-quality visual images but are limited by clouds and darkness. SAR systems, on the other hand, work in all weather and lighting conditions but produce complex imagery. The fusion of both technologies enables continuous Earth observation regardless of environmental conditions.

The core innovation lies in its "Syn-cFused" sensor architecture, which captures optical and radar data simultaneously from the same perspective. This eliminates the limitations of traditional Earth observation systems and ensures better accuracy, real-time alignment of data, and enhanced reliability.

The satellite generates "analysis-ready" data, meaning the information is already aligned in terms of time and space. This reduces processing time, improves analytical efficiency, and enables faster and more accurate decision-making. It strengthens Earth observation with greater precision, speed, and reliability.

Narendra Modi praised Mission Drishti, calling it a major milestone in India's space journey and highlighting it as a reflection of youth innovation and nation-building. Amit Shah also congratulated the team, stating that the achievement showcases India's technological strength on the global stage.

Based in Bengaluru, the startup has successfully launched its first commercial satellite "Drishti," marking a new chapter in India's private space sector.

The satellite has wide applications in defence, agriculture, disaster management, maritime monitoring, and infrastructure planning. Its ability to provide continuous monitoring in all weather conditions makes it highly valuable for both strategic and civilian use.

Mission Drishti is not just a satellite mission; it represents the rise of India's private space ecosystem. The technologies developed by GalaxEye have the potential to transform Earth observation systems and redefine the future of space-based intelligence.



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**Vigilance is the First Step  
Toward Securing the Future**

**The Lesson Taught by the Karimnagar Robbery Incident**

The recent daylight robbery and firing incident at a jewellery shop in Karimnagar created shockwaves across the state. Miscreants who entered the store disguised as customers looted jewellery worth crores of rupees within just a few minutes. What made the incident even more alarming was their willingness to open fire on staff members who resisted. This clearly reflects how quickly and strategically the criminal world is evolving.

An incident of this nature occurring in a city like Karimnagar, known for its peaceful environment and social awareness, naturally caused fear and concern among the public. However, every major incident not only raises questions but also teaches valuable lessons. The Karimnagar robbery is one such case.

This is not merely a robbery case. It is a warning that highlights the need for serious reflection on four crucial aspects: changing crime patterns, the challenges posed by rapid urbanization, the reforms needed in security systems, and society's collective responsibility.

It is natural that political criticism began soon after the incident. In today's political culture, whenever such incidents occur, the ruling party and the opposition often exchange blame. But in situations like these, the real question should not simply be, "Who is responsible for this incident?" Certainly, the culprits must face strict punishment, and only firm action can deter such crimes in the future.

The more important discussion should be: "Why did this happen, and how can similar incidents be prevented?"

While the government has implemented stringent security measures across the state, there are occasions when well-planned crimes can still take place unexpectedly. Therefore, it would be unfair to portray the entire security system as a failure based on a single incident. At the same time, such events should serve as an opportunity for introspection to identify and address any possible gaps in the system.

In a democracy, criticism is necessary—but it must be constructive criticism that offers solutions.

One of the most significant aspects of this incident is the meticulous planning of the crim-

inals. It does not appear to have been an impulsive act. The careful selection of the target, fixing the timing, assessing conditions, and preparing escape routes indicate clear premeditation.

This reveals an important reality: criminals today are increasingly using technology, information, and societal negligence as their weapons.

This incident reminds us of another crucial truth: security is not a static system; it is an evolving process that must constantly improve.

Even today, many business establishments continue to view security merely as an expense. But in present-day conditions, security must be seen as an investment.

Businesses dealing in gold, cash, and other valuable assets must move beyond conventional security practices. The real questions are not simply whether CCTV cameras are installed, but whether they are functioning properly, whether the recording quality is adequate, whether live monitoring exists, whether emergency alert systems are in place, and whether staff have been trained to respond effectively during crises.

If business owners adopt such precautions, incidents like these can be significantly minimized.

The Karimnagar robbery has also exposed another social reality—the decline of collective vigilance.

There was a time when people in villages and towns kept a close watch on their surroundings. New faces were noticed. Suspicious movements were immediately questioned. Today, as technology advances, people have become increasingly absorbed in their personal worlds, resulting in a decline in social alertness.

**Criminals are exploiting precisely this weakness.**

From the law enforcement perspective, the swift response by the police and the immediate launch of the investigation deserve appreciation. The involvement of clue teams, forensic experts, and extensive search operations has reassured the public.

Public cooperation in crime prevention can greatly ease the burden on the police.

The incident occurred just three days after the newly appointed Director General of Police, CV

Anand, assumed office, prompting the authorities to take the case with utmost seriousness. Sixteen police teams have been formed to track down the accused, with intensive search operations underway in Maharashtra and Bihar.

At the same time, Karimnagar Police Commissioner GhausAlam has been continuously monitoring the case. Some progress has already been made in the effort to apprehend the culprits.

Looking ahead, there is a pressing need for the police machinery to further strengthen preventive surveillance systems. Special monitoring in sensitive areas, improved intelligence gathering, digital tracking mechanisms, and regular security audits of commercial establishments must be implemented more effectively.

However, the most important point in this entire discussion is that security should not be viewed solely as the government's responsibility.

The government formulates policies. The police implement them. But the first line of defense is the vigilance of the people.

A business owner must secure his establishment. A citizen must remain alert to suspicious activity. Society as a whole must cultivate a culture of mutual cooperation and security awareness.

The Karimnagar incident has delivered a clear message: in rapidly developing cities, security culture is just as important as infrastructure development.

If this incident is forgotten as just another news headline, we will have learned nothing from it. But if society, the government, and the business community treat it as a wake-up call and take concrete corrective measures, then this unfortunate event will carry real meaning.

Because expressing regret after a crime has occurred is far less effective than preventing it through timely vigilance. That is why vigilance is the first step toward securing the future.

If people come together and work collectively, there is every possibility of curbing crime effectively. Progress in that direction will certainly yield positive results.

**GOTTIMUKKULABRAHMACHARY  
SENIOR JOURNALIST  
9441884389**



**LAKE**



Buds and blossoms, ripples wide,  
Dark-winged birds in waters glide.  
Frogs that leap and crabs that crawl—  
The pond, our playground, home to all.

Some splash and flail, unsure yet bold,  
While fearless ones dive deep and cold.  
From the bund, they leap so high,  
In waters cool, their laughter flies.

We chase the fish, swift and bright,  
Casting nets in golden light.  
We race the winds, we sail with leaves,  
Feeling the pulse the water breathes.

We float like boats, we ride the tide,  
In joy's embrace, we slip and slide.  
We splash, we swirl, we dance around,  
Till sunset hums its farewell sound.

Batukamma drifts on waters blue,  
Ganapati's clay dissolves there too.  
Monkeys swing from temple trees,  
Gold bugs dance in autumn's breeze.

With lotus blooms, we weave our dreams,  
In baskets tight, in streams that gleam.  
Drums resound, the echoes call,  
As cattle march through festival halls.

New rice grains—a farmer's pride,  
Blessed by fire in pots they rise.  
Toddy drips, the jaggery flows,  
As farmers rest where palm trees grow.

The weaver hums as threads entwine,  
The potter shapes with hands divine.  
The shepherd's flute, the washer's tune,  
The tanner's hands beneath the moon.

Fishers wade with woven nets,  
Sun-kissed waves their faces wet.  
Herders bring their goats to drink,  
As golden clouds in waters sink.

Drenched saris dry in colors bright,  
Like rainbows stitched in morning light.  
The lake—a canvas, vast and free,  
Reflects our life, our joy, our glee.

Now the lake stands cracked and dry,  
No fish to leap, no kites to fly.  
The paddy fields in dust remain,  
The earth thirsts for drops of rain.

Gone are farmers, proud and strong,  
Their fields now lost to city throngs.  
Hands once drenched in mud so deep,  
Now toil where strangers speak.

Canals fade, the land lies bare,  
The air is thick with silent despair.  
The debts arise, the harvest fails,  
A farmer's cry in stormy gales.

Once a kingdom rich with green,  
Now a tale of what has been.  
Yet if the rains return in tune,  
The lake will bloom beneath the moon.

If waters hum their song once more,  
The land will thrive as days of yore.  
The lost will come, their whistles bright,  
Their hands will carve the fields with light.

The lake will call, the village wake,  
With golden crops and fields to rake.  
The youth will dance, the elders cheer,  
A dawn of hope, a dream so near.

For Telangana will rise again,  
Like rushing streams, like monsoon rain.  
With village ponds so full, so wide,  
The past will bloom, the tears will hide.

The village reborn,  
The land set free,  
The pond returns—  
So let it be!



**...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...  
7810032847**

## HC upholds acquittal in Sohrabuddin 'fake encounter' case

MUMBAI: (MAY 7)

The Bombay High Court on Thursday upheld the acquittal of the 22 accused, all but one junior cops, in the 2005 case of alleged fake encounter of Gujarat gangster Sohrabuddin Shaikh, wife Kausar Bi and his aide Tulsiram Prajapati, noting the prosecution had failed to establish the case. The HC observed it finds no ground to interfere with the trial court judgment acquitting the accused and added the prosecution case is based on circumstantial evidence and there are several broken links in the chain of circumstances.

A bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekar and Justice Gautam Ankhad dismissed the appeals filed by Shaikh's brothers, Rubabuddin and Nayabuddin, challenging the December 2018 judgment of a special CBI court in Mumbai acquitting all the accused in the case.

## ED raids 'aide' of Punjab AAP functionary, others in land 'fraud' case

CHANDIGARH: (MAY 7)

The ED on Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations in Punjab and Chandigarh, including the premises of an alleged associate of Punjab Aam Aadmi Party functionary, as part of a money laundering probe against two realty groups on charges of fraudulent change of land use and duping investors, officials said.

The agency searched about a dozen locations in Mohali (SAS Nagar) and Chandigarh linked to the Suntek City project (developed by ICHBS or Indian Cooperative Housing Building Society), its promoter Ajay Sehgal, ABS Townships, Altus Space Builders, Dhir Constructions and associates under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

By late evening, the ED search teams seized about Rs 1 crore in cash. This included Rs 21 lakh kept in two bags that were flung onto the ground from a window of the Western Towers, a high-rise residential building in Mohali's Kharrar area.

## What India said on Bangladesh's immigrant pushback fears after BJP's Bengal win

MEA spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said that **Dhaka's pushback remarks should be seen alongside pending requests to verify undocumented Bangladeshi nationals for repatriation.**

India on Friday said that recent remarks from Bangladesh over fears of 'pushback' of illegal immigrants following the BJP's victory in West Bengal must be viewed in the context of the pending repatriation of undocumented Bangladeshi nationals from India. Responding to comments made by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said India expected Dhaka to speed up nationality verification so that deportation processes can move forward smoothly. "We have seen comments of this nature being made in

# 2 Indian crew aboard ship with deadly hantavirus outbreak, their status unknown

Three people have died and eight others have been infected aboard the MV Hondius, where two Indian crew members remain on board as authorities race to contain a rare hantavirus outbreak at sea.



A drone view of the cruise ship MV Hondius, carrying passengers suspected of having cases of hantavirus on board, as it prepares to leave Praia Two Indian crew members are among the 149 people aboard a luxury expedition ship stranded in the Atlantic Ocean, where three passengers have died and eight others have been infected with hantavirus, one of the rarest and most lethal viruses on the planet. India Today TV reached out to Oceanwide Expeditions, the Dutch polar travel company

that operates the MV Hondius, seeking a full account of who was on board the ship. On May 4, the company wrote back. In their response, they provided, for the first time, a nationality by nationality breakdown of every passenger and crew member on board. The list ran to 23 nationalities across 149 people. Most were passengers, tourists from Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Spain. But buried in the crew column, alongside sailors and support staff from the Philippines, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Poland, were two names that brought this story home: India. Two Indian crew members, nationality confirmed, condition undisclosed. Oceanwide Expeditions stated it would share new information only as soon as it had been verified, and no further details about the Indian crew members were provided. Their roles on the ship, their health status, and whether they have been in contact with any of the infected passengers, all of it remains unknown. The virus on this ship is called hantavirus.

The strain, the Andes strain, can pass between humans, but not through the air in a crowded room, not by sitting nearby. Only through the kind of closeness you share with a spouse, a cabin mate, or a doctor treating you without protection.

Here is what happened, where the ship is right now, and what this means for India.

### BIRDWATCHING TOUR TURNS DEATH TRAP

The ship is the MV Hondius, a Dutch expedition vessel that left the southern tip of Argentina on the first of April. On board: 149 passengers and crew from 23 countries. Somewhere on that journey, a killer came aboard. Argentine investigators believe the source was a birdwatching tour in Ushuaia, the southernmost city on Earth. A Dutch couple on that tour most likely inhaled microscopic particles from infected

rodent droppings on the ground. They felt fine. They boarded the ship. They had absolutely no idea.

### THE DEADLY COUNT-DOWN

On April 11, a passenger died on board. The cause of death could not be determined on the ship. On April 24, his body was disembarked on St Helena, with his wife accompanying the repatriation. On April 27, Oceanwide Expeditions was informed that the wife had become unwell during the return journey and had later died. Both were Dutch nationals. On April 27, another passenger became seriously ill and was medically evacuated to South Africa. This person is currently being treated in the intensive care unit in Johannesburg, in a critical but stable condition. A variant of hantavirus has been identified in this patient.



## NFR Intensifies Measures to Prevent Buffalo Dashing Incidents in Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section

MALIGAON, 7 MAY, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has undertaken a series of proactive measures to prevent incidents of buffalo dashing in the strategically important Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section, under Lumding Division. Considering the safety of train operations as well as the protection of livestock, NFR has intensified preventive initiatives in vulnerable locations where such incidents had been reported frequently in the past.

As part of the safety enhancement measures, fencing work is being carried out along the approaches to major railway tunnels in the hill section to restrict the movement of buffaloes and cattle onto railway tracks. Recently, fencing work of approximately 150 metres in length between Tunnel No. 16 and Bridge No. 262 on both sides of the track has been successfully completed. In addition, fencing work near Tunnel No. 10 and Tunnel No. 12 is presently under progress and is being expedited for early completion. These initiatives are expected to significantly reduce the chances of cattle straying

onto the tracks and avoid cattle-train collision, thus improving operational safety.

Alongside infrastructural measures, NFR is also conducting extensive awareness campaigns in villages located close to areas prone to buffalo dashing incidents, particularly in the New Harangajao-Ditokcherra section. Railway officials, in coordination with village councils and local residents, are sensitizing people about the dangers posed by trespassing of cattle and buffaloes on railway tracks and tunnels. During these campaigns, pamphlets are being distributed and awareness posters are being displayed to encourage villagers to keep livestock away from railway tracks & premises.

NFR always remain committed towards ensuring safe and uninterrupted train operations in the hill section through continuous monitoring, infrastructure strengthening and community participation. NFR appeals to local residents and cattle owners to extend their cooperation in safeguarding railway operations and preventing accidents involving livestock.

# Vande Mataram row: Owaisi opposes Cabinet move on legal protection

Asaduddin Owaisi has objected to the Union Cabinet's move to give Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as Jana Gana Mana. He cited the Constitution, while the BJP said the objection reflected resistance to cultural integration.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday objected to the Union Cabinet's decision to grant 'Vande Mataram' the same statutory protection as the national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana', saying the song cannot be treated on par with the anthem, as it is an ode to a goddess. The nation does not run in the name of a god or goddess

and it does not belong to one god or goddess, he said. In a post on X, he said, "Jana Gana Mana celebrates India and its people, not a particular religion. Religion nation. The man who wrote Vande Mataram was sympathetic to the British Raj and despised Muslims. Netaji Bose, Gandhi, Nehru, and Tagore all rejected it." Referring to the Constitution of India, he said the Preamble begins with "We, the People" - not "Bharat Maa". It promises "liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship". The very first provision of the Constitution, Article 1, describes "India, that is Bharat" as a Union of States, he said. In the Constituent Assembly, some members wanted the Preamble to begin



in the name of a goddess and they specifically invoked Vande Mataram. Others wanted it to begin "In the name of God" and to replace "its citizens" with "her citizens". However, all these amendments were defeated, Owaisi said. "India, that is Bharat, is its people. The nation is not a goddess; it does not run in the name of a god or goddess,

and it does not belong to one god or goddess," he said. Meanwhile, Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao took exception to Owaisi's objections to the government's decision and said the AIMIM leadership views any form of cultural integration as a threat to religious exclusivism. It is not just limited to Owaisi, even Jinnah followed the same trajectory, he said. Jinnah had not objected to Vande Mataram during the early phase of his political career as a Congress member and his opposition emerged only after he left the Congress, he said. "What does this tell us? Once politics becomes dependent on religious exclusivism, every civilisational symbol is portrayed as a threat," Rao said in a post

on X. Suggesting a pattern, the BJP leader said the AIMIM opposes not just Vande Mataram, but also the Uniform Civil Code, the abolition of Triple Talak and every attempt at creating a common framework. "All of this stems from a leadership mindset that sees cultural integration and national cohesion as dangers to its political relevance and religious exclusivism," he said. The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 to make any obstruction to the singing of the national song Vande Mataram a punishable offence.

This gives Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as the national anthem Jana Gana Mana.

# Haryana Advocate General Office fully digitalised

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7:

Taking a major step towards administrative and legal reforms, the Advocate General's Office of Haryana has now become completely digitalised. Under the leadership of Ld. Advocate General Sh. Pravindra Singh Chauhan, Haryana, has become the first state in India where all legal operations in the Advocate General Office are being conducted entirely through digital systems. This achievement is being regarded as a new benchmark not only for Haryana but for the entire country. On Thursday afternoon, Haryana Advocate General, Sh. Pravindra Singh Chauhan officially launched the Pro Case Management System (PCMS) live, marking the beginning of a new era of digital legal admin-

istration. The digital transformation journey began around six months ago when Advocate General, Sh. Pravindra Singh Chauhan appointed Senior Deputy Advocate General, Sh. Arun Tewatia as the IT and IT Security Nodal Officer and Chairman of the Computer Committee. He was entrusted with the responsibility of converting all manual operations of the office into digital processes. Thereafter, work was initiated in mission mode, transforming the traditional functioning of the office into a modern digital system. Advocate General, Sh. Pravindra Singh Chauhan said that this vision has now been fully accomplished. He explained that the backbone of this digital ecosystem is the Pro Case Management System (PCMS), an advanced exten-

sion of the Litigation Management System (LMS). Through this platform, vetting, legal opinions, case-related correspondence, and litigation management between the Advocate General Office and various government departments are now being carried out completely digitally. This has significantly accelerated workflows and minimised unnecessary delays. He further informed that all case-related documents—including paper books, replies, written statements, and previous court orders—are now securely available in PDF format. This has nearly eliminated dependency on physical files while enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accessibility. Meanwhile, Senior Deputy Advocate General, Sh. Arun Tewatia said that several modern e-govern-

ance modules have also been introduced by the IT and IT Security Division. He said that through e-Roster, law officers will receive immediate access to paper books, replies, and final court orders directly in their accounts. e-Judgement will enable instant access to court judgments and orders. e-Vetting will make legal scrutiny and review processes faster and easier. Through e-Opinion, departments will receive legal advice more quickly. e-Pairvi will ensure greater transparency and accuracy in case presentations and summaries. This initiative reflects Haryana's administrative capability and technological vision. At the same time, it establishes a new national benchmark in the modernisation of legal institutions across India.

The e-Dashboard will display real-time information related to total cases pertaining to Haryana, including urgent, ordinary, COCP, and court-wise matters. Additionally, e-Directory will serve as a digital platform containing contact details of nodal officers of all government departments. Advocate General, Sh. Pravindra Singh Chauhan said that these innovations have established a completely digital legal ecosystem within the Advocate General Office, enabling work to be carried out with greater speed, transparency, and accountability. This initiative reflects Haryana's administrative capability and technological vision. At the same time, it establishes a new national benchmark in the modernisation of legal institutions across India.



## Op Sindoor just the beginning: Armed forces say fight against terror goes on

At a joint press conference marking one year of Operation Sindoor, senior armed officials described it as a defining military moment. They said the operation underscored India's zero-tolerance approach to terrorism, joint force coordination and indigenous capability.

NOT an end and it was just the beginning," he said.

Calling the operation a "gold standard" in both military and strategic terms, Lt Gen Ghai highlighted that more than 65 per cent of the defence equipment used was indigenously developed, stressing the strength of India's push for self-reliance. He also noted that sustained pressure compelled Pakistan to seek de-escalation.

On the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, senior officers of the Indian Armed Forces, at a press conference, described it as a defining moment in India's military history. Addressing a joint briefing, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Air Marshal Avadhesh Bharti and Vice Admiral AN Pramod highlighted its strategic impact and lessons learnt a year after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

They said that the operation reflected India's firm resolve to act decisively against terrorism and its support infrastructure. They stated that Indian forces achieved significant operational success, including neutralising multiple enemy assets and inflicting heavy damage on hostile elements.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who was serving as Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) at the time, began by paying tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam attack. He said Operation Sindoor marked a "major moment" in India's military history, made possible by clear directives from the government and full operational freedom granted to the armed forces. "Operation Sindoor was

Air Marshal Avadhesh Bharti outlined the Indian Air Force's role, stating that while operations are currently paused, the guiding principle remains "live and let live". He also warned that any attempt to exploit India's restraint would be met with decisive action. He said the first successful strike boosted troop morale and delivered a measure of justice to victims' families. The Air Force, he added, played a central role in anticipating and countering enemy moves, reaffirming the importance of air power.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod detailed the Indian Navy's contribution, including the deployment of carrier battle groups and submarines, as well as control over key maritime routes, which added strategic pressure. He said the operation showcased India's naval strength and readiness on the global stage.

Officials said that Operation Sindoor highlighted India's zero-tolerance approach to terrorism, along with joint force coordination, indigenous capability and decisive execution, setting a new benchmark for future operations.

# ODOC will empower local vendors and boost local economy : Hema Malini

MATHURA, MAY 7 -

UP government decision to notify Peda, Chappan Bhog, Makhan Mishri, Tarauli's Rabri Sweets under one district one cuisine scheme (ODOC), yesterday, got mixed reactions in the city. Mathura MP Hema Malini is hopeful that the policy will serve as a major turnaround for the local industry and especially for small vendors who are struggling with rising costs, competition, shortage of raw material, and adulteration. Peda and Rabri are traditional sweets, Makhan Mishri and Chappan Bhog are part of Thakur Ji's offering, and are part of rich Brij cuisine. This decision will empower local vendors and boost the local economy. "It will open access to new markets and will improve branding of local delicacies," she added. BJP MLA from Mant Rajesh Chaudhary, while hailing the decision,



noted that old traditional sweets of the region were facing fierce competition from modern food, including Junk food. "This is a timely help to hundreds of businesses, who are also struggling with a shortage of raw material." The scheme will also ascertain the quality of the product, since it also funds the establishment of a quality testing lab, he added. Mathura is known for its Peda, Chappan Bhog, Makhan Mishri, and Rabri. They are favourites among visitors and locals, said Rajeev Agrawal, President of the Na-

tional Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He is hopeful that the scheme will address two major issues with local businesses, finances, and the shortage of raw materials. "The decision will even take the sweets to far-off regions," he added. Bhartiya Janta Party's District General Secretary Kunj Bihari Chaturvedi noted that the small vendors will be able to take their products to major platforms. "The businesses will get their product displayed on a priority basis at Unity malls," he added. Deputy industry commissioner Chandrabhan Singh told that One District One Cuisine scheme (ODOC) will directly help around 500 Halwais (confectioners) and around 2000 people engaged in this profession in the city. The participants will get a flat 25% off on the loan amount and a 75% waiver on the stall fee while participating in an exhibition. The government

notified Peda, Chappan Bhog, Makhan Mishri, Tarauli's Rabri Sweets from Mathura in the list yesterday. However, Senior Samajwadi Party leader Pradeep Chaudhary is sceptical and said that this government is habitual of coming up with several schemes on paper only. The schemes are hardly visible on the grounds. "I will be more than happy if this scheme is honestly implemented," he added.

While Congress leader Yatendra Mukaddam raised doubt on results of the scheme, since only Peda and Rabri are readily available in the market, the rest of the products are made on request, as they are used in temples and on special occasions in the temples. They should have included Lassi, Kachauri, Jalebi, Ghewar, Kalakand, Dilkhusiyar, and Srikhand in the list if they are serious about promoting local delicacies.

## Pidilite Industries Q4 climbs 36.6 pc to Rs 584.15 cr

NEW DELHI: (MAY 7)

Pidilite Industries Ltd on Thursday reported a 36.63 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 584.15 crore for the March quarter of FY26, helped by volume growth and healthy operating margins. The company, which manufactures adhesives, sealants and construction chemicals, had logged a profit of Rs 427.52 crore in the January-March period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Pidilite Industries. Its revenue rose 13.24 per cent to Rs 3,648.16 crore in the March quarter of FY26. It was Rs 3,221.52 crore a year ago.

## Lupin Q4 PAT jumps 87.7 pc to Rs 1,468.7 cr

NEW DELHI: (MAY 7)

Pharma major Lupin Ltd on Thursday reported an 87.7 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,468.7 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, mainly driven by strong performance in the US market. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 782.4 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal, Lupin Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Its consolidated sales in the fourth quarter rose 32.9 per cent to Rs 7,391.9 crore against Rs 5,562.2 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

## Britannia Q4 profit rises 21 pc to Rs 679 cr; FY26 revenue up 16.5 pc

NEW DELHI: (MAY 7)

Bakery food company Britannia Industries Ltd on Thursday reported a 21.56 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 679.68 crore for the March quarter of FY26. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 559.13 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Britannia Industries. Britannia Industries' revenue from the sale of products rose 7 per cent to Rs 4,685.95 crore in the March quarter.

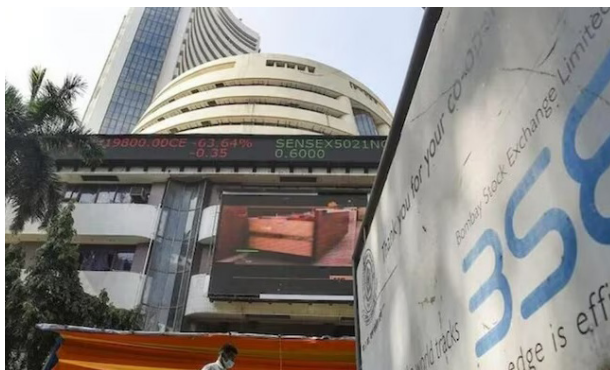
## SBI to consider USD 2 bn foreign currency bond issuance on May 12

NEW DELHI: (MAY 7)

State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday said the executive committee of its central board will meet on May 12 to decide on raising funds through the issue of USD 2 billion (around Rs 17,000 crore) foreign currency bonds in the current fiscal year. In a regulatory filing, SBI said the executive committee will "examine the status and decide on long term fund raising in single/multiple tranches of up to USD 2 billion under Reg-S/144A, through a public offer and/or private placement of fixed/floating rate bonds in US dollar or any other major foreign currency during FY 2026-27". Shares of SBI closed at Rs 1,091.80, down 0.35 per cent from its previous close on the BSE.

# Stock market ends flat as Sensex slips 114, Nifty stays above 24,300

**Benchmark equity indices ended little changed on Wednesday, with the Sensex slipping 114 points and the Nifty holding above 24,300. The muted session underlined investor caution over global cues, interest rate expectations and earnings momentum, while selective buying capped losses.**



Markets traded in a narrow range through the session as investors remained watchful ahead of fresh domestic triggers and global cues. Benchmark stock market indices ended little changed on Wednesday,

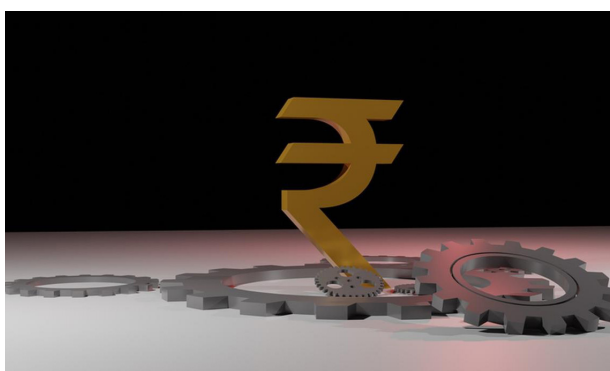
with the Sensex closing lower by 114 points while the Nifty managed to hold above the 24,300 mark amid cautious investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex settled at 77,844.52, down 114 points or 0.15%. The NSE Nifty50 ended at 24,326.65, lower by 4.30 points or 0.02%. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Domestic equities swung between gains and losses amid mixed global cues, even as the rupee strengthened.

Selective risk appetite was evident in pockets of the market, with mid and small caps outperforming large caps." The muted closing indicates that traders are still weighing concerns around global growth, interest rate expectations and corporate earnings momentum, while selective buying in heavyweight stocks helped limit sharper declines. "Reports of a potential US-Iran agreement to gradually reopen the Strait of Hormuz pushed crude below \$100 per barrel, easing near-term inflation concerns. However, optimism faded quickly amid uncertainty around nuclear enrichment discussions, triggering prof-

it booking," Nair said. "Sectorally, auto, healthcare, and financial services witnessed gains, while IT and FMCG declined. Going ahead, Q4 earnings and management guidance will remain key drivers of sentiment, though markets are likely to stay volatile until clearer signals emerge from West Asia," he added. Despite the subdued headline indices, stock-specific action continued across sectors, with investors focusing on earnings reactions and company-specific developments. The broader market trend remained mixed during the session, reflecting caution after recent volatility in benchmark indices.

## Rupee rises 23 paise to close at 94.26 against U.S. dollar

**Forex traders said Brent oil prices have fallen below \$100 per barrel on a rise in investor risk appetite in global markets on hopes of peace between the U.S. and Iran.**



The rupee pared initial losses and settled for the day on a positive note, higher by 23 paise at 94.26 (provisional) against the greenback on Thursday (May 7, 2026), as Brent crude and the U.S. dollar index retreated from their elevated levels. Forex traders said Brent oil prices have fallen below \$100 per barrel on a rise in investor risk appetite in global markets on hopes of peace between the U.S. and

Iran. However, factors such as unabated foreign capital outflows and safe-haven dollar demand from importers capped sharp gains for the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee witnessed high volatility. It opened at 94.77 against the U.S. dollar, registering a fall of 28 paise over its previous close. In intraday trade, the USD/INR pair touched an intraday low of 94.90 and a high of 94.08 against the American currency. The rupee finally

settled at 94.26 (provisional), registering a rise of 23 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday (May 6), the rupee appreciated 69 paise to close at 94.49 against the U.S. dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on improved global risk sentiments amid easing tensions between the U.S. and Iran and softening of global crude oil prices. A decline in the U.S. dollar may also support the rupee." "However, dollar demand from importers and FII outflows may cap sharp gains. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 93.80 to 94.40," said Anuj Choudhary, Research analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 97.86, down 0.16 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 2.23% at \$99.01 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 114 points to settle at 77,844.52, and the Nifty was down 4.30 points to 24,326.65. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth ₹5,834.90 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

# Explained: Why Paytm share price surged over 6% today

**Paytm shares rose over 6% after One 97 Communications reported a Q4 profit and its first annual profit. The results signalled improving payments growth and margins even as regulatory concerns remained in focus.**



Payments and lending businesses showed strong growth with 7.7 crore monthly users. Shares of Paytm parent One 97 Communications surged over 6% in early trade on Thursday after the company reported a sharp turnaround in profitability and posted its first-ever full-year profit. The stock rose 6.06% to Rs 1,177.55 in morning trade. Over the past one year, the stock has gained more than 34%, outperforming the benchmark Nifty 50 index.

The rally comes after the company reported strong March quarter earnings and a return to profitability despite regulatory challenges linked to Paytm Payments Bank. **PAYTM POSTS Q4 PROFIT** Paytm posted a net profit of Rs 184 crore in Q4 FY26, compared to a loss of Rs 540 crore in the same period last year. The company also reported its first-ever annual profit, with profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 552 crore for FY26. Revenue for the quarter rose 18.4% year-on-year to Rs 2,264 crore. Meanwhile, EBITDA turned positive at Rs 132 crore against a loss of Rs 88 crore a year earlier. EBITDA margin stood at 5%, helped by operating leverage and cost discipline, the report said. **STRONG GROWTH IN PAYMENTS AND LENDING** Investor sentiment was

also supported by continued growth in Paytm's payments and lending businesses. Consumer UPI gross transaction value rose 46% year-on-year during the quarter, while monthly transacting users increased to 7.7 crore. Revenue from financial services climbed 37% to Rs 750 crore, while payment services revenue stood at Rs 1,265 crore. The company's contribution profit rose to Rs 1,254 crore, with contribution margin improving to 55%, reflecting better operating efficiency and scaling benefits. **REGULATORY ISSUES STILL IN FOCUS** The strong earnings come at a time when Paytm is trying to stabilise its business after regulatory action against Paytm Payments Bank disrupted parts of its ecosystem last year. The company has since shifted to a partner-led model for payments and UPI operations. Despite the regulatory overhang, investors appeared encouraged by the company's improving profitability, revenue growth and operational performance. **WHY INVESTORS ARE CHEERING THE RESULTS** Analysts and investors are closely watching whether Paytm can maintain profitability after years of losses. **The latest results indicate:**

- improving operating performance
- growth in core payments business
- stronger lending revenue
- better margins
- and improving user activity.

The company's return to annual profitability is being viewed as a key milestone for the fintech major.

# DA hike explained: Why bank employees just got 0.70% while govt staff received 2%?

**A small DA hike for bank staff and a bigger one for government employees, has raised eyebrows. But is the difference unfair, or is there more to the calculation behind the scenes? Let us know here.**

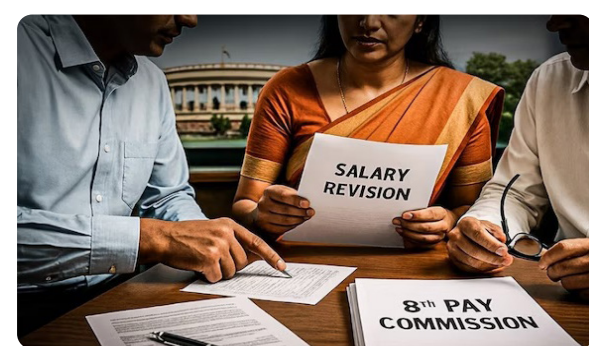


A colleague recently pointed this out over tea, "Government employees got a 2% DA hike, but bank staff only got 0.70%. Isn't that unfair?" It's a fair question. On the surface, the difference looks striking. But once you dig a little deeper, the story is less about inequality and more about how the system works. **SAME INFLATION, DIFFERENT CALCULATION STYLES** Both bank employees and central government staff get Dearness Allowance (DA) based on inflation. The common base? The Consumer

Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW). But here's where things start to differ. As Adhil Shetty, CEO, Bankbazaar, explains, the gap comes from how this data is used. "Bank DA is revised quarterly and reflects incremental CPI-IW changes, so each increase is smaller. The central government DA is revised twice a year using a 12-month average, which aggregates multiple months of inflation into one adjustment." In simple terms, bank employees get smaller, more frequent updates, while central government staff get fewer but larger jumps. **WHY BANK DA CHANGES FEEL SMALLER** The latest revision increased bank DA from 25% to 25.70% for May-July 2026—a 0.70% rise. It may look modest, but it reflects only a three-month inflation movement. Central government employees, on the other hand, saw their DA rise from 58% to 60%, i.e., a 2% jump. But that figure

includes inflation trends accumulated over a longer period. Shetty puts it neatly: "Central government DA uses a 12-month average, which smoothens short-term fluctuations and leads to more stable adjustments." So, while the number looks bigger, it's also covering a longer stretch of time. **DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, DIFFERENT TIMELINES** Another key reason lies in how pay structures are set. Government employees follow the Central Pay Commission framework, where DA is revised twice a year, i.e., January and July. Bank employees, however, operate under Bipartite Settlements between the Indian Banks' Association and unions. This system allows for quarterly revisions. "Bank and central government employees sit under entirely differ-

ent pay-setting structures," Shetty explains, adding that this is what drives the difference in revision frequency. **WHAT IT MEANS FOR EMPLOYEES** For bank employees, the advantage is that their DA responds faster to recent inflation trends. Even if each increase is smaller, adjustments happen more regularly. For government staff, the benefit is larger, more visible hikes, but spaced out over time. So, is one better than the other? Not necessarily. The 0.70% vs 2% difference is not about favouring one group over another. It's simply the result of two different ways of calculating and revising DA. Once you understand the mechanics, the gap doesn't seem as surprising. It's just two systems reacting to the same inflation data, only in different rhythms.



## 8th Pay Commission: Govt employees push for 5-year pay hikes. Is it practical?

**As part of its exclusive coverage, IndiaToday.in spoke to union leaders demanding salary revisions every five years. We also asked experts whether such a move would help employees or strain government finances further.**

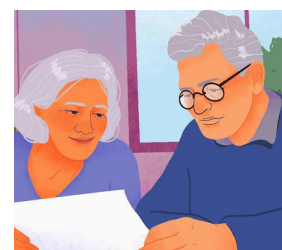
doubles in 10 years. That is too slow" For many employees, the issue is not just inflation, but how slowly salaries grow under the current system. "If an employee was appointed in January 2016 at a basic salary of Rs 18,000, then after 10 years, the salary becomes only around Rs 37,000," said Dr Manjeet Singh Patel, National President of the All India NPS Employees Federation and National Mission for Old Pension Scheme Bharat. "Being only doubled in 10 years is very slow compared to the private sector," he said. According to Patel, a five-year cycle would make government pay more competitive. "If the pay commission is provided within five years, then the salary of government officials will be able to increase competitively," he said.

Government employees are pushing for a major change in how their salaries are revised, with a demand to cut the Pay Commission cycle from 10 years to five. IndiaToday.in has exclusively learnt that this proposal was raised during recent consultation meetings with the 8th Pay Commission. The discussions took place in Delhi between April 28 and April 30, where employee representatives argued that the current system no longer keeps pace with inflation and rising living costs. "The five-year demand for the wage of government employees should be met. There are many reasons for this," said Shiva Gopal Mishra, Secretary (Staff Side), National Council-Joint Consultative Machinery (NC-JCM). "If we take it for ten years, then in the ten-year wait, our entire price index will increase a lot. Because of inflation, wages decided ten years in advance lose their real value," he told IndiaToday.in. Employee groups say the gap between revisions is now too wide compared to the rest of the economy. "In the private sector, there is a change in wages in just three years. But government employees have to wait for ten years," Mishra said. They also point to sectors like banking and public sector undertakings, where wage revisions typically happen every five years. "Salary

**HOW PRACTICAL IS THIS DEMAND?** Experts say the demand may sound reasonable, but the financial implications are significant. "For states, on average salaries and pensions make up more than 40% of their revenue receipts," said an industry expert who wished to remain anonymous. "For the Union government too, salaries and pensions together form a substantial part of expenditure," he said. A shorter Pay Commission cycle could increase pressure on government finances. "What happens over time is that more and more government budgets get consumed by salaries and pensions, leaving less room for development and investment," the expert said. "If more and more of the budget goes towards salaries and pensions, then governments either have to cut spending elsewhere or increase taxes."

## Can senior citizens above skip ITR filing in FY27? Here's who qualifies

**Filing income tax returns every year can be stressful for many elderly taxpayers. But did you know some senior citizens above 75 may not need to file ITR in FY27 at all if certain conditions are met?**



A major change is the introduction of Form 125, which allows certain elderly taxpayers to avoid filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) completely. However, the benefit is available only to a limited category of senior citizens. At the same time, existing tax benefits for senior and super senior citizens under the old tax regime remain unchanged, including higher deductions on interest income and medical expenses. Here is a simple look at the latest rules and who can benefit from them. **WHAT IS FORM 125?** Form 125, earlier known as Form 12BBA, is a declaration form meant for certain senior citizens aged 75 years and above. Under this system, eligible individuals do not have to file ITR separately. Instead, they submit the declaration to their bank, and the bank handles the tax process on their behalf. The bank calculates the person's total taxable income, applies eligible deductions and rebates, deducts the required tax and deposits it with the government. Once this is done, the senior citizen is exempt from filing an income tax return. **WHO CAN USE THIS FACILITY?** The benefit is available only under specific conditions. To be eligible, an individual must be 75 years or above, a resident Indian, and have only two sources of income, i.e., pension and

interest income. Both the pension and interest income must also come from the same bank. If a person earns money from any other source, such as rent, capital gains, fixed deposits in different banks or business income, the exemption will not apply. The bank involved must also be a 'specified bank' notified by the government. Senior citizens who are eligible under these rules also get some extra convenience while filing taxes. They can choose to file returns in paper form instead of online filing if they are more comfortable with offline methods. However, online filing remains available as well. There is another important relief for senior citizens. Senior and super senior citizens who do not have income from business or profession are not required to pay advance tax. This means they do not have to worry about interest penalties under Sections 234B and 234C for missing advance tax payments. **WHY MANY SENIOR CITIZENS MAY STILL NEED TO FILE ITR** Although the rule sounds helpful, tax experts say the actual number of people who qualify may be limited. In real life, many super senior citizens have income from multiple bank accounts, rental property, investments or other savings schemes.



# What is healthy eating?

## The fundamentals of healthy eating

While some extreme diets may suggest otherwise, we all need a balance of protein, fat, carbohydrates, fiber, vitamins, and minerals in our diets to sustain a healthy body and mind. You don't need to eliminate categories of food from your diet, but rather select a balance of options from each category. Protein helps support your mood and cognitive function. Eating too much protein can be harmful to people with kidney disease, and it can displace other foods from your diet that provide important nutrients. However, research suggests that many of us need more high-quality protein in our diets, especially as we age. That doesn't necessarily mean you have to eat more animal products. Including a variety of plant-based sources of protein each day can ensure your body gets all the essential protein it needs.

**Fats:** Eating fats are helpful in a variety of biological functions, can make food taste good, and help you to feel satisfied after a meal. But not all fat is the same. While some fats, like saturated fats, have been linked to an increased risk of certain diseases, other, unsaturated fats protect your brain and heart health. In fact, omega-3 fats are vital to your physi-

cal and emotional health. Including more unsaturated fat in your diet can help improve your mood and protect your health.

**Carbohydrates:** These are your body and brain's main source of energy. Ideally, most carbs should come from complex, unrefined sources (such as vegetables, whole grains, and fruit) rather than sugars and refined carbs (such as donuts, white bread, and sugary drinks). Switching from simple, refined carbs to complex, unrefined carbs, and balancing your meals with with protein and unsaturated fat, can help prevent rapid spikes in blood sugar, and fluctuations in mood and energy. Read: [Refined Carbs and Sugar](#)

**Fiber:** Eating foods high in dietary fiber (grains, fruit, vegetables, nuts, and beans) can help you stay regular and lower your risk for heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. It can also improve your skin and even help you to lose weight by feeling fuller longer.

**Calcium:** As well as leading to osteoporosis, not getting enough calcium in your diet can also contribute to anxiety, depression, and sleep difficulties. Whatever your age or gender, it's vital to include calcium-rich foods in your diet, limit those that deplete calcium, and get enough magnesium and vitamins D and K to help calcium do its job.

## Making the switch to a healthy diet

Switching to a balanced, nutritious diet doesn't have to be an all or nothing proposition. You don't have to be perfect, you don't have to completely eliminate foods you enjoy, and you don't have to change everything all at once—that usually only leads to cheating or giving up on your new eating plan. A better approach is to make a few small changes at a time. Keeping your goals modest can help you achieve more in the long term without feeling deprived or overwhelmed by a major diet overhaul. Think of improving your diet as a number of small, manageable steps—like adding a salad to a meal once a day. As your small changes become habit, you can continue to add more healthy choices.

## Setting yourself up for success

To set yourself up for success, try to keep things simple. Eating a more balanced diet doesn't have to be complicated. Instead of being overly concerned with counting calories, for example, think of your diet in terms of color, variety, and freshness. Focus on minimizing packaged and heavily processed foods and opting for more fresh ingredients whenever possible.

## Prepare more of your own meals

Cooking more meals at home can help you take charge of what you're eating and

better monitor exactly what goes into your food. You may find that you feel less tired, bloated, and irritable, and don't exacerbate symptoms of depression, stress, and anxiety.

## Add balance to your diet

When changing your dietary habits, it's important to focus on making changes that help improve the overall quality of your diet. Replacing saturated fats with healthy fats (such as switching fried chicken for grilled salmon) can make a positive difference to your health. Switching animal fats for refined carbohydrates, though (such as switching your breakfast bacon for a donut), won't lower your risk for heart disease or improve your mood. It's important to be aware of what's in your food as manufacturers often include ingredients in packaged food that your body just doesn't need. Focus on how you feel after eating. This will help foster healthy new habits and tastes. The more balanced and nutritious your food, the better you'll likely feel after a meal.

## Drink plenty of water

Water helps flush our systems of waste products and toxins, yet many of us go through life dehydrated—causing tiredness, low energy, and headaches. It's common to mistake thirst for hunger, so staying well hydrated may also help you to eat less.

## Moderation: important to healthy eating

What is moderation? In essence, it means eating only as much food as your body needs. You should feel satisfied at the end of a meal, but not stuffed. For many of us, moderation means eating less than we do now. But it doesn't mean eliminating the foods you love. Eating bacon for breakfast once a week, rather than every day, for example, could be considered moderation. Try not to think of certain foods as "off-limits." When you ban certain foods, it's natural to want those foods more, and then feel like a failure if you give in to temptation. Start by increasing your mindfulness around those foods. Does your body want certain food or do you just eat out of habit? How do different foods make you feel after you eat them? Think smaller portions. Serving sizes have ballooned recently. When dining out, choose a starter instead of an entree, split a dish with a friend, and don't order supersized anything. At home, visual cues can help with portion sizes. Your serving of meat, fish, or chicken should be the size of a deck of cards and half a cup of mashed potato, rice, or pasta is about the size of a traditional light bulb. If you still feel hungry at the end of a meal, check in with what you need to feel satisfied—and try to fill up on nutritious options, such as greens or fruit, rather than choosing heavily processed foods. Take your time. It's important to slow down and think about food as nourishment rather than just something to gulp down in between meetings or on the way to pick up the kids. It actually takes a few minutes for your brain to tell your body that it has had enough food, so eat slowly and stop eating before you feel full. Eat with others whenever possible. Eating alone, especially in front of the TV or computer, often leads to mindless overeating. Be mindful about snacking. While snacking can help to keep you going during the day between meals, it can also be a crutch when you are bored or stressed. Try to make balanced choices for snacks, that include carbohydrates, proteins, and fats, such as apple or crackers with cheese, or yogurt and granola.

## It's not just what you eat, but when you eat

Eat breakfast, and eat smaller meals throughout the day. A healthy breakfast can jumpstart your metabolism, while eating small, healthy meals keeps your energy up all day.

Try to avoid eating late at night. While the evidence is mixed, some studies have linked late-night eating with weight gain. This may be associated with non-hunger eating. Since many of us view the evening as a time to relax and unwind, it's easy to become mindless with our eating.

## Add more fruit and vegetables to your diet

Fruit and vegetables are nutrient dense, which means they are packed with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and fiber. Focus on eating the recommended daily amount of at least five servings of fruit and vegetables and it will naturally fill you up. A serving is half a cup of raw fruit or veg or a small apple or banana, for example. Most of us need to double the amount we currently eat.

# The Mediterranean Diet..

A Mediterranean diet can help fight against heart disease, certain cancers, diabetes, and cognitive decline. Here's how to make the switch.

## What is a "Mediterranean diet?"

When you think about Mediterranean food, your mind may go to pizza and pasta from Italy, or lamb chops from Greece, but these dishes don't fit into the healthy dietary plans advertised as "Mediterranean." A true Mediterranean diet is based on the region's traditional fruits, vegetables, beans, nuts, seafood, olive oil, and dairy—with perhaps a glass or two of red wine. That's how the inhabitants of Crete, Greece, and southern Italy ate circa 1960, when their rates of chronic disease were among the lowest in the world and their life expectancy among the highest, despite having only limited medical services.

And the real Mediterranean diet is about more than just eating fresh, wholesome food. Daily physical activity and sharing meals with others are vital elements. Together, they can have a profound effect on your mood and mental health and help you foster a deep appreciation for the pleasures of eating healthy and delicious foods.

Of course, making changes to your diet is rarely easy, especially if you're trying to move away from the convenience of processed and takeout foods. But the Mediterranean diet can be an inexpensive as well as a satisfying and very healthy way to eat. Making the switch from pepperoni and pasta to fish and avocados may take some effort, but you could soon be on a path to a healthier and longer life.

## Health benefits of a Mediterranean diet

### Health benefits of a Mediterranean diet

A traditional Mediterranean diet consisting of large quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts, fish, and olive oil—coupled with physical activity—can reduce your risk of serious mental and physical health problems by:

Preventing heart disease and strokes. Following a Mediterranean diet limits your intake of refined breads, processed foods, and red meat, and encourages drinking red wine instead of hard liquor—all factors that can help prevent heart disease and stroke. Keeping you agile. If you're an older adult, the nutrients gained with a Mediterranean diet may reduce your risk of developing muscle weakness and other signs of frailty by about 70 percent.

Reducing the risk of Alzheimer's. Research suggests that the Mediterranean diet may improve cholesterol, blood sugar levels, and overall blood vessel health, which in turn may reduce your risk of Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Halving the risk of Parkinson's disease. The high levels of antioxidants in the Mediterranean diet can prevent cells from undergoing a damaging process called oxidative stress, thereby cutting the risk of Parkinson's disease in half.

Increasing longevity. By reducing your risk of developing heart disease or cancer with the Mediterranean diet, you're reducing your risk of death at any age by 20%.

### Make mealtimes a social experience

The simple act of talking to a friend or loved over the dinner table can play a big role in relieving stress and boosting mood. Eating with others can also prevent overeating, making it as healthy for your waistline as it is for your outlook. Switch off the TV and computer, put away your smartphone, and connect to someone over a meal. Gather the family together and stay up to date with each other's daily lives. Regular family meals provide comfort to kids and are a great way to

monitor their eating habits as well. Share meals with others to expand your social network. If you live alone, cook a little extra and invite a friend, coworker, or neighbor to join you. Cook with others. Invite a friend to share shopping and cooking responsibilities for a Mediterranean meal. Cooking with others can be a fun way to deepen relationships and splitting the costs can make it cheaper for both of you. The easiest way to make the change to a Mediterranean diet is to start with small steps. Sautéing food in olive oil instead of butter. Eating more fruits and vegetables by enjoying salad as a starter or side dish, snacking on fruit, and adding veggies to other dishes. Choosing whole grains instead of refined breads, rice, and pasta. Substituting fish for red meat at least twice per week. Limit high-fat dairy by switching to skim or 1% milk from 2% or whole milk.

Protecting against type 2 diabetes. A Mediterranean diet is rich in fiber which digests slowly, prevents huge swings in blood sugar, and can help you maintain a healthy weight.

**Myths and facts about the Mediterranean diet**

Following a Mediterranean diet has many benefits, but there are still a lot of misconceptions on exactly how to take advantage of the lifestyle to lead a healthier, longer life. The following are some myths and facts about the Mediterranean diet.

**Myths and facts of a Mediterranean diet**

**Myth:** It costs a lot to eat this way.

**Fact:** If you're creating meals out of beans or lentils as your main source of protein, and sticking with mostly plants and whole grains, then the Mediterranean diet is less expensive than serving dishes of packaged or processed foods.

**Myth:** If one glass of wine is good for your heart, then three glasses is three times as healthy.

**Fact:** Moderate amounts of red wine (one drink a day for women; two for men) certainly has unique health benefits for your heart, but drinking too much has the opposite effect. Anything more than two glasses of wine can actually be bad for your heart.

**Myth:** Eating large bowls of pasta and bread is the Mediterranean way.

**Fact:** Typically, Mediterraneans don't eat a huge plate of pasta the way Americans do. Instead, pasta is usually a side dish with about a 1/2-cup to 1-cup serving size. The rest of their plate consists of salads, vegetables, fish or a small portion of organic, grass-fed meat, and perhaps one slice of bread.

**Myth:** The Mediterranean diet is only about the food.

**Fact:** The food is a huge part of the diet, yes, but don't overlook the other ways the Mediterraneans live their lives. When they sit down for a meal, they don't sit in front of a television or eat in a rush; they sit down for a relaxed, leisurely meal with others, which may be just as important for your health as what's on your plate. Mediterraneans also enjoy plenty of physical activity.



**Jannik Sinner hits out over French Open prize money debate: Don't feel any respect**



World No.1 Jannik Sinner has voiced disappointment over the revised prize money for French Open, saying the issue is more about "respect" than money. Although organisers increased the total prize pool by 10 percent to €61.7 million, many players believe the rise does not match the tournament's growing revenues.

Players have also raised concerns over representation, health support and pension benefits. Sinner said both men's and women's players feel they contribute far more to the sport than they receive in return. He revealed that the top 10 men and women jointly sent a letter to tennis authorities, but were frustrated by the lack of response even after a year. Speaking at the Italian Open, Sinner said that in other sports, important concerns raised by top athletes are addressed immediately, but tennis players do not feel equally respected. He added that many players were unhappy with the outcome of discussions surrounding Roland Garros prize money.

Sinner remains hopeful that conditions will improve ahead of Wimbledon Championships and the US Open. However, he admitted he understands why some players are discussing a possible boycott, saying athletes may eventually need to take a stand after years of frustration. Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka had also warned of boycotting the French Open over the issue.

The French Open begins on May 24. Singles champions will earn €2.8 million each, runners-up €1.4 million, semifinalists €750,000 and first-round losers €87,000. Despite the increase, players argue the prize pool is shrinking when compared to the tournament's overall revenue, especially after last year's US Open introduced a 20 percent hike.

# IPL 2026: MITCH MARSH TON, PRINCE YADAV THREE-FER HELP LSG STUN RCB IN THRILLER

**LSG posted a total of 209 thanks to Mitch Marsh's 111-run knock, before Prince Yadav's three-wicket haul helped the hosts limit RCB to 202 runs in the 19-over truncated game**



Lucknow Super Giants finally ended their miserable run at home with a thrilling nine-run victory over defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a rain-hit IPL 2026 clash at the Ekana Stadium on Thursday night. In a contest interrupted multiple times by rain and eventually reduced to 19 overs a side, LSG produced a complete performance led by Mitchell Marsh's sensational century and a fiery spell from young

pacers Prince Yadav. Coming into the match under immense pressure after six consecutive defeats, LSG needed inspiration desperately, and Marsh delivered exactly that. The Australian all-rounder smashed a breathtaking 111 off just 56 balls, an innings studded with nine fours and nine towering sixes, to propel the hosts to 209/3.

RCB captain Rajat Patidar had won the toss and opted to bowl first, hoping the overcast conditions and intermittent rain would assist his bowlers. However, Marsh quickly turned the tables. Alongside young opener Arshin Kulkarni, he launched a brutal assault despite repeated interruptions caused by showers.

The innings had a stop-start rhythm because of the rain, but Marsh remained unfazed. He raced to a half-century in only 20 deliveries, punishing anything remotely loose from the RCB attack. Kulkarni played the supporting role effectively with 17 off 24 balls as the duo stitched together a 95-run opening partnership.

Krunal Pandya finally broke the stand by dismissing Kulkarni, but the breakthrough hardly slowed LSG. Nicholas Pooran joined Marsh and the pair continued the carnage. Marsh brought up his century in under 50 balls, becoming the fastest centurion for the franchise and surpassing Rishabh Pant's previous record.

Another rain interruption forced officials to shorten the contest to 19 overs per side, but LSG maintained momentum after the restart. Josh Hazlewood eventually

dismissed Marsh for 111, yet the late flourish continued through Pooran and skipper Pant. Pooran struck 38 off 23 balls before Rasikh Salam removed him, while Pant produced a blistering cameo of 32 not out from only 10 deliveries, helping LSG finish with a daunting 209/3.

Due to the DLS adjustment, RCB were handed a revised target of 213 in 19 overs. The chase began disastrously for the defending champions. Mohammed Shami removed Jacob Bethell early before Prince Yadav produced the moment of the match.

The young pacer bowled a sensational 140 kmp/h nip-backer that sneaked through Virat Kohli's defence and shattered the stumps. Kohli departed for a two-ball duck, leaving the Ekana crowd stunned. Reports later revealed the delivery generated significant late swing, making it nearly unplayable.

With RCB reeling, skipper Rajat Patidar launched a counterattack. Alongside Devdutt Padikkal, he rebuilt the innings brilliantly. Patidar looked in sublime touch as he hammered a 26-ball fifty and added 96 runs with Padikkal to keep the visitors alive in the chase.

Padikkal scored 34 before Prince struck again, while Jitesh Sharma also fell cheaply to the impressive pacer, who finished with figures of 3/33. Patidar continued his aggressive strokeplay and eventually made 61 off 31 deliveries before Shahbaz Ahmed dismissed him at a crucial stage.

Tim David then reignited RCB's hopes with a whirlwind 40 from just 17 balls. The Australian smashed boundaries at will and briefly shifted momentum towards Bengaluru. However, Shahbaz once again delivered for LSG by removing the dangerous hitter.

Romario Shepherd and Krunal Pandya attempted one final rescue act, rotating strike smartly and finding boundaries under pressure. But with the equation tightening, Digvesh Rathi held his nerve brilliantly in the final over to ensure LSG crossed the line.

The victory was more than just two points for Lucknow. After weeks of disappointing performances, the hosts finally produced a complete display in front of their home crowd. Marsh's destructive century and Prince Yadav's fearless bowling gave fans a glimpse of the team's potential, while RCB were left rueing missed opportunities in a chase that remained alive until the very end.

## Can Vinesh compete in comeback event? WADA rule for retired athletes raises question



Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat faces uncertainty over her return to competitive wrestling ahead of the National Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda from May 10-12. The confusion centres around whether she has complied with the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) mandatory six-month notice rule for athletes returning from retirement.

Vinesh retired after the heartbreak of the 2024 Paris Olympics but announced her comeback plans in December last year. She has entered the 57kg category for the upcoming tournament. However, under WADA's Article 5.6.1, athletes in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) who retire and later wish to compete again must give six months' prior written notice to the international federation and national anti-doping agency and remain available for testing during that period.

The rule aims to prevent athletes from staying outside the anti-doping system for long periods before returning directly to competition. Any results obtained without complying with the rule can be disqualified unless the athlete proves they were unaware the event was at the national or international level.

WFI president Sanjay Singh said the federation is awaiting confirmation from United World Wrestling (UWW) regarding Vinesh's eligibility. He added that if she had sought an exemption from the six-month notice period, authorities would have informed the federation.

Even if Vinesh competes and performs well in Gonda, it may not help her qualify for the 2026 Asian Games. Under WFI's selection policy, performances in National Open Ranking tournaments will not count for Asian Games trials eligibility.

## The World Cup Will Be Missing Some Injured Star Players Before The Big Kickoff



London: Kylian Mbappe is sidelined with a hamstring injury. Lamine Yamal is out for the rest of the season and so is Brazil star Estevao. There was also a scare when Mohamed Salah hurt his hamstring recently. Injuries to some of soccer's biggest names are mounting ahead of the World Cup which starts in five weeks. Mbappe is expected to play again for Real Madrid this month and there is no suggestion his issue will rule him out of the World Cup. But every setback to France's best player will be of concern to the national team.

Barcelona's teenage sensation Yamal - recuperating from a leg muscle injury - is also expected to be part of Spain's squad and appear at his first World Cup. And initial fears about Salah have been dispelled. Others, however, have not been so fortunate. France's Hugo Ekitike sustained an Achilles injury in April that could take more than six months to fully recover, ruling him out of the tournament co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico and possibly the start of next season.

Brazil stars Rodrygo and Eder Militao are definitely out. So is Bayern Munich and Germany forward Serge Gnabry after injuring his adductor in training. Meanwhile, the absence of Spain and Manchester City midfielder Rodri in recent weeks because of a groin injury is also worrying after he missed the majority of last season due to ACL damage. City manager Pep Guardiola has given positive updates about Rodri's recovery in recent days and the former Ballon d'Or winner should play again this season.

Players and coaches have increasingly warned about the impact of an ever-packed playing schedule, and the expanded World Cup comes a year after the relaunched, supersized Club World Cup. The Champions League has also been expanded in recent years. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta describes the demand on players as "an accident waiting to happen." Players definitely ruled out of the World Cup: Argentina: Joaquin Panichelli (ACL)

Brazil: Eder Militao (hamstring), Rodrygo (ACL) France: Hugo Ekitike (Achilles) Germany: Serge Gnabry (adductor) Netherlands: Xavi Simons (ACL) United States: Cameron Carter-Vickers (Achilles), Patrick Agyemang (Achilles)

Algeria: Goalkeeper Luca Zidane, the son of France icon Zinedine Zidane, is a doubt after a facial injury during an on-field collision last month. Argentina: Cristian Romero has been ruled out for the season with a knee injury. It has not yet been confirmed if he is out of the World Cup, with Tottenham not giving a timeframe for his recovery. Brazil: Teenage sensation Estevao will not play again for Chelsea this month after a hamstring injury. There are conflicting reports as to whether he will recover in time for the World Cup. Croatia: Veteran midfielder Luka Modric broke his cheekbone last month but is expected to be available for the World Cup. Morocco: Paris Saint-Germain defender Achraf Hakimi has been sidelined with a right thigh injury. United States: Defender Miles Robinson hasn't played since April 18 because of a leg injury.

# DOES DC'S MIDDLE-ORDER HAVE AN ANSWER FOR KKR'S SPIN TWINS?

One game, one win, one point. There's not much that separates the two sides that face off on Friday evening in Delhi, except the paths they have taken to end up in the bottom half of the points table. Despite a promising start to IPL 2026, Delhi Capitals (DC) have lost four of their last five games and slipped to seventh. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) started with five straight losses but have picked up some pace in the playoffs race on the back of their spin attack to be placed eighth with three wins in a row.

KKR will also be pleased that DC have had no real home advantage this season; DC have won just one out of five matches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. They started by falling short by one run against Gujarat Titans, they failed to defend 264 against Punjab Kings, they were then rolled over for 75 by Royal Challengers Bengaluru and were restricted to 155 earlier this week by the Chennai Super Kings spinners.

Against KKR, DC face a spin challenge again, that too against the duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarty, who have ensured KKR's spin attack holds the best economy rate (8.10) and have the most wickets (25) so far in this IPL. The number of changes DC have made to their middle order doesn't bode well for the kind of stability they would want against the KKR spin twins. Even though KL Rahul has led the charge for them in the middle overs (7 to 16) with a strike rate of 211 - only behind Rajat Patidar's 217 (minimum 100 runs) - DC have used nine different batters from Nos. 4 to 8 with only four of them getting more than five innings. Their unsettled line-up also reflects in the fact that DC have used five different batters each at Nos. 4, 7 and 8.



If KKR get rid of Rahul early, the bulk of the responsibility in the middle overs will fall on Tristan Stubbs, David Miller and Sameer Rizvi. Overall, DC have ace a couple of chases, but they have not earned a single victory batting first, which could again put them in a tricky spot to gauge what a par score could be on the Delhi track.

KKR themselves have been far from the most explosive line-up in their eight completed games. They have changed Ajinkya Rahane's opening partner a few times and have moved their Nos. 3 to 5 around. If it turns out to be

a high-scoring game, batters like Rahane and Ankrish Raghuvanshi may also have to keep up with the tournament's rising strike rate from their current numbers of 131.41 and 137.43, respectively.

While the focus is all on the top five, who are separated by just two points, a fourth straight win for KKR will help them overtake DC to go seventh.

**Team news: Will Pathirana finally play?**

While Matheesha Pathirana has been with the squad for a while, KKR have stuck to their four overseas combination of Narine, Rovman

Powell, Cameron Green and one out of Finn Allen and Tim Seifert. KKR don't want to rush Pathirana back with mentor Wayne Bravo suggesting that "he is very close to playing". They may not see a reason to change the XI otherwise.

Kolkata Knight Riders (probable): 1 Ajinkya Rahane (capt), 2 Finn Allen, 3 Ankrish Raghuvanshi (wk), 4 Rinku Singh, 5 Cameron Green, 6 Rovman Powell, 7 Manish Pandey, 8 Sunil Narine, 9 Anukul Roy, 10 Kartik Tyagi, 11 Varun Chakravarty, 12 Vaibhav Arora

Lungi Ngidi was back for DC in the last game, in place of Kyle Jamieson, and should retain his place. Kuldeep Yadav's wicketless returns of 75 runs in seven overs in the last two matches will worry them.

Delhi Capitals (probable): 1 Pathum Nissanka, 2 KL Rahul (wk), 3 Nitish Rana, 4 Karun Nair, 5 Axar Patel (capt), 6 Tristan Stubbs, 7 Sameer Rizvi, 8 Ashutosh Sharma, 9 Mitchell Starc, 10 Lungi Ngidi, 11 Kuldeep Yadav, 12 T Natarajan

**In the spotlight: Kuldeep Yadav and Ankrish Raghuvanshi**

Kuldeep Yadav has so far had five wicketless outings in nine games and his economy rate of 10.40 is the worst among spinners (minimum ten overs) this tournament. It is also the first time he has leaked more than nine an over in any IPL season. One of the reasons is that he hasn't been as effective against right-hand batters this IPL as he was last year, and against the right-handed heavy KKR line-up, Kuldeep will have a big challenge waiting for him. DC have the fewest wickets taken in IPL 2026 and they'll hope Kuldeep rises to the occasion against his former team.

## EAM Jaishankar hands over India-assisted fruit processing facility

PARAMARIBO

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Thursday handed over a fruit processing facility in Paramaribo city of Suriname, which was established with financial assistance from India.

India provided fruit processing machinery to Suriname, funded under the USD 1 million Small and Medium Enterprises grant announced by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in 2025.

During his remarks at the event, the Minister said, "This project also serves to underline a larger message of India as a partner of Suriname and of the Global South."

He said that India's commitment to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which means the world as a family, is demonstrated not just in words but through particular projects and specific activities, and noted that this is a very good illustration of it. "In the times to come, as Suriname advances in its quest for progress and prosperity, India will always be a reliable partner," he added.

He was joined by Suriname Foreign Minister Melvin Bouva and Agriculture Minister Nike Noersalim at the event. "Built with Indian assistance, this project is a commitment to value addition and self-reliance. It reaffirms India as a trusted development partner of Suriname," External Affairs Minister Jaishankar emphasised. He also met with the National Assembly Chair of Suriname, Michael Ashwin Adhin, as part of his official visit.

## Here is what we know until the time something else is announced by the WHO

NEW DELHI

Hantavirus kills about 40% of the people it infects. Sounds terrifying, but scientists are not expecting a pandemic. It spreads very poorly between humans.

Most people catch hantavirus from breathing in particles from infected mouse or rat droppings, urine, or saliva.

The Andes strain can spread person-to-person, but cases are extremely rare and usually require very close contact.

Deadly viruses often struggle to spread because patients become severely sick too fast.

If someone is stuck in a hospital bed, they are not riding trains, going to work, or infecting dozens of people. COVID spread globally for the opposite reason: many people stayed active while contagious and did not know they were infected.

Flu works the same way, mild symptoms let people keep moving around and spreading it. The viruses scientists fear most are not always the deadliest. They are the ones mild enough to spread silently through everyday life.

# India urges Bangladesh to expedite nationality verification for 'smooth repatriation' of illegal immigrants



NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said that repatriation of illegal Bangladeshi nationals hinges on cooperation from Dhaka, noting that over 2860 cases of nationality verification remain pending with Bangladesh, several of them for more than five years.

Addressing a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called on Bangladeshi authorities to expedite the na-

tionality verification process to enable the smooth repatriation of illegal immigrants from India.

Responding to a question on Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman's remarks following BJP's win in West Bengal elections, Jaiswal said, "We have seen comments of this nature being made in the last several days. These comments must be seen in the context of the core issue of repatriation of illegal Bangladeshis from India. This ob-

viously requires cooperation from Bangladesh.

"Over 2860 cases of nationality verification are pending with Bangladesh, several of it for over five years. Our policy is that all illegal foreign nationals staying in India must be repatriated as per our laws, procedure and established bilateral mechanisms and arrangements. We expect Bangladesh will expedite nationality verification so that repatriation of illegal immigrants can take place in

a smooth manner."

When asked about Rahman's talks with Chinese officials regarding the Teesta River, Jaiswal said, "India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers. We have structured bilateral mechanisms to discuss all water-related issues. At these bilateral mechanisms, they continue to meet at regular intervals." Rahman is on a three-day visit, from May 5-7, at the invitation of Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Foreign Minister of China. Last month, India announced the appointment of former Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

Trivedi has previously served as Railway Minister (2011) and also the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. His appointment as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh comes at a time when both countries are making efforts to reset bilateral ties.

On April 8, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Khalilur Rahman and his delegation in New Delhi, discussing bilateral ties, regional and global developments. "We discussed strengthening our bilateral relationship in its various facets. Also exchanged views on regional and global developments. Agreed to remain in close touch," EAM Jaishankar had posted on X following the meeting.

Khalilur Rahman's India visit assumed significance as it was the first to India by a Bangladeshi minister since the BNP-led government assumed office in February, indicating a shift in the recalibration of India and Bangladesh ties, which had strained during the 18-month tenure of the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus amid escalating attacks on Hindu minorities and anti-India rhetoric.

In February, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had visited Dhaka to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the BNP government. Following the swearing-in ceremony, Birla had also met Bangladesh PM Tarique Rehman and extended wishes to him on assuming office.

## South Korea, US to discuss wartime operation control transfer in Washington next week

SEOUL

South Korea and the United States will hold their high-level defence talks in Washington next week, Seoul's defence ministry said Thursday, with the wartime Operational Control (OPCON) transfer and access control of the inter-Korean buffer zone expected to top the agenda.

The biannual Korea-US Integrated Defence Dialogue (KIDD) will take place from Tuesday through Wednesday (US time), the ministry said in a release.

Kim Hong-cheol, Deputy Defence Minister for policy, will lead the talks with John Noh, US Assistant Secretary of war for Indo-Pacific security affairs, Yonhap news agency reported.

"The two sides plan to discuss a broad range of alliance security issues, including the transfer of wartime OPCON and the combined defence posture, to ensure that the South Korea-US alliance develops in a future-oriented and mutually beneficial manner," the ministry said.

The talks come as Seoul and Washington are working to transfer wartime OPCON to Korea from the US, with the Lee Jae Myung gov-



ernment aiming to retake the command before its five-year term ends in 2030.

Last month, US Forces Korea commander Gen. Xavier Brunson told Congress that the two countries seek to meet conditions required for the transfer no later than the first quarter of 2029.

South Korea handed over operational control of its forces to the US-led UN Command (UNC) during the 1950-53 Korean War. Control was then transferred to the Allies' Combined Forces Command when it was launched in 1978.

South Korea retook peacetime OPCON in 1994, but wartime operational command still remains in US hands. The conditions for the transfer include South Korea's capabilities to lead combined Korea-U.S. forces, its strike and air defence capabilities, and a regional security environment conducive to such a handover.

## Pakistan faces scrutiny over media censorship, narrative control

ATHENS

The removal of a recent article titled 'Pakistan's leaders try to contain rising anger over Iran war at home' from the front page of the Pakistani edition of a US daily - while it appeared online and in all other international editions - is not a printing error.

It stands as a stark visual confession of a state at war with its own citizens, including minorities, and with reality itself, a report has detailed. According to a report in Athens-based 'Directus', Pakistan's establishment appears convinced that erasing a story is equivalent to solving the problem.

## Foreign Secretary participates in India-France-UAE trilateral meeting

ABU DHABI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday participated in a trilateral meeting under the India-France-United Arab Emirates framework in Abu Dhabi, along with Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State and Special Envoy for India, and Martin Briens, Secretary General of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France. The Ministry of External Affairs said that the three sides reaffirmed their commitment to the trilateral partnership and agreed on a structured roadmap with defined timelines.

During the visit, the Foreign Secretary also met with Khalid bin Mubarak, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mubadala Investment Company. Earlier on Thursday, the Foreign Secretary called on



Reem Al Hashimy, the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for International Cooperation, with both sides reviewing the full spectrum of the India-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The Ministry of External Affairs stated that they positively assessed the progress made on the decisions taken during

the visit of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to India in January 2026 and the visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in February 2026.

They reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, economic co-

operation, energy, connectivity, defence and security, financial technology, health, education, culture, and people-to-people connect, building on the outcomes from the 16th Joint Commission Meeting and fifth Strategic Dialogue co-chaired by External Affairs Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates in December 2025, noted the Ministry of External Affairs.

They also identified new initiatives to further deepen the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, it added. Earlier this week, PM Modi condemned the attack on the United Arab Emirates' Fujairah that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals and termed the targeting of civilians and infrastructure as "unacceptable".

## Russia declares a ceasefire from May 8 to May 10

MOSCOW

The Russian Ministry of Defence announced on Thursday that Russia declares a ceasefire from midnight on May 8 until May 10 in the on-going conflict with Ukraine, reported local media.

This ceasefire is during the celebrations of the 81st anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in World War II.

"In accordance with the decision of the President of the Russian Federation, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, during the celebration of the 81st anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, from midnight on May 8 to May 10, the Russian side is declaring a ceasefire," the Ministry said,



reported the State owned Russian news agency TASS.

On May 4, speaking at the 8th European Political Community Summit in Yerevan, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky said, referring to Russia's Victory Parade on May 9 without any defence equipment, "If that happens, it will be the first time in

many, many years. They cannot afford military equipment - and they fear drones may buzz over Red Square."

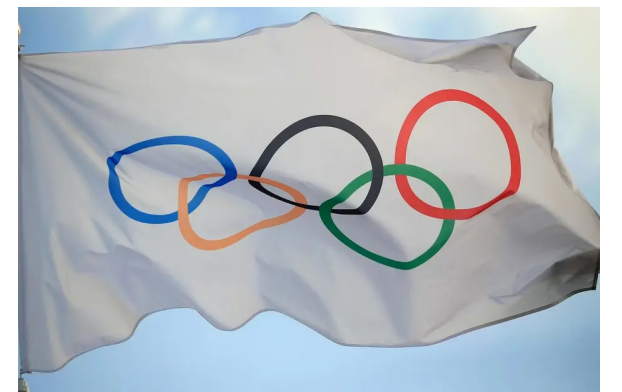
Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova specifically noted that "If EU countries think they can silence public threats, sweep Zelensky's aggressive statements under the rug, so to

speak, they are sorely mistaken. We are well aware of the collective Western minority's attitude toward May 9; they are systematically destroying Soviet memorial heritage, exhuming the ashes of Soviet soldiers, rewriting and distorting history," stated the report. According to the report, in response to Zelensky's

warning of a possible Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow parade, Russian diplomats and military officials warned that a massive missile strike would be launched by the Russian Armed Forces on central Kyiv. They said that this is something they had so far refrained from, despite having the capabilities.

The Russian Foreign Ministry stated that it has summoned the Armenian ambassador regarding Zelensky's comments in Yevren, and the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin met with Armenian Ambassador to Moscow Gurgun Arsenyan, who was informed that Armenia's provision of a platform for Volodymyr Zelensky to voice terrorist threats against Russia is categorically unacceptable.

## IOC lifts restrictions on Belarusian athletes



BERN

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended that all restrictions be lifted for Belarusian athletes competing in international events, the organisation said in a statement on Thursday.

The IOC Executive Board no longer recommends any conditions on Belarusian athletes, including teams, competing in events governed by International Federations and international sports event organisers. The lifted measures include the protective restrictions first introduced in February 2022 and later updated on March 28, 2023.

The IOC cited the need to navigate an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, including a rising number of conflicts, and to uphold its mission of preserving a values-based sporting platform that provides hope to the world, Xinhua news agency reported.

The decision aligns with the "Fit for the Future" process, an initiative launched by IOC president Kirsty Coventry in September 2025, which reaf-

firmed the fundamental right of athletes to access sport and compete free from political interference.

"The IOC reaffirms that athletes' participation in international competition should not be limited by the actions of their governments, including involvement in a war or conflict," the IOC said in a statement.

Since the 2023 recommendations were issued, athletes with Belarusian passports have competed as Individual Neutral Athletes (AINs) in numerous international events, including the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. The IOC noted that the qualification period for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and the Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games begins this summer. Regarding Russia, the IOC said the situation remains different. The ROC is still suspended while the IOC Legal Affairs Commission continues its review, whereas the National Olympic Committee of Belarus is in good standing and complies with the Olympic Charter.

# Red line established by Operation Sindoor now dictates India's border engagement with Pak

KABUL

The heinous Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025 was a watershed moment that led to a near total breakdown of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. India put the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance after the attack arguing that blood and water cannot flow together and that Pakistan must put its house in order. All formal trade remains suspended, further straining an already fragile Pakistani economy. Pakistan has since blamed India for weaponizing water. This move by India has fundamentally shifted the geopolitics of the sub-continent.

Under IWT, brokered by

the World Bank in 1960, India was granted exclusive control over eastern rivers, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. While on the other hand, Pakistan was given the rights of western rivers, Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

Following the Pahalgam attack by Pakistan-backed terrorists, India significantly escalated its military response that culminated in Operation Sindoor, a coordinated campaign involving land, air and sea assets. The aim of the operation was to dismantle terror infrastructure both across the Line of Control (LoC) and deeper within the Pakistani territory. For the first time in decades, India successfully established mil-

itary asymmetry by striking deep into Pakistan's Punjab province without triggering a full scale nuclear escalation. Key facilities of terror groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba were dismantled forcing Pakistan to reorganise its proxy networks.

India has carefully used the term abeyance rather than abrogation. The treaty is not cancelled but paused. Post Pahalgam, India has stopped sharing real-time flood/hydrological data (flood warnings and daily flow stats) and has accelerated the construction of dams and diversion infrastructure on western-flowing rivers. This information is crucial for Pakistan's In-



ter-River System Authority (IRSA) to plan seasonal water distribution. India has also suspended the meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission, and refused to participate in the dispute resolution mechanisms facilitated by the

World Bank. These steps serve as a leverage point for India against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism from across the border. India has stated that the IWT will remain in abeyance until Pakistan takes credible, verifiable and irreversi-

ble steps to end support for cross-border terrorism.

Pakistan's agriculture which forms the backbone of the nation's economy is heavily dependent on the Indus water system. It has to be noted that nearly 90 per cent of Pakistan's irrigation is dependent on water from the Indus basin and since the treaty is held in abeyance, Pakistan has reported water scarcity and reduction in crop yields.

Reports from early this year indicate that the steps taken by India have severely impacted Pakistan's agricultural planning in the Sindh and Punjab provinces contributing to a decline in key crops yields. On top of it, an increase in domestic

unrest has been reported from these already water stressed provinces. The water woes in these two provinces increased significantly throughout 2025 and 2026, creating a dual crisis of external pressure from India. Sindh has fiercely protested Punjab's plan to launch six new canals and it argues these projects divert water from the Indus at a time when the lower riparian is facing shortages as high as 62 per cent. India has also conducted sediment flushing on projects like Baglihar and Salal, which Pakistan claims disrupts downstream flows, but India maintains these are within its rights under the abeyance framework.

Pakistan has approached

the UN Security Council and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), framing the suspension as water weaponization and a violation of international law. It has labelled India's water management as water terrorism and a breach of international law. Currently the standoff remains absolute, India's domestic stance is firm: the IWT was a goodwill gesture that Pakistan fortified through its alleged support of militancy. While on the other hand, Pakistan maintains the IWT is fully operational and that India's unilateral actions constitute a serious threat to regional stability and food security for its 300 million people downstream.

# Urvashi Praises Daaku Maharaj Co-Star



Actress Urvashi Rautela has come out in support of veteran Telugu actor and politician Nandamuri Balakrishna amid recurring controversies surrounding his public behaviour and fan interactions. Speaking about her experience working with the superstar in the film Daaku Maharaj, Urvashi described him as "fun-loving", "down to earth" and "super energetic".

In a recent interview with Radio Nasha, the actress addressed the criticism and online backlash surrounding their viral song Dabidi Dabidi. Reacting to the controversy, she said the situation escalated gradually, adding that "one thing leads to another".

Despite the criticism, Urvashi maintained that her experience of working with Balakrishna was positive. She said collaborating with the actor was "really amazing" and urged au-

diences to also watch the action sequences in the film. Calling herself "lucky" to share screen space with him, she praised his energy and enthusiasm on set.

Balakrishna has often gone viral on social media for his interactions with fans, including clips where he appears visibly upset or reacts strongly in public. Commenting on such incidents, Urvashi said she had witnessed similar moments herself but claimed fans did not appear offended by them.

"They also love it... they are also happy," she said, suggesting that many fans view his behaviour in a lighter vein. Sharing a personal anecdote, the actress revealed that Balakrishna was the first person to wish her on Valentine's Day last year.

Describing another side of the actor's personality, Urvashi said Balakrishna was approachable and enjoyed interacting with people, especially children. She added that his public image as an "angry" person did not fully reflect his real nature.

# Vaani Kapoor Radiates Confidence in Sensational Beige Corset Fashion

Vaani Kapoor turns up the heat in this sizzling photoshoot, confidently posing in a beige satin corset and mini skirt ensemble against a rustic stone backdrop. With her radiant smile, glowing skin, and effortless sensuality, the actress showcases her glamorous side in this bold and stylish avatar. Born on August 23, 1988, in Delhi, Vaani began her career as a model before making her much-awaited Bollywood debut in 2013 with Yash Raj Films' romantic comedy Shuddh Desi Romance opposite Sushant Singh Rajput and Parineeti Chopra. Her performance as Tara won her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. She went on to appear in films like Befikre (2016) with Ranveer Singh, the blockbuster War (2019), Bell Bottom (2021), Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui (2021), Shamsheera (2022), and Khel Khel Mein (2024). In 2025, she featured in Raid 2 opposite Ajay Devgn and made her OTT debut with the Netflix thriller series Mandala Murders.

# ANIL ROPES IN GV PRAKASH KUMAR FOR NEXT FILM

Director Anil Ravipudi is known for frequently changing his music directors, and he is set to continue that trend with his upcoming multistarrer. During the early phase of his career, Anil Ravipudi collaborated with Sai Karthik for three films before moving on to Devi Sri Prasad for another three projects. He later teamed up with Thaman for one film. Most recently, his blockbuster hits "Sankranthiki Vasthunnam" and "Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu" featured music by Bheems Ceciroleo, who has since become one of the busiest composers in Telugu cinema. Now, for his next film starring Venkatesh, Kalyan Ram, Keerthy Suresh, and Krithi Shetty, Ravipudi has reportedly brought onboard Tamil



composer GV Prakash Kumar. According to industry buzz, the director was looking for a fresh musical flavor different from his recent films and felt GV Prakash could bring a new energy to the project. GV Prakash has already worked on several Telugu films and enjoys a strong following among younger audiences. The film is expected to go on floors soon and is being planned for a Sankranthi 2027 theatrical release.

# Peddi edit locked, post-production progressing at rapid pace



The post-production work on Ram Charan's "Peddi" is progressing rapidly, with the latest update being the completion of the film's final edit. Director Buchi Babu Sana and editor Naveen Nooli shared a picture from the editing suite after locking the final cut of the film. With the edit now complete, the focus shifts to background score, sound design, and final mixing. AR Rahman, who had already begun composing the music, is now expected to accelerate work on the background score. Simultaneously, the sound team has also started the final mixing process. With the post-production moving smoothly, the makers are said to be confident about holding premiere shows on June 3, a day ahead of the film's worldwide theatrical release on June 4. Overseas premieres are almost certain, while it remains to be seen whether the team secures permissions for paid premiere shows in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Produced on a lavish scale by Vriddhi Cinemas, "Peddi" features production design by Avinash Kolla. In a recent interview, he revealed that several authentic sets were specially created for the film. "Peddi" stars Ram Charan in the titular role, while Janhvi Kapoor plays the female lead.

# Team GG Shows Faith, A Good Strategy!

Sumanth Prabhas' rural love-and-family drama Godari Gattupaina, directed by debutant Subhash Chandra under Red Puppet Productions, is gearing up for release in just two days on May 8th. With an aggressive promotional blitz already in motion, the film's songs, teaser, and trailer have earned an impressive response. Riding on this momentum, the makers are now planning paid premieres across select cities in the Telugu states a day ahead of the official release- tomorrow, which is a good strategy.

Confident about the film's content and its emotional appeal, the team is bold enough to organize these early screenings, hoping that strong word-of-mouth will give Godari Gattupaina a solid head start at the box office.

The film features Nidhi Pradeep as the female lead, with Jagapathi Babu playing a key role.



# Agadha Teaser: Divine Suspense Thriller

Telugu audiences have been increasingly welcoming of well made mystic suspense dramas in recent times. Adding to this trend is a new film titled Agadha, which has begun to draw attention with its freshly released teaser.

The project is directed by noted filmmaker MS Raju, the creative mind behind memorable films such as Varsham, Okkadu, Devi, Manasanthu Nuvve, and Nuvvosthanante Nenoddantana. His association itself raises curiosity around the narrative approach of this thriller. Right from the first few visuals, the teaser impresses with its rich cinematic quality. The frames carry a polished and grand visual tone, giving the impression of a divine suspense thriller mounted with notable scale and care.

The key mystery hinted at in the teaser revolves around the enigmatic presence of Agadha and how it influences the lives of the characters. This supernatural force appears to control the boundary between life and death, while the human characters seem



to bear the consequences of its presence.

A strong sense of mood is created through the effective blend of striking visuals and a fitting background score. The combination works smoothly to establish an intense and immersive atmosphere throughout the teaser, suggesting that the mega filmmaker is firmly in command of his subject.

The mystical elements shown on screen evoke both curiosity and fear. Brief glimpses of performances from Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Shrvan Reddy, veteran Manjula's granddaughter Jovika, and Ulka Gupta bring authenticity to the mysterious world being presented.

At an emotional level, the teaser leans on suspense and psychological fear, two vital components for a thriller of this nature. From beginning to end, Agadha appears to sustain this tension effectively.

The final line heard in the teaser, "Who Is Agadha," neatly captures the essence of the film's central question. With more promotional material expected in the coming days, the film seems set to build further anticipation ahead of its release.

Agadha is written and directed by MS Raju and produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under Sri Adi Varaha Productions. The music is composed by Rakesh Venkatapuram, cinematography is by Nani Chamidishetty, and editing is handled by Junaid Siddiqui. NVN Subbaraju is the executive producer.