

PM Modi urges citizens to remain united, save resources amid global crisis

BENGALURU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called upon citizens to remain united and patient amid global uncertainties, stating that the ongoing crisis in West Asia was impacting the entire world, including India.

Addressing a massive gathering of BJP workers and supporters here, he urged people to conserve resources and work together in the national interest. Referring to the global situation, PM Modi said: "You are witnessing the challenges across the world. The crisis in West

Asia is continuing, and the impact of the war is being felt globally. Bharat is also affected by this situation."

Appealing to the people of the country, he said: "At a time when the nation is progressing, we need to remain patient. We must collectively save resources and protect the interests of the country."

Just as we unitedly faced the challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic with a spirit of patriotism, we once again need to stand together to overcome the present crisis."The PM stressed

the importance of individual responsibility in overcoming challenges and said the country would be able to face all difficulties through unity and collective effort.

Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, he said a "safron wave" had emerged strongly from Bengaluru and praised BJP workers for their dedication. "As an ordinary BJP worker, I know that only BJP workers can attend an early morning programme like this. Looking at the enthusiasm in your eyes, it appears that the victory in



Bengal is your own victory," he said. Highlighting the historical significance of May 10, the Prime Minister noted that the

day marked the beginning of the First War of Indian Independence in 1857. "On this day in 1857, the first spark of the freedom struggle was ignited. That spark later became a massive volcano which burnt down the chains of slavery."

The legacy of courage and valour remains our greatest strength," he stated. Drawing inspiration from that spirit, PM Modi said the country had recently celebrated the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor. He also announced that he would attend the 75th

anniversary celebrations of the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat on Monday morning. "These celebrations will provide new energy for building an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat," he added. Continuing his address on the Congress, the Prime Minister alleged that the party required alliances to remain politically relevant and had "betrayed" women over the issue of reservation.

He claimed that while the Congress spoke about women's reservation, its alliance partners

had opposed the legislation in Parliament.

"The BJP ended this politics and ensured the passage of the law providing 33 per cent reservation for women. But the Congress opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill in Parliament," he alleged.

PM Modi further claimed that if the bill had been implemented earlier, Karnataka would have seen an increase in seats reserved for women, enabling more women from the state to become MLAs and MPs.

ED action against Sanjeev Arora politically motivated, attack on Punjabi pride: AAP

CHANDIGARH: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday termed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid at minister Sanjeev Arora's residence here and his subsequent arrest as a politically motivated act.

The AAP strongly condemned the BJP-led central government, alleging that whenever the BJP feels it is losing political ground in elections, it conspires to suppress the opposition's voice by unleashing investigative agencies against them. They claimed that the action against Sanjeev Arora is part of a broader agenda of political vendetta.

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested Punjab industries minister Sanjeev



Arora following raids in connection with an alleged Rs 100 crore GST fraud-related money laundering case involving certain entities linked to him, officials said.

According to officials, Arora (62) was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following early morning raids at his official residence in Chandigarh's Sector 2.

After his arrest, the process to bring him to Delhi commenced. Arora was taken in a vehicle, which was among a cavalcade of vehicles that left his residence here following his arrest. He will be brought to Delhi, where the case is registered, and the agency will seek his remand for custodial interrogation, officials said. Punjab's Health Minister Balbir Singh alleged that 20 vehicles were mobilised for the raid, suggesting the level of resources used was

excessive, as if Arora were a "terrorist."

Punjab's Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated, "Just as the BJP misused the machinery of ED, CBI and other central agencies in West Bengal and other states to manipulate elections and form governments, the same dirty game is now being played in Punjab. This is not merely a raid on Sanjeev Arora, but an attack on Punjab and the pride of three crore Punjabis. Frustrated by its repeated failures, the BJP is attacking Punjab through central agencies."

Questioning the role of central agencies, Cheema said, "BJP's sole agenda is to eliminate opposition parties from the country."

Custodial death: Odisha DGP suspends inspector in charge of Dabugaon PS

KORAPUT: The inspector in charge of (IIC) of Dabugaon police station in Odisha's Nabarangpur district has been placed under suspension on charge of dereliction of duty in connection with the death of a man in police custody, an officer said on Saturday.

Earlier, three police personnel of Dabugaon police station were suspended following the custodial death of a 23-year-old accused.

An office order signed by DGP Y B Khurania on Friday stated that disciplinary proceedings have been contemplated against Raghunath Majhi, the IIC of Dabugaon

police station, for alleged gross misconduct and dereliction of duty. Pending further inquiry, he has been placed under suspension with immediate effect, it said.

Earlier, on April 29, sub-inspector Bikram Sahu and OAPF personnel Karn Pujari and Budhiram Majhi were suspended after preliminary findings reportedly indicated negligence on their part in connection with the custodial suicide of Purna Kalar (23), a resident of Anchala village under Dabugaon police limits.

According to police sources, Kalar was arrested in an alleged minor girl

abduction case on April 28 and was lodged in the lock-up. He was found hanging inside the toilet of the police station on April 29, sparking tension in the area.

Nabarangpur SP Sandeep Sampad Madkar had earlier stated that prima facie evidence suggested dereliction of duty by the suspended officials, leading to the incident.

During the suspension period, Raghunath Majhi will remain under the disciplinary control of the DIG of Police, South Western Range (SWR), Koraput, and will receive subsistence allowance as per Odisha Service Code provisions, the order said.

Delhi Govt declares 673 hectare of Central Ridge as 'Reserved Forest'

NEW DELHI: In an important step towards environmental conservation, pollution mitigation and expansion of the city's green cover, the Rekha Gupta-led Delhi government has declared around 673.32 hectares of the Central Ridge area as "Reserved Forest," under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

According to officials, the area concerned falls under the Western Forest Division of the Forest Department and covers parts surrounding Sardar Patel Marg and the President's Estate.

The Chief Minister has said that the government has already decided that large-scale plantation of native and environmentally suitable tree species will be carried out wherever suitable vacant land is available across the national capital's Ridge areas that have been declared as "Reserved

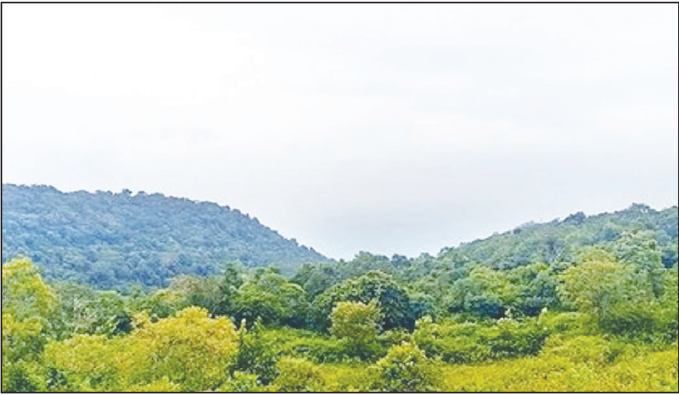
Forests."

Gupta has said the decision would prove to be a milestone in strengthening Delhi's natural heritage, biodiversity, and ecological security.

According to the CM, giving legal protection to Delhi's ecologically sensitive Ridge areas had remained pending for several decades, and added that, "With commitment and determination, our government has declared nearly 673.32 hectares of the Central Ridge area as Reserved Forest."

She further stated, "This decision reflects our commitment towards environmental conservation, expansion of green cover, and securing a safe and balanced future for coming generations."

Gupta informed that despite the initial notification of Ridge areas in 1994, these areas could not receive final legal protection for a long period,



but now, with decisive steps in this direction, the present government has achieved a historic milestone in environmental conservation by notifying the Central Ridge area as Reserved Forest under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

She said that the Central Ridge is located in the heart of the national capital and stretches along both sides of Upper

Ridge Road, adding that Delhi Ridge is an extension of the ancient Aravalli hill system and is regarded as the "green lungs" of the capital.

As per the CM, with the present notification of 673.32 hectares of the Central Ridge, the current government has so far granted Reserved Forest status to a total of 4,754.14 hectares of Ridge areas.

PM Modi congratulates Tamil Nadu's new CM Vijay over phone

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated TVK chief C. Joseph Vijay on taking oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister over the telephone and extended warm greetings for his new and smooth tenure. According to the sources privy to the telephonic conversation, the Prime Minister dialled newly elected Tamil Nadu CM C. Joseph Vijay this evening, amidst the whirlwind tour of three states and greeted him on the beginning of his new innings as the Chief Minister.

The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay took oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on Sunday morning at a grand ceremony held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.

The swearing-in of Vijay as Tamil Nadu's 13th Chief Minister marked a major political shift in the State, ending nearly six



decades of alternating rule by the DMK and AIADMK.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Vijay in a colourful ceremony held in Chennai. Nine ministers were also sworn in alongside him as part of the new council of ministers.

The 51-year-old 'Thalaiva' Vijay took the political plunge just a year ago and shattered all records by securing a landslide victory in the high-stakes Tamil

Nadu Assembly elections, setting the stage for his tryst with power for the first time.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi took to his social media handle on X to congratulate the Tamil Nadu CM on his swearing-in.

The Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes for Vijay's new tenure and reaffirmed the commitment of the Central Government to work together with the state government for the welfare and development of the people of the state.

Bihar: 5000 booked, 4 held after teaching job aspirants protest delay in notifying recruitment exam

PATNA: More than 5,000 people were booked and four arrested in connection with the protest by teaching job aspirants over the delay in notifying the BPSC TRE-4 examination, police said on Saturday.

The protest march, held on Friday, led to clashes with police after demonstrators attempted to breach barricades.

SP (City Central) Diksha said the situation turned tense during the initial phase of the protest. "Students became aggressive, broke barricades, and engaged in confrontation with the police. Some protesters and police personnel were injured in the process. A case has been registered, and four named individuals have been arrested, while others are being identified for legal action," she said.

"After the initial confrontation, protesters were allowed to continue their demonstration peacefully," she added.

Police said traffic movement in several parts of the state capital remained disrupted for a considerable period, prompting the registration of the case.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari assured aspirants that the notification for the teacher recruitment examination



would be issued soon and appealed to them to place their demands before the government in an organised manner.

"Protests against my department erupted the day I assumed charge as education minister. It seems a bit odd to me. I want to assure students that the government itself is willing to fulfil their demands. So where is the need for protest?" Tiwari told reporters.

On the arrests, the minister said, "The law has taken its course, but I have urged the chief minister to treat those who came forward with their demands as students."

He said it was distressing for him to see future teachers running on the roads while being chased by police.

"We will soon find a solution to their problems," he added.

State Congress president Rajesh Ram accused the government of "brutally baton-charging" the aspirants instead of "listening to their legitimate demands".

"While lakhs of qualified aspirants were struggling on the streets for employment, the unemployed sons of three former chief ministers were being given ministerial posts," he quipped.

Fake video falsely links Lt Gen Minwalla to communal remarks, govt issues alert

NEW DELHI: Pakistani propaganda handles have circulated a digitally manipulated video falsely attributing communal and discriminatory remarks to Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (OPS) in an apparent disinformation campaign linked to Operation Sindoor, prompting concerns over the spread of fabricated content aimed at fuelling communal tensions and undermining the credibility of India's armed forces.

Sharing the digitally altered video on X handle, OSINT War, claimed, "Breaking. At the press conference on the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla says, 'If you ask me about one fault that we did in Operation Sindoor and what we learnt is that we should not have Muslim or Sikh officers in our Air Force. Last time we had two and now they are under arrest because the Pakistanis did not target their planes. I am pleased that Prime Minister Modi will be changing the Sikh Air Chief. As long as we don't apply Shuddhi principles in our Indian Air Force, we are always destined for failure. We will fix that in the coming times. We have reduced 50 per cent of Sikh and Muslim

officers and the rest shall be retiring soon enough." Flagging the video as fake, the Press Information Bureau's fact check unit in a post on X stated, "Pakistani propaganda accounts are circulating a digitally manipulated video falsely claiming that Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla has made communal and discriminatory remarks in connection with Operation Sindoor." Sharing the original clip which was taken during the press briefing organised to mark the first anniversary

of Op Sindoor, the officer was speaking about the theatre commands. "I heard the Chief of Defence Staff in his various talks bring out that this is at the final stages and a lot of work has been done towards that. But I would like and that's a decision of the government. But I would like to bring out over here that just raising up the Theatre Command is not the aim. It is what has happened as a background work in terms of jointness, integration because that forms the bedrock."

Person accused of murder or abetting it cannot inherit victim's property: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has held that a person accused of committing or abetting the murder of another person cannot inherit the victim's property.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan has said the disqualification from inheriting property would apply to both intestate and testamentary succession.

The court has said the bar would apply even if the trial was still on.

Intestate succession takes place according to the rules of personal law governing inheritance, while testamentary succession applies when property is bequeathed through a will.

"A person accused of the murder

of one from whom inheritance is claimed is disentitled from asserting rights, not only under section 25 of the Hindu Succession Act, but also on the principles of justice, fair play and equity. Strict proof is not indispensable in civil proceedings if the preponderance of probabilities points to the commission of the offence," the top court has said.

Referring to section 25 of the Hindu Succession Act, the bench has noted that the provision disqualifies a person who commits murder or abets the commission of the murder from inheriting the property of the deceased.

The judgment came on a plea challenging a Karnataka High Court order that had set aside a Bengaluru



civil court ruling in connection with inheritance of property.

EDITORIAL

Suvendu Adhikari And
the Promise of
Bengal's 'Second
Renaissance'

Suvendu Adhikari takes oath as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister on Rabintra Jayanti, May 9, and the symbolism of the date is impossible to ignore. After a long and intense election campaign built around Hindutva, border security, Bengali identity and development politics, the choice of Rabintranath Tagore's birth anniversary for the swearing-in ceremony appears to be a carefully crafted political message.

But the question many are now asking is whether this marks a genuine ideological shift towards Bengal's syncretic cultural ethos, whether it is a repackaging of a political agenda, or if the state is witnessing its second renaissance moment?

Transformation

The Bengal Renaissance was not merely a cultural movement but a period of profound social, intellectual and religious transformation in 19th- and early 20th-century Bengal. From Raja Ram Mohan Roy's campaign against Sati and his advocacy for reform within Hindu philosophy to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's push for widow remarriage, girls' education and the simplification of the Bengali language and grammar, the period represented a significant synthesis of social reform, intellectual confidence and cultural change.

Bengal also became one of the earliest regions in colonial India to absorb Western education and engage deeply with European liberal and scientific thought, while simultaneously reinterpreting its own philosophical traditions. The Tagore family became closely associated with that intellectual churn. Dwarkanath Tagore, grandfather of Rabintranath Tagore, was among the prominent Bengali reformist elites of the period and a major supporter of the Brahma Samaj founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy. At a time when orthodox sections strongly resisted reform, several Bengal thinkers attempted to reconcile ancient Indian philosophical traditions with rationalism, liberal thought and spiritual universalism rather than treating them as opposites. That engagement between tradition and modernity later became one of the defining features of Bengal's intellectual identity.

The later phase of the Bengal Renaissance expanded beyond social reform into spirituality, science and an emerging national consciousness. Ramakrishna Paramahansa's emphasis on religious harmony, Swami Vivekananda's attempt to combine Vedantic thought with modern education and national regeneration, and Sri Aurobindo's synthesis of spirituality and political philosophy shaped a wider cultural awakening. At the same time, scientists such as Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Ray contributed significantly to modern Indian science and industry, with Ray founding Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals in 1901. It is this layered legacy of reform, spirituality, intellectualism and modernity that the BJP now appears to be invoking while framing its own vision of Bengal's "second renaissance".

Historic Shifts

Prime Minister Modi seeks to bring this renaissance in Bengal through a blend of cultural revivalism, Sanatani civilisational identity and economic modernisation. West Bengal had already witnessed one historic political transformation in 2011, when power shifted from the Left Front to the Trinamool Congress. The state changed from "red to green". Now, Bengal has witnessed another historic shift. For the first time, the BJP is forming a government in the state, with Suvendu Adhikari as chief minister. One of his first symbolic decisions has been to shift the administrative headquarters back to the Writers' Building from Nabanna. The colonial-era structure remains deeply tied to Bengal's political memory under British rule.

Revival Of Past Glory

There was a time when Bengal represented intellectual, industrial and cultural leadership for the country. Gopal Krishna Gokhale's famous observation, "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow", symbolises that confidence and influence.

The BJP leadership now argues that Bengal's lost stature can be rebuilt. The party describes this political shift not merely as a change of government but as an attempt to resurrect Bengal's historical confidence and economic strength.

The Weight Of Bengal's History

Bengal's history has always been layered and complicated. It is a land shaped by repeated economic distress, famines, communal tensions, migration, ideological battles and political violence. At the same time, it remains one of the most culturally heterogeneous and socially plural regions in India. The current BJP leadership believes Bengal now wants to move beyond prolonged conflict and rediscover stability, prosperity and confidence.

Adhikari himself has repeatedly said that his top priority is to build "a new Bengal". According to him, the roadmap is not impossible. Culture and corporate revival now appear to be intersecting within the BJP's idea of development for Bengal. The same Singur movement that once propelled Mamata Banerjee to power by resisting corporate industrialisation is now being reframed by the BJP as a symbol of Bengal's economic stagnation.

Since the Tata Nano project left Singur for Gujarat, Bengal has struggled to attract large-scale industrial investment. One of the biggest barriers, according to the new government, remains land acquisition. The BJP government is now expected to review and possibly relax certain policies to encourage industrialisation. The BJP has maintained that Bengal requires not only economic recovery but also a cultural and psychological reset, while preventing the continuation of a "bad CPM culture".

BJP's Bengal Approach

This election saw the BJP increasingly adapting its political language to Bengal's cultural ethos, blending symbolism around fish, Durga and Kali with promises of economic revival, women-centric messaging and its sharper focus on border security and infiltration. The party's rise reflects an attempt to localise Hindutva within Bengal's distinct cultural identity.

A society of five rupees worth of
bread and superficial kindness



(Kindness in front of the camera, indifference towards humans)

Early in the morning, a scene often plays out in the streets of cities and towns. Someone stops their bike, takes a five-rupee loaf from their bag, throws a few pieces toward stray dogs on the roadside, then turns on their mobile camera and takes a video. A short while later, the same video is uploaded to social media, captioned, "Love animals, keep humanity alive." People comment, "Wow! Humanity still exists." The question is, is this really humanity? Has donating five rupees worth of bread and ten rupees worth of milk become the ultimate example of animal love? Or is this just a new ostentation of our times, where even sentiments are being determined by cameras and likes? It's true that kindness and compassion toward animals are hallmarks of a civilized society. A society that isn't sensitive toward animals can't be very humane toward humans either. But the problem begins when animal love becomes more of a display than a sensitivity. For many people, it's become a new way to achieve social status. They post videos of themselves feeding biscuits to stray dogs, but they don't notice the hungry human sitting on the same street. A poor child's



torn slippers don't bother them, but posting a photo of themselves feeding milk to a dog proves them "compassionate." Social media has even commodified our society's emotions. Service has become less important than performance. Transporting an injured worker to the hospital doesn't attract camera attention, so fewer people engage in that work. But a video of someone feeding bread to a dog can go viral, so sensitivity suddenly increases. This superficial compassion is gradually pushing society into a strange moral dilemma, where symbolic actions are given more importance than real problems. Ironically, those who proclaim themselves animal lovers by feeding street dogs often don't bother to provide medication for their elderly parents. They don't see the suffering of a poor family in the neighborhood. They don't have time to help a sick person, but they have all the time for Instagram

reels. What kind of compassion is this, one that's more focused on the camera than on the person? The stray dog ??problem in India is not just an emotional issue, but also a matter of public safety. Thousands of people are bitten by dogs every year. Attacks on young children and the elderly are regularly reported. Packs of dogs chasing bikers at night cause accidents. In many colonies, people are afraid to even take morning walks. But when this problem is discussed, society is divided. One side labels every dog ???poor" and places the entire responsibility on the public, while the other side resorts to the language of cruelty. Both positions are wrong. What's truly needed is balance and responsibility. Simply throwing bread won't solve the problem. This often leads to stray dogs gathering in one place, increasing their numbers and causing problems for the people living nearby. If there's true ani-

mal love, there should be talk of sterilization, vaccination, shelters, and responsible care. But all of this requires hard work and responsibility. Therefore, the easy way out is chosen—throw bread, post a photo, and be called sensitive. Our society is going through a strange phase today.

Human hunger has become common news, but feeding a dog a biscuit is considered "emotional content." Thousands of people can be found sitting hungry outside railway stations, bus stops, and hospitals. Children of laborers can be seen picking plastic from garbage. Poor patients can be seen suffering without medicines. But cameras rarely focus on them, because there, not just photos, but responsibility is required. This article is not against animal love. Compassion for animals is essential, but if society's sensitivity is limited to animals and begins to turn a blind eye to human suffer-

ing, it's a dangerous situation. Compassion implies balance, not pretense. True animal love is one that involves responsibility. Treating injured animals, helping with sterilization and vaccination campaigns, ensuring the safety of others, and maintaining cleanliness—these are all part of genuine sensitivity. But today, many people feed dogs simply to be perceived as "good people." In modern society, morality is becoming fashionable. Just as some people post pictures of themselves with books more than they read them, many people display more service than they actually do. By providing ten rupees worth of milk, they feel they have performed a great virtue. But to truly change society, we must move beyond symbolic sentiments. Funding a poor child's education, providing medicine for a sick person, supporting an elderly person—these are acts that require heart, not a camera. A civilized society is one where both humans and animals are safe. Where there is no cruelty to animals and no disregard for human safety. But today, the problem is that people have become less sensitive and more emotional. They don't want solutions, they only want to prove themselves compassionate. This is why, in many places, even animal love has become a social display. Milk for ten rupees and bread for five rupees are not wrong. It's wrong when they're considered the greatest proof of humanity. Society must move beyond this superficial love for animals. Humanity isn't just about showing kindness for the camera, but about making someone's life easier without making a fuss. Ultimately, the true measure of sensitivity isn't how many dogs you've fed bread to, but how many humans and creatures you've helped lead safe, dignified, and balanced lives.

CHANDIGARH IS
CHANGING, BUT THE
CITY STILL WORKS

Chandigarh, the "City Beautiful", widely considered among India's most liveable places, presents a paradoxical picture of striking affluence alongside persistent administrative and security concerns, as reflected in several official surveys and assessments.

Its planned layout, tree-lined boulevards, robust infrastructure and civic discipline offer a standard of urban life few Indian metros can match, even as this framework remains hampered by bureaucratic bottlenecks in governance and regulatory processes and by emerging concerns over rising crime and suicides. And, as the Union Territory of Chandigarh, which also serves as the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana, marks the diamond jubilee of its founding in 1951, data from the latest 2023-24 National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) point to higher-than-average consumption of food, water and electricity among city residents, compared with national averages. The NSSO, which undertakes large-scale socio-economic household surveys, revealed that Chandigarh's average household daily caloric intake – at 2,712 kilocalories (kcal) in urban areas and 2,410 kcal in its rural belt – is significantly higher than the national medians of 2,240 and 2,212 kcal, respectively. Both statistics are also higher than those of the neighbouring agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana.

Daily water availability of 252 litres per person is likewise well above the national benchmark of 135 litres, while monthly milk consumption of 14.2 litres per capita exceeds both national and regional levels. Electricity usage reflects the same pattern of affluence, with annual per capita con-

sumption reaching around 1,702 kWh in 2023-24, driven by dense urban demand and widespread appliance penetration. The City Beautiful also enjoys higher income levels and substantial vehicle ownership compared with much of the country, reflecting a distinctly consumption-heavy economy. It presently has more vehicles than people – 14.27 lakh for a population of 13 lakh – with more cars registered in recent years than motorised two-wheelers, underscoring the extent to which private transport has become a defining feature of the city's daily existence. Moreover, Chandigarh's rapid shift towards cleaner mobility is evident in its 12% electric vehicle penetration in 2025-26 – the third highest in India after Tripura (16.9%) and Assam (14.3%). It also topped NTI Aayog's transport electrification index with a score above 90, more than three times the national average of 37.

But beneath this seemingly utopian image lies an underside that dents the city's burnished reputation, centred on concerns over law and order.

In recent years, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has recorded a rise in serious offences in Chandigarh, including murder, rape, kidnapping, dowry deaths, theft and cyber fraud – many involving senior citizens. The latest NCRB data for 2024 reveals that Chandigarh has the second-highest crime rate among UTs, at 290.4 cases per lakh population, above the national average of 237.4. Crimes against women also rose to 452 cases, including 96 rapes, while suicide rates have likewise burgeoned, adding another layer of concern that contrasts with the city's carefully curated image of order and urban calm.

The First Teacher at Home: Mothers
and Changing Parenting

- Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Mother is not just a word, but the deepest feeling in life. A child's first identity, first touch, first trust, and first education in the world begin with their mother. The civilization and sensitivity of any society can be gauged by the respect and importance it gives to motherhood. While modern educational institutions, digital technology, and the pursuit of careers have changed the course of life, the truth remains as strong today: a child's first teacher is their mother.

When a child is born, they don't know the language of this world. They don't understand words, but they feel emotions. They find security in their mother's lap, a sense of belonging in her touch, and trust in her voice. This is the initial education that no book or school can provide. A mother not only teaches a child how to walk and talk, but also how to understand life. What love is, how to respect others, how to be patient in grief, and how to maintain relationships—these are the first lessons taught at home by a mother.

Schools teach children science, math, and language, but moral values come from home. A child observes his or her mother's behavior every day. He or she sees how she cares for the entire family, tirelessly worries about each member, and prioritizes the family by sacrificing her own desires. These very scenes instill in a child a sense of sensitivity, empathy, and responsibility. A child learns to observe before speaking, and these observations become part of his or her personality.

A mother is the foundation of a child's character. If the home environment is loving and respectful, the child will develop a positive attitude toward society. If the mother

shows kindness and empathy toward others, the child will learn the same. This is why the true education of society occurs in the home; schools merely extend it. But with changing times, the nature of parenting is also changing. Today's world is no longer the same. Inflation, career competition, and modern lifestyles have affected the structure of families and the nature of relationships. Previously, children grew up in joint families surrounded by grandparents, uncles, aunts, and the entire family. Now, most families have become smaller. Both parents are working, and time spent with children is becoming limited.

One of the biggest challenges facing working mothers today, especially, is balancing career and motherhood. Society often assumes that if a mother is working outside the home, she must not be devoting enough time to her children. But this assumption is incorrect. Today's mother is not limited to managing the household, but also shouldering financial responsibilities. She works in the office, returns home to care for her children, and also meets the emotional needs of her family. This dual responsibility is not easy.

Working mothers often feel guilty about not being able to devote as much time to their children as they should. However, parenting isn't determined solely by the quantity of time, but rather by the quality of that time. Even with limited time, if a mother communicates with her children, understands their feelings, and instills the right values, the impact is profound.

Today's children are becoming more self-reliant than ever before. With their parents busy, they are learning to handle even small tasks on their own. They are

learning to manage their time, live independently, and adapt to changing environments. Many children are also turning to new, creative activities during their time alone. This change can be positive if children receive the right guidance and emotional support.

But this changing parenting environment also has its risks. Today, technology has completely transformed children's lives. Mobile phones, social media, and the internet have become a major part of their lives. Sometimes, parents' busy schedules leave children emotionally isolated. Instead of sharing their problems, they lose themselves in the digital world.

At such times, a mother's role becomes even more crucial. She shouldn't limit herself solely to her children's education or food, but should also understand their mental state.

Communication is what a child needs most. If a mother speaks openly to her child, listens to their problems, and provides an environment for them to express their feelings without fear, the child becomes mentally strong. However, if communication is lost at home, the child begins to feel a sense of loneliness. This loneliness can later lead to stress, depression, and behavioral problems.

Unfortunately, modern society has created an artificial image of motherhood. Social media displays images of the "perfect mother"—one who is always smiling, tirelessly works on everything, and never gets upset. But real life is different. Mothers are human, too, with their own fatigue, worries, and emotions. Therefore, it's unfair to view motherhood solely as an idol of sacrifice and self-denial. Mothers also need emotional support, respect, and rest.

Mothers have always been

held in the highest regard in Indian culture. "Matru Devo Bhava" is not just a religious phrase, but a fundamental philosophy of our social life. Ironically, the labor of a mother, who is considered a symbol of respect, is often taken for granted.

Housework, childcare, and family responsibilities are still not considered "work." This mindset must change. Children must be taught from childhood that a mother's labor is not merely a duty, but a wonderful example of love and dedication.

Both society and the government have a responsibility to develop policies that support motherhood. Working women need safe workplaces, adequate maternity leave, daycare facilities, and mental health support. Because stress and insecurity in mothers can affect their children.

Ultimately, it wouldn't be wrong to say that a mother doesn't just give birth to a child, she also shapes their personality. She is a child's first school, where they learn life's most important lessons. In her arms, a child learns not just letters but humanity. She teaches them the value of relationships, how to sacrifice for others, and how to maintain hope even in difficult circumstances. Even today, when the world is rapidly changing, the importance of a mother hasn't diminished. In fact, her role has become even more crucial in these changing times. Because in the hustle and bustle of modern life, if any relationship can provide a child with emotional security, moral direction, and selfless love, it is the mother's relationship. Therefore, the truth that a mother is the first teacher in the home remains as relevant today as ever, and the values she instills remain the foundation of a child's personality throughout their lives.



Need Of Hour Is To Use Petro Products With Restraint: PM Modi

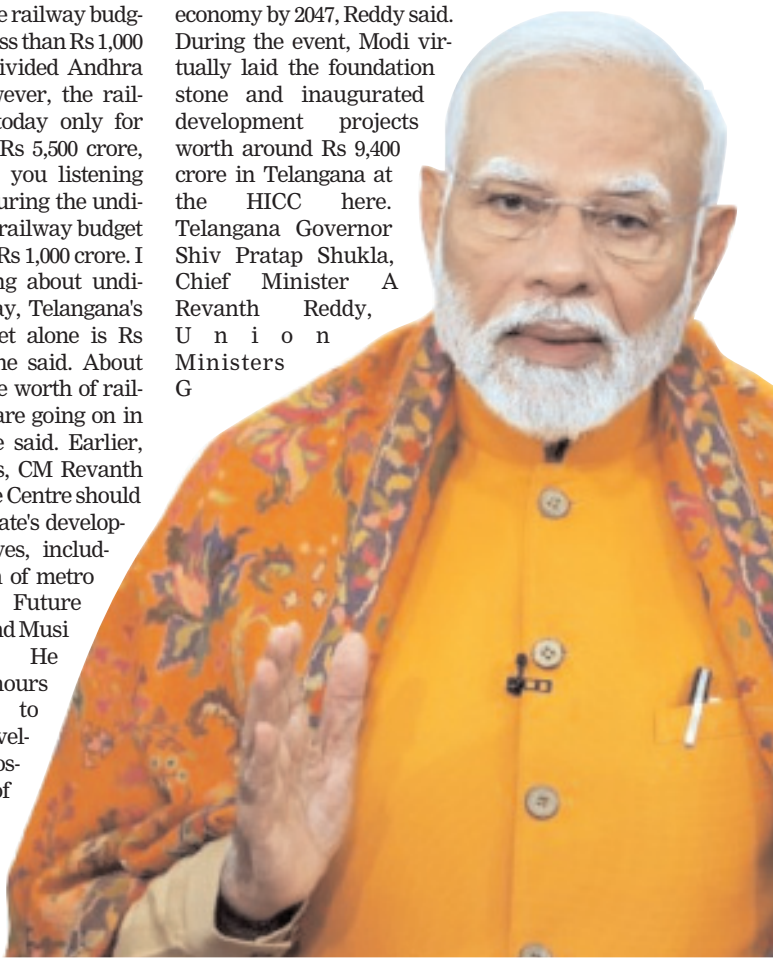
AGENCY
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the need of the hour is to use petro products with restraint in the wake of the West Asia crisis. Speaking at an event during which he also virtually laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth around Rs 9,400 crore in Telangana, Modi said that the imported petro products should be used only as per need, as it will not only save foreign exchange but also reduce the adverse impact of war. Noting that India has reached a spot among the top countries in the world in terms of solar power over the past few years, he said that unprecedented work has been done in ethanol blending in petrol. First, the government is focused on 100 per cent LPG coverage, and now, it is focused on the supply of piped gas economically. The government is also promoting a CNG-based system. "But, today, the need of the hour is also to use petrol, gas, diesel and such things with great restraint. We have to use imported petro products only as per need. This will not only save foreign exchange but reduce the adverse impact of war," he

said. Referring to CM Revanth Reddy's comments that there should not be politics in development endeavour, Modi said he would also not talk politics. Assuring Centre's support to Telangana, he asked Reddy to join him in the development journey. "I would tell Revanth ji. I am ready to give you as much as the Centre gave to Gujarat during 10 years rule. But, as per my information, I will tell you. The moment I do that, what you are getting would become half. You will not be able to reach where you want to reach. That's why, it is better you join with me," he said. Noting that it is not wrong to have different party governments in a democracy, he stressed that the development of states is as important as the country's development. Country's development is not possible without the development of states, he stressed, calling for collective efforts to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. He also said the country is implementing reforms at speed, and is also building modern infrastructure. He said he would like to assure every family in Telangana that the Centre will continue to work "with greater speed to realise

your dreams". Modi said, over the last 11 years, the National Highway network in Telangana has doubled. Taking a jab at the previous UPA government, he said, before 2014, the railway budget used to be less than Rs 1,000 crore for undivided Andhra Pradesh. However, the railway budget today only for Telangana is Rs 5,500 crore, he said. "Are you listening Revanth ji? During the undivided AP, the railway budget was less than Rs 1,000 crore. I am not talking about undivided AP today, Telangana's railway budget alone is Rs 5,500 crore," he said. About Rs 50,000 crore worth of railway projects are going on in Telangana, he said. Earlier, in his address, CM Revanth Reddy said the Centre should support the state's development initiatives, including expansion of metro rail network, Future City project and Musi rejuvenation. He sought two hours from Modi to review the development proposals of Telangana. The state government has announced

the Telangana Rising 2047 vision in line with the Centre's Viksit Bharat 2047 goal, he said. The Telangana government aims to make the state a USD three trillion economy by 2047, Reddy said. During the event, Modi virtually laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth around Rs 9,400 crore in Telangana at the HICC here. Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, U n i o n Ministers G

Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and several other leaders attended the event at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC).



Corporate Actions This Week: SBI, Godrej Consumer, Manappuram Finance, Oberoi Realty In Focus

AGENCY
Mumbai: Several listed companies are set to trade around key corporate action dates this week, with investors tracking interim dividends, final dividends, bonus issues, and stock split. Corporate actions such as dividends, bonus issues and stock splits are closely watched by market participants as they can influence short-term trading sentiment and shareholder returns.

Interim Dividend
Manappuram Finance Ltd. will be in focus on May 11, with the company fixing the record date for an interim dividend of Rs 0.50 per share. Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. has set May 12 as the record date for an interim dividend of Rs 5 per share. NRB Bearings Ltd. will trade with a record date of May 13 for an interim dividend of Rs 2.25 per share. Oberoi Realty Ltd. has fixed May 14 as the record date for an interim dividend of Rs 2 per share. Among other dividend-paying companies, Aptus Value Housing Finance India Ltd. will be watched for its interim dividend of Rs 2.50 per share, while Kennametal India Ltd. has



announced an interim dividend of Rs 40 per share. HBG Hotels Ltd. has set May 15 as the record date for an interim dividend of Rs 0.15 per share.

Final Dividend
PAE Ltd. has fixed May 11 as the record date for a final dividend of Rs 0.20 per share. Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd. will be in focus on May 15 for a final dividend of Rs 7 per share. Indian Energy Exchange Ltd. has also fixed May 15 as the record date for a final dividend of Rs 2 per share. State Bank of India has set May 16 as the record date for a final div-

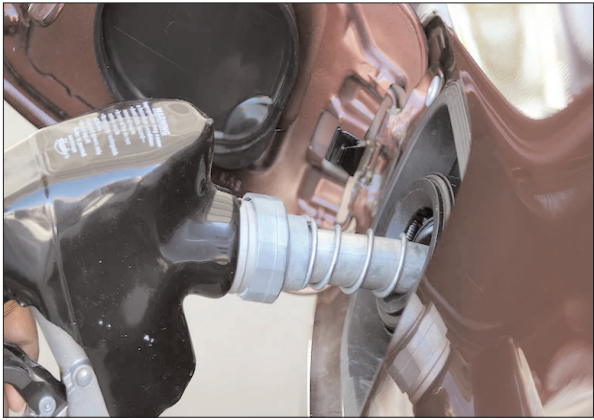
idend of Rs 17.35 per share.

Bonus Issue
Aptus Pharma Ltd. has announced a bonus issue in the ratio of 3:2, with May 12 as the record date. Biogen Pharmachem Industries Ltd has fixed May 15 for a 1:6 bonus issue, while Dev Labtech Venture Ltd has set the same date for a 1:1 bonus issue.

Stock Split
Dev Labtech Venture Ltd will also be in focus for a stock split from Rs 10 face value to Rs 5, with May 15 as the record date.

CII Seeks Phased Fuel-Excise Rollback As Private Sector Capex Up 67% To Rs 7.7 Lakh Crore

AGENCY
Mumbai: India's private sector capital expenditure rose 67% to Rs 7.7 lakh crore in September 2025 from Rs 4.6 lakh crore a year ago, the Confederation of Indian Industry said on Sunday, as it unveiled a five-point industry action agenda amid the West Asia crisis and beyond, comprising a phased drawdown of the central excise cut on petrol and diesel. The Confederation of Indian Industry termed the surge in private capex the "most decisive evidence" yet of a powerful and broad-based revival in the country's investment cycle. "The Rs 10-per-litre central excise cut on petrol and diesel, taken at significant cost to the exchequer, should be progressively rolled back in tranches over six-nine months as crude prices stabilise," argued the CII. Its five-point agenda also pitches for a 45-day MSME payment guarantee; supply-chain ring-fencing with deeper import substitution; and a front-loading of private capex coupled



with voluntary price restraint and a stepped-up internship intake; among others. The CII's analysis of nearly 1,200 companies, drawn from the CMIE Prowess database, shows that private-sector investment, measured as the annual change in net fixed assets and capital work in progress, rose to Rs 7.7 lakh crore in September 2025, a 67% jump over Rs 4.6 lakh crore a year earlier, it stated. Manufacturing led the way, accounting for Rs 3.8 lakh crore or nearly half of total private capex, with metals, automobiles and chemicals at the forefront.

Services contributed Rs 3.1 lakh crore, or about 40%, driven by trading, communications and IT/ITeS. Complementary Reinforce Trend Capacity utilisation of manufacturing firms rose to 75.6% in Q3FY26 from 74.3% in the previous quarter, while new order books grew 10.3% year-on-year. Bank credit growth has rebounded sharply, averaging close to 14% in the second half of FY26 against around 10% in the first half. "Buoyed by this strengthening cycle, CII has appealed to industry to step forward and shoulder its share of the nation-

al burden during the ongoing period of global stress," CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said. The CII's five-point agenda also suggests its member companies commit to a 3-5-per-cent reduction in fuel and power consumption over the next two quarters through process optimisation, efficient logistics, fleet electrification and accelerated renewable power purchase agreements. Besides, it proposes that larger member corporations could commit to a voluntary 45-day MSME payment guarantee, backed by aggressive use of the TReDS platform and supply-chain finance, to ease working capital pressure on small enterprises during this volatile period. Indian supply chains will be ring-fenced through diversified sourcing, strategic inventory buffers and tie-ups with alternative geographies, alongside deeper domestic value addition in components, specialty chemicals and capital goods, said the CII.

Gold, Silver Seen Range-Bound For Second Week Amid US-Iran Talks: Analysts

AGENCY
Mumbai: Gold and silver may remain range-bound for a second consecutive week as investors assess developments in US-Iran peace negotiations and global macroeconomic data, analysts said. Traders will track inflation data from China, Germany, and the United States, along with GDP numbers from the Eurozone and the UK, later this week, they added. "Gold prices momentum looks consolidative, while silver movement looks positive in the coming week as traders will focus again on the progress on peace talks between the US and Iran to end the war and markets are likely to react accordingly," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures gained Rs 1,178, or nearly 1 per cent over the past week, to settle at Rs 1.52 lakh per 10 grams. Silver climbed Rs 10,985, 4.4 per cent, to close at Rs 2.61 lakh



per kg. "Gold traded with a positive undertone last week, posting gains of nearly 1 per cent on MCX and closing around Rs 1.52 lakh per 10 grams," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said. He added that the correction in crude oil prices after easing geopolitical risk premiums also improved sentiment for bullion. "Lower US Treasury bond yields and a softer dollar index also helped gold remain stable despite volatility across global markets," Trivedi said. In the

international market, Comex gold futures advanced nearly 2 per cent during the past week to close at USD 4,730.7 per ounce, and silver climbed 5.8 per cent to finish at USD 80.86 per ounce. "Gold prices traded steady and moved in a consolidation range through most of the week; however, overall momentum remained positive amid a dip in the dollar and reports of progress on a likely peace deal framework to end the US-Iran war," Pranav Mer said. Silver also ended with strong gains for the second straight week,

supported by renewed buying of copper prices, a weaker US dollar, and signs of supply tightness in the global market, he added. According to the World Gold Council, the bullion was also supported by continued central bank buying and renewed inflow of funds in the global exchange-traded funds. However, precious metal prices were range-bound on Friday, as gains were capped by signs of a re-escalation in the conflict after US and Iranian forces clashed in the Persian Gulf, Mer said. Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates came under renewed attacks, but President Donald Trump calmed markets, saying "a ceasefire was still holding." Analysts, investors will watch developments around US President Donald Trump's expected China visit and the Senate vote on new Federal Reserve Chair nominee Kevin Warsh. In the domestic market, inflation, trade numbers and rupee movement will also remain crucial for bullion prices for next week.

TRADE SETUP FOR MAY 11: NIFTY FACES RESISTANCE AT 24,330-24,350

AGENCY
Mumbai: The NSE Nifty 50 finds immediate resistance at the 24,330-24,350 zone, according to analyst Sudeep Shah, head of technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities. The index is expected to sustain bullish momentum due to positive global and domestic cues, such as the positive performance of the Gift Nifty and US stock market indices. "On the upside, the immediate resistance for Nifty is placed in the 24,330-24,350 zone," Shah said. Going ahead, the immediate support for Nifty is placed in the 24,000-23,950 zone, as per the analyst. Any sustainable move below this zone could result in Nifty extending its weakness towards 23,800, followed by 23,650 in the short term, Shah stated.



diate support placed in the 54,900-54,800 zone, according to Shah. "Any sustainable move below this zone could result in Bank Nifty extending its weakness towards 54,500, followed by 54,100 in the short term," the analyst said. Bank Nifty traded within a descending triangle-like formation on the intraday charts before witnessing a breakdown in the second half of the session, leading to a sharp decline, as per the analyst. "On the upside, the immediate

resistance for the Index is placed in the 55,800-55,900 zone," Shah stated.

Market Recap
Indian equity benchmarks registered gains for the consecutive week. The NSE Nifty 50 rose 0.7% and the BSE Sensex rose 0.54%. On Friday, benchmarks ended lower, tracking negative global cues. The Nifty 50 closed 0.62% lower at 24,176.15, down 150.50 points, while the Sensex ended 0.66% lower at 77,328.19, down 516.33 points.

India Is Saving More Lives Than Ever Before. But Why Are Millions Still Unable to Return to Normal Life?

Hyderabad, May 10th, 2026: India's healthcare system has made remarkable progress in emergency medicine, ICU care, trauma response, stroke management, and advanced surgeries. Conditions once considered fatal are now increasingly survivable due to stronger hospitals, faster interventions, and advances in medical science. Yet healthcare leaders say India is now entering its next major healthcare challenge — recovery. Every year, millions of Indians survive stroke, trauma, spinal injuries, traumatic brain injuries, neurological disorders, prolonged ICU stays, and major surgeries. However, for many patients, survival is only the beginning of a much longer struggle involving mobility loss, speech impairment, cognitive decline, emotional trauma, dependency, and reduced quality of life long after discharge from hospitals. Experts believe this is because India's healthcare system is still heavily designed around acute treatment and discharge — not structured recovery. In a landmark effort to address this growing gap, HCAH Rehab & Recovery Hospitals today hosted the inaugural edition of Recovery One Conference 2026 in Hyderabad — India's first dedicated



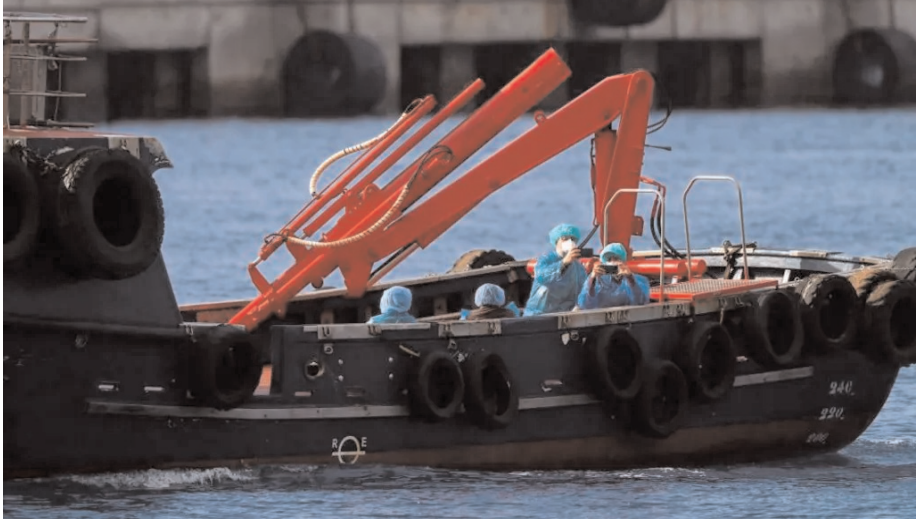
multidisciplinary conference focused exclusively on recovery care, rehabilitation, and reducing avoidable disability. Held at ITC Kakatiya, Begumpet, the conference brought together leading doctors, rehabilitation specialists, hospital leaders, policymakers, insurers, healthcare operators, academicians, accreditation experts, technology innovators, and government institutions from across India to discuss why recovery must now become a core pillar of healthcare itself — and not merely an afterthought after treatment ends.

Centered around the theme "Enabling Fastest Recovery, Reducing Avoidable Disability," the conference focused on transforming recovery from one of the most overlooked phases of healthcare into an integrated national healthcare priority. A major concern highlighted during the conference was that rehabilitation in India often begins too late, remains fragmented across providers, and is still narrowly perceived as physiotherapy instead of a multidisciplinary medical science involving neurologists, intensivists,

PMR specialists, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, rehabilitation nurses, nutritionists, digital systems, and home healthcare teams working together in an integrated manner. Experts at the conference highlighted that the early recovery window following stroke, trauma, neurological injury, or prolonged ICU care is often the most critical period for restoring function and preventing long-term disability. However, structured rehabilitation pathways remain inaccessible for a large section of patients across India. Globally, nearly 2.4 billion people live with conditions that could benefit from rehabilitation, while India alone records over 1.25 million new stroke cases annually, contributing nearly 10% of the global stroke burden. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Gaurav Thukral, President & Co-founder, HCAH, said: "India has built strong capabilities in acute and emergency care over the years. We are saving more lives than ever before. But healthcare cannot end at survival or discharge. The real success of medicine lies in whether a patient is able to walk again, speak again, regain independence, return to work, and reclaim dignity after illness or injury."

COUNTRIES AIRLIFT NATIONALS EVACUATED FROM FROM VIRUS-HIT CRUISE SHIP

AGENCY
Spain: The first passengers evacuated from a han-tavirus-stricken cruise ship docked near Spain's Canary Islands have arrived in Madrid. Fourteen Spanish nationals on the chartered flight from Tenerife face mandatory quarantine at a military hospital in the capital, Madrid. They were followed by French nationals taken to Paris as other countries, including the UK, also prepared to fly their citizens home. Staff involved in the operation in Tenerife pulled white hazmat suits over the evacuees' clothes and hosed them down on the airport tarmac. Three people have died in the outbreak on the Dutch vessel MV Hondius, including two who were confirmed to have had han-tavirus. Flights for Turkish, Irish and US citizens are also planned for Sunday. Health Minister Mónica García said the operation was "proceeding normally" and that all passengers on board the MS Hondius were asympto-



matic. The MV Hondius pulled into the port of Granadilla before dawn on Sunday, a month after the first passenger died on board. The sun rose to reveal it anchored offshore, with military police boats on patrol and a major operation unfolding on land to help more than 100 passengers and crew disembark. At about 07:00 (06:00 GMT), medical teams went on board to

check everyone for signs of the virus. With a long camera lens, passengers could be seen on Sunday morning wandering around on the deck of the ship, or at the windows, all in white medical face masks, as the first evacuations took place. Several sat socially distanced on the first evacuation boat, filming and taking photos as they approached land, where they were met

by officials in white protective suits. They were then taken by bus to the local airport. A plane bound for the Netherlands is expected to take 27 people, including Belgian, Greek, German and Argentine citizens. Other flights are poised to depart after that, including to the UK and US. The last evacuation flight is expected to leave for Australia on Monday. The cruise passen-

gers face having to self-isolate after leaving Tenerife, a gruelling prospect as the virus has an incubation period of up to nine weeks. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended a 42-day quarantine period for the cruise passengers from their last exposure. Passengers from the UK will be taken to an isolation facility where they will be kept for up to 72 hours. Medics will then assess whether they can isolate at home or at another suitable location based on their living arrangements. There had been meticulous preparations to receive the ship, which is not permitted to reach shore: a security perimeter of one nautical mile was enforced around it as it approached the island. Dozens of intensive care specialists were on stand-by at the Candelaria hospital in Tenerife in case anyone from the Hondius becomes seriously ill during the transfer. A strict isolation facility has one bed fully

equipped to deal with infectious diseases, complete with testing kit and a ventilator. "We are absolutely ready," chief intensive care doctor Mar Martin told me on the unit, where large numbers of protective suits, masks and gloves are already piled up for staff. "We've never seen [han-tavirus] before - but it's a virus, with some complications, just like we manage every day. We are fully trained for that." The complex operation to prevent the rare Andes strain of this virus spreading was described by health minister Mónica García as "unprecedented". On Saturday, she stressed that the risk of contagion for the general population was low. "We believe that alarmism, misinformation and confusion are contrary to the basic principles of preserving public health." The WHO's head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is in Tenerife to oversee the disembarking, said the operation was "going very well".

Bread dresses and gowns inspired by cathedrals at Nigeria fashion spectacle



AGENCY
Nigeria: It is often described as Africa's biggest night in film and fashion. Celebrities, filmmakers and creators arrived at the 12th edition of the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCA) in Nigeria with dramatic trains, sculptural gowns, shimmering fabrics and heavily theatrical designs that once again transformed the event from an awards show into a spectacle of style. Held at the Eko Hotel and Suites in Lagos, the annual ceremony celebrates achievements in African film, television and digital storytelling, while also serving as one of the

continent's biggest cultural showcases where celebrities compete for being best-dressed, as much as they do for awards. This year's carpet leaned fully into an excessive display of fashion. Several celebrities walked in with entourages helping carry over-sized outfits through crowds of photographers and screaming fans. Here's a look at some of the most talked-about appearances and moments from the night. Reality TV star Queen Mercy Atang arrived in one of the evening's most attention-grabbing looks, a dress, she said, was made from more than 500 loaves of bread.

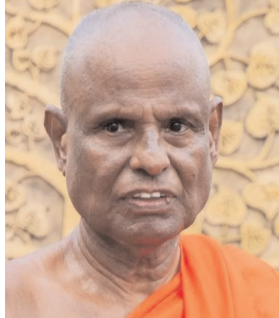
Why Canada is seeing its biggest military recruitment surge in 30 years



AGENCY
Canada: For decades, Canada was seen as a global laggard in defence funding, and just two years ago, recruitment was so dire that a former defence minister warned the armed forces were in a "death spiral". Now, the Canadian army is growing at a pace not seen in decades, reaching its highest number of recruits in 30 years and potentially reversing the chronic personnel shortage that has plagued the country's military. The boost over the last two years comes as the world grapples with major armed conflicts and geopolitical uncertainty, and as Canada commits billions in new military funding after years of falling short of its Nato obligations. It also coincides with an uncharacteristic rise in nationalism that has emerged since US President Donald Trump referred to Canada as the "51st state" - remarks that many viewed as a threat to the country's sovereignty from its closest neighbour. Charlotte Duval-Lantoiné, a fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute who researches Canada's military culture, said that while there may be

a "Trump effect" behind the recent rise in enlistment, military applications had already begun spiking in 2022, around the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "When people see that the world is not as safe, that their country might be at risk... we tend to see people join the military," she said. Global conflicts are not the only factor driving the increase. Canada's high youth unemployment rate - which hovered at nearly 14% in March - as well as the promise of job security and higher wages after Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the largest pay increase for military personnel in a generation, are also a factor, Duval-Lantoiné added. Since taking office last year, Carney has made the military a focus of his government, with a self-described "ambitious" plan to rapidly modernise and expand the Canadian Armed Forces. In March, he announced that Canada had officially achieved the Nato target of spending 2% of its GDP on defence for the first time since the late 1980s, amounting to over C\$63bn (\$46bn; £34bn) in a single year.

BUDDHIST MONK ARRESTED OVER ALLEGED RAPE OF TEEN IN SRI LANKA



AGENCY
Dhaka: One of Sri Lanka's highest-ranking Buddhist monks has been arrested and sent to remand prison over the alleged rape and sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl. The Venerable Pallegama Hemarathana Thero holds one of the most revered positions in the Buddhist world - the chief prelate or custodian of eight sacred sites in Sri

Lanka. He was arrested following a submission from the country's child protection authority, which had previously criticised police for not arresting him despite being named as a suspect in the case. Pallegama Hemarathana has not publicly commented on the charges. He will appear in court on 12 May. The alleged victim's mother was also arrested and remanded to custody after being charged with aiding and abetting the abuse. Pallegama Hemarathana was receiving treatment at a private hospital in Colombo when he was arrested on Saturday. The magistrate determined that he should be transferred to the Colombo prison hospital.

IRAN SENDS RESPONSE TO US PROPOSALS TO END WAR

AGENCY
Tehran: Iran has sent its response to US proposals to end the war via mediators in Pakistan, Iranian state media report. No details have been released. The US has not made details of its proposals public, either, but reports suggest they centre on a 14-point memorandum of understanding, which could lead to negotiations on Iran's nuclear ambitions. A ceasefire meant to facilitate talks to end the war launched by the US and Israel in February has been largely observed, despite occasional exchanges of fire. However, Iran has continued to block the Strait of Hormuz - leading to a rise in world oil prices - and the US has been enforcing a blockade of Iranian ports to exert pressure on Tehran to agree to its



terms. The US naval blockade has infuriated Iran. On Sunday, President Masoud Pezeshkian said: "We will never bow our heads before the enemy." In a post on X soon after, Pezeshkian did not directly reference the proposal but said: "We will never bow our heads before the enemy, and if talk of dialogue or negotiation arises, it does not mean surrender or retreat. "Rather, the goal is to

uphold the rights of the Iranian nation and to defend national interests with resolute strength." US President Donald Trump this week predicted again that the war in Iran will be "over quickly" and said that most people "understand" his goal of ending Tehran's nuclear ambitions. US news outlet Axios reported that the one-page, 14-point memo, includes provisions such as a

suspension on Iranian nuclear enrichment, the lifting of sanctions, and restoring free transit through the Strait of Hormuz. It cited two US officials and two other sources - all unnamed - whom it described as briefed on the issues. These sources were reported as saying that many of the terms laid out in the memo would be contingent on a final agreement being reached. A senior member of Iran's parliament previously dismissed it as a "wish list". Earlier, Iran warned its neighbours about complying with US sanctions. Military spokesman Mohammad Akraminia said vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz would face "severe consequences" if they did not co-operate with Tehran first, Irna news agency reported.

Lebanon says Israeli strikes killed 39



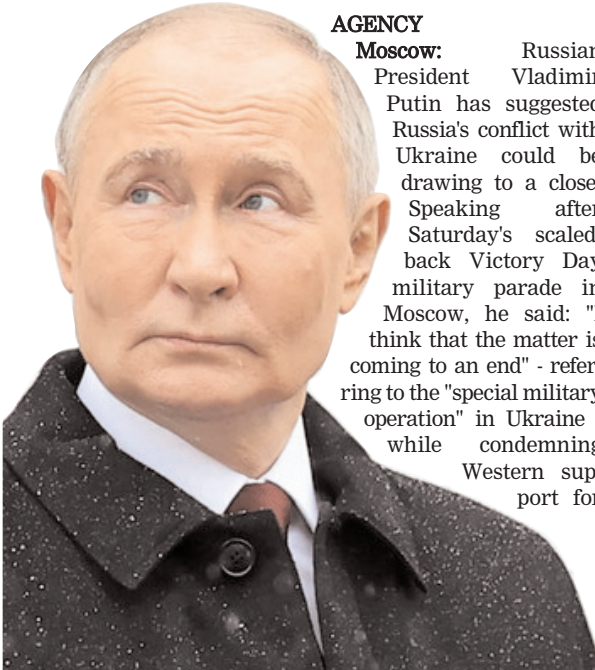
ISRAEL DEPORTS TWO ACTIVISTS DETAINED ON BOARD GAZA FLOTILLA



AGENCY
Gaza: Two pro-Palestinian activists who were detained in Israel after sailing on a flotilla carrying aid for Gaza have been deported. Saif Abu Keshek and Thiago Ávila were taken to Israel after the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF), made up of 22 boats and about 175 activists, was intercepted last week in international waters near Crete, hundreds of nautical miles from Gaza. All the other activists were taken to Crete and freed. The rights group representing the two activists, Adalah, said their detention was unlawful and that Israel's accusations against them were baseless. Israel had said it suspected Abu Keshek of links with a terrorist group and Ávila of illegal activity - allegations they denied. In a statement posted on X early on Sunday, Israel's foreign ministry said authorities had completed their investigation and confirmed the two activists had been deported. "Israel will not allow any breach of the lawful naval blockade on Gaza," it said. Hadeel Abu Salih, a lawyer for Adalah who co-represented the activists, said their deten-

tion "was a sham proceeding with no legal basis, intended to punish them for attempting to challenge Israel's illegal blockade on Gaza". She said the pair's transfer to Israeli custody was "a clear violation of international law" and that they had been subjected to ill-treatment while in custody. Israel's foreign ministry denied that was the case. During their week-long detention in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, Adalah claimed the two men had been subjected to "psychological abuse", including prolonged interrogations, constant bright lighting in their cells, complete isolation, and transfers while blindfolded, even during medical examinations. Abu Keshek is a Palestinian national of Palestinian origin, while Ávila is Brazilian. After they were taken from the flotilla to Israel, the two men's detention was extended for a further six days on Tuesday, with an appeal filed by their lawyers rejected the following day. In a statement released on Saturday after it was announced both activists were set to be released.

PUTIN SAYS HE THINKS UKRAINE CONFLICT 'COMING TO AN END'



AGENCY
Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin has suggested Russia's conflict with Ukraine could be drawing to a close. Speaking after Saturday's scaled-back Victory Day military parade in Moscow, he said: "I think that the matter is coming to an end" - referring to the "special military operation" in Ukraine - while condemning Western support for

Kyiv. The parade - marking the Soviet victory in World War Two - lacked the usual display of tanks and missiles, as authorities feared Ukraine might target Red Square. A US-brokered ceasefire reduced the danger of attacks and the parade passed off without incident. However Ukraine and Russia later accused each other of violating the three-day truce. Putin's comments came just hours after he used his annual Victory Day speech to justify the war. In that speech he said Russia was fighting a "just" war and called Ukraine an "aggressive force" that was being "armed and supported by the whole bloc of Nato". Later, when asked at a news conference about the West helping Ukraine, Putin

said: "They (West) promised assistance and then began fuelling a confrontation with Russia that continues to this day. I think that the matter is coming to an end, but it is a serious matter." Russian forces seized Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine in 2014, then launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Putin said he would only meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky once a lasting peace deal was agreed to. "A meeting in a third country is also possible, but only once final agreements have been reached on a peace treaty for a long-term historical perspective, to take part in this event and sign (treaty), but it must be a final step," he continued.

Our relationship with food is messed up - let's sort it out, says Stanley Tucci

AGENCY
Italy: There's a recurring theme in the second series of Tucci in Italy where someone tells Stanley Tucci he must eat more. Usually it's a nonna (grandmother), sometimes it's a chef, and occasionally it's an entire family placing more food on the table in spite of his protests. It reminds me of when I visit my own nonna's house in Rome; I'm immediately ushered to the dining table and presented with enough pasta, bread and favourite dishes to feed an entire family. And before I've even finished my first plate, I'm encouraged to help myself to seconds. Such moments are instantly familiar to any Italian, because being Italian means understanding that food is affection, hospitality



and identity rolled into one. Watching the new series of Tucci in Italy, which is released on Disney+ on 12 May, you might find that second portion hard to resist. The series sees the Devil Wears Prada 2 star travel across the country - from Sicily to Sardinia to northern Italy - exploring regional cooking traditions, local communities and family-run kitchens.

IPL 2026: CHENNAI SUPER KINGS BEATS LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS BY 5 WICKETS



Defiant Dubois sheds quitter tag to write new narrative

AGENCY
DC: The 'Don't Blink' tagline was never meant to be taken quite so literally. When Daniel Dubois crashed to the canvas within 10 seconds of the opening bell in Manchester - and again in the third round - suddenly every soul inside the Co-op Live Arena was paying very close attention. For years, Dubois has carried the label of a fighter who folds when things become uncomfortable. Opponents and fans alike have questioned his heart, mentality and toughness. During fight week, Fabio Wardley suggested that if Dubois was not a boxer, he would be a "bin-man". By the end of Saturday night, though, Dubois had produced the most brutal clean-up operation of his career. He roared back to stop Wardley in the 11th round of a British heavyweight classic and become a two-time world champion. Perhaps the most revealing moment came between the knock-



downs. After being dropped early, Dubois looked towards his corner and gave a little wink to show he was fine - he did not panic or unravel. Even the tactical knee he took later in the third felt calculated rather than desperate. Much of the 18,000-strong crowd had come to see the Wardley fairytale continue, but Dubois blocked out the noise and stayed composed. The win once again silenced critics who have spent years dissecting the character of Dubois as much as his boxing ability. "No human being on this planet could ever question this kid - certainly don't do that in front of me," trainer Don Charles said afterwards. "Tonight he erased any doubt of all the negative talk. I'm glad the fight went that way so he could demonstrate this quitting narrative is not right." Heavyweights exist under a uniquely harsh spotlight and Dubois has absorbed more than his fair share of scrutiny. One defeat by Joe Joyce and two by Oleksandr Usyk shaped much of the public perception around him, as did persistent questions about his discipline.

Miami Dolphins' 2027 NFL Draft Strategy Gets Huge Boost With Unexpected 7th-Round Draft Pick Addition

AGENCY
Miami: The Miami Dolphins have quietly bolstered their future NFL draft strategy plans following reports that they added another pick to their ever-growing collection of picks slated to be used during the 2027 NFL Draft. Although the addition may not capture much attention like major deals or star players, it may very well end up being a significant factor in the Miami Dolphins' future team construction plans heading into what is expected to be another active off-season. It has been reported that the Miami Dolphins acquired yet another seventh-round pick from the New York Giants after fulfilling whatever conditions were attached to the Darren Waller trade. While more



information is needed on the conditions that had to be fulfilled, the end result has left the Miami Dolphins with eight draft picks set to be used at the 2027 NFL Draft. Miami Dolphins Strengthen 2027 NFL Draft Draft Pick Collection With Another New York Giants Pick The newest addition will help further improve the draft

capital already possessed by Miami. Currently, the team has its first six rounds of the 2027 NFL Draft secured, which means that the organization can build up its talent or use these picks as leverage when trading with other teams in the upcoming drafts. While the seventh-round picks may seem irrelevant at first glance, many

valuable players can be selected in the last round of the draft according to recent trends in the NFL. Positioning Miami Dolphins for Major Moves This NFL Offseason Following their 13 rookie acquisitions this season, the Dolphins have been making clear moves in preparation for long-term success. The team has continued its trend of being active in terms of trading and making roster changes while under the current regime. The acquisition of extra draft picks adds to this by providing more avenues during future offseasons. The new draft assets can allow the Dolphins to trade up for top prospects, acquire veterans, or even continue adding to their depth at various positions.

Lucknow Super Giants Staff Member Allegedly Spotted Using Phone During CSK Game, Sparks Controversy

AGENCY
Mumbai: Lucknow Super Giants found themselves in the middle of a major social media controversy after a backroom staff was allegedly seen using a mobile phone in the dugout. During the match against Chennai Super Kings in Chennai on Sunday, the cameras pointed towards the LSG camp and a visual showed a staff member allegedly on a phone call. The social media users were quick to point out that it was a violation of the BCCI rules and it sparked a major controversy. However, it was not verified whether the visuals were from the LSG dugout or a VIP area at the venue. NDTV was not able to independently confirm the identity of the individual or the



exact place where the phone was used at the venue. According to the Player and Match Official Arena (POMA) rules of the IPL, team managers are allowed to use mobile phones but they can only use in the dressing rooms and not at the dugouts. "Mobile Phones and other electronic communications equipment are not allowed to be

used in the PMOA other than for a few members of the team. The Team Manager may use a phone in the Dressing Room area but NOT in the Dugout. The Analyst may use his computer at the analyst table. Player and support staff items i.e. phones, smart watches or any other communication devices should be turned off and given to the team SLO for storage on arrival at the stadium. Accredited staff i.e. dressing room attendant, IPL Match Manager, catering staff etc may not take communication devices into the PMOA. Secure boxes will be available at every entrance to securely store devices," the BCCI protocol states. Chennai Super Kings ended up beating Lucknow Super Giants by 5 wickets in a thrilling encounter. Rajasthan Royals (RR) team manager Romi Bhinder was fined Rs 1 lakh and handed an official warning for using a mobile phone inside the dugout during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati on April 10.

Mark Stone Injury Update: Right Winger Disrupts Vegas Golden Knights' Stanley Cup Dream

AGENCY
Vegas: While the Vegas Golden Knights were successful in defeating the Anaheim Ducks 6-2 in Game 3 on Friday, the real question arising out of their playoff match is whether or not their hopes of winning the Stanley Cup are affected by the potential injury to star player Mark Stone. The captain of the Vegas Golden Knights was seen exiting the field during the first period when he seemed to sustain either an upper leg or groin injury while trying to defend during an Anaheim Ducks attack. Mark Stone immediately grabbed his leg before walking down

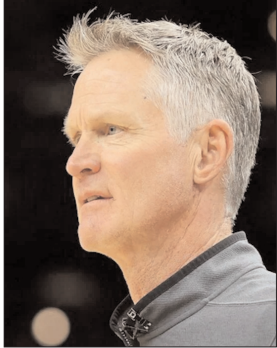


the tunnel. Although the player tried his best to play in the second period, he soon returned to the tunnel, frustrated. Mark Stone's Injury May End Up Radically Altering Vegas Golden Knights' Postseason Journeys The worst possible time for Stone's injury

came. The Vegas Golden Knights depend on the captain in the playoffs and especially in special situations. Coach John Tortorella declined to give any statement after the match, fueling speculations even further concerning the seriousness of the problem. Since coming to the Golden Knights from the Ottawa Senators in 2019, the team has always played like champions when Stone was in the game. When Mark Stone was playing, Vegas showed excellent numbers, and the team always looked like the most balanced in the league. Without Stone, the level of the team traditionally drops to the level of a team trying to reach the playoffs. Stone has suffered from numerous injuries since coming to Vegas.

Steve Kerr Ends Warriors Exit Speculation With New Two-Year Deal, Remains NBA's Highest-Paid Coach

AGENCY
OklaHoma: Doubts about the future of the Golden State Warriors grew louder after a disappointing season ended without a playoff spot, but the franchise has now made its biggest offseason decision. Steve Kerr is staying in the Bay Area after agreeing to a new two-year contract extension with Golden State, ending weeks of speculation about whether one of the NBA's most successful coaching partnerships had finally reached its natural conclusion. The new agreement, as reported in ESPN and The Athletic, keeps Kerr alongside Stephen Curry as the Warriors attempt to reopen their championship window after another frustrating campaign. Golden State finished 37-45 and failed to



reach the playoffs following a play-in defeat against the Phoenix Suns, creating serious questions about the roster, the team's direction and Kerr's long-term future with the organisation. Steve Kerr's Warriors return keeps Stephen Curry era alive after tough NBA Season While contract negotiations stretched across multiple weeks, reports suggested the discussions focused more on

the franchise's basketball direction than financial details. Kerr earned \$17.5 million this season and will reportedly continue as the NBA's highest-paid coach on an annual basis. The extension follows several conversations between Kerr, Warriors owner Joe Lacob and general manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. as the organisation weighed its next steps after another inconsistent year. Missing the playoffs for the second time in three seasons intensified pressure on a team that once dominated the league. Kerr himself admitted after the season that the possibility of leaving had crossed his mind. Reflecting on Golden State's play-in loss, he acknowledged how quickly things can change in the NBA coaching world.

Jannik Sinner Opens Italian Open Account, Aryna Sabalenka Suffers Shock Early Exit



AGENCY
Italy: Jannik Sinner got his Italian Open campaign underway on Saturday by swatting aside Sebastian Ofner 6-3, 6-4 to start his bid to extend a record-breaking run of five straight Masters 1000 tournament victories. The world number one delighted fans in the packed centre court stands with a predictably dominant display which left Austria's Ofner little room to breathe, even in the breezy atmosphere of Rome. Sinner won his 24th consecutive match in one hour and 40 minutes, the 24-year-old barely breaking a sweat to set up a clash with Alexei Popyrin or Jakub Mensik in the third round. No Italian man has won at the Foro Italico since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago, and with Carlos Alcaraz out of action, Sinner is expected to go one better than last year when

he lost the final to his great rival. Such was Sinner's dominance that he had time to break into a smile when the match was stopped twice in the second set for spectator illnesses. "I'm very happy to be back here, it's always been a very special tournament for me," said Sinner. "I'm trying to get into a good match rhythm again even though I've played a lot in the last couple of months... I'm very happy and now let's see what's coming also in the next round." It was the third win for an Italian man on Saturday, with Flavio Cobolli, who helped his country win last year's Davis Cup in Sinner's absence, beating France's Terence Atmane 7-6 (7/1), 6-3. Mattia Bellucci, ranked 64 in the world, is in the fourth round after a 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 win over 24th seed Tomas Martin Etcheverry.

Messi's Tour Organiser's Stunning Claim: 'Regret Bringing Him To India'

AGENCY
Mumbai: Sports promoter Satadru Dutta, who was responsible for Lionel Messi's India tour, said that he regrets organising the events involving the Argentine superstar. The Messi event in Kolkata sparked a massive controversy as the footballer left the Salt Lake Stadium after just 25 minutes amid massive mismanagement and a major lack of crowd control. Dutta expressed his deep remorse regarding the incident and even expressed fear at what could have happened due to the security breakdown. "Absolutely, I regret it. I could

have sold this event elsewhere and made more money. But as a Bengali from Kolkata, I wanted to experience it. I never imagined that one immature person trying to create his own mileage would destroy the entire event," Satadru Dutta said in an interview with the Hindustan Times. Satadru was arrested by the police following the incident and even spent 38 days in custody. He has now levelled stunning allegations against the Trinamool Congress

(TMC) government and alleged that the event was sabotaged by political interference and blackmail. "Messi had close to a billion dollars in insurance coverage. Imagine if something had happened to him on the ground, it would have become a national embarrassment. That's why Messi's team decided they could not continue because he doesn't like claustrophobic situations where people crowd around him," he said. "I've been organising stadium events for the last 15 years, and this has

never happened before. Usually, taking two or three extra pictures is normal. But here somebody turned it into a private event, calling bureaucrats, family members and others for pictures. The DG and the CP were standing there, and nobody stopped them. I kept shouting and requesting them to clear the ground, but nobody listened. There were at least a thousand police personnel inside the stadium," he added. Sports promoter Satadru Dutta, who was responsible for Lionel Messi's India tour, said that he regrets organising the events involving the Argentine superstar.



‘Raakaasa’ Enters Netflix Global Top 10 Non-English Films at No. 7 with 1.2 Million Views, Extending Its Audience Momentum Worldwide

After a successful theatrical run powered strongly by family audiences, Raakaasa has now carried that momentum onto the global streaming stage. The film has officially entered the Netflix Global Top 10 Non-English Films chart at No. 7, registering an impressive 1.2 million views worldwide during its debut tracking week from April 27, 2026 to May 3, 2026.

The achievement places Raakaasa among the most-watched non-English films globally on the platform this week, alongside titles from multiple international markets. More importantly, it reflects how strongly the film’s audience-driven acceptance has translated beyond theatres and into the digital space. What began as a steadily growing theatrical performer has now evolved into a film with visible global reach. During its theatrical run, Raakaasa had already established itself as a clear family favourite, particularly across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where audiences increasingly embraced it as a relaxed, laughter-filled outing. That same accessibility now appears to be driving its OTT response as well. The film’s streaming performance has been especially notable because it has come through sustained audience interest rather than short-term curiosity. Ever since release, the film consistently benefited from strong word-



of-mouth, repeat footfalls, and active family participation inside theatres. Those viewing patterns have now extended onto Netflix, where the film is witnessing wide sampling across regions. A major factor behind this acceptance continues to be the film’s entertainment dynamic. The Sangeeth Shobhan – Getup Srinu track, which emerged as one of the biggest crowd-response segments during the theatrical run, remains a strong conversation point among viewers discovering the film online. Similarly, Vennela Kishore’s performance, widely appreciated for its comic timing and energy,

continues to add heavily to the film’s repeat-watch value. The film’s cross-generational appeal has also played an important role in helping it connect with streaming audiences. While children are engaging strongly with its fantasy-driven and imaginative stretches, adults are responding to its humour, character interactions and easy-flowing tone. That balance has helped Raakaasa function as a comfortable shared watch, both in theatres and now at home. Industry observers have particularly noted how organically the film has travelled. Rather than depending pure-

ly on hype or scale, Raakaasa built its identity through audience satisfaction and recommendation-driven growth. Over time, that positioned the film as a dependable entertainment option within the summer window, especially for families seeking clean, accessible humour. Its entry into the Netflix Global Top 10 further underlines the growing international visibility of Telugu Cinema on streaming platforms. Rooted stories with strong local flavour are increasingly finding resonance across markets, and Raakaasa appears to have benefited from precisely that authenticity.

‘PURUSHAHA’ ARRIVING AS A FAMILY ENTERTAINER THIS SUMMER ON MAY 22 – HERO PAVAN KALYAN AT PRESS MEET



Presenting by Battula Saraswathi and produced by Battula Koteswara Rao under the Kalyan Productions banner, the film Purushaha marks the debut of Pavan Kalyan Battula as a hero. The movie is directed by Veeru Vulavala. The film features Pavan Kalyan, Saptagiri, Kasireddy Rajkumar, Rayancha Kokkura, Vishika, and Hasini Sudheer in key roles. The posters, songs, glimpse videos, and teaser released so far have created strong interest among audiences. The makers recently announced that the movie will release on May 22 worldwide and organized a press meet on this occasion. Speaking at the media interaction,

HERO PAVAN KALYAN SAID:

“Thanks to everyone who supported Purushaha. The reason I am standing on this stage today is my father. I thank director Veeru for trusting me and giving me this role. Special thanks to Saptagiri and Kasireddy for supporting me in acting. We successfully completed this film. Thanks to cinematographer Satish garu for presenting all of us so well on screen. Thanks to everyone who worked for this movie. Purushaha is arriving as a family entertainer this summer on May 22. I believe my father has produced the film at the level he dreamed of, and I have done justice to my role as an actor. I hope everyone watches and supports our movie.”

DIRECTOR VEERU VULAVALA SAID:
“I thank producer Koteswara Rao garu for sup-

porting me throughout Purushaha. Thanks to our cinematographer Satish garu for standing by me during this journey. Audiences will definitely be impressed by Pavan Kalyan’s performance. I also thank Saptagiri garu, Kasireddy garu, and our heroines for their performances. I previously worked on films like Malli Raava, Jersey, and Masooda. I was able to make this film exactly the way I envisioned the story. We are bringing this movie as a summer special on May 22. I request everyone to watch and support our film, and I hope the media continues to encourage us in this journey.”

SAPTAGIRI SAID:
“Purushaha completely reflects our director Veeru garu’s vision. He brought out excellent performances from all of us. To know how

the film and screenplay have turned out, let’s wait until May 22. He has definitely tried to showcase his unique mark with this movie. Best wishes to Pavan Kalyan, who is making his debut as a hero. All three heroines and Kasireddy have performed very well. We sincerely wish that director Veeru’s name will be remembered for at least the next ten years with this film.”

KASIREDDY RAJKUMAR SAID:
“Purushaha is releasing on May 22. This film will make all men feel proud. Pavan Kalyan is being introduced through this movie. I shared screen space with Saptagiri for the first time and learned a lot from him. All three heroines will surely impress audiences. Thank you so much to everyone who came here and supported us.”

Suriya, RJ Balaji, Dream Warrior Pictures' 'Veerabhadradu' to have grand release in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on May 14th through Annapurna Studios

Suriya has joined hands with director RJ Balaji for his magnum opus mass commercial entertainer 'Veerabhadradu'. This most awaited movie is being produced on a grand scale by Dream Warrior Pictures, a production house that has made a name for itself by producing several successful

films. The film will have a grand release in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana through the prestigious Annapurna Studios. Dream Warrior Pictures, which has provided popular content in the Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi industries, is making this film with ambition, keeping in mind both scale and content. The teaser and songs of this film, which have already been released, have created huge expectations. Trisha is playing the heroine in this film. Indrans, Natty, Swasika, and Anagha Maya Ravi are playing key roles.



HEROINES ARE THE FIRST TARGET OF PRODUCERS IN COST CUTTING?



Kriti Sanon began her career as a model and then turned a star actress. She later ventured into production as well. Interestingly, she recently opened up about the pay disparity she faced in the movie industry. The actress revealed that it is always the remuneration of an actress that gets negotiated whenever producers wanted to undergo budget cuts. “There’s been some struggle around money. When the producers have to cut money, they often negotiate down the female lead’s

fee, even though a large chunk of the budget goes to the male actor. Patriarchy is deeply rooted in the film industry,” she said, adding there was an instance where a male star who isn’t superior got a better car. Kriti stresses the fact that she is not bothered about the car but all she expects is equality in everything. Kriti is not a small heroine who started off recently but enjoys decades of experience along with a National award. Whatever Kriti revealed highlights how the female actors are always targeted first.



Dua Lipa’s Rs 141 cr legal war: Why she’s suing Samsung

Global pop sensation Dua Lipa has filed a Rs. 141 crores (15 million USD) lawsuit against tech giant Samsung, accusing the company of using her image on television packaging without her permission. According to reports, the lawsuit was filed in the US District Court for the Central District of California. The singer alleged that Samsung

used her photograph on TV boxes as part of a large-scale marketing campaign, creating an impression that she had endorsed the brand. The complaint stated that Dua Lipa never approved the use of her image and was not paid for it.

■ WHAT DOES DUA LIPA’S LAW-SUIT CLAIM?

As per the legal filing, Samsung allegedly started displaying the singer’s image on television packaging last year. The photo was reportedly taken backstage during the Austin City Limits Festival in 2024.

Dua Lipa’s legal team claimed the company commercially benefited from the image by making consumers believe she was officially associated with the product. The lawsuit further stated that when the singer discovered the alleged use of her photograph, she asked Samsung to stop using it. However, the company allegedly refused to remove the image.

■ DUA LIPA SAYS HER BRAND IMAGE WAS AFFECTED
The complaint described Dua Lipa

as a celebrity with a “premium brand” who is highly selective about endorsements and partnerships. Her lawyers argued that using her image without consent damaged her professional image and commercial value. The filing also included reactions from social media users. Some fans reportedly admitted they purchased Samsung televisions after seeing Dua Lipa’s image on the packaging.

■ WHAT ALLEGATIONS HAS SAMSUNG BEEN ACCUSED OF?

Federal Lanham Act claims Samsung has not yet issued an official statement regarding the controversy. Social media reacts to Dua Lipa vs Samsung case The case has sparked debate online. While many users supported Dua Lipa for protecting her image rights, others

Global pop sensation Dua Lipa has filed a Rs. 141 crores (15 million USD) lawsuit against tech giant Samsung, accusing the company of using her image on television packaging without her permission.