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SCAN FOR
E-PAPER



OM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

26-05-2026

Total pilgrims: 89,403

Tonsurees: 44,254

Hundi kankulu: 4.0 CR

Laddu sale: 4.14 Lac

Annaprasadam: 2,55,100

Medical treatment: 3,320

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 24 H

**Heat is harsh,
offer glass of
water to others;
such kindness
goes a long way,
says PM Modi**



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged people across the country to take all possible precautions as several parts of India continue to witness soaring temperatures. He also encouraged people to offer a glass of water to others, saying that such kindness goes a long way in extreme weather conditions. Taking to the social media platform X, PM Modi said, "Different parts of India are witnessing soaring temperatures and the challenges that come with it. This heat is harsh on all of us and I urge you all to take as many precautions as possible. Please stay hydrated, keep water with you when stepping out. Offer a glass of water to others."

**Two more
arrested from
Latur, Pune in
NEET paper
leak case**

Pune: Two more accused in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case have been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), officials said on Wednesday. This brings the total number of people arrested to 13. The two accused have been identified as Dr Manoj Shirure, a Latur-based doctor, and Tejas Harshadkumar Shah, who is a physics faculty at Abhang Prabhu Medical Academy (APMA), a Pune-based coaching centre. According to the officials, Shirure played a key role in facilitating three students, including the son of an accused coaching centre owner, in getting the Chemistry questions from P.V. Kulkarni - who is being called the "kingpin" of the entire paper leak scam.

CM Revanth pushes speedy T-Fiber implementation across Telangana

Seeks early fund release and Centre's support to provide high-speed internet connectivity to every village and household across the State

HYDERABAD
TSIT BUREAU

A.Revanth Reddy on Wednesday stressed the need for speedy implementation of the T-Fiber project under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) to ensure high-speed internet connectivity to every village and household across Telangana.

Chief Minister, along with Minister D. Sridhar Babu, participated in a video conference with Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to discuss the implementation of the ambitious digital connectivity project in the State.

During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy urged the Centre to expedite the signing of agreements related to the programme and ensure early release of pending funds for smooth implementation of the T-Fiber network.

Chief Minister also



sought a clear policy regarding the transfer of mandal-to-gram panchayat ring network assets to Digital Bharat Nidhi to facilitate seamless execution of the project.

Responding positively, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia assured complete cooperation and support from the Central Government for strengthening Telangana's digital infrastructure.

The discussions focused on

Government's vision of creating a digitally empowered State by providing uninterrupted high-speed broadband services to rural and urban areas alike.

Officials said the T-Fiber network will connect every gram panchayat through an advanced ring architecture model, ensuring uninterrupted internet services even if one network route is disrupted.

As part of the first phase, connectivity restoration

and modernization works will be undertaken in 3,089 villages across the erstwhile districts of Nizamabad, Rangareddy, and Khammam, where damaged network infrastructure currently exists.

State Government has also approved the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementing the project in coordination with the Centre, paving the way for a comprehensive digital backbone for Telangana.

Centre assures no fuel shortage amid West Asia tensions

Rajnath Singh urges public to avoid panic buying as India maintains adequate fuel and fertiliser supplies despite global disruptions

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia and concerns over global energy disruptions, the Centre on Wednesday asserted that there was "no supply gap" in petroleum products in India and urged citizens not to indulge in panic buying of fuel or LPG.

Reviewing the evolving regional situation at the sixth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the government said India's energy and fertiliser supplies remained stable despite continuing disruptions linked to the conflict.

Officials informed the ministerial group that supplies of petrol and diesel across the country were "fully adequate", underlining that India, as the world's fourth-largest refiner, possessed an



installed refining capacity of 258.1 million tonnes per annum against domestic consumption of 243.2 million tonnes in the last financial year.

India also exports nearly 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products annually, the meeting was told, reinforcing the government's position that there was no immediate threat to domestic fuel availability. "The supply situation in the country today is normal," Rajnath Singh said in a post on X after the meeting, while appealing to citizens to

avoid panic purchases of petrol, diesel and LPG.

The high-level meeting was attended by several senior ministers, including Hardeep Singh Puri, J P Nadda, Manohar Lal, Ashwini Vaishnav, Prahlad Joshi and Kiren Rijju. The government also disclosed that public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) were currently absorbing losses of nearly Rs 550 crore per day by not fully passing on rising international crude prices to retail consumers during the ongoing crisis.

K'taka CM Siddaramaiah may resign in one or two days

Bengaluru: A change of guard in the three-year-old Karnataka government seems imminent, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking the Governor's appointment on Wednesday, May 27.

Earlier, Senior Congress MLA and Chairperson of the Administrative Reforms Commission R V Deshpande had said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told him he had decided to resign. The former minister, who met Siddaramaiah at his residence, said that when some MLAs insisted he should not resign, the CM replied that he had given his word to the high command and would respect it.

According to sources, a number of ministers and legislators met Siddaramaiah at his residence and held discussions with him. They insisted he should not resign and said they would discuss the matter with the party high command. As per reports, some even suggested the matter be discussed at a legislature party meeting, but Siddaramaiah did not respond positively to any such suggestions.

"I was with the CM. He said, 'I have decided to resign.' He has decided to resign. I did not question him about why he was resign-



ing. We tried to persuade him, saying, 'Why don't you continue?'" Deshpande said.

SIDDARAMAIAH TO RESIGN IN ONE OR TWO DAYS

Speaking to reporters, he said the CM may resign on Thursday or the day after. "We said the decision was a surprise to us, but he said, 'No, I have decided to resign.' The MLAs who were there wanted him to continue, but he said he had given his word to the high command and would respect it. I told him it would be better if he continued, but he said he has committed to the high command and is therefore resigning," he added. Asked whether he would

be a minister in the new cabinet under D K Shivakumar, the senior MLA said that if Shivakumar is chosen as CM, it is for him and the high command to decide.

Among those who met the CM on Wednesday were ministers H C Mahadevappa, Zameer Ahmed Khan, Eshwar Khandre, Santosh Lad and K J George, and MLAs Nanjagowda, B Nagendra, Umesh Meti, A S Ponnanna and Saleem Ahmed, among others. Intense speculation is rife that Siddaramaiah will announce his resignation as CM in a couple of days, most likely on Thursday, to make way for his deputy D K

**SUPPORTERS OF
KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER
SIDDARAMAIAH GATHERED
OUTSIDE HIS OFFICIAL RESI-
DENCE ON WEDNESDAY,
PROTESTING AMID INTENSE
SPECULATION THAT HE MAY
STEP DOWN.**

Shivakumar. He has sought time from the governor and is hosting a breakfast meeting with his cabinet colleagues on Thursday at his official residence. This follows reports that the Congress high command asked Siddaramaiah to make way for a leadership change in the state, offering him a central role in the party, including a Rajya Sabha seat. Siddaramaiah is said to have not accepted the offer immediately.

SURJEWALA ASKS MEDIA NOT TO SPECULATE

Meanwhile, AICC General Secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, requested the media not to speculate on the issue and asserted that the party will make decisions not in favour of individuals but in favour of Karnataka.

CCEA clears Rs 25,530 crore SARTHAK-PDS scheme

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a new integrated public distribution programme titled "Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS" (SARTHAK-PDS), with a Central outlay of Rs 25,530 crore for the next five years to strengthen India's food security system through technology-driven reforms. Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the scheme would continue through the 16th Finance Commission award peri-

od and remain operational till March 31, 2031. "The government is committed to ensuring efficient last-mile delivery of foodgrains and strengthening food security infrastructure through technology-driven reforms," Vaishnav said. The newly approved umbrella scheme merges two existing programmes - "Assistance to State Agencies for intra-State movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin under NFSA" and "Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART PDS)" - with the objective of improving the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

Rahul, Cong stand exposed: BJP on SC's ruling on SIR

KOCHI (TSIT):

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday said that the Supreme Court's ruling on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls "exposed" that Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi and Congress "stood" with the infiltrators.

The Supreme Court upheld the Election Commission of India's decision to undertake a SIR of electoral rolls, holding that the revision exercise was within the constitutional and statutory powers of the poll body and was aimed at preserving the integrity of the electoral process.



Reacting to this, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandhari said, "Rahul Gandhi & Congress party stands exposed! Supreme Court declare SIR Process Legal & Constitutional!" "It's clear Rahul Gandhi &

Congress opposed all through because they stood with illegal infiltrators not with Indian voters. This was in true sense an 'Anti National Act! Will Rahul Gandhi apologise today for defaming Indian Democracy!" he added. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi ruled that the impugned SIR exercise did not violate the provisions of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950 or the rules framed thereunder, and held that the ECI was empowered to undertake such a revision under Article 324 of the Constitution read with Section 21(3) of the RPA Act.

ED raids on ex-CM Pinarayi Vijayan

FAMILY MEMBERS SPARK POLITICAL STORM IN KERALA

KOCHI (TSIT):

The Enforcement Directorate's raids at various locations linked to the controversial Exaloxic-CMRL payment row triggered a sharp political confrontation in Kerala on Wednesday, with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre of using central agencies for political vendetta and the BJP demanding answers over alleged financial dealings involving former Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter, Veena Vijayan. CPI (M) workers protested in various parts of the state following the ED raids, and several party leaders alleged that the action was a political vendetta against the former Kerala CM. The ED conducted searches at multiple locations, including the residences of Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter Veena Vijayan, former state minister and son-in-law PA Mohammed Riyas, as part of its probe into the Exaloxic-CMRL payment case.



“Hard facts needed first,” Tharoor cautions govt against arbitrary evaluation of demographic change

New Delhi, May 27 : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has welcomed the Centre's announcement about the formation of the 'High-Level Committee on Demographic Change' to tackle challenges like infiltration that pose unnatural demographic change in the country, however, he cautioned the government against pushing it without adequate facts and figures in hand, regarding "unnatural population shifts".

He said that the country must have correct facts and figures about the demographic factors.

This came as Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced the formation of the 'High-Level Committee on Demographic Change' to evaluate unnatural population shifts across India caused by infiltration and other factors.

Speaking to IANS during a book launch event in New Delhi, Tharoor said, "That's a very important development; there are lots of things happening. There are changes of various kinds, and I think it's important that before we have a serious conversation about the political implications, we



should understand the numbers we're dealing with. Otherwise, people can misuse data, especially if it's incomplete, by needlessly creating political controversies.

"It's important that we have data, so I'm supporting any idea that will give us facts and figures that are accurate, that are comprehensive, showing all the demographic factors, the trends and so on. We have a national

census also happening. I think between the two of them, we should have a more accurate picture of what the reality is in our country," the Congress MP added.

In a post on X on Tuesday, Shah said, "Infiltration and other reasons causing Unnatural Demographic Change pose a very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation."

"To address this very challenge, on 15 August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the 'High-Level Committee on Demographic Change'. I am delighted to inform you that the government has now constituted this committee," he said.

The Home Minister mentioned that this committee will be chaired by Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd) and

include the Census Commissioner along with Durga Shankar Mishra (Retd IAS), Balaji Srivastava (Retd IPS), and Dr Shamika Ravi as members.

The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) for the Ministry of Home Affairs will serve as the Member Secretary of this committee, Shah added.

He further stated that demographic change is a serious issue linked not only to the sovereignty of the country but also to national security, law and order, profound changes in social structure, and the preservation of tribal society.

"This committee will conduct a comprehensive assessment of demographic changes occurring across India due to illegal immigration and other unnatural causes, analyse patterns of abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities, and present a planned and time-bound solution for the same," Shah added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced this committee on August 15, 2025, during his Independence Day address at the Red Fort.

Punjab & Sind Bank Officers' Federation Calls Two-Day Nationwide Strike

New Delhi: The All India Punjab & Sind Bank Officers' Federation (AIPSBOF, Code-91) has announced a nationwide two-day strike at Punjab & Sind Bank on June 15 and 16, 2026, citing alleged administrative malpractice, anti-union activities and unfair transfer and promotion policies.

The federation has served a formal strike notice to the bank management under Section 22(1) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. As the strike falls immediately after the weekend, bank branches across the country are likely to remain closed continuously for four days, potentially affecting banking services nationwide.

The union advised customers and stakeholders to make use of digital banking channels during the period.

According to Federation General Secretary Ratneshwar Chaudhary, the strike is being organised in protest against alleged violations of labour-management norms and administrative fairness by the bank's Human Resource Department. The federation levelled serious allegations against DGM (HRD) Harjinder Singh, accusing him of abuse of power, anti-union hostility and threatening trade union representatives with retaliatory transfers and disciplinary actions. The union also

raised concerns over what it described as a conflict of interest, alleging that the same official simultaneously handling HRD responsibilities and Disciplinary Authority Cell functions could lead to misuse of disciplinary proceedings.

Among the key demands are separation of HRD and disciplinary authority portfolios, transparent transfer and promotion policies, protection of union activists, regulated working hours and improved staff welfare measures.

The federation alleged favouritism in transfers and promotions, claiming certain officials were retained in preferred locations while others were transferred to distant regions.

It also accused the management of lack of transparency in transfer lists and evaluation processes. According to the union, a delegation meeting held on May 20, 2026, failed to resolve the issues. The federation stated that despite submitting a final grievance to top management on May 24, no action was taken, forcing the organisation to proceed with the strike call. The union further alleged that disciplinary proceedings were being used to target union office-bearers in several states, while serious loan irregularities and non-performing asset issues involving favoured officials were allegedly ignored.

LIC Launches Two New 'Jeevan Sathi' Insurance Plans

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced two new insurance products — LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium (Plan 888) and LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Limited Premium (Plan 889).

The plans were launched by LIC CEO and Managing Director R. Doraiswamy. Both are Non-Par, Non-Linked, Individual Savings Plans designed as joint life insurance policies offering a combination of savings and protection for married couples.

The plans cover both spouses under a single policy. The minimum Basic Sum Assured is Rs.3 lakh, while the maximum sum assured will depend on LIC's underwriting policy. The minimum entry age is 18 years, with the maximum age varying according to the selected policy option.

Policyholders can



choose between two death benefit options and also avail loan facilities for liquidity needs. Optional riders are available by paying additional premiums, while premium rebates are offered to existing LIC policyholders and nominees or beneficiaries of deceased policyholders.

Under both plans, maturity and death benefits are

guaranteed irrespective of market performance. If at least one life assured survives till maturity, the Basic Sum Assured along with accrued Guaranteed Additions will be payable.

In case of death, the Death Benefit Sum Assured will be paid on the first death. If the second life assured also dies during the policy term, another

death benefit along with accrued Guaranteed Additions will be payable. LIC's New Jeevan Sathi Single Premium plan requires only a one-time premium payment and offers guaranteed additions of Rs.70 per Rs.1,000 Basic Sum Assured every year throughout the policy term.

The Limited Premium plan allows premium payment for 5, 10 or 15 years depending on the chosen policy term. It also offers guaranteed additions at the rate of 7 percent of the Total Tabular Annual Premium and provides a premium waiver benefit after the first death during the premium-paying term.

The plans will be available for purchase from June 1, 2026, through licensed agents, brokers, corporate agents, insurance marketing firms and online via the official LIC website.

Shock Wave Technology Saves Heart Attack Patient at KIMS Saveera Hospital

Anantapur: KIMS Saveera Hospital successfully treated a 65-year-old heart attack patient using advanced Intravascular Lithotripsy (IVL) technology, a modern coronary intervention technique designed to treat heavily calcified coronary artery blockages.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Moode Sandeep, who used shock wave-based technology to safely remove severe calcium deposits in the patient's coronary arteries. According to Dr. Sandeep, the patient was admitted with symptoms of an acute heart attack. Coronary angiography later revealed a critical 90 percent blockage in a major coronary artery. A CT calcium score test showed a score of 510, indicating extensive coronary artery calcification.

Explaining the condition, Dr. Sandeep said cor-



onary artery calcification occurs when calcium deposits build up inside the walls of arteries supplying blood to the heart, increasing the risk of heart attacks, stroke and other cardiovascular complications, especially in elderly patients.

He said Intravascular Lithotripsy is an innovative technology that uses pulsatile sonic pressure waves to fracture calcium

deposits inside artery walls. The technology is derived from lithotripsy procedures commonly used for breaking kidney stones.

Traditionally, heavily calcified blockages are treated using rotational atherectomy, which involves grinding calcium deposits with a high-speed rotating device. However, Dr. Sandeep noted that IVL offers a safer and min-

imally invasive alternative by selectively cracking calcium without causing excessive trauma or heat damage to blood vessels.

The procedure was performed under the guidance of Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), an advanced imaging technology that provides detailed visualisation of calcium deposits within arteries.

Dr. Sandeep said the combination of OCT imaging and IVL technology allows doctors to assess complex blockages more accurately and perform safer and more effective coronary interventions.

Hospital officials stated that the successful use of Intravascular Lithotripsy reflects the hospital's commitment to providing advanced cardiac care and adopting world-class medical technologies for patients in the region.

Extreme Summer Heat May Accelerate Ageing, Warns Shahnaz Husain

New Delhi: Internationally renowned beauty expert Shahnaz Husain has warned that prolonged exposure to extreme summer heat may not only cause fatigue and dehydration but could also accelerate the body's ageing process.

She explained that intense heat forces the body to work harder to regulate temperature through sweating and increased blood circulation, resulting in loss of fluids and electrolytes such as sodium, potassium and chloride. This process can leave people feeling drained, weak and mentally exhausted even without heavy physical activity.

According to Shahnaz Husain, repeated exposure to severe heat waves may increase oxidative stress, inflammation and strain on vital organs, potentially speeding up molecular ageing and increasing vulnerability to health problems, especially among elderly people, outdoor workers and those living in poorly ventilated spaces.

Highlighting the importance of "pre-hydration," she advised people to consume adequate fluids and electrolytes two to three hours before stepping out in the



heat instead of waiting until they feel thirsty. She noted that thirst is often a late sign of dehydration. She suggested drinking water infused with vetiver (khus), fennel seeds or cucumber to maintain hydration levels naturally. At the same time, she cautioned against excessive water intake in a short duration, warning that overhydration

could lead to serious conditions such as hyponatremia or water intoxication. Shahnaz Husain also recommended traditional Indian cooling foods and drinks such as curd rice, kokum sherbet, buttermilk, sattu sharbat and bajra rabdi to help the body stay cool, hydrated and energised during summer. She further advised including water-rich seasonal fruits such as watermelon, strawberries, cantaloupe and peaches in daily diets to improve hydration and immunity.

The beauty expert also warned that certain medicines for blood pressure and heart disease could increase the risk of dehydration, fainting and sunburn during summer. She advised people to store medicines in cool and dry places and consult doctors if they experience heat-related complications while on medication

GITAM Hyderabad Introduces 4-Year Integrated B.Ed. Programme

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad campus, will introduce the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) from the academic year 2026-27, offering four-year dual-major undergraduate courses — B.A. B.Ed. and B.Sc. B.Ed. — in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. According to Dr. Richa Sharma, the programme is designed to integrate subject knowledge with professional pedagogical training immediately after Intermediate education, with the aim of preparing multidisciplinary and professionally trained educators. She said the programme seeks to nurture socially responsible teachers capable of creating developmentally appropriate learning experiences for students across various stages of school education. The four-year integrated programme will provide comprehensive training in subject content, pedagogy, classroom



practice and values-based education. The curriculum also focuses on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), inclusive education, and Indian culture and values while aligning with global educational standards. ITEP, notified on October 26, 2021, is a holistic undergraduate teacher education programme offering B.A. B.Ed., B.Sc. B.Ed. and B.Com. B.Ed. degrees. It prepares teachers for the four stages of the new school structure under NEP — Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary levels. Dr. Sharma said one of the key benefits of the programme is that students can complete teacher education in four years instead of the conventional five-year route, thereby saving one academic year. For the academic year 2026-27, the programme will be offered in nearly 223 institutions across the country, including IITs, NITs, Regional Institutes of Education, Central and State Universities, and GITAM, with around 16,950 seats available. Admissions will be conducted through the National Common Entrance Test (NCET) 2026, which is mandatory for entry into participating institutions. For more details, students and parents can visit GITAM Official Website or contact the university helpline numbers

Women Must Prioritise Health and Regular Screenings: Dr. Vasundhara

Hyderabad: On the occasion of World Women's Health Day observed on May 28, senior consultant gynaecologist Dr. Vasundhara Cheepurupalli stressed the importance of women prioritising their physical and mental well-being through regular health check-ups and healthy lifestyle practices.

Dr. Vasundhara, who serves as a robotic and laparoscopic surgeon, cosmetic gynaecologist and obstetrician at KIMS Cuddles, said women today are balancing multiple responsibilities as professionals, entrepreneurs, caregivers and community leaders, often neglecting their own health in the process.

She noted that many women tend to ignore physical symptoms and delay seeking medical care, which can lead to the progression of preventable diseases.

Highlighting common health concerns among women, she said conditions such as anaemia, thyroid disorders, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS),



uterine disorders, breast cancer and cervical cancer are increasingly prevalent. She advised women not to ignore symptoms such as menstrual irregularities, excessive bleeding and pelvic pain.

Dr. Vasundhara emphasised the importance of preventive healthcare and recommended annual health screenings for women above 40 years of age. These include blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar tests, thyroid function tests, breast examinations and cervical cancer screening through Pap smear tests.

She also stressed that women's health includes mental well-being, noting that stress, anxiety and depression are becoming increasingly common due to family responsibilities, workplace pressures and social expectations. She said emotional support, adequate rest and professional counselling when required are essential for maintaining mental health.

Encouraging healthy lifestyle habits, she advised women to consume balanced diets rich in iron, green leafy vegetables, fruits, proteins and dairy products, while engaging in at least 30 minutes of daily physical activity such as walking, yoga or exercise.

Dr. Vasundhara said greater awareness and open discussions about women's health are necessary to overcome social stigma and ensure timely medical intervention.

She added that healthy women contribute significantly to stronger families, prosperous societies and national progress.

Air India cuts flights on domestic routes as jet fuel cost soars

New Delhi, May 27 : Air India has reduced the number of flights on some domestic routes between June and August as the loss-making airline struggles to cut costs amid soaring fuel prices triggered by the Middle East conflict, a statement said on Wednesday.

Tata Group-owned airline said in the statement that the move follows its earlier decision to scale back certain international services. "In continuation of our previously announced adjustments to select international services between June and August 2026, we have tem-

porarily rationalised operations on certain domestic routes during the same period, with a reduction in frequencies on select routes," it said. Air India, which is under pressure to cut losses, is expected to scrap around 20 per cent of its domestic flights.

EDITORIAL

*How Pak And Bangladeshi
Vote Blocs Are Becoming
UK's New 'Kingmakers'*

Britain's Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, is fighting for his political survival after his Labour Party suffered a catastrophic defeat in local council elections earlier this month at the hands of the populist Reform UK. This was the latest blow to Labour and its traditional rivals, the Conservatives, from Reform, which has brought a political storm to Britain since the last general election and has kept the far-right party in the lead for over a year. The Labour Party's defeat was partly caused by the desertion of a large number of its loyal Pakistani and Bangladeshi voters in favour of the Green Party or small Muslim groups.

Weeks before these elections, the Green Party adopted a resolution on Jammu and Kashmir calling for "democratic self-determination". The resolution was proposed by one of its members, Azhar Ahmed, who described the decision as historic. The Green Party, which also made significant gains in these elections, has been targeted by Pakistani and Bangladeshi activists seeking influence. The party's deputy leader is Mothini Ali, of Bangladeshi origin, though it is headed by Zack Polanski, a left-oriented, white Jewish man. In a February by-election in Gorton and Denton, a Manchester suburb, Pakistani voters played a major role in helping the Green Party come out on top, pushing Labour into third place behind Reform. The campaign was dominated by Israel's brutal military campaign in Gaza and the Labour Party's Israel policy. The vote ended the Labour Party's dominance of the constituency for nearly 100 years. The constituency is 30% Muslim, mainly of Pakistani descent.

Changing Political Landscape

Tower Hamlets in London and Oldham in Manchester illustrate the changing nature of Britain's politics, driven by Muslims from the Indian subcontinent. Tower Hamlets, which is 40% Bangladeshi-origin Muslim, has just re-elected Lutfur Rahman as mayor for the third time. His Aspire party won 33 council seats (out of 45), all held by Bangladeshi Muslims. It's a remarkable development in a London town that was once predominantly white.

An interesting aspect of Rahman, a former Labour Party member, is that he was removed from office as mayor in 2014 after being found guilty of corrupt and illegal electoral practices; he was also banned from holding office for five years. Five years later, he returned as mayor after forming the Aspire party and winning the election because local Bangladeshis trusted him more to address their issues than Labour, their traditional political home. Rahman is now more powerful than ever. The town of Oldham in Greater Manchester, which gained notoriety two decades ago for having one of the first Pakistani grooming gangs preying on young white girls, has traditionally been a Labour stronghold. Two years ago, some Pakistani-origin Labour politicians formed a breakaway front, the Oldham Group. Campaigning on the Gaza issue, the group won 10 seats on the council. Reform UK secured 16 seats, and Labour 18. Nearly a quarter of Oldham's population is Muslim, mainly of Pakistani origin.

WHY IS WATER FROM A CLAY POT LIKE NECTAR IN SUMMER?



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

During the scorching summer days, when the sun's heat scorches the earth, a sip of cold water seems like one of life's greatest pleasures. In modern life, refrigerators, air conditioners, and bottled water have found a permanent place in our homes, but the importance of the earthen pot remains undiminished. From village squares to city balconies, water from the earthen pot still holds a place in people's hearts for its pleasant aroma and natural coolness. It's not just a means of storing water, but a symbol of Indian culture, scientific understanding, and a lifestyle connected to nature. The earthen pot has a very ancient history in Indian society. From the Indus Valley Civilization to the present day, the use of pottery has been a part of our lives. Our ancestors learned to live in harmony with nature. They knew that the solution to every problem lies within nature. Therefore, they began using earthen pots to find relief from the heat. At that time, there was no electricity, no refrigerators, or modern technology, yet people remained healthy because their lifestyle was natural. Water from a clay pot is also considered extremely beneficial from a scientific perspective. Earthen pots have tiny pores that allow water to evaporate gradually. The evaporation process releases heat, and the water cools naturally. This cooling is not artificial, but rather beneficial to the body. Extremely cold water from the refrigerator suddenly affects body temperature, which can lead

to sore throats, coughs, colds, and digestive problems. In contrast, water from a clay pot provides gradual cooling to the body. Clay contains naturally occurring alkaline elements, which, when combined with water, help balance the body's pH level. Nowadays, people's diets have become increasingly acidic. Fast food, fried foods, cold drinks, and an irregular lifestyle have led to common problems like acidity, gas, and indigestion. Water from a clay pot helps alleviate these problems. It cools the stomach and strengthens the digestive system. Doctors believe that during the summer season, the body loses large amounts of water and minerals through sweat. If these losses are not replenished in time, they can lead to problems like weakness, fatigue, and dizziness. Water from a clay pot naturally hydrates the body and helps replenish essential minerals. This is why farmers working in the fields in rural areas still prefer to drink water from a clay pot. The most important characteristic of water from a clay pot is its natural purity. In modern times, the use of plastic bottles has increased rapidly. When these bottles are exposed to sunlight in the summer, harmful chemicals present in them can leach into the water. Scientific research has shown that elements like BPA present in plastic can have negative health effects. Furthermore, the quality of bottled water is not always reliable. On the other hand, a clay pot is completely natural and does not contain any chemical hazards. Water from a clay pot is considered healthier than water from the refrigerator. Extremely cold water often affects the body's digestive system. Drinking very cold water immediately after a meal slows digestion. On the other hand, water from a clay pot remains at a balanced temperature, causing no harm to the body. Ayurveda also considers extremely cold water harmful to health, while water from an earthen pot is considered beneficial. Heatstroke is a serious problem in India. As temperatures rise, the body's balance is disrupted, leading to fainting, vomiting, headaches, and weakness.

Water from a clay pot cools the body internally and helps protect against heatstroke. It regulates body temperature and helps eliminate excess heat through sweating. This is why, in ancient times, water was kept in clay pots for travelers in homes, dharamshalas, and public places. An important aspect of drinking water from a clay pot is its environmental protection. Today, the entire world is grappling with the problem of plastic pollution. Every year, millions of plastic bottles end up in rivers and oceans as waste, causing serious environmental damage. In contrast, a clay pot is completely organic and environmentally friendly. It requires no chemicals or machinery to manufacture. When the pot ages, it dissolves into the soil and becomes part of nature again. The use of earthen pots is also linked to the livelihoods of rural artisans and potters. In the modern age, the increasing use of plastic and steel utensils has affected the traditional occupation of potters. If people increase the use of earthen pots again, it will also strengthen the rural economy. A simple earthen pot not only cools water but also fuels the stove in an artisan's home. Soil holds a special significance in Indian culture. Soil is considered akin to a mother, as it provides us with food and forms the basis of life. Drinking water from an earthen pot is not only a matter of health, but also a symbol of respect for nature. When a person drinks water from an earthen pot, they feel a unique sense of satisfaction and belonging. The earthen aroma soothes the mind and evokes childhood memories. In today's race for modernity, people are increasingly moving away from a natural lifestyle. Amidst mobile phones, the internet, and artificial conveniences, humans' connection with nature is weakening. At such a time, water from a clay pot reminds us that happiness lies hidden in simplicity. Only by connecting with nature can humans live a healthy and balanced life. However, some precautions are necessary when using a pot. The pot should be cleaned regularly to prevent dirt and bacteria from growing.

Wealth-hungry and crumbling relationships

FAMILY, GREED AND THE TRAGEDY OF A CHANGING SOCIETY



PRIYANKA SAURABH

The land of Haryana has long been known for its familial love, brotherhood, and the culture of joint families. The warmth of relationships was evident in village Chaupals. Family was not merely a blood relationship, but was considered the foundation of life's greatest security and respect. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, and brothers and sisters together formed a social structure where individuals were never left alone. Family joys were shared, and sorrows were shared together. From labor in the fields to household decisions, everything was done with a spirit of sharing. At that time, it was difficult to imagine that someone could become an enemy of a family member for property. But with changing times, the landscape of society has rapidly changed. Economic competition, urbanization, growing material desires, and consumerist thinking have gradually weakened the intimacy of relationships. Now, families that once epitomized love and cooperation are being torn apart by property and financial disputes. A small piece of land, a share of inheritance, or monetary transactions are often fueling conflicts that culminate in violence and murder. Today, not only in Haryana but across the country, news of a brother killing another brother, a son attacking a father, or an uncle-nephew relationship being marred by bloodshed, is constantly emerging. These incidents are not merely crimes but a sign of the growing moral decay within society. This increasing violence within families suggests that wealth and property are now considered more important than relationships. In states



like Haryana, land is no longer merely a means of farming. Urbanization and industrial expansion have led to rapid increases in land prices. Farms that were once modest in value have now become assets worth crores of rupees. This economic transformation is causing tension within many families. Brothers are now fighting in the courts over the division of land that was once cultivated jointly by the family. In many cases, these disputes transcend legal boundaries and escalate into violence. The breakdown of joint families has also exacerbated this problem. In the past, elders served as mediators. If there was a dispute, respectful family members would sit together and find a solution. Their word was considered final. But now, the trend of nuclear families has increased. Families have become smaller, and communication has decreased. As family members began living separately, the emotional distance between them also increased. This distance often gives rise to distrust and selfishness. In modern society, a person's success is measured by their financial status. A large house, an expensive car, and abundant wealth have become symbols of social prestige.

Social media and market-driven culture have further reinforced this mindset. Everyone seems to be engaged in the race to earn as much money as possible. In this race, the sensitivity of relationships is being left behind. People are beginning to view their families as partners and competitors rather than collaborators. From a psychological perspective, property disputes aren't just financial struggles. They also stem from insecurity, ego, comparison, and a sense of entitlement. Often, individuals feel wronged, have received a smaller share, or are neglected within the family. These feelings gradually escalate into anger and violence. Tensions pent up for years within a family can explode over a minor dispute. The patriarchal mindset in Indian society also plays a role in fueling these disputes. Competition among sons over property is increasingly evident. Parents often unwittingly discriminate between their children. Giving more importance to one son or disparity in property distribution lays the foundation for future conflicts. This tension can build up over the years, eventually leading to major disputes. Today, millions of property dispute cases are pending in the courts.

Families remain embroiled in legal battles for years. Litigation consumes time, money, and peace of mind. The court cycle can sour relationships to the point where any possibility of reconciliation is virtually eliminated. Sometimes, even subsequent generations carry this animosity as a legacy. The irony is that the very possessions for which people destroy their relationships ultimately fail to bring them peace of mind. Wealth can provide comfort, but it cannot provide intimacy and trust. Brothers who spent their childhoods playing together become enemies. Parents who have devoted their entire lives to raising their children find themselves feeling insecure among their own children in old age. This situation is not just a family crisis, but a social tragedy. This problem is further complicated in rural society because land is not only a property but also a symbol of social prestige. Families with more land are considered more influential. This is why people struggle for years even for small parcels of land. Panchayats often fail to resolve these disputes, leading to violence and murder. The situation is different in urban

areas. Legal battles between siblings over their parents' property, homes, and businesses have become common in metropolitan areas. Elderly parents often suffer from loneliness and insecurity. In some cases, children pressure their parents to transfer the property to their names. This situation raises serious questions about the values of the Indian family system. Money and wealth are not inherently bad things. Problems arise when a person places wealth above morality and human sensibilities. Greed gradually erodes a person's sensitivity. They begin to view relationships from a financial perspective, not an emotional one. When human values weaken within a person, the avenues open for violence and crime. Solving the problem isn't possible through legislation alone. Serious efforts are needed at the social and moral levels. First, we must strengthen the culture of dialogue within families. When family members express themselves openly and understand each other's feelings, disputes will be less likely. Often, small misunderstandings can escalate into major conflicts due to a lack of communication. The role of elders remains crucial even today. They should not only be guardians of property but also guides of family values. Children must be taught from childhood that relationships are more valuable than any land or wealth. If love and trust prevail within the family, property division will be smoother. The education system also needs to give greater importance to moral education and family values. Today's education is making people successful, but it's failing to make them sensitive. It's important to teach children that true success in life isn't just about financial achievement, but also about preserving humanity and relationships. Society must also change its mindset. The tendency to honor only financial success is dangerous. When society prioritizes wealth over character, behavior, and sensitivity, the mad pursuit of wealth intensifies. Society needs role models that inspire sacrifice, cooperation, and family unity.

A 'Bangarappa' Redux?

How Another Karnataka Chief Minister Was Asked To Resign In 1992

Whether the Congress high command, after dilly-dallying for months, has taken a 'bold' decision or a 'reckless' one in asking Siddaramaiah to resign as the Chief Minister of Karnataka and make way for someone else, will become clearer in the next two to three days. A sanguine meeting of the Congress bigwigs' huddle in New Delhi on Tuesday, which the Siddaramaiah group had expected to be a routine filibustering exercise indulged in by the leadership to ward off DK Shivakumar's demand to install him as Chief Minister, took an unexpected and dramatic turn in the afternoon. It left Siddaramaiah, according to an observer, "shell-shocked". It all happened after the leaders broke for lunch and Rahul Gandhi went home for his meal and held discussions with his mother, Sonia Gandhi, and sister, Priyanka Gandhi. Reports suggest that Rahul informed them that apart from the general meeting where they discussed the Rajya Sabha and legislative council nominations from Karnataka, he had one-on-one deliberations with Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, where nothing much emerged. Sonia, Priyanka Speak Up At this point, Sonia reminded Rahul about the 'commitment' she had made to Shivakumar and suggested that it was time to honour it. Priyanka, who had always backed Shivakumar, reportedly argued that given



his long-standing loyalty and consistent support to the party, he deserves a chance to lead now - especially as Siddaramaiah has already had his tenure and would be 80 by the next Assembly elections. As the group consisting of Malikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar reconvened after lunch, Rahul Gandhi, who walked in a few minutes later and took his seat, looked at Siddaramaiah straight and told him he would have to step down. It seems there was a stunned look on Siddaramaiah's face when Rahul broke the bad news to him. He had always counted on Rahul Gandhi as his strongest supporter, who played a key role on both occasions when he became the Chief Minister and always backed him. Blaming

The Media There was no reaction from anyone in the room. Immediately, party general secretary KC Venugopal led senior leaders out of Indira Bhavan and famously told the anxiously waiting media that only election issues were discussed and "everything else is your (media's) speculation". In less than an hour, top Congress "sources" started telling the media that Siddaramaiah had been asked to step down and his deputy, Shivakumar, would take his place. It was a calculated strategy to let the world know and allow time for Siddaramaiah to "process" the information and begin negotiations on his "honourable exit". Siddaramaiah, accompanied by his trusted colleagues, Parameashwara, KJ George, HC Mahadevappa and Byrathi Basavaraj, left for George's bungalow in

Delhi and got into a huddle, just as Shivakumar, along with his supporters, moved to Karnataka Bhavan to carry out their respective strategy sessions. Around 8.30 pm, as an SUV carrying Siddaramaiah rolled out of George's place, the waiting camerapersons and journalists rushed to him frenetically asking, "Are you resigning, sir?", "Have you been asked to step down, sir?" A glum-faced Siddaramaiah merely looked at mediapersons from behind the rolled-up car window and left without uttering a word. A Blast From The Past The images that started flashing on the TV screens on Tuesday night reminded this author of a similar scenario in 1992. I was a Special Correspondent with The Indian Express in New Delhi, covering a few central ministries, the Rajya Sabha, and, of course, Karnataka. S Bangarappa, a popular backward class leader, who had taken charge as Chief Minister after the unceremonious "sacking" of a veteran, Veerendra Patil, had been facing unprecedented disaffection from his own partymen. Every two to three weeks, groups of MLAs would visit Delhi carrying "charge-sheets" against the Bangarappa government's alleged corruption and misrule. PV Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister, was dealing with multiple headaches running a minority government, and found Karnataka's problems highly vexing.

'ARBITRAGE PROBLEM, NOT SUPPLY':

Govt Blames Industrial Bulk Buyers For Stress At Fuel Pumps

The Centre on Wednesday said the pressure being witnessed at retail fuel outlets is not due to any shortage of petrol or diesel, but because industrial and bulk consumers are shifting purchases to retail pumps to take advantage of lower subsidised prices. In a detailed statement on Wednesday, the government asserted that India has "more than adequate" fuel supplies to meet both retail and industrial demand, and urged citizens not to panic or believe rumours around shortages. "The picture that emerges from the field is consistent. There is no scarcity of any petroleum product. There is, in pockets, a pattern of arbitrage that is creating the appearance of one," the government said. According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been absorbing losses of nearly Rs 550 crore per day on the sale of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG as part of a broader consumer protection strategy amid ongoing geopolitical disruptions in West Asia. Retail



fuel prices have therefore not fully reflected the rise in international crude prices. The government said this pricing cushion is intended for households, farmers and ordinary consumers, and not for industrial procurement, where fuel prices continue to track international benchmarks. The government in a press release said industrial buyers are increasingly diverting purchases from bulk channels to

retail pumps in order to benefit from lower retail prices. This, in turn, is leading to concentrated demand at PSU retail outlets and creating localised supply stress. The ministry noted that private oil marketing companies have seen around a 38% decline in high-speed diesel (HSD) offtake this month across both retail and bulk customers due to higher pricing, with volumes shifting to PSU retail outlets. PSU

bulk customer volumes have also declined nearly 29%, indicating migration toward retail pumps. To curb malpractice, the Centre has asked States and Union Territories to form special enforcement squads and initiate strict action against black marketing, unauthorised stocking, hoarding and diversion of petroleum products under provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and related control orders.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has been holding regular consultations with PSU OMCs, state governments and industry bodies to ensure uninterrupted fuel availability. The Petroleum Secretary also reviewed the situation with Chief Secretaries of States and UTs, along with industry bodies including FICCI and CII. India currently has an installed refining capacity of 258.1 million tonnes per annum across 22 operational refineries, making it the world's fourth-largest refiner. Domestic petroleum consumption stood at 243.2 million tonnes in fiscal year 2026, while exports of refined petroleum products were 61.5 million tonnes during the year. "The Government remains fully seized of the international situation," the statement said, adding that India's refining capacity, PSU OMC operations and coordination between the Centre, states and industry continue to provide a strong energy security framework during the current period of global uncertainty.

Ola Electric secures approval for commercial e-scooter launch

New Delhi: Ola Electric has secured regulatory approval for a new electric scooter aimed at India's commercial mobility market, according to a government certification document, signalling the company may be preparing to enter the fast-growing commercial EV two-wheeler segment as early as this quarter. The homologation, granted by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) in February 2026 under the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), covers an L1-category electric scooter powered by a 4-kilowatt motor with a top speed of about 70 kilometres per hour. The vehicle appears to be based on Ola Electric's existing S1 platform but configured for commercial use cases such as food delivery, quick-commerce logistics and urban fleet operations, according to people familiar with the plan. Industry sources said homologation is typically among the final regulatory steps before a product launch, indicating the vehicle could be nearing commercial rollout. The scooter's configuration suggests a focus on operating economics, range and fleet utilisation — key priorities for delivery riders and fleet operators. The timing coincides with rising fuel prices following supply disruptions linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, increasing operating costs for gig workers and commercial fleet operators that continue to rely largely on petrol-powered two-wheelers. Policy momentum is also building in favour of electrification. Delhi's draft EV Policy 2026 proposes phasing out new internal combustion engine two-wheeler registrations within two years, potentially accelerating the transition toward electric commercial fleets. Industry analysts view the commercial EV two-wheeler market as a significant long-term growth opportunity because of high daily vehicle utilisation and faster replacement cycles in delivery and mobility fleets. Earlier this week, Ola Electric founder and Chairman Bhavish Aggarwal acknowledged rising interest in electric two-wheelers among gig workers amid elevated fuel prices in a post on X, though he did not reference any upcoming commercial-focused vehicle. Ola Electric did not respond to requests for comment on the homologation or potential launch timeline. If launched this quarter, the scooter would mark Ola Electric's entry into India's rapidly expanding commercial mobility EV segment, intensifying competition in a market increasingly seen as central to future electric vehicle adoption.



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PL Capital's Asset Management Arm Reports Strong Equity Market Recovery Led by Liquidity, Domestic Resilience, and Broad-Based Participation

Mumbai, May, 2026: PL Asset Management, the asset management business of PL Capital, has released its latest outlook on the market and strategy for April 2026 that indicates a strong recovery in Indian equities driven by improving liquidity conditions, resilient domestic macroeconomic fundamentals and sustained participation from domestic investors despite continued global volatility. The firm said the month of April 2026 was a crucial turning point for the market sentiments. After a broad-based correction witnessed in March, investors moved from a "risk-off" to a "risk-on" stance. Indian equities saw one of the strongest monthly recoveries in recent years with the Nifty up 7.46%, Midcaps up 13.22% and Small Caps up 17.10%. The rally was led by domestic cyclical and sectors such as industrials, defence, real estate, metals, energy, and financials, reflecting renewed confidence in India's structural growth

story. PL Asset Management also stated that the domestic macroeconomic environment remained supportive throughout the month. The GST revenue of India touched an all-time high of ₹2.42 lakh crore in April, registering an increase of 8.7% on a year-over-year basis. The Manufacturing PMI also improved to reach 55.9 in April compared to 53.9 in March, indicating strong momentum in the beginning of FY27. The total value of India's exports in FY26 was estimated to be around US\$863 billion, indicating the strength of its export sector. Nevertheless, the company warned that inflationary pressure and supply-side risks are important to consider. In April, Brent crude rose briefly to US\$126 per barrel due to geopolitical risks. In this regard, PL

Asset Management also pointed out the exceptional resilience shown by the Indian markets amid persistent FII outflows. From the beginning of 2026, FIIs have pulled out nearly ₹1.9 lakh crore from the Indian markets. Nevertheless, the company is of the view that these outflows are mostly due to the allocation of global capital to AI-driven prospects in developed countries like the US and North Asia. The report also observed that market breadth indicators suggest the ongoing rally may still have room for further expansion. Nearly 90% of listed stocks delivered positive returns during April, while broader market indices continue to trade approximately 18.9% below their all-time highs, leaving scope for further participation. Factor performance during the month strongly reflected a "risk-on" environment, with High Beta and Momentum factors outperforming defensive Low Volatility strategies. Value-oriented invest-

ing also generated strong relative performance across both short and medium-term periods. Commenting on the market outlook, Siddharth Vora said: "The month of April 2026 witnessed a major change in investor sentiments, owing to the factors of liquidity support, improved domestic conditions, and increased risk appetite, which led to a rally in all sectors. Even after facing issues such as high crude oil prices, geopolitical risks, and foreign institutional investors' selling pressure, the Indian market showed great resilience." "Despite the current market being very sensitive to liquidity events and macroeconomic events, the improvements in breadth, the presence of good investments in selected industries, and the comfort in valuations still make us optimistic. The investment philosophy continues to be based on disciplined selection of factors with a bias towards value, quality, and selected cyclicality.

Booming AI chip demand helps create two new \$1tn club members

The stock market valuations of chip-makers SK Hynix and Micron have risen above the \$1tn (£740bn) mark, driven by a boom in artificial intelligence (AI) data centres. Shares in South Korea's SK Hynix, a key supplier to AI chip giant Nvidia, jumped by 10% on Wednesday, continuing a rally that has seen its share price more than triple since the start of this year. On Tuesday, US memory chipmaker Micron's shares rose by almost 20% after investment bank UBS tripled its stock price target for the company. Both companies join a growing group of firms with valuations above \$1tn, including technology giants Nvidia, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Google-owner Alphabet and Meta. There has been massive global demand for advanced computer chips that power AI tools, lifting the shares of companies associated with the technology. The surge in demand in recent years has led to a global memory chip shortage, pushing up sales for manufacturers like SK Hynix and Micron. Earlier in May, South Korea's Samsung



The stock market valuations of chip-makers SK Hynix and Micron have risen above the \$1tn (£740bn) mark

Electronics, known for its smartphones and televisions, joined the \$1tn club and became only the second Asian firm to reach the milestone after Taiwanese chipmaker TSMC. Samsung is also a major manufacturer of semiconductors, with Nvidia among its customers. Separately, Samsung's shares jumped by more than 6% on Wednesday after union members voted in favour of a pay deal, averting a strike that threatened to hit its business. Samsung is now valued at around \$1.34tn, with its shares more than doubling since the start of this year. It comes as South Korea's benchmark Kospi stock index, which is dominated by tech firms, also hit a fresh record high. Nvidia has been the biggest winner in the AI spending spree and in October became the first company to reach a stock market value of \$5tn. The firm continues to report record sales, though there have been growing concerns over increased competition in the sector. Microsoft and Apple have also recently crossed the \$4tn valuation mark. But some investors have warned of a potential AI bubble, questioning whether these companies are overvalued.

THINK Gas Swiftly Restores City Gas Supply After Pipeline Damage

Company Urges 'Dial Before You Dig' Awareness for Safety

Anantapur, May 2026: A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated excavation work carried out for rectification of water pipeline work near 3rd crossroad George pet in Anantapur. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Anantapur district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users. Despite the presence of visible route markers, cautionary signage, and emergency contact boards along the pipeline route, the contractor involved in



the excavation failed to notify THINK Gas before starting work and did not submit any post-incident report. As per government regulations, any third-party planning to carry out excavation work must inform the City Municipal authorities or the City Gas Distribution company through the 'Dial Before You Dig' contact number. The incident occurred without prior intimation to the company, prompting THINK Gas to file an

official complaint against the party responsible. As per the current legal provisions under IPC Sections 285 and 336, such unauthorised damage constitutes an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to 25 crores. THINK Gas urges all contractors, agencies, and individuals to comply with this safety requirement. The toll-free number to contact THINK Gas before any digging activity is 1800 2022 999. The initiative aims to provide

Isuzu Motors India announces attractive leasing solution for ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB, enabling smarter fleet acquisition

May, 2026: Isuzu Motors India, a subsidiary of Isuzu Motors Limited and one of India's leading commercial vehicle exporters, today announced the introduction of a new leasing model for the ISUZU D-Max S-CAB. With vehicle leasing steadily evolving as a preferred option for various businesses in India, the new model aims to offer customers a smarter and more convenient way to access commercial vehicles without the burden of ownership. The programme is being introduced with a strong focus on the ISUZU D-Max S-CAB, a vehicle widely recognised for its durability, reliability, performance and versatility across diverse business applications. The leasing model is designed to offer greater operational flexibility and financial efficiency. It enables businesses and fleet operators to use the vehicle for a fixed tenure eliminating concerns related to high upfront capital investment, depreciation, or resale uncertainties. The initiative aims to provide

customers with a hassle-free mobility solution while helping them optimise cash flow, maintain predictable operating expenses and operate a modern, reliable, and compliant fleet. Highlights of the leasing solution:

- **Attractive monthly rental of INR 38,999/-**
- **Fixed tenure of 4 years**
- **Zero down payment**
- **No Additional service costs**
- **No insurance or registration expenses**
- **Significant savings over traditional financing models**

(Terms and Conditions apply) Customers can also enjoy significant savings of up to INR 1.81 lakh by opting for the leasing model over the traditional financial model. This enables businesses to reduce maintenance burdens, scale operations without capital constraints, deploy vehicles faster, improve operational efficien-

cy, and progress with greater confidence. Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, Managing Director, Isuzu Motors India, said, "ISUZU has built a strong global reputation for delivering reliable, durable, and efficient commercial vehicles that support businesses across diverse markets worldwide. As a trusted global brand, we continue to strengthen our presence in India, which remains a highly important market for us. With the introduction of the leasing option, we aim to make ISUZU commercial vehicles, known for its Japanese quality and durability, more accessible and financially efficient for entrepreneurs". Mr. Takeshi Hirano, Deputy Managing Director, Isuzu Motors India, said, "We are excited to

introduce the leasing model for the ISUZU D-Max S-CAB, which is designed to make commercial vehicle ownership more accessible for customers. The ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB has consistently established itself as a dependable vehicle in the commercial vehicle space, with its high build quality and reliability. It has been a key success enabler for large businesses and fleet operators across diverse applications. With this new leasing proposal, we are excited to introduce a smarter, more flexible and hassle-free way for our customers to acquire the trusted S-CAB. By removing the traditional barriers of ownership and upfront investment, this initiative will enable businesses to realise their business potential from day one with greater financial efficiency and operational flexibility."



DOZENS KILLED IN LEBANON AS ISRAEL INTENSIFIES STRIKES

Dozens of people were killed in an intensive wave of Israeli strikes across southern and eastern Lebanon on Tuesday, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to step up military action against Hezbollah. At least 31 people were killed in the latest attacks, including several children, Lebanon's health ministry said. The Israeli military said it hit more than 100 Hezbollah infrastructure sites and fighters in what was one of the heaviest nights of bombardment since a US-brokered ceasefire began in mid-April. It came after Netanyahu this week said he had given instructions to "press the pedal even harder" in targeting Hezbollah. Early on Wednesday, sirens sounded in northern Israel early on after a projectile was launched from Lebanon into Israel, the Israeli military said in a statement. It added the projectile fell into an



open area and no injuries were reported. Speaking at a security cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Netanyahu said Israel was "deepening our operation in Lebanon". "The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is operating with large forces on the ground and seizing dominant terrain," he said, adding that they were "fortifying the security

zone" to protect communities in northern Israel from Hezbollah attacks. The ceasefire has been repeatedly violated by both sides, threatening to derail the complex ongoing talks to end the war between the US, Israel and Iran. Israeli air and artillery strikes have continued daily, especially in the south of Lebanon,

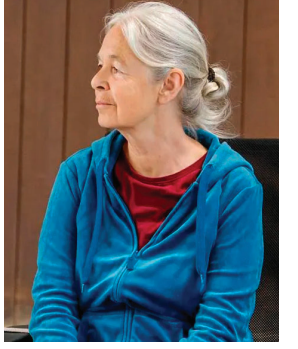
while Hezbollah has been launching rockets and drones at communities in northern Israel and Israeli troops occupying parts of southern Lebanon. Air strikes targeted the Bekaa Valley village of Mashghara and Burj al-Shamali across southern Lebanon, local media said. Some strikes hit near Beaufort Castle, state

media reported, a nearly 900-year-old fortress recognised by the UN's heritage body UNESCO for being "one of the best-preserved examples of medieval castles" in the region. In Monday's video statement, Netanyahu said that Israel was going to increase the number and intensity of its strikes targeting Hezbollah in response to the Iran-backed Shia Muslim group's attacks, including those involving fibre-optic drones that can evade Israeli defences. "We will deal them a crushing blow," he vowed. The announcement prompted scenes of panic in Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, where residents were seen fleeing the area following the remarks. Thousands of cars lined the streets with families trying to escape for safety. Though the strikes spared the capital, Israeli warplanes carried out wave after wave of strikes across

Lebanon throughout the evening and into the early hours of Tuesday. The BBC counted dozens of attacks across nearly 50 locations. A man and his wife were killed in a strike on their home in the southern town of Arab Salim on Monday evening, and two other people were killed in the village of Kauthariyet El Rez, according to NNA. Overnight, several homes in Mashghara were destroyed in Israeli strikes. The Lebanese health ministry said the bodies of 11 people, among them one woman and two children, were pulled from the rubble. Another 15 people were injured, it added. These included a young boy, Mohammed. Videos show rescue crews in the middle of the night frantically digging through the rubble as two tiny arms poke through a hole they've made. Caked in dirt and dust, they finally pulled the seven-year-old to safety.

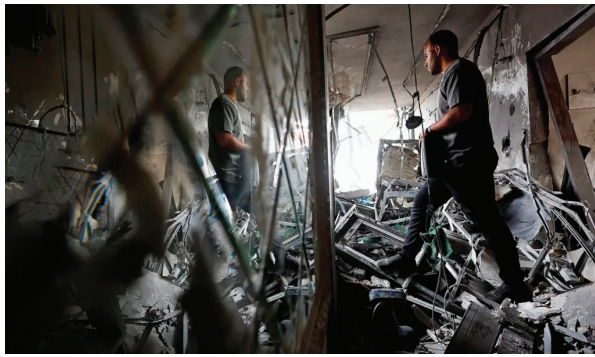
Former member of German militant group jailed for armed robberies after decades on the run

A former member of the German militant group Red Army Faction (RAF) has been jailed for 13 years for carrying out a string of armed robberies between 1999 and 2016. Daniela Klette, 67, was finally caught in a flat in Berlin in 2024 after more than 30 years on the run. She went on trial last year. Her defence had called for her acquittal but the court in Verden in Lower Saxony found her guilty on Wednesday of aggravated robbery, violating weapons laws and other offences over a 17-year period. The RAF, a violent anti-capitalist group also known as the Baader-Meinhof gang, was eventually disbanded after a campaign of murder, kidnapping and bombing from the early 1970s to the early 1990s. The court found Klette had robbed supermarkets and armoured vans along with two other former members of the RAF faction, Burkhard Garweg and Ernst-Volker Staub, who have not yet been caught. Dozens of Klette's support-



ers booed the guilty verdict in court, chanting "freedom for Daniela". According to Hans-Jakob Schindler, head of the Counter Extremism Project, she has become "a kind of grandmother heroine for the extreme left in Berlin". Klette did not explicitly admit to being an RAF member during the trial, and Schindler told the BBC she would never face trial for terrorism allegations against her from that period because of the statute of limitations. However, she could still face a further trial, as federal prosecutors allege she was complicit in three of the group's attacks.

Israeli strike in Gaza City kills new head of Hamas's military wing



The commander of Hamas's military wing, Mohammed Odeh, has been killed in a strike in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday - days after his predecessor died in a similar attack. Dozens more were injured in the attack, which hit a residential building in one of Gaza City's busiest market areas, local medics and witnesses said. Israel's military and Shin Bet security service and said buildings that served as a hideout for Odeh were targeted after his movements were tracked for several months. On Wednesday, Hamas confirmed that Odeh had been killed, along with his wife and two of his children. Despite the Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreed in October, violence in Gaza has continued on a near-daily basis. Tuesday's strike hit the upper three floors of the al-Kayali building in the centre of Gaza City, where streets were busy with shoppers ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. Rescue teams rushed to the scene of the strikes but struggled to reach the upper floors because of the scale of the

damage and congestion in the area. Witnesses said at least five missiles struck the building almost simultaneously from different directions. One resident said he heard the sound of a helicopter hovering overhead before the attack. Footage from the scene showed ambulances and civil defence crews searching through the damaged building as crowds gathered nearby. A statement from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Shin Bet said: "As part of the joint operation by the IDF and Shin Bet to eliminate the terrorist Mohammed Odeh, several buildings in the heart of Gaza City that served as a hideout for him were attacked, after months of intelligence surveillance in order to track his movements and the movements of his assistants in the organisation." They added that they had also struck "a nearby apartment belonging to a Hamas terrorist who raided on October 7 and was part of Odeh's circle of assistants", referring to the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that triggered the war in Gaza.

ONE KILLED AND NINE MISSING AFTER CHEMICAL EXPLOSION AT US PAPER MILL



At least one person has been killed and nine others are still missing after a major chemical explosion at a paper mill in Washington, authorities said. The explosion occurred at 07:15 PDT (15:15 GMT) at the Nippon Dynawave Packaging facility in Longview, 130 miles (210km) south of Seattle. A further nine people have been injured in the spill,

including eight employees and one firefighter, the Longview Fire Department said Tuesday evening, adding that the tank remains unstable. The explosion occurred due to a "rupture of a tank containing white liquor", the company said in a statement. White liquor is a highly corrosive chemical used in the paper-making process.

Ebola-hit DR Congo faces 'catastrophic collision' of disease and conflict, WHO warns

Ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo is hampering the Ebola outbreak response, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the east of the country was at the centre of a "catastrophic collision of disease and conflict" with the Ebola outbreak in Ituri province outpacing the response. In a statement posted on X, Tedros said the WHO "cannot build community trust or isolate the sick while bombs are falling". He is due to arrive in DR Congo on Wednesday to spearhead scaling up efforts to contain the virus. There have been 220 suspected deaths since the outbreak was declared. Aid workers have been struggling as travel is diffi-



cult because of poor road conditions while conflict and mass displacement have also weakened the health system - as have international aid cuts. Ituri, where most of the cases have been reported, has been under military rule since 2021, when the civilian authority was replaced by a military general in an attempt to neutralise dozens of armed groups that oper-

ate there. Tedros said stopping transmission in the region "depends entirely on humanitarian access". "Yet ongoing clashes are driving mass displacement, pushing exposed contacts into overcrowded camps and severing critical containment corridors," he added. "Frontline workers are risking everything, while attacks on health facilities make tracking cases and

their contacts nearly impossible." He called on all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire to allow medical teams safe access. Concerns over the possible spread of the Ebola outbreak has spurred more countries into imposing strict travel restrictions. Canada has announced a temporary 90-day entry ban on residents from DR Congo and neighbouring Uganda and South Sudan. The Bahamas also imposed strict rules meaning foreign nationals from those countries face quarantine or isolation measures. Last week the US banned non-citizens who had travelled to the three places from entering. The Congolese health authorities say around 1,000 people are currently showing symptoms consistent with Ebola.

MAGA candidate's win in Texas primary may also help Democrats in Senate battle

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton easily defeated Senator John Cornyn in a Republican run-off primary on Tuesday night. While the outcome had been expected for weeks, it marks a stunning defeat for an incumbent who served in Congress for 23 years, including 12 years as a high-ranking member of the Senate Republican leadership team. The bruising contest set a record for the most expensive Senate primary campaign in US history. It also sets up what will be a closely watched contest in November's general election between Paxton and his Democratic opponent, state legislator James Talarico. The outcome of that race will help determine



whether Democrats can win back control of the US Senate for the final two years of Donald Trump's presidency. Many Democrats have viewed Paxton as the weaker of the two candidates and relish what they believe is an opportunity to flip a Senate seat in a state with a long history of

electing Republicans. Seemingly confident of his impending primary victory, Paxton, 62, has already begun focusing on November's general election contest, airing television adverts over the past week attacking his opponent as a left-wing extremist. Polls have indicated a tight race in a state that

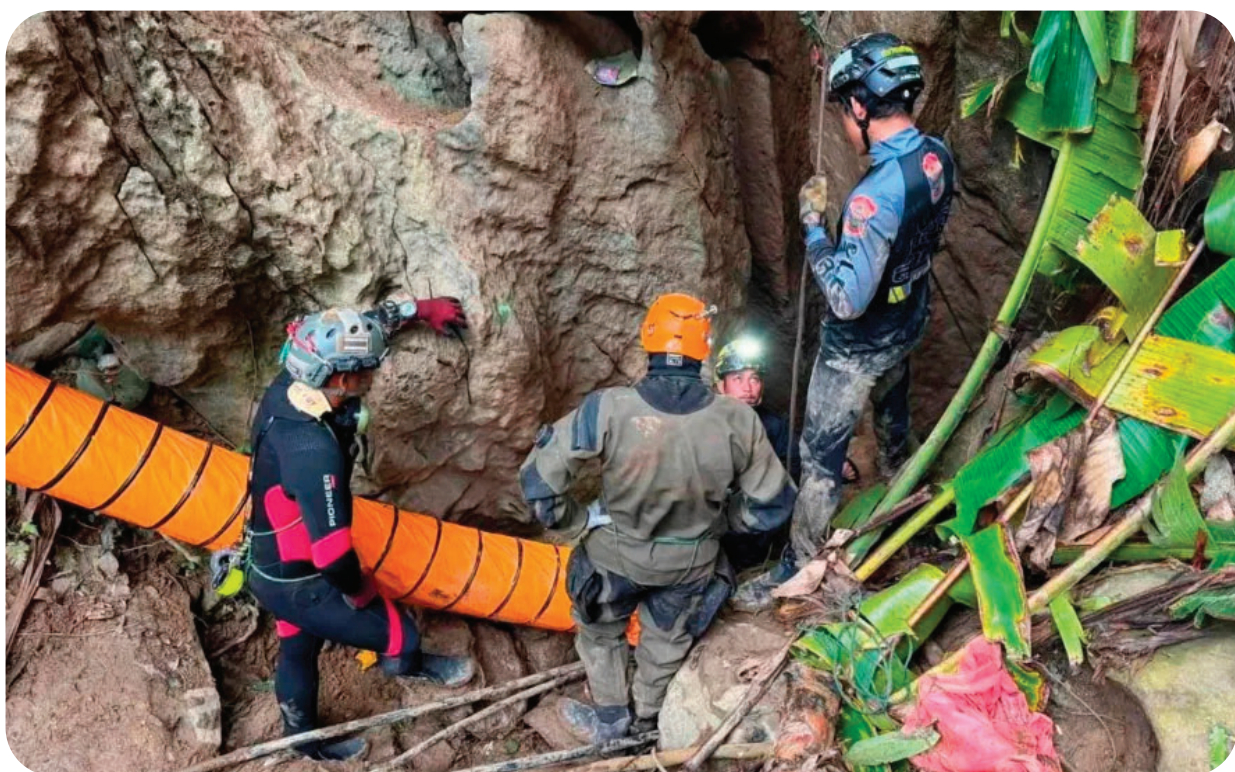
hasn't elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1988. It's been 46 years since at least two incumbent senators were felled by voters in their own party in the same election cycle. Just 10 days ago, Louisiana senator Bill Cassidy failed to even reach his party's run-off primary, finishing behind two Republican challengers - the political equivalent of lightning striking in the same spot twice. Both Cornyn and Cassidy faced off against candidates endorsed by President Donald Trump. But that's where the similarities largely end. Unlike Cassidy, who voted to convict Trump during his 2021 Senate impeachment trial, Cornyn was a party loyalist who touted his ties to the president.

Ghana welcomes Pope's apology over Catholic Church's role in slavery



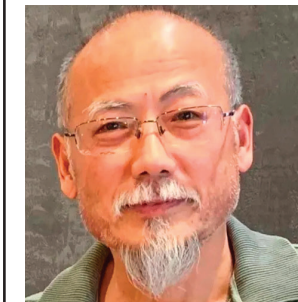
Ghana has welcomed Pope Leo XIV's apology for the Catholic Church's historic role in slavery, describing it as an "act of moral courage" that was important in the global pursuit of "truth, human dignity and justice". The Pope issued the clearest apology yet for the Church's involvement in legitimising slavery and its delay in condemning it for centuries. The apology was published on Monday in the Pope's first major teaching document of his papacy, which also focused on the dangers of artificial intelligence (AI). Ghana was a major hub for the transatlantic slave trade when millions of people were captured and loaded on to ships, never to return home. Between the 16th and 19th Centuries, 12-15 million Africans were shipped to the Caribbean, with about two million dying during the journey. Ghana has long been leading efforts for compensation and apologies from Western nations for the slave trade. The West African nation's government said the Pope's recognition of the painful

past was an important step towards healing, reconciliation and a just society. "[The apology] reinforces the growing global understanding that confronting historical injustices demands truth-telling and moral responsibility as essential foundations for justice and reconciliation," its statement, released late on Tuesday, said. The Pope's apology was delivered in what is known as an encyclical - technically a letter to Catholic bishops, but which over recent decades have been how a pontiff passes on messages to the world. In the papal letter - titled "Magnifica Humanitas" ("Magnificent Humanity") - Pope Leo sincerely asked for a pardon in the name of the Church, adding that it was "impossible not to feel deep sorrow when contemplating the immense suffering and humiliation endured by so many". Leo said Church authorities had at times responded to requests of rulers by "regulating and legitimising forms of subjugation, including the enslavement of [non-Christians]".



Five people found alive after week trapped in flooded Laos cave

South Korea detains dissident who fled China in rubber boat



Dong had previously discussed his escape plan with Sheng Xue, she said, but she had told him it would be too dangerous. "He ended up really doing it... Dong Guangping is too tenacious, too brave," she said, adding that he had planned his escape with "meticulous checks and preparation". Human Rights in China (HRIC), an NGO based in New York, has urged Seoul to "uphold humanitarian

principles and international human rights obligations" by not handing Dong over to China, where he "faces a grave risk of persecution and torture". It also called on Korean authorities to allow Dong to seek political asylum, or help facilitate his safe passage to Canada where his family members live. "That a man nearing seventy years old was driven to cross open seas in a small inflatable boat is itself a devastating indictment of China's human rights situation," HRIC said. Multiple escapes in 1999, Dong was fired from the police force after he signed a petition to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the brutal Tiananmen crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.



Sooryavanshi slays SRH, misses fastest IPL 100 by one hit before RR slip to 243/8



IGA SWIATEK, ALEXANDER ZVEREV, NOVAK DJOKOVIC IN ACTION AS FRENCH OPEN HOTS UP

As temperatures continue to soar at the French Open, the competition starts to heat up for Iga Swiatek and Alexander Zverev when they face tough Czech tests in the second round on Wednesday. Novak Djokovic will meet a second hometown player on Court Philippe Chatrier as he seeks to continue his quest for a record 25th major title and Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina is also in action. Four-time Roland Garros winner Swiatek will open the day's play on centre court against upcoming Sara Bejlek. The 20-year-old Czech has never got further than the round of 64 in Paris, but won her first WTA title in February in the 500-level event in Abu Dhabi and has broken into the world's top 40. After a comfortable opening win for Swiatek against Australian wildcard Emerson Jones, Bejlek should provide a sterner test of the Polish third seed bid to regain the trophy she last held in 2024.



Men's second seed Zverev also glided through the first round in straight sets, but the three-time Grand Slam runner-up will next meet 43rd-ranked Tomas Machac in the night session on centre court. The German beat Machac in their only previous meeting, at the Paris Olympics two years ago, but the Czech has progressed, earning himself two ATP titles and briefly cracking the world's top 20. Following a battling win over big-serving Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, 24-time major champion Djokovic will face a different challenge in the round of 64 against Valentin Royer.

What Is Paul Casey's Net Worth? Why He Withdrew From LIV Golf Korea

Veteran golfer Paul Casey of England is one of the experienced players who have joined LIV Golf. The English golfer Paul Casey has quit playing the ongoing LIV Golf Korea due to an issue with his wrist. Since the star golfer is still looking to win his first-ever title in the LIV Golf Series, fans are worried about the participation of Paul Casey for the upcoming tournament, where a total prize money of \$30 million will be up for grabs in the LIV Golf Series. Who is Paul Casey? Everything About His Career Accomplishments, Majors and Net Worth Paul Casey is considered to be one of the top golfers from England whose career success was



based on participation in the PGA Tour and the European Tour. Born in Cheltenham, England in 1977, the man grew up in Weybridge. He honed his skills when playing golf professionally at Arizona State University, United States. As an amateur, he became the first player in history to win three consecutive Pac-

Why Did Paul Casey Leave LIV Golf Korea? Paul Casey had no choice but to leave LIV Golf Korea due to pain in his wrist, according to a statement released via Crushers GC on their social media platform. At this point, it cannot be confirmed if his wrist issues are connected with previous ones he suffered during his career. In the meantime, Australian player Travis Smyth has stepped into Casey's place on the Crushers GC team list, which will attend the Busan competition. This decision occurred after Casey made a very good performance for his side in Virginia, resulting in a tied 14th place at the LIV season.

Ananya Birla Reacts After RCB Demolish GT To March Into IPL 2026 Final

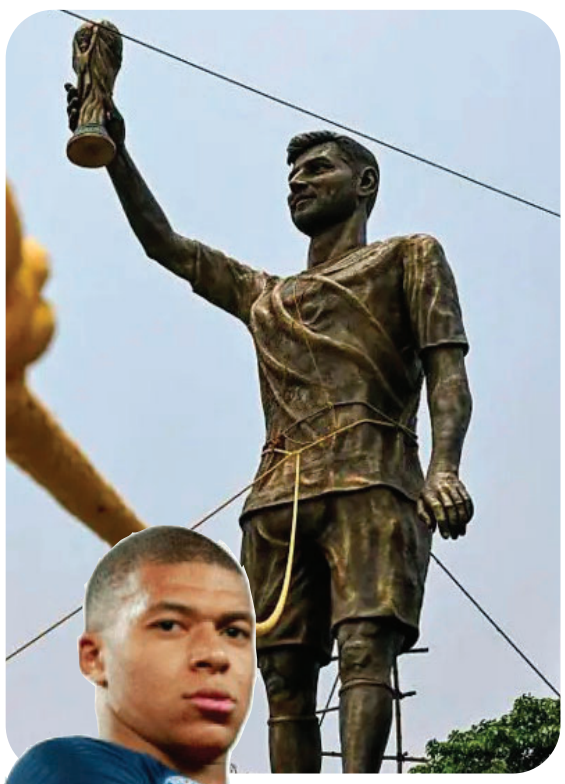
Royal Challengers Bengaluru marched into the IPL 2026 final after a 92-run win over Gujarat Titans in Dharamsala on Tuesday. The defending champions stayed true to their potential by first notching the highest-ever total in IPL playoffs - 254/5 in 20 overs - and then got GT all out for 162. Royal Challengers Bengaluru is making news both on and off the field. Before the IPL 2026, RCB became the costliest IPL franchise after a consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) acquired the side for a whopping USD 1.78 billion (approximately Rs 16,706 crore) from United Spirits Limited. Ananya Birla, a prominent

face in the Aditya Birla Group, was at the Dharamsala Stadium when RCB beat GT. "What a Win. Congratulations @royalchallengers.bengaluru. Today was so inspiring to witness. Here we come, finals," she wrote on her Instagram story. Royal Challengers Bengaluru director of cricket Mo Bobat credited Rajat Patidar's hard work with batting coach Dinesh Karthik and head coach Andy Flower after the RCB captain produced a stunning unbeaten 93 to help the defending champions reach their second consecutive IPL final. Patidar's explosive knock pow-



ered RCB to a record-breaking 254/5 against Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1 before the bowlers completed a dominant 92-run victory at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium on Tuesday. "He's worked incredibly hard on his game with both DK (Dinesh Karthik) and Andy Flower," Bobat said in the post-match press conference. "One thing about Rajat is that he middles the ball a lot. Whether it's pace or spin, front foot or back foot, the ball often hits the middle of his bat.

India's 'unsafe' 70ft Messi statue to be moved



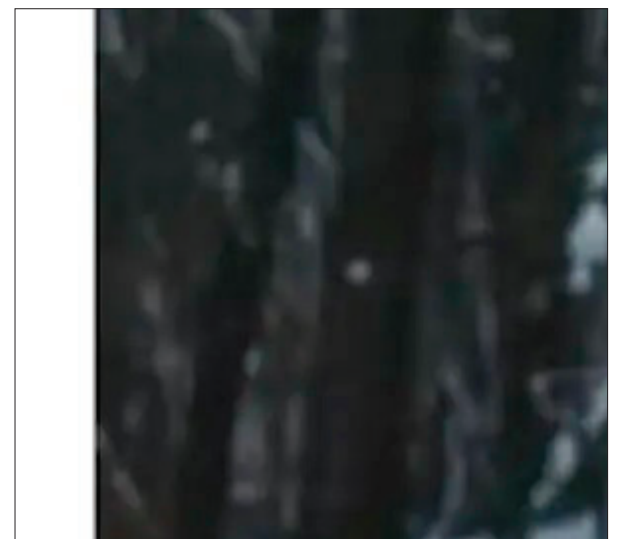
Hardik Pandya, With Over 40 Million Followers, Deletes Instagram Account

Hardik Pandya's Instagram account has been deleted. Pandya, the Mumbai Indians captain, is quite active on social media. But on Wednesday evening, Pandya's account showed the message: "Sorry, this page isn't available. The link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed. Go back to Instagram." He had over 40 million followers. The move follows MI's unceremonious exit from IPL 2026. The five-time champions could win only four out of 14 matches and finished the league in 9th place, only above Lucknow Super Giants. Hardik had a challenging campaign, even from an individual standpoint, scoring just 146 runs in 8 innings and taking only 3 wickets. Former India batter Wasim Jaffer stated that while he wouldn't want Hardik to continue as

MI captain next year, the franchise should definitely retain him to let him focus purely on his individual game. "I will not make him the captain, but he will surely be retained. I want him to open up and get the best out of him," Jaffer said on his YouTube channel. When asked to name Hardik's replacement as captain, Jaffer added: "At this stage, it would be hard to pick a captain." MI finished a disappointing ninth in the 10-team points table after suffering a 30-run loss to Rajasthan Royals in their final league game here - their 10th defeat in 14 matches.



Who is Lilia Schneider? Meet US Open Winner Bryson DeChambeau's Rumoured Girlfriend



In light of how well Bryson DeChambeau continues to perform in all the big tournaments he participates in, the speculation regarding who his love interest is has once again been triggered. Dating each other since 2022, Lilia Schneider has found herself thrust into the limelight as the fans clamor for details about the golfer's personal life. Though no official confirmation of the pair's alleged romantic affair exists, the couple has generated countless rumors with their appearance at tournaments and interactions on social media. Who is Golfer and Social Media Sensation Lilia Schneider Rumoured To Be Dating Bryson DeChambeau? Lilia Schneider is an American former golfer at a university level and a social media influencer who is originally from Michigan. She studied at Marian University, located in Indiana. Besides her academic work, Schneider participated actively in college golf tournaments while obtaining her Bachelor of Marketing from the university. Apart from this, Lilia Schneider has been expanding her social media platform by posting tutorials on golf, videos about her personal life, and much more. Schneider became linked to DeChambeau for the first time when people saw her riding with the golfer in a golf cart at one of the LIV tournaments held in Chicago in 2022. The rumors kept escalating further due to her appearing in some of the golf events while also posting on social media some content related to the LIV Golf tournaments. The couple, however, has not confirmed anything about their affair. DeChambeau once talked about his relationship status in a podcast and admitted that he was 'talking' to someone who made him feel

Why Kylian Mbappe Is the Favorite To Win FIFA World Cup Golden Boot Once Again

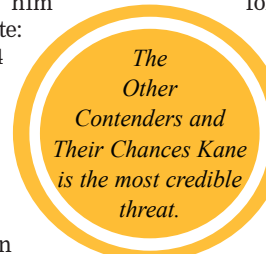
The Golden Boot race at a World Cup is usually messy, unpredictable, and decided as much by penalty luck and team momentum as individual brilliance. History is littered with surprise winners: Sandor Kocsis in 1954, Gerd Müller in 1970, Gary

Lineker in 1986. Tidy narratives rarely survive contact with the tournament itself. And yet, heading into the summer of 2026, the betting markets, the pundits, and most sensible observers have landed in the same place. Kylian Mbappe is the one to beat, and the reasons are fairly straightforward.

Mbappe Is The Top Contender His World Cup numbers before 2026 already put him among the elite: 12 goals in 14 appearances. He is France's primary striker, their penalty taker, and their main knockout threat. France are priced as the second-shortest nation to win the tournament outright, meaning he is expected to play all the way

through to the final weekend in July. He arrives at the tournament in the kind of form that makes arguments against him feel slightly hollow. He finished La Liga's top scorer for Real Madrid, closing in on 50 goals across all competitions, and topped the Champions League scoring charts with 15 goals in 912 minutes of play. That is not a player running on reputa-

tion. That is a player in the best form of his career. He also arrives only four goals away from equalling Miroslav Klose's all-time World Cup record of 16 goals. With eight games available to a team that reaches the final, the record is genuinely within range if France go as deep as expected. The current consensus odds across major sportsbooks have Mbappe at +600, with Harry Kane behind him at +700, Lionel Messi at +1200, Erling Haaland at +1400, and Lamine Yamal at +1800.

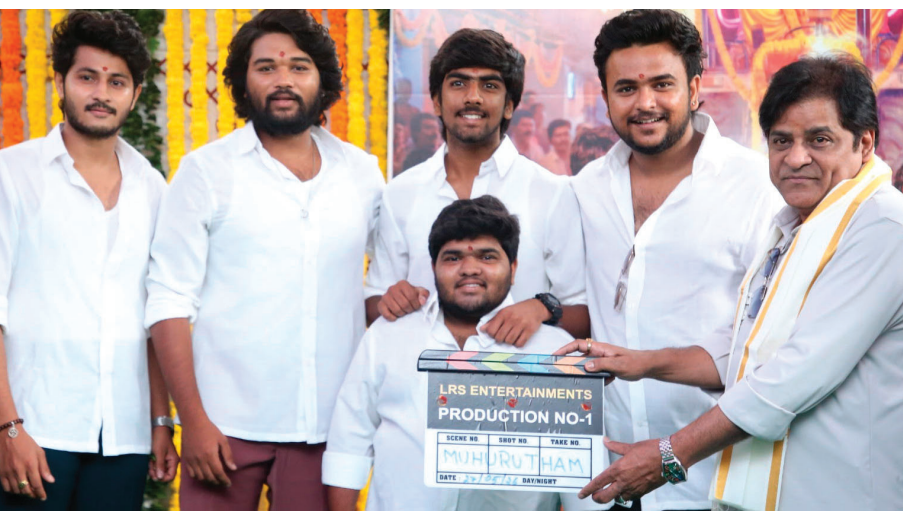


FILM PRODUCERS MEET SRI PAWAN KALYAN



Several Telugu film producers met the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Mr. Pawan Kalyan at Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday night. Development of film industry in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states and related issues were discussed. In this meeting, the producers Mr. Y. Ravi Shankar, Mr. Suryadevara Nagavamshi, Mr. Sahu Garapati, Mr. Kilaru Venkata Satish, Mr. Cherukuri Sudhakar participated.

“Lafoot Gang” Launched Grandly with Pooja Ceremonies Under LRS Entertainments Banner Directed by Anuraag Atharva Raju



A new film titled “Lafoot Gang” has been launched grandly under the LRS Entertainments banner. The movie is being produced by Kondapur Lakshmi Kanth Reddy and written & directed by Anuraag Atharva Raju. The film’s pooja ceremony was held at Ramanaidu Studios, Hyderabad in a grand manner. Several film personalities attended the launch event as chief guests, including director Pawan Sadineni, producer BVS Ravi, actors Raj Tarun, Akash Puri, Ali, Rahul Vijay, actress Deepshika, Archana Iyer, and director-producer Anil Kadiyala. Actor Ali gave the first clap for the movie, while director Pawan Sadineni switched on the camera. Actors Raj Tarun and Akash Puri

handed over the script to the team. The movie stars Rocky, Rithvik, Abhinav, Nandu, Antony Karthik and others in important roles. The team also revealed that several senior Tollywood actors will appear in key characters. The film’s cinematography is handled by Vardhan Mayur Koyyada, music is composed by RR Dhruvan, and editing is done by TC Prasanna Kumar. Venkatesh Attili is working as the Executive Producer. Speaking at the event, director Anuraag said that the movie is set in the 1990s and will be a highly entertaining film. He added that even though many stories have come from that time period, this film will offer a fresh entertainment experience. Producer Lakshmi Kanth Reddy thanked everyone who attended the launch event and asked for their blessings for the movie. Actress Deepshika wished the team great success. Music director RR Dhruvan said the story is very special and promised good songs and exciting updates in the future. He also said director Anuraag’s name will be remembered after this movie.

Sincerely Hope Sandigdhham Will Become A Big Success: Tammareddy Bharadwaj at the pre-release event

Sandhya Tiruveedhula is producing the upcoming film “Sandigdhham” under the banner of Thirdha Creations, with Pardasaradhi Kommoju directing it. Nihal, Priya Deshapag, Arjun CH, and Kajal Tiwari play the lead roles, while Thera Chepa fame Navenraj Sankarapu appears as the antagonist. The film is set for release on May 29th. The teaser, songs, and trailer released earlier have already impressed everyone. As part of the promotions, the team organized a pre-release event on Tuesday, with Tammareddy Bharadwaj attending as the chief guest.

Whether the movie becomes a hit or not is secondary, what’s important is letting people know that a film is releasing. I want everyone to promote this film as much as possible, and I sincerely hope it becomes a big success.” Director Pardasaradhi Kommoju said: “The media has always supported us throughout the journey of Sandigdhham. Many thanks to Tammareddy sir for attending. My producer and wife, Sandhya, stood by me throughout this journey. Every single artist in this film has performed wonderfully. My thanks to everyone who worked on the film. Editor Vishwan Raj supported me immensely. Gautham garu gave us excellent songs. We believe Sandigdhham will bring us the success we expect. For small films, promoting and releasing them is far more difficult than making them. Our film releases on May 29. It is made to entertain everyone, and we hope to receive the audience’s support.” Nihal said: “My thanks to Pardhu sir for giving me this opportunity in Sandigdhham. Our film releases on May 29- please watch it in theatres.”

Children’s Film “Summer Holidays” Should Entertain Everyone: Producer Dil Raju at Teaser Launch Event

Produced ‘Summer Holidays’ So That Children and Families Can Go to Theatres and Enjoy Together: Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni Hats Off to Producer Dheeraj, Who Passionately Backs Good Stories with Courage: Director Sai Rajesh

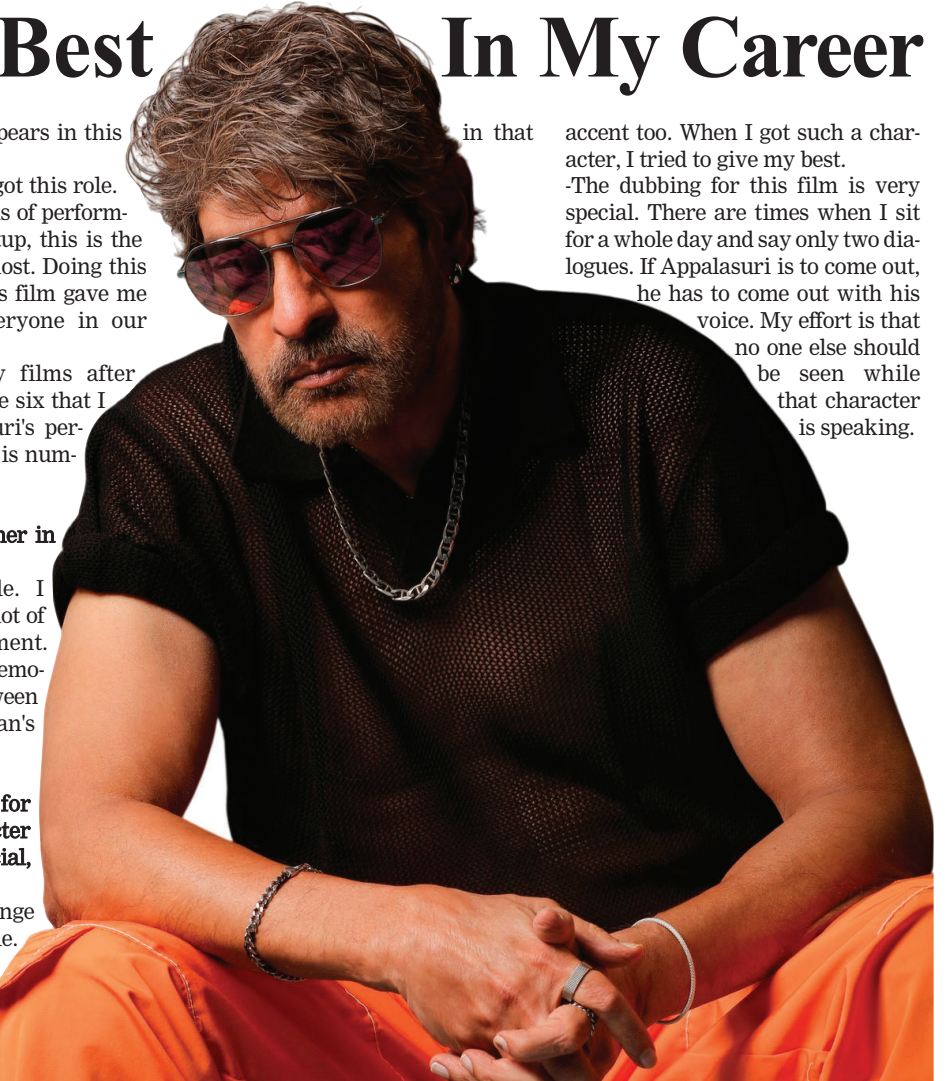
Producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni has earned a successful reputation by presenting content-driven films to audiences. Under his banner Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment, he is now bringing a children’s film titled “Summer Holidays” to audiences soon. beautiful story that brings back nostalgic childhood memories. Master Rohan, Master Arun, and Baby Khushi play key roles in the movie. “Summer Holidays” is gearing up for a grand theatrical release shortly. The teaser launch event for the film was held today with noted producer Dil Raju attending as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, producer Dil Raju said, “It has been a long time since we’ve seen such a lively film event. Dheeraj is doing well in the restaurant business and that cinema is risky. But he was determined and entered the industry anyway. Today, he has created his own path and delivered hit after hit. It’s been a long time since we had a proper children’s film. I hope this movie entertains everyone this summer and brings family audiences to theatres. All the best to Dheeraj and Giri for this film. The industry is currently going through a difficult phase. Many new directors are here today, and the success of small films is giving strength to the industry. I hope they continue achieving more success and keep the industry thriving.”



Highlights
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Jagapathi Babu: Appalasuri Role In ‘Peddhi’ Is The Best In My Career

The role of Appalasuri in ‘Peddhi’ stands as number one in my career. Peddhi will be remembered by the audience. The industry will breathe a sigh of relief with Peddhi: Versatile star Jagapathi Babu Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s rural action drama ‘Peddhi’. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas, Venkata Satish Kilaru is producing on a grand scale. With chartbuster songs and an amazing trailer, expectations on the film have already reached a huge level. The film will be released in theaters worldwide on June 4. On this occasion, versatile star Jagapathi Babu, who played a key role in the film, shared the film’s features at a press conference. Appalasuri’s role in ‘Peddhi’ looks very new.. How was that possible? The entire credit goes to director Buchi Babu. He wanted the character to be that way. Appalasuri’s look was designed with special care by National Award winning makeup artist Rashid. The first time I wore that getup, I realized that this character would be amazing. I am very particular about the getup. Apart from Jagapathi Babu, Appalasuri is



the only one who appears in this entire film. I feel lucky to have got this role. Emotionally, in terms of performance, in terms of getup, this is the role that I like the most. Doing this role in Ram Charan’s film gave me even more joy. Everyone in our house loves Charan. I have done many films after Legend. But there are six that I remember. Appalasuri’s performance in ‘Peddhi’ is number one on that list. In that accent too. When I got such a character, I tried to give my best. The dubbing for this film is very special. There are times when I sit for a whole day and say only two dialogues. If Appalasuri is to come out, he has to come out with his voice. My effort is that no one else should be seen while that character is speaking. Is your role as a father in this? - Not a father role. I played a role with a lot of love and attachment. There is a beautiful emotional bonding between me and Ram Charan’s character. The dubbing for Appalasuri’s character also seems very special, doesn’t it? -It was really a challenge to dub for this movie. But I enjoyed every moment. There was magic in that character. There was magic

and editing is done by TC Prasanna Kumar. Venkatesh Attili is working as the Executive Producer. Speaking at the event, director Anuraag said that the movie is set in the 1990s and will be a highly entertaining film. He added that even though many stories have come from that time period, this film will offer a fresh entertainment experience. Producer Lakshmi Kanth Reddy thanked everyone who attended the launch event and asked for their blessings for the movie. Actress Deepshika wished the team great success. Music director RR Dhruvan said the story is very special and promised good songs and exciting updates in the future. He also said director Anuraag’s name will be remembered after this movie.

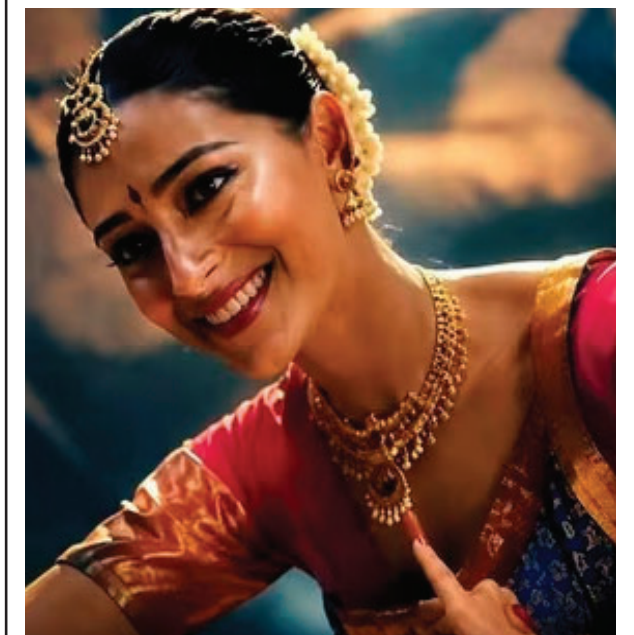
“Cinema Is Business, Not a Complaint Platform: Madhura Sreedhar Reddy”

Cinema is a wonderful medium. Don’t turn it into a platform for complaints. Every good film will always find a place in the hearts of the audience: Producer Madhura Sreedhar Reddy Recently, at movie events and other public platforms, several filmmakers in the film industry have been speaking about the problems and struggles they are facing. Reacting to such repeated comments from a section of Tollywood, director-producer Madhura Sreedhar Reddy shared his views through a social media post. He stated that cinema is a beautiful medium and should not be reduced to a stage for expressing grievances. He pointed out that in any field, people enter with a clear understanding of the risks, pressures, profits, and losses involved, and the film industry is no different. He also said that every genuinely good film will certainly receive audience appreciation. Responding to the issue, Madhura Sreedhar Reddy said: “In business, risks, pressures, and losses are natural. People step into any field after understanding these realities beforehand, and cinema is no exception. If you truly feel the conditions are unfavorable, then stop making films and move out of the industry. But coming before the microphone every single time and crying about ‘problems...’

Shobhaa De slams trolls mocking Ananya Panday’s dance in Chand Mera Dil: ‘Shouldn’t you call out director’



genuinely good film will certainly receive audience appreciation. Responding to the issue, Madhura Sreedhar Reddy said: “In business, risks, pressures, and losses are natural. People step into any field after understanding these realities beforehand, and cinema is no exception. If you truly feel the conditions are unfavorable, then stop making films and move out of the industry. But coming before the microphone every single time and crying about ‘problems...’



Ananya Panday has recently become the target of trolls after her Bharatanatyam fusion dance sequence in Chand Mera Dil went viral. A section of social media users, including classical dancers, criticised her performance and dubbed it “Nepo Natyam”. While opinions on the matter remain divided, author and columnist Shobhaa De has now come to the actor’s defence. She urged trolls not to single out Ananya and instead question the filmmakers and choreographers responsible for the sequence. and even the older stars, most of whom were not trained classical dancers but were expected to perform classical dances or fusion dances or modern dances - any kind of dance that the director thought was needed for a sequence. They did it, they lip-synced, they danced, they showed expressions. Is all that easy? It’s not easy at all. How many Hollywood stars do you know? How many big international stars have to do all of this and look amazing and look fabulous and look in love for the film, for whatever the performance demands?” She also requested the audience to react only after watching the film and understanding the full context. “I haven’t watched the film - I’ve seen clips - but to be constantly trolled and called ‘Nepo Natyam’, it sounds cute, but she has tried. And like I said, if you have to call out anyone, get the choreographer and get them to answer, though I believe the clip has been taken out of context.