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SCAN FOR E-PAPER

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

10-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 85,942
Tonsures: 29,238
Hundi kanakalu: 3,94 CR
Waiting Compartments: 07

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 6-8 H

6 including five tourists from Gujarat dead in Chamba after car falls into gorge; 4 injured

SHIMLA (TSIT):

Six people including five tourists from Gujarat were killed while four others sustained serious injuries as the car they were travelling in plunged into a deep gorge at Chamba district's Kakira in the wee hours of Monday, police said. Expressing grief over the incident, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the district administration to provide all possible



assistance to the affected families and ensure the best possible treatment to the injured, a statement issued here said.

The impact of the fall was so intense that parts of the vehicles were scattered all around, police said, adding that they and the rescue teams had difficulty in evacuating the injured persons - who were referred to the zonal hospital. The deceased individuals have been identified as Lalit Bhai Phatnani, his wife Mamta, Priyank Kanhaiya Lal, his wife Kajal and son Diyanish, all residents of Gujarat, and driver Jaswant, a resident of Jogindernagar subdivision in Mandi. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained, but the injured persons said the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a sharp curve, according to officials.

Allocating 15% budget to education will happen gradually : CM Revanth

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said that increasing the state's education budget to 15 per cent cannot happen overnight, adding that the rise from this year's 8.22 per cent will be phased in gradually. Citing the Telangana Education Commission report, he noted that immediate allocation is constrained by the state's financial burden.

The Chief Minister inaugurated 'Education Week' at LB Stadium and laid foundation stones for school infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,751 crore in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) areas. As part of the 99-day "Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika" action



plan, the education hubs being developed will provide learning from nursery to intermediate level. He also announced the expansion of the breakfast scheme to all government schools and junior colleges from the next academic year.

Highlighting teacher development, Revanth said 500 best-performing teachers will be sent abroad for study tours, following a model visit to Finland.

TN CM Vijay meets Stalin after taking oath as MLA



Chennai (TSIT):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President C. Joseph Vijay on Monday met his predecessor and DMK President M.K. Stalin at his Alwarpet residence here, in a politically significant development following the dramatic post-election realignment in the state.

Vijay, who recently led his TVK to a historic electoral

debut, called on Stalin after attending the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected MLAs in the Assembly. The meeting has drawn considerable political attention as the allies of DMK played a crucial role in enabling the TVK government to assume office. In the recently concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the TVK emerged as the single largest party by winning 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly.

India has 60 days of crude oil and natural gas, 45 days of LPG rolling stock: Centre

New Delhi (TSIT)

The government on Monday said that there is no shortage of any petroleum product amid the West Asia crisis, as the country has 60 days stock of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas, and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. India is the world's

third-largest oil refiner and fourth-largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full, according to the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

For kharif 2026, the fertiliser requirement has been assessed at 390.54 LMT, and against this, stock as on today is around 199.65 LMT (more than 51 per cent), significantly higher than the usual level of about 33 per cent, the meeting was informed. The meeting took stock of the latest developments in the conflict and discussed ways to bolster India's readiness to ensure its minimum effect on the people.

The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic consumption. "But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices continue

at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden," an official statement said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the people for collective participation to help the country deal with global economic disruptions, supply chain challenges and rising prices caused by

international conflicts has, thus, emphasised prudence in the usage of petroleum products and reducing wasteful consumption, so that the fiscal burden on the nation is reduced in the present and into the future, it added. India is among the few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through this period of global volatility, even after more than 70 days since the conflict started.

In many nations, prices have increased by 30 to 70 per cent. However, India's oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of close to Rs 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in Q1 2026, so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to the Indian citizens. There is no reason for anxiety, and no reason for any citizens to rush to retail outlets, said the IGoM. The ministers were informed that there is a surplus amount of essential commodities for the people, and the present conservation is intended towards long-run capacity building if the crisis prolongs.

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CM Naidu Unveils Vision for India's Future, Projects Andhra Pradesh as \$2.4 Trillion Economy by 2047

New Delhi: (TSIT)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday addressed the CII Business Summit at Taj Palace, presenting a roadmap for India's economic growth and positioning Andhra Pradesh as a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047. He emphasized technological innovation, green energy, and large-scale employment generation as drivers of India's global rise.

Naidu highlighted emerging sectors such as Quantum Technology, Artificial Intelligence, advanced manu-



facturing, and intelligent logistics, while praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in driving transformational reforms. Recalling

the landmark economic reforms of the 1990s, he noted their lasting impact on India's growth trajectory. On sustainability, the Chief Minister

advocated decentralized energy systems, biogas, ethanol, electric vehicles, and rooftop solar solutions. He also highlighted natural farming on nearly 20 lakh acres in Andhra Pradesh, aimed at improving soil fertility and reducing fertilizer imports.

Naidu stressed collaboration between educational institutions, industries, and government to build a skilled workforce, declaring employability a "national mission." In the past 22 months, the state has attracted Rs.23 lakh crore in investments, created 24 lakh jobs, and set a renewable energy target of 160 gigawatts.

Bengal govt okays land transfer to BSF for fencing border with B'desh: CM after 1st cabinet meeting

KOLKATA (TSIT)

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday said his government, in its first cabinet meeting, has granted transfer of land to the BSF for erecting a fence along the Bangladesh border. The process of transferring land will start from Monday and will be completed within 45 days, he said.

He also announced the implementation of the Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat health scheme and several other schemes of the Union government in the state.

"The West Bengal government gave a nod to the transfer of land to the BSF for fencing the border with Bangladesh. The process starts from today



and will be completed within 45 days," Adhikari told reporters. The cabinet also approved a proposal for a five-year extension in the age limit of school job applicants, as promised by Union Home Minister Amit

Shah during the poll campaign, he said. "The Bengal cabinet empowers the chief secretary to take steps to initiate central government training for officers under the national and state cadres," Adhikari said.

Priyanka Gandhi attacks Centre over failure to check 'corruption' in NEET UG exam

New Delhi (TSIT):

Priyanka Gandhi, Congress General Secretary and Wayanad MP, on Monday raised the issue of alleged "corruption" in the NEET UG exam for admission to medical colleges, accusing the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government of failing to check malpractices that endanger the youth's future.

"Children toil with all their might for exams like NEET. Parents stake their stake in everything they have so that their children's future can be secured. But every exam falls prey to corruption. What's the use of the so-called stringent law brought in Parliament against paper leaks if the same corruption continues on the ground?" she said.



"The Prime Minister is accountable to the country's youth. How long will this cycle of ruining the youth's future go on?" said the Congress MP.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's criticism of alleged corruption in the medical entrance exam came a day after the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday said it is cooperating with investigating agencies after reports emerged of alleged irregularities linked to the

"The rampant corruption in exams over the past several years under the BJP rule is robbing the country's youth of their future. This time too, the future of nearly 23 lakh students has been tampered with," **PRIYANKA GANDHI**

Rajasthan Special Operations Group probe into the conduct of NEET (UG) 2026. In an official statement, the NTA said the medical entrance examination held on May 3 was conducted "as scheduled and under a full security protocol", with several layers of monitoring and verification in place.

AI, semiconductors, railways to power India's next phase of transformation: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi (TSIT):

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday said despite global turbulence, India has managed the situation effectively through well-thought-through policies and decisive execution under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the CII Annual Business Summit 2026 here, he outlined three major pillars driving India's transformation - railways, electronics & semiconductors and artificial intelligence. Highlighting the unprecedented scale of transformation in the Railways sector, Vaishnaw said railway capital expenditure has



increased from approximately Rs 66,000 crore a few years ago to nearly Rs 2,72,000 crore in the last financial year. "The execution capability of the entire railway ecosystem has expanded simultaneously, reflecting a major cultural

transformation in project implementation and delivery," Vaishnaw stated.

"Nearly 49,000 kilometres of railway tracks have been electrified, equivalent to the entire railway network of Germany. Production of wagons and locomotives has also increased significantly," he added.

The minister further outlined India's transformative infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology journey, by calling upon citizens and industry alike to contribute towards building a resilient and self-reliant India. "India's focus remains firmly on quality, cost competitiveness, and process efficiency - all critical pillars in the journey towards a Viksit Bharat," he added.

SIR row: Deletion of voters materially affected results in 31 seats, TMC alleges before Supreme Court

New Delhi (TSIT)

A week after tasting defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections, the TMC on Monday alleged before the Supreme Court that deletions of voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls materially affected results in several assembly constituencies in the state.

Having secured 207 seats in the 294-member West Bengal Assembly, which registered a record voter turnout of above 92 per cent, the BJP decisively defeated the Mamata Banerjee-led party, which could barely manage to get 80 seats and lost power after 15 years.

Senior counsel and TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee alleged that



Bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asks Mamata Banerjee, others to file fresh pleas on victory margin being less than deletion of votes

there were 31 seats in which the winning margin of BJP candidates over TMC rivals was less than the number of voters deleted in the SIR process. The vote gap between the TMC and the BJP was nearly 32 lakhs, and nearly 35 lakh appeals were pending before the appellate tribunals, he submitted. "One of my candidates lost by 862 votes and, interestingly, 5,550 votes

were deleted during the SIR from that constituency... There are 31 such seats where victory margins are less than the deleted votes," Banerjee told a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi.

He referred to an earlier observation made by the top court that it could look into the grievances if victory margins were less than

the number of voters deleted during the SIR. "Whatever you (TMC) want to say about results, about deletions, etc., this requires an independent IA (interim application)," Justice Bagchi told Kalyan Banerjee during a hearing on petitions filed by Mamata Banerjee and others against alleged wrongful deletions during SIR of electoral rolls in the state.

On behalf of the Election Commission, senior counsel DS Naidu objected to Banerjee's submission, saying the only remedy was an election petition. He said the commission can be held accountable only for issues related to the SIR and the consequential appeals against the addition or deletion of votes.

'Under Atal's leadership, India refused to bow': PM Modi recalls Pokhran tests at Somnath event

Gir Somnath (Gujarat), May 11 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday linked India's Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998 with the country's spiritual traditions during his address at the 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations in Gujarat.

Speaking at a public meeting after participating in ceremonies at the Somnath Temple, PM Modi said the anniversary of the Pokhran nuclear tests coinciding with the Somnath celebrations carried special significance.

"Today is special for another reason as well. On this very day, May 11 in 1998, the country conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran," the Prime Minister said.

India carried out a series of nuclear tests under Pokhran-II during the government led by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

"Our scientists demonstrated India's strength and capability before the world. There was turmoil across the world. Global powers began strategising. Many restrictions were imposed, and all possible avenues leading to economic opportunities were blocked," he said.

The Prime Minister said India faced intense international pressure after the tests



but proceeded with additional detonations two days later. "Scientists had done their work on May 11, but on May 13, two more nuclear tests were conducted. The world then realised how firm India's political will was," he said.

He further stated, "At that

time, the entire world was pressuring India, but under Atal Ji's leadership, the BJP government showed that for us, the nation comes first. No force in the world can make India bow or force it under pressure."

PM Modi said the nuclear

tests were named "Operation Shakti" because of the worship of Shakti along with Shiva has always been our tradition. "Ardhanarishwar Shiva himself is complete only with Shakti," he said.

The Prime Minister also connected the theme to India's

lunar mission. "You may recall that when the Chandrayaan mission succeeded, the place on the Moon where India's rover landed was named 'Shiv Shakti Point'," he said.

He added, "Because in our faith, the Moon is associated with Shiva, and Shiva is associated with Shakti. And how pleasant it is that this Jyotirlinga itself is called Somnath, derived from Soma, i.e. the Moon."

PM Modi said the philosophy of "Shiva and Shakti" should continue inspiring India's scientific and technological advancement.

"May this philosophy of worshipping Shiva and Shakti continue to inspire the scientific progress of the nation," he said.

The Prime Minister congratulated citizens on the anniversary of Operation Shakti and described the tests as a demonstration of India's determination and strategic autonomy.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi participated in the Kumbhabhishek ceremony at Somnath Temple and attended an aerial display by the Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team as part of the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav celebrations marking 75 years since the inauguration of the reconstructed temple in 1951.

More Congress leaders summoned to Delhi as party high command nears Kerala CM decision

Thiruvananthapuram, May 11 : The suspense over Kerala's next Chief Minister appears to be entering its decisive phase, with the Congress high command intensifying consultations in New Delhi amid strong indications that a final announcement could come within the next 48 hours.

After days of uncertainty, lobbying, and growing tensions within sections of the party rank and file, the leadership has now shifted gears towards sealing a consensus

before the final call is taken. In a significant development, the high command has summoned several senior state Congress leaders and state unit Presidents to Delhi, signalling that the leadership is now in the final stage of consultations.

Senior leaders, including K. Sudhakaran, K. Muraleedharan, M. M. Hassan and Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, are expected to reach the national capital by Monday night.

The latest round of con-



sultations comes amid mounting indications that K.C. Venugopal has emerged as the frontrunner for the Chief Minister's post.

Sources said discussions held under the direct supervision of the high command have increasingly tilted in Venugopal's favour, though the leadership remains cautious about managing competing interests within the state unit before making the announcement official.

At the centre of the high-stakes deliberations are Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party President Mallikarjuna Kharge, who held another round of discussions on Monday. Rahul Gandhi is also understood to have consulted his sister and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, while further telephonic consultations with leaders of alliance partners are expected

Collector Urges Quick Completion of Electoral Roll Revision in Gadwal



Jogulamba Gadwal, May 11 (TSIT): District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik has directed officials to expedite the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, aiming for 100 percent completion in the district. The process currently

stands at 74.82 percent. The Collector participated in a video conference from Hyderabad with State Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy, who reviewed SIR progress across all districts. The CEO noted that only a few constituencies had

surpassed 90 percent completion and urged intensive efforts over the next 15 days. He praised the GHMC limits for registering over two lakh mappings in the past fortnight and asked other districts to achieve similar results. Officials were instruct-

ed to ensure accurate electoral mapping, rectify errors where voters are misplaced, and prevent unauthorized political interference. Daily reports on mapping progress, form distribution, and collection were mandated. Additional staff may be deployed, and the contact details of VRVs and BLOs are to be widely publicized to assist citizens.

Collector Rizwan Basha highlighted that Gadwal mandal is behind schedule and emphasized coordinated efforts by all departments to make the district a front-runner in completing the electoral roll revision. Election officials Manjula, Suresh, and others attended the meeting.

Nagulapally Residents Seek Immediate Action Against Canal Pollution

RANGAREDDY : Residents of Nagulapally village in Farooqnagar mandal of Ranga Reddy district have urged the Shadnagar Municipal Commissioner to intervene and prevent municipal wastewater from being discharged into a local canal, stating that the pollution is severely affecting public health and the environment. Villagers alleged that the contaminated water has caused the death of cattle and other mute animals, while the stench emanating from the canal is leading to health-related issues among the local population. They also expressed concern that devotees visiting ancient temples located near the canal are facing hardship due to the deteriorating surroundings. Submitting a formal



representation, the village representatives demanded immediate measures to stop the sewage flow and restore cleanliness in the area. The complainants further alleged that a small industrial unit

named "Arham Enterprises" had been established near the canal without official permissions and called upon the authorities to take appropriate action. The representation programme was attended

by Nagulapally Sarpanch Radhika Ashok Reddy, Vice-Sarpanch Suman Goud, ward members Swami, Kumar, Boraiah, Avula Narasimha Reddy, Karyavar Narsimha and several villagers.

Bhim Army Urges Strict Action Against Fake Certificate Racket in Jogulamba Gadwal

Jogulamba Gadwal TSIT. Leaders of Bhim Army submitted a representation to Jogulamba Gadwal District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik demanding immediate identification and strict legal action against individuals allegedly involved in the preparation of fake certificates and counterfeit government stamps in the district.

The representation was submitted by Bhim Army United Mahabubnagar District In-Charge Macharla Prakash and District President Mellacheruvu Varshith. The organization alleged that several anti-social elements were operating illegal networks that were cheating innocent and unemployed youth by producing forged educational and government-related documents.

The Bhim Army leaders urged the district administration to register serious criminal cases against all those involved in the racket, irrespective of their



influence or status. They also demanded the invocation of the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the accused, stating that such activities were weakening public trust in government institutions and destroying the future of unemployed youth seeking jobs and educational opportunities.

Speaking to the media, the leaders said that strict punishment should be imposed on the gangs involved in the illegal operations and requested the authorities to conduct a comprehensive investigation to expose the entire

network behind the scam. District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik reportedly assured the delegation that the matter was already under detailed investigation and that appropriate action would be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

Investigation into Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Printers Intensifies. Meanwhile, the investigation into the alleged fake certificate racket linked to Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Printers in Ieeja town has reportedly widened, with authorities identifying the possible involvement of

several middlemen and facilitators from Ieeja and Gattu mandals.

According to official sources, the issue came to light after a complaint was submitted during the Collector's Prajavani grievance programme regarding illegal activities at the printing establishment. Acting on the directions of the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO), a joint inspection was conducted by Revenue Inspectors, GPO officials, and police personnel at the premises of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Printers.

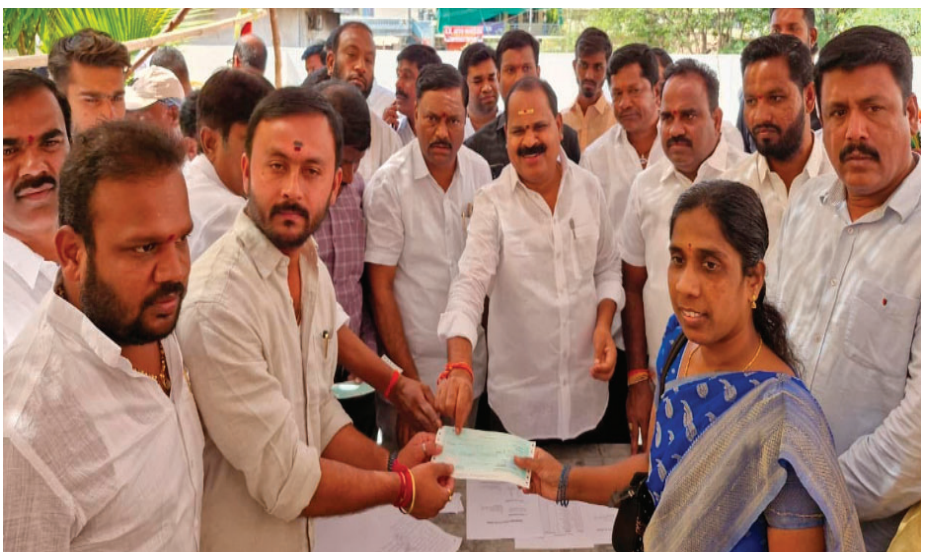
During the inspection, officials reportedly discovered fake certificates, counterfeit government stamps, and other suspicious materials. Subsequently, a complaint was lodged at the Ieeja Police Station against the operator of the press, following which police launched an intensive investigation that has continued over the past four days. Sources stated that the

probe has expanded beyond Ieeja mandal and now covers several villages in Gattu mandal. Police are reportedly questioning a number of alleged intermediaries and facilitators suspected to have links with the illegal activities.

The names that reportedly surfaced during the course of the investigation include Mitta Doddi Shadrack, Chagadona Veeresh, Veera Shekhar Goud, Anthampalli Anjaneyulu, "Shiva" Chinnonipalli Auto Narasimhulu Goud, Induvasi Chandrashekar Goud, Gorlakhandoddi Siddappa, Gorlakhandoddi Suresh, MD Saddam, Baligera MeeSeva operator Boylagudem Venu, Macharla Ali, Rajeev Jagirdar of Sankapuram village in Ieeja mandal, and Bade Saab of Eedionipalli.

Officials indicated that additional names from other villages in Ieeja mandal may also emerge during the ongoing investigation.

MLA Veerlapalli Shankar Hands Over Welfare Scheme Cheques to 64 Beneficiaries



RANGAREDDY Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak assistance cheques to 64 beneficiaries from Shadnagar at the MLA camp office in Ranga Reddy district. Shadnagar Municipal Chairman Agganoor Basaveshwar, Vice-

Chairman Ande Mohan Mudiraj and councillors participated in the programme and joined in presenting the cheques to the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Veerlapalli Shankar stated that the State government is extending continuous support to underprivileged families

through welfare initiatives aimed at assisting girls' marriages. He said efforts are being made to ensure that all deserving beneficiaries receive the scheme benefits efficiently and transparently.

Tahsildar Nagaiah, government officials, local leaders and others attended the programme.

Shivakumar Questions PM on Rising Gold, Fuel Prices; Calls for Leaders to Lead by Example

LET CENTRAL MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS BE DIRECTED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bengaluru : Taking a dig at the Prime Minister's appeal to the people of India not buy gold and reduce fuel consumption in view of global uncertainties, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar today demanded that the PM must tell the public who was responsible for the price rise in fuel and gold. Speaking to reporters at his official residence at Kumara Park, he said, "The Prime Minister, who is advising people not to buy gold and to reduce fuel consumption, should explain why these prices have risen and who is responsible for the price hike."



He gives advice. Earlier, during Covid, he made people light lamps and clap — did that solve the problem? Can you tell a married woman not to wear a gold chain or mangalsutra? Whether

in hardship or happiness, people take loans to buy gold. If everyone is being told to use public transport, let the Prime Minister first direct Central government officials to travel by

public transport. Let him instruct his own Cabinet ministers. We must first practice what we preach before sending a message to the common people." Let the sacrifice begin

with BJP MLAs, leaders, and workers

When it was pointed out that the PM sought sacrifice from the people in view of global uncertainties, he shot back: "Let the sacrifice first begin with the Central government ministers, officials, officials in BJP-governed states, their party MLAs, leaders, and workers. Then let them advise others to sacrifice." Guarantee scheme for Bengaluru to be announced on May 13

When asked about yesterday's GBA meeting held with AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, he said: "We held a political meeting with Surjewala. We called officials and gave some instructions. We are going to announce major guarantees for the city of Bengaluru, and details will be shared on May 13."

Prepare a List of Dilapidated Walls and Buildings and Remove Them: Rajendra Cholan

Bengaluru: While chairing a progress review meeting with officials from the Engineering and Revenue Departments, Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan directed officials to identify and prepare a list of dilapidated and dangerous government and private compound walls and buildings within the corporation limits and to urgently remove them in the interest of public safety. Identify Flood-Prone and Waterlogging Areas and Take Permanent Measures



He instructed officials to identify low-lying, flood-prone, and waterlogging areas during the monsoon season and take steps to ensure smooth flow of rainwater in such locations. He also directed officials to implement permanent solutions to prevent water stagnation in these areas. Complete Drain Desilting Along Roads at the Earliest

As the pre-monsoon sea-

son has already begun, officials were instructed to complete the ongoing desilting works in road-side drains across the corporation limits as quickly as possible before the monsoon rains intensify, ensuring smooth flow of rainwater through the drains.

Officials were directed to urgently complete ongoing asphaltting and CC road works to provide

quality roads for public movement. They were also instructed to resolve all issues delaying asphaltting works, prevent the formation of potholes, and immediately repair existing potholes. Chief Engineer Vijay Kumar Haridas, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers, and Revenue Officers were present at the meeting.

Modi will destroy the government increasing his lust for power: S Manohar

Bengaluru: It has already been proven that Narendra Modi is a fool in calculating the strategy of destroying the government through the left path through the governor by increasing his lust for power, said MEI President and KPCC General Secretary S Manohar.

He said in a press release, Narendra Modi has continued his old habit by coming to Bengaluru and making statements regarding the development of the state and stating that the government is secure.

The people of the state already know that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are the frontline leaders in the strategy of securing the government, and both the current Chief Minister and Congress party president are also strong. You have not only copied the pro-people government and pro-people schemes in the state, but you are criticizing this. He alleged that you are copying the Congress party's schemes and promoting

them in other states, but you have no sense of reality. The BJP is abusing power by leveling the ruling parties and regional parties. All the Chief Ministers who have joined the BJP are now losing their positions, he said, adding that the reason for this is the dictatorial attitude of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

First, remember that there were three Chief Ministers in the state of Karnataka in the past under the corrupt rule of the BJP. It has been proven that due to their dictatorial attitude and mismanagement, they are gaining power through the Election Commission through the revision of the voter list in the entire country. First, remember that you and your party do not have the strength to directly contest the elections and win. If there is any Prime Minister who does not have time to meet and meet the MPs elected from the state of Karnataka, it is Narendra Modi.

"Don't buy gold, reduce oil consumption, Modi's advice: Opposed to Manmohan Singh's policies – Criticism by Dr. Anand Kumar, National Coordinator of AICC SC Department"

Bengaluru : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to "not buy gold, reduce oil consumption" is extremely childish. It goes against people's freedom to purchase, market-based price determination, and long-term investments, said Dr. Anand Kumar, National Coordinator of the AICC SC Department and Maharashtra in-charge.

In a statement, he said Modi's call ignores the realities of people's lives and appears only as political showmanship. Without providing alternative systems, telling people to "consume less" is a sign of irresponsibility. It is contrary to the economic principles formulated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, which prevented global recession. In 1991, when the country faced an economic crisis, Singh's policies saved India from disaster. During the 2008 global economic downturn, he protected the country from serious harm. Modi's call, however, goes against people's fundamental rights, he



alleged.

This is an attempt to control people's private spending. There are enough ways to manage rising global oil prices and foreign exchange pressures. Manmohan Singh encouraged people's purchasing freedom and ensured money flowed in the market.

Calling for a year-long halt to gold purchases will only increase India's foreign exchange burden due to gold imports. But in Singh's view, buying gold is part of people's investment freedom. Instead of controlling private investments, the government should strengthen

the economy to ease foreign exchange pressure, Dr. Anand Kumar advised.

Modi's call is against people's private lives. Gold in Indian culture is not just jewelry but a symbol of security and investment. Telling people not to buy gold disregards their economic freedom. It looks like the government is pushing the failures of its financial policies onto the people. While reducing oil consumption may be good for the environment, giving such advice without providing alternatives is unreasonable. With weak public transport systems, questions arise about how people should manage their daily lives, he said. The government is trying to cover up its economic mismanagement by imposing controls on people's purchasing and consumption. This deprives people of their rights. Stopping gold purchases will hit the rural economy hard. Cutting oil consumption will make middle-class life even more difficult, Dr. Anand Kumar criticized.

Coordination vital in resolving public issues

Bhadradri Kothagudem (TSIT): Officials were directed to work in coordination for speedy resolution of public grievances received during the Prajavani programme held at the IDOC office on Monday, District Collector Ankit said. Along with Additional Collector Venugopal and Housing PD Ravindranath, the Collector received petitions from people across the district and instructed officials to examine each application responsibly and resolve issues within the stipulated time. He said immediate attention should be given to complaints that can be resolved quickly and stressed the need for regular monitoring without delay. Officials were also asked to identify root causes of problems and ensure transparent public service. Among the petitions received, farmers from Mylaram village sought permission for electricity connections to oil palm plantations in ROFR lands, while Sheikh Parveen from Chunchupally requested sanction of a house under the Indiramma scheme.



Appointment of New Agencies for Streetlight Maintenance

Bengaluru : A project to replace conventional streetlights with energy-efficient LED streetlights and implement power-saving measures is being carried out across the Greater Bengaluru Authority limits. The works are being executed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with government approval. In this regard, the existing streetlight maintenance contracts in all wards under Bengaluru North City Corporation limits (except Ward Nos. 34, 35, and 36 of Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly Constituency) have been cancelled with effect from 30-04-2026, and responsibility has been assigned to new maintenance agencies. The agencies that installed the energy-efficient LED streetlights will also carry out maintenance works. Citizens may directly contact the respective agencies and complaint managers regarding streetlight-related grievances.

Commissioner directs re-verification of locked and vacant houses during Census operations



tions are being conducted every evening and during holidays to revisit locked and vacant houses and ensure that no household is left out of the Census process.

As part of this activity, all Charge Officers, Assistant Officers, Supervisors, and Enumerators are actively participating in verifying Enumeration Block (EB) boundaries, locked houses, and vacant houses. This special re-verification drive has significantly improved the overall Census coverage, and efforts are being taken to ensure 100% successful completion of the first phase of House Listing and Household Census for Census 2027 before the stipulated date of 15-05-2026.

Bengaluru : BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has instructed all Census officials to carry out re-verification of locked and vacant houses to ensure comprehensive completion of the first phase of House Listing and Household Census for Census 2027 before the stipulated date of 15-05-2026.

In this regard, special "Mop-Up Round" opera-

Supreme Court stays Sringeri vote recount results, major relief for Cong MLA T D Rajegowda

Bengaluru, May 11: In a major political development, the Supreme Court of India on Monday, May 11, issued an interim order staying the recent recount of postal ballots in the Sringeri assembly constituency. The decision comes as a massive relief to Congress leader T D Rajegowda, who will now continue as the legitimate MLA of the constituency.

Hearing an urgent appeal filed by Rajegowda challenging the Karnataka High Court's recount order, a Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran ordered the maintenance of the status quo. This effectively quashes the recent recount process that had favored BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj. During the hearing, the bench reportedly made a strong oral observation, stating, "We will not allow democracy to be hijacked like this."

The legal battle stems from the 2023 assembly elections, where Rajegowda defeated BJP's Jeevaraj by a narrow margin of 201 votes. Alleging electoral malpractice, Jeevaraj approached the High Court seeking a recount of the postal ballots. The High Court subsequently ruled in his favor and ordered the recount.



During the recount held on May 2, officials invalidated 255 of Rajegowda's postal votes, overturning the original result and declaring D N Jeevaraj as the winning candidate. Following the Election Commission's declaration of Jeevaraj as the new MLA, an aggrieved Rajegowda immediately approached the apex court.

Appearing for Rajegowda, the legal counsel argued that while the High Court had only directed the re-verification of 279 'rejected' postal ballots, the returning officers unlawfully reverified and invalidated 562 valid postal ballots that were originally cast in Rajegowda's favor. The counsel also pointed out that despite dismissing Jeevaraj's allegations of

corrupt practices, the High Court had still ordered a recount, a move they termed legally questionable. Following his sudden loss of the MLA seat after the May 2 recount, Rajegowda, accompanied by Congress workers, had visited various religious shrines in his constituency to seek justice. He offered special prayers at the Sri Koppa Veerabhadraswamy Temple in Koppa, the Jamia Masjid, and the Nithyadhara Mathe Church. Meanwhile, BJP leaders had visited Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala. Speaking after offering prayers at the Veerabhadraswamy Temple last Saturday, Rajegowda had stated, "I am praying with the firm belief that Lord Veerabhadraswamy punishes wrongdoers. I won the 2023 elec-

tions legitimately, but during the recount, 257 of my valid votes were invalidated to ensure my defeat. I have complete faith in the religious shrines, the Election Commission, and the judiciary. If I have committed any wrong, let the Lord punish me. If not, the wrongdoers must be punished so severely that they never dare to ask for votes again.

MIT Kundapur selected for NAIN 2.0 scheme, secures Rs 1.86 crore grant

Kundapur, May 11: Moodlakatte Institute of Technology (MITK) has been selected under the prestigious New Age Innovation Network 2.0 (NAIN 2.0) initiative of the Karnataka government and has secured a significant grant of Rs 1.86 crore for a period of three years. The recognition marks a major milestone in the institution's journey towards fostering a strong ecosystem for research, innovation, and

startup incubation among students. NAIN 2.0 is implemented by the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) under the department of electronics, information technology, biotechnology, and science & technology, government of Karnataka. As part of the initiative, MITK will work jointly with the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad.

ICICI Home Finance Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, [Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: Shop No. 34/514, 1st Floor, Chollampattu Building, Edappally Toll Junction, Kochi- 682024
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited/Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 12, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 12, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited/Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 12, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifc.com/>
Date: May 12, 2026
Place: Alapuzha
Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date & Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Sreevalsan B (Borrower) Prathibha Neir (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHCC00001422698 & LHCC00001422699	Muthukulam Village Karunammattam Ward Karthikapalil Taluk Alapuzha Re Sy No 512 16 3 Alapuzha Kerala - 690512	Rs. 45,84,525/- May 05, 2026	Rs. 52,73,208/- May 05, 2026	June 08, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 15, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 12, 2026 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

EDITORIAL

When Vajpayee Broke Silence: Inside The Day India Went Nuclear

It was a hot afternoon on May 11, 1998. At that point in time, I was working as a correspondent covering the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and parliament with the news agency ANI.

I received a call from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's office that he would address a news conference in the next two hours or so. I was asked to rush to the prime minister's house at "7 RCR", as it was then known, along with my camera team. I was taken aback; wondered why this sudden news conference by the prime minister.

I immediately rushed to my editor's cabin and informed him that Vajpayee was going to address a news conference at 5 pm or so, if I remember correctly.

The first question he asked was: "Is J Jayalalitha withdrawing support to the Vajpayee government?"

This speculation had been doing the rounds in the corridors of power. It remained a hot topic of discussions among politicians and the media. The sudden announcement of a news conference to be addressed by the prime minister himself made journalists curious. Vajpayee was not known for holding sudden news conferences. We rushed to the prime minister's house. After going through many security checks, we finally entered the lawns. The setting is still engraved in my mind. We were early; the officials were still placing a podium for Vajpayee to stand and address the media. We saw Pramod Mahajan, who was Vajpayee's adviser then, telling some officials to bring the national flag.

"Pramod ji, what's the big news?" I went up to him and asked.

"Just wait. You will hear from the man himself," he said.

Mahajan was usually accessible to journalists and was known for sharing timely information with the press. His response left me wondering why he did not share what the conference was about. The preparations went for a while and many journalists started arriving. I saw some officials close to Vajpayee walking in.

"What is all this about?" I asked them. They, too, didn't say a word, just smiled.

The Alarming Surge of Crime and the Challenge of a Safe Society



LALIT GARGG

The latest figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) are not merely statistical records; they expose the dark and disturbing reality of our society that is often concealed beneath the glitter of development, modernization, and political achievements. The crime data for 2024 clearly indicate that while India may be progressing economically, technologically, and globally, it continues to face grave social and moral challenges. When a country witnesses a murder every 17 minutes, a kidnapping every five minutes, a rape every 18 minutes, and an economic offence or fraud almost every two minutes, the issue ceases to remain merely one of law and order. It becomes a serious indictment of the entire social structure, moral values, and administrative system. Today, we dream of a "Developed India," an "Atmanirbhar Bharat," and a "Vishwaguru Bharat" by 2047. Yet these dreams can only be realized when society becomes free from fear, violence, and crime. A society plagued by crime can never evolve into a healthy, balanced, and ideal civilization. If the social atmosphere is filled with insecurity, fear, distrust, and violence, all developmental plans ultimately become hollow. The NCRB statistics are warning us that unless the roots of crime are identified and



decisively addressed in time, the situation may become even more explosive in the future. One of the gravest concerns is the increasing crimes against women. The fact that Rajasthan has remained at the top for the sixth consecutive year in crimes against women is deeply alarming. The state ranks first in rape cases, second in forced abortions, and third in female foeticide. Rajasthan also stands fourth in cases of kidnapping women for marriage. In this category, Bihar ranks first, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Bihar is also infamous for the practice of "Pakadwa Vivah," where men are abducted and forced into marriage. If murder rates are analyzed in proportion to population, smaller states such as Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh emerge at the top, while Uttar Pradesh—often associated with crime debates—stands at the twelfth position. Madhya Pradesh ranks sixth and Rajasthan seventh in this regard. Crimes such as rape, female foeticide, forced abortions, and kidnapping for mar-

riage reveal a dangerous decline in social consciousness and moral values. Respect, sensitivity, and security for women are steadily weakening. It is indeed ironic that while campaigns such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and slogans celebrating "women empowerment" are widely promoted, crimes against women continue to assume horrifying proportions. This is not merely the failure of law enforcement, but also the result of a distorted social mindset. The nature of crime itself is rapidly changing. Earlier, crimes were largely confined to streets and neighborhoods, but the rise of the internet and digital technology has given crime an entirely new dimension. Cybercrime, digital fraud, online scams, and data theft are increasing at an alarming pace. We are now entering the era of "software crime," where criminals can swindle millions without weapons and often without physical risk. This makes it evident that conventional policing alone is no longer sufficient. Police and investigative agencies must now be equipped

with modern tools such as digital forensics, cybersecurity systems, and data analytics. Combating the new world of crime requires new thinking and advanced technological preparedness. Although some serious crimes have shown marginal decline, it would be self-deception to consider this a major achievement. Experts believe that after the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), several offences were removed from the category of cognizable crimes, resulting in statistical reductions. Therefore, a superficial reading of crime figures is inadequate; what is needed is deeper review and analysis. Crime is not merely a legal issue—it is a complex challenge rooted in social, economic, psychological, and cultural causes. One of the biggest factors behind rising crime is substance abuse. Particularly worrying is the increasing trend of addiction among women. Equally alarming are the growing cases of suicide among students and unemployed youth. These developments reveal a

deepening atmosphere of despair, insecurity, and uncertainty about the future. Unemployment, intense competition, academic pressure, family expectations, and social comparisons are pushing young people toward severe mental stress. When the youth begin to perceive life as meaningless, it is not merely a personal tragedy but a warning bell for the future of the nation itself. Therefore, issues such as crime and suicide cannot be left solely to the police and courts. Education systems, families, society, and governments must work collectively to address them. Another major reason behind increasing crime is the erosion of moral values. Consumerism, materialism, and the blind race for instant success have made individuals increasingly insensitive and self-centered. Today, wealth and power have become the sole measures of success. When honesty, restraint, compassion, and ethics are replaced by deceit, greed, and ruthless competition, crime naturally proliferates. Communication within families has weakened, moral upbringing has declined, and the sense of social responsibility is fading. Social media and many entertainment platforms have further encouraged violence, obscenity, and the culture of instant gratification. In such an environment, it is hardly surprising that the younger generation loses direction. It is also true that many criminals no longer fear the law. Prolonged delays in court cases, political patronage, corruption, and weak investigation mechanisms embolden offenders. When criminals begin to believe they can easily escape punishment, controlling crime becomes extremely difficult. Therefore, the justice system must become faster, more transparent, and more effective. A policy of zero tolerance toward crime is the need of the hour.

Crimes against women in India: What concerns America?



Just an example we are quoting here. Media reports reveal—"The ground reality was unfolded when Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police (CP) Sumati, a senior IPS officer, faced harassment by several men during a special midnight operation, while she was conducting a plainclothes operation to assess the safety situation for women on the Hyderabad streets on the intervening night of May 6, 2026 between 12 midnight and 3:30 am. Within these three hours, nearly 40 men, unaware that they were confronting a senior police official, approached her with inappropriate offers and vulgar remarks, many appearing intoxicated." This incident exposed the safety of women that when even a bold and fearless lady police officer has to face such a situation, then what shall be the intensity of harassment and lewd remarks when an ordinary woman has to visit during the nights? A tragic incident, which reveals the horrific face of Indian society, occurred on the first day of May 2026 in Nasrapur, in Pune district of Maharashtra, where a three-and-a-half-year-old girl was reportedly sexually assaulted and murdered by a 65-year-old man. Hindustan Times, quoting the Police, states that the Police suspect that after the sexual assault, the accused allegedly killed her by hitting her face with a stone, and to conceal the evidence, hid the body under a heap of dung. Taking serious note of Nasrapur incident, on May 8, 2026, The National Commission for Women (NCW) has expressed serious concern over the existing parole framework governing convicts involved in heinous crimes against women and children. Hon'ble NCW Chairperson Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar stated that the Commission will soon submit recommendations to the Central Government seeking a complete prohibition on parole for individuals convicted in cases of rape, aggravated sexual assault, and other serious offences against women and children. The Hon'ble Chairperson observed that the Nasrapur, Bhor incident has raised serious concerns regarding public safety and the confidence of women in society. She emphasized that in such cases, the protection, dignity, and security of women and children must remain paramount. The Commission will also recommend comprehensive systemic reforms to strengthen the justice delivery mechanism in cases involving crimes against women

and children. The proposed recommendations include the expedited establishment of Special Fast Track Trial Courts to ensure swift disposal of such cases, enhanced coordination during investigation and trial proceedings through dedicated legal and subject experts, and the creation of an independent and time-bound mechanism for prompt evidence examination, witness statement recording, and completion of investigations.

What does the NCRB report reveal?

The latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2024, released on 6th May, 2026, shows that India saw 4,41,534 cases related to crimes against women in 2024, in comparison to 4,48,211 cases in 2023 and 4,44,256 in 2022. However, there was a decrease of 1.5% in crimes against women in 2024 compared to 2023, but still the horror is hovering over women safety.

Under other Major Crimes: India recorded 29,536 cases of rape, 48,303 cases of assault with intent to outrage modesty, and 15,609 cases of sexual harassment. Commenting over the crimes against women with special mention of Haryana state, in a press statement on May 8, 2026, the former Union Minister, CWC member and General Secretary of All Indian Congress Committee, Kumari Selja, an MP from Haryana, has expressed deep concern over the latest NCRB report, stating that the rise in crimes against women in Haryana under BJP rule is a matter of serious concern. She said the NCRB data clearly indicates the weakening law and order situation in the state. Kumari Selja said that according to the NCRB report, Haryana ranks highest in the country in cases related to trafficking of minor girls, while crimes against women continue to rise steadily. She termed the situation unfortunate for a progressive state like Haryana. Kumari Selja said Haryana should have emerged as a model state in development, education, employment and social security, but instead it is increasingly making headlines for crime, fear and insecurity. She added that concerns regarding the safety of women and girls are growing among families across the state. She further stated that rising drug abuse and unemployment are major contributors to the increase in crime. With employment opportunities shrinking for youth, incidents of crime and gang violence are continuously increasing, posing a dangerous signal for society.

SWELTERING CLASSROOMS AND INSENSITIVE SYSTEMS

DON'T THE CHILDREN AND TEACHERS FEEL HOT?



India is currently experiencing a severe heatwave. Temperatures are setting new records every year. The Meteorological Department regularly issues heatwave warnings. People are avoiding leaving their homes. Coolers and air conditioners have become commonplace in government offices, private companies, banks, malls, and large institutions. An air-conditioned environment is considered essential for the comfort and efficiency of employees. But when it comes to schools, the picture suddenly changes. Millions of children and teachers across the country are still forced to spend their days sitting in sweltering classrooms. It seems as if the system has assumed that it's not just school children and teachers who suffer from the heat. This isn't just a sarcastic remark, but the sad truth of our education system. In a country where children are called the "future of the nation," these same children are deprived of basic amenities. Grand claims are made about education, with talk of smart classes, Digital India, and a new education policy, but when one sees the actual state of government schools, all claims appear hollow. During the summer, the condition of many government schools is no less than a furnace. In some places, tin roofs are scorching hot in the sun,

and in others, dozens of children are crammed into tiny rooms. In many schools, fans are broken, while in others, there is no electricity at all. Windows are either broken or so small that air cannot enter. In such an environment, children sit for hours trying to study. Imagine, when the temperature outside is over 45 degrees and a child sitting inside is drenched in sweat, how can they concentrate on their books? Young children wake up frequently to drink water, some feel dizzy, and many become tired and restless. Sometimes, cases of heat stroke and dehydration even occur. Despite this, those in the education system seem to underestimate the seriousness of this problem. The situation of teachers is no different. They have to conduct multiple periods in the same hot environment. Writing on the board, handling children, and teaching are all difficult tasks. But the irony is that the working conditions of teachers, who are responsible for shaping the future, receive the least attention. If the air conditioner in a government office breaks down, a complaint is filed immediately, and repairs are arranged quickly. Employee comfort is often linked to "work efficiency." However, when discussions arise about coolers or air conditioners for school children and teachers, the response is often, "Such facilities are not feasible" or "This is an unnecessary expense." The question is, are children's health and education less important? If a comfortable environment can increase an employee's efficiency, why wouldn't the same environment enhance children's learning and

mental concentration? Today, air-conditioned classrooms are becoming common in private schools in major cities. Children studying there enjoy modern amenities. Meanwhile, children in government schools struggle for basic facilities. This isn't just a gap in amenities, but a vivid example of social inequality. While wealthy children enjoy cool, smart classrooms, children from poor families are forced to sit in hot, sweaty rooms. A society that promotes equality in education often remains silent on this inequality. Education isn't just about books, exams, and curriculum. A healthy and positive environment is equally essential for learning. Psychologists and education experts have long noted that extreme heat affects children's concentration, memory, and mental alertness. In hot environments, children tire quickly, and their learning capacity decreases. How can a child concentrate on their lessons if they are constantly exposed to the heat? The purpose of education isn't just to send children to school, but to provide them with an environment where they can learn while remaining physically and mentally healthy. Ironically, governments spend crores of rupees on digital projects to improve the quality of education, but the temperature of classrooms is rarely discussed. The truth is that children battling the heat need a cool breeze more than a smart board. The situation in schools in rural areas is even more worrisome. In many villages, electricity supply is not regular. Some schools still lack adequate classrooms. Children study under trees or in open

verandas. In such places, coolers or air conditioners are difficult to imagine. Drinking water is also a serious problem in many schools. In summer, water tanks dry up or the water becomes so hot that it becomes unusable. Children often have to fetch water from far away. This situation is not only an inconvenience but also a threat to children's health. Every year, on Teachers' Day, Children's Day, and Independence Day, leaders' speeches tout education as a top priority. Lines like "Children are the future of the nation" are repeated repeatedly. But the true priorities can be discerned by observing the state of schools. If children are truly the future of the nation, shouldn't they at least have the right to receive an education in a respectable environment? Is it fair that office facilities take priority, while children's basic needs are neglected? This problem isn't just about resources, but also about mindsets. In our society, the problems of children and teachers are often overlooked. It's assumed that some discomfort in schools is "normal." This mindset is the biggest problem. Climate change is driving heat in India. Temperatures in many cities have reached 47-48 degrees Celsius. Experts predict that heat waves will increase in the coming years. In such a situation, traditional school systems are no longer sufficient. Today, it's essential to construct school buildings according to the weather. Features like adequate ventilation, green trees, cool roof designs, clean drinking water, and temperature control should be essential. This is not a luxury, but a necessity.

India's growth to slow to 6.7 pc on waning momentum, oil price shock: BMI

AGENCY
New Delhi: India's economic growth is likely to decelerate to 6.7 per cent in the current fiscal, from 7.7 per cent in 2025-26, with the GDP expansion expected to slow significantly due to waning momentum and oil price shock from Iran war, BMI said on Monday, May 11.

BMI, a Fitch Group firm, also said that the prospect of the Iran-US conflict escalating in scope presents downside risk to its growth outlook and India must balance spending needs on defence and fuel price stabilisation against fiscal consolidation agenda.

The tax reforms in GST and income tax carried out in 2025 will partly offset effects of cost-push inflation, BMI said, adding looser monetary policy will support capital spending, as increased uncertainty amid the war and higher input prices hurt investment. BMI estimates that India's economy grew 8 per cent y-o-y in the January-March quarter of 2026, faster than its original 7.8 per cent projection. It has revised its growth forecast for 2025-26 upwards by 0.1 percentage points to 7.7 per cent.

"We maintain our forecast of 6.7 per cent GDP growth



during FY2026-27 due to our belief that the effects of last year's tax reforms will fade as input costs increase in the new fiscal year," BMI said, adding GDP growth could "slow significantly" due to waning momentum and oil price shock from Iran war. It said one factor behind the unchanged FY27 forecast is its assessment that the effects of last year's tax reforms will dissipate by April-June quarter of 2026. Such waning is already apparent in the vehicle registrations data, showing new registrations grew 9 per cent y-o-y in April after rising 23

per cent in January-March. Likewise, while electricity generation grew 2.7 per cent y-o-y last quarter, the growth was driven by power demand in January-February. During March, electricity consumption rose by a mere 0.9 per cent y-o-y. "We also anticipate restricted supply of energy and food in FY2026-27 to slow consumption growth while raising price inflation," BMI said. It said that conflict in Iran has already curtailed supplies and that has already been factored in the 6.7 per cent growth estimate for

FY27. However, India's weather department is also predicting 'below normal' rainfall during this year's monsoon (June-September) due to El Nino. The International Monetary Fund estimates a typical El Nino weather shock hurting India's GDP by 0.1 per cent. "We think this impact could further offset economic momentum inherited from FY2025-26," BMI said. BMI said its models indicate that GDP growth will fall by up to 0.4-0.7 percentage points if the price of Brent Crude rises to around USD 90/bbl.

Highlights
■ India's economic growth is likely to decelerate to 6.7 per cent in the current fiscal, from 7.7 per cent in 2025-26, with the GDP expansion expected to slow significantly due to waning momentum and oil price shock from Iran war, BMI said on Monday, May 11.

The size of this impact makes India's economy amongst the most sensitive to changes in energy prices within Asia, BMI said. Crude prices have jumped to USD 105/barrel on Monday after the United States rejected Iran's peace proposal, rekindling fears that the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz will continue for a longer time. The prices have jumped from about USD 73/ barrel level prevailing before the war started on February 28. Crude prices touched a 4-year high of USD 126/barrel on April 30.

RAILWAYS UTILISED 98 PC OF ITS BUDGET FOR FY26: ASHWINI VAISHNAW

AGENCY
New Delhi: Indian Railways utilised 98 per cent of its budget for FY26, reflecting the pace of execution of projects, and in the days to come, trains will dominate flights on several upcoming corridors across the country, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Monday, May 11.

"In the last financial year, the entire capex was spent practically by the 1st week of March itself. Practically by the last week of February, it was like 98 points some percentage. Then we had to, in a sense stop that because we have to complete the entire year," Vaishnav said. He said 49,000 kilometres of railway tracks across the country has been electrified, which is more than the entire network of Germany and 36,000 kilometres of new tracks have been added, which is about six Switzerlands to Indian railway network. The minister said in many of these routes the travel time will be significantly reduced and people will prefer trains over airlines on those routes. Vaishnav said the government is working on new



corridors from Mumbai to Pune where travel time will come down to just 28 minutes, Pune to Hyderabad will be one hour and 55 minutes, Hyderabad to Bengaluru will be around 2 hours. "So nobody will fly. These sectors will be out for airlines. I'm reminding right away for those who want to invest in airlines. These sectors will be 99 per cent dominated by railways," Vaishnav said. He said Bengaluru to

Chennai will become two cities combined into one city with travel time between them reduced to 78 minutes. "Delhi to Varanasi will be 3 hours and 50 minutes. Delhi to Lucknow will be significantly lesser, just about 2 hours," Vaishnav added. The minister said in many of these routes the travel time will be significantly reduced and people will prefer trains over airlines on those routes.

ICICI Prudential Life BSE Enhanced Value 30 Index Fund launched for customers seeking disciplined exposure to value opportunities

TSIT DESK
Mumbai, May 11, 2026: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched the ICICI Prudential Life BSE Enhanced Value 30 Index Fund for its Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs). The fund is designed to provide customers with exposure to attractively valued companies from the large and mid-cap universe and build wealth over the long-term. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "The ICICI Prudential Life BSE Enhanced Value 30 Index Fund offers a structured and transparent way for customers to participate in equity markets by focusing on companies that are attractively valued relative to their fundamentals. The fund's strategy is built on key pillars including value-based stock selection using multiple financial parameters, diversification across sectors, market capi-



talisation segments, and a disciplined, rule-based investment process with periodic review and rebalancing. Importantly, this approach enables customers to stay invested with confidence, even during volatile phases, over the long term, while participating in opportunities that may be relatively under-represented." As of March 30, 2026, the ICICI PRU BSE Enhanced Value Index has delivered annualised returns of 32% over three years, 28.9% over five years and 19.4% over ten years, reflecting the strength of a disciplined, value-oriented investment approach over market cycles. The fund adopts a passive, index-mirroring strategy, aiming to track

the underlying index and provide consistent exposure to value opportunities. The fund tracks the ICICI PRU BSE Enhanced Value Index, which comprises 30 companies selected from the BSE Large & Mid-cap universe based on valuation parameters such as book value-to-price, earnings-to-price and sales-to-price ratios. This is a customized index aligned to BSE Enhanced Value Index, subject to IRDAI regulatory requirements. The customized index is designed to measure the performance of the 30 companies in the BSE LargeMidCap with the highest valuations based on three fundamental measures - book value-to-price, earnings-to-price and sales-to-price. In case a stock can-

not be selected due to regulatory guidelines, the subsequent eligible stock(s) will be selected to maintain a cohort of 30 stocks. The index follows a transparent, rules-based methodology to identify companies with strong underlying fundamentals relative to their market valuations. The index is reviewed and rebalanced twice a year, ensuring that the portfolio remains aligned with evolving opportunities across sectors. It also incorporates limits on stock and sector exposure to maintain diversification and portfolio balance. The ICICI Prudential Life BSE Enhanced Value 30 Index Fund will be available through ICICI Prudential Life's ULIP offerings such as ICICI Pru Signature Assure, SmartKid Assure with ICICI Pru Signature Assure, ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus (SIP+) amongst other ULIP products along with Life Cover, available on www.icicprulife.com.

Vodafone Idea Says 'No Communication' From Parent On Treasury Stock Transfer

AGENCY
New Delhi: Vodafone Idea Ltd. has issued a clarification on Monday regarding the possible transfer of a portion of Vodafone Group's shareholding to the Company as treasury stock. The company clarified that it has received no such communication from shareholder Vodafone Plc "in relation to the above reported matter," in an exchange filing on Monday. On Friday, reports had suggested that Vodafone Plc may transfer part of its stake in the Indian telecom operator to the company itself as treasury shares. Vodafone Plc was reportedly considering transferring a portion of its nearly 19% stake in Vodafone Idea to the telecom company instead of infusing fresh capital directly into the business. The company further said that media reports may be referring to a disclosure made by the



company on Dec. 31, 2025 Contingent Liability Adjustment Mechanism (CLAM) arrangement. "Further, we also wish to state that the news article may possibly be referring to disclosure made by the Company on 31 December 2025 about Contingent Liability Adjustment Mechanism (CLAM) arrangement, copy of which is again enclosed for ready reference," VI stated

in its filing. The fresh filing also had a copy of the December filing which broke down the CLAM arrangement. "We wish to inform you that the company has reached an agreement with the Vodafone group and entered into an amendment agreement dated 31 December 2025," the old filing outlined. It highlighted that the Company had recorded a

sum of Rs.8,369 crore as receivable from Vodafone Plc, being the maximum cap for CLAM payments under the Implementation Agreement. Of this, VGP has already paid 1,975 crore, and under the revised structure is supposed to release a defined amount of Rs. 2,307 crore over the course of the successive 12 months. Lastly, the filing explained that a portion of the CLAM amount is secured through the earmarking of 3,280 crore equity shares of the Company by certain Vodafone Group Shareholders for a period of five years. "Proceeds from the sale of these shares, at the instructions of a person authorised/ appointed by the Company's, will accrue to the Company. As on the date of the Amendment Agreement, the market value of the earmarked shares stands at Rs. 3,529 Crore," the filing underscored.

ARAMCO SEES 25 PC MORE PROFIT AFTER SHIFTING EXPORTS FROM HORMUZ

AGENCY
Saudi: Aramco, the world's largest oil company, said on Sunday, May 10, its first quarter profit jumped 25 per cent as the Iran war disrupted oil supplies and raised prices. Dhahran, Saudi Arabia-based Aramco said it successfully shifted some oil exports to a pipeline to avoid the Strait of Hormuz, which has been disrupted by the war. On Sunday, the price of Brent crude, the international standard, rose 2.58 per cent to USD 103.91 per barrel. That's below its heights above USD 119 during the war, but it's still much more expensive than its roughly USD 70 level from late February before the fighting began. Aramco President and CEO Amin Nasser said the company's East-West Pipeline, which runs across Saudi Arabia from its Eastern oil fields to the Red Sea, is now operating at its maximum capacity of 7 million barrels of oil per day. Nasser said the pipeline is



"helping to mitigate the impact of a global energy shock and providing relief to customers." Still, that's only a fraction of Aramco's typical production. Aramco produced 11.1 million barrels of oil per day in the fourth quarter of 2025, for example. Aramco reported a profit of USD 32.5 billion for the quarter ending March 31, up 25 per cent from the same period a year ago. The state-owned company reported a 12 per cent decline in annual profits in 2025. Before the war, 20 per cent of the world's traded oil

typically flowed through the strait every day, as well as large supplies of natural gas, fertilizer and other petroleum products. Iran effectively seized control of the critical waterway after the US and Israel attacked it on Feb. 28. A US naval blockade imposed last month also complicates its use. "Recent events have clearly demonstrated the vital contribution of oil and gas to energy security and the global economy, and are a stark reminder that reliable energy supply is critical," Nasser said in a statement.

TOING, THE AFFORDABLE FOOD APP, NOW AVAILABLE IN TIRUPATI

TSIT DESK
Tirupati, May 11 2026: Toing, the affordable food delivery app, today announced its launch in Tirupati. Over the last 7+ months, Toing has expanded its network to 35 cities across India and promises the lowest item prices across food/ beverages on its app, guaranteeing to match or beat restaurant table menu prices. In addition to this, there are no packaging charges or platform fees on any order placed on Toing. This makes Toing the most affordable food delivery app available in the market. Users can order a range of dishes including biryanis, burgers and bowls for under Rs. 99. Toing, which was launched in the second half of 2025 with Pune as the first city, is also live in and is live in Agra, Vadodara, Guwahati, Nashik, Nagpur, Patna, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Delhi, Meerut, Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Ludhiana, Coimbatore, Vizag, Surat, Mangaluru, Rajkot, Dehradun and Madurai. In Tirupati,



Toing has gone live with the city's famous restaurants already listed on the platform. Toing's affordable and accessible pricing model has strongly resonated with first-time jobbers and college students, accelerating its expansion to newer cities. By focus-

ing on everyday affordability, Toing ensures unmatched value and reliability for its users. The app features Tirupati's popular restaurants such as The Paradise, Mayura Garden Family Restaurant, Kwalities Spicy Family Restaurant, Pulse, Spicy

Paradise, Subbaya Gari Hotel, Burger King, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Subway, Dum Safar Biryani, Cream Stone Ice Cream, and Kouzina Kafe - The Food Court, offering a wide range of food options across cuisines including North Indian dishes, South Indian food, Chinese, Biryani, Desserts and fast-food options like Pizzas, Burgers, Tacos and Momos. Speaking on the expansion, Mr. Sidharth Bhakoo, Chief Business Officer, Toing said, "Toing is creating a new category of customers in food delivery and is targeting the Gen Z, college goers and the value conscious customers. Over the last few months, we launched Toing, the affordable food delivery app, which guarantees lowest prices to its customers, in key cities and educational hubs across India, including Guwahati, Nashik, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Delhi NCR. Toing's launch in Tirupati reflects both the strength of the value proposition and our commitment to serve the evolving needs of young consumers. The city has a large base of Gen Z and college goers and hence, offers the perfect landscape for Toing."

US AND FRENCH NATIONALS TEST POSITIVE FOR HANTAVIRUS AFTER LEAVING SHIP

AGENCY
DC: An American and a French national who have returned to their home countries having left a cruise ship hit by a deadly outbreak of hantavirus have tested positive, authorities say. In total seven cases of hantavirus linked to the MV Hondius have been confirmed, with two other cases suspected, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday. The US health department said a second American national on the repatriation flight had also shown mild symptoms, adding that both passengers had travelled back in "biocontainment units out of an abundance of caution". French Health Minister Stéphanie Rist said a woman was isolating in Paris and her health was deteriorating, with 22 contacts traced. Three passengers have died after travelling on the ship, two of whom were confirmed to have had the virus. The WHO said the person who is believed to have been the first to be infected in the outbreak



died before he could be tested. Two other British nationals with confirmed cases are currently being treated in the Netherlands and South Africa. Hantaviruses are usually carried by rodents, but human transmission of the Andes strain - which the World Health Organization (WHO) believes was contracted by some of the Dutch ship's passengers while in South America - is possible.

Symptoms can include fever, extreme fatigue, muscle aches, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and shortness of breath. Officials say the risk of a major outbreak is very low. More than 90 passengers of the MV Hondius ship, currently docked in Spain's Canary Islands, are being repatriated. In its latest update from Tenerife on Monday, Spanish officials said 54 passengers and crew

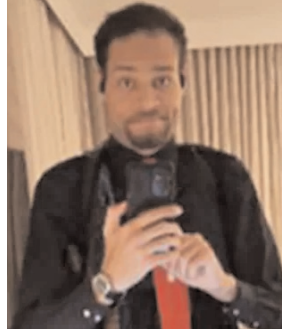
were still on board the ship. Spanish Health Minister Mónica García said six of those were passengers: four Australians, one Briton and one New Zealander. Some 22 people would disembark the ship to fly to the Netherlands on Monday, she said - including the Australians who had been expected to be flown home directly but whose plane could not be guaranteed to arrive on time. The

MV Hondius was then expected to leave for the Netherlands later on Monday, she said. Four Canadian passengers, meanwhile, have landed in Victoria, British Columbia, on Sunday evening after taking a chartered flight from Tenerife to Bagotville, Quebec. Authorities said they would be self-isolating and monitored for at least three weeks. In its statement early on Monday, the US Department of Health and Human Services said all 17 US citizens on Sunday's flight would undergo "clinical assessment" at a medical facility in Nebraska. A British national living in the US was also repatriated alongside them. Seven other US passengers had already returned home and were being monitored in their home states. Before the American case was confirmed, WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that the decision by the US not to follow his organization's guidelines over the

hantavirus outbreak "may have risks". The WHO has recommended 42 days of isolation for those leaving the MV Hondius. But Dr Jay Bhattacharya, the acting head of the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said he did not want to cause public panic, insisting that human-to-human transmission was rare and it should not be treated like the Covid virus. Cruise ship passengers were pictured wearing blue gowns, bouffant caps, and medical face masks as they disembarked on Sunday at the port of Grandilla de Abona in Tenerife. On Sunday, a plane carrying 20 British nationals arrived in the UK. The passengers flew into Manchester Airport on a chartered flight from Tenerife and were taken to Arrowe Park Hospital in Wirral, Merseyside, to isolate for 72 hours. None of them have reported symptoms. In Spain, 14 Spaniards flown to Madrid now face mandatory quarantine at a military hospital.

WASHINGTON DINNER SHOOTING SUSPECT PLEADS NOT GUILTY

AGENCY
Washington: A man charged with attacking the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington DC last month has pleaded not guilty. Cole Tomas Allen, 31, was charged with federal gun crimes and attempting to assassinate US President Donald Trump. The gun charges include using a firearm during a crime of violence and interstate transportation of a firearm with intent to commit a felony. Allen appeared in court on Monday in an orange jumpsuit and was shackled at the wrists and feet, according to CBS News, the BBC's US partner. Prosecutors allege that Allen attempted to storm past a security checkpoint and fired a shot at a US Secret Service agent at the event at a Washington Hilton hotel. The federal agent was hit in an exchange of gunfire but was saved by his bullet-proof vest. Agents tackled Allen



just short of a staircase that leads down to a ballroom where the annual White House Correspondents' dinner - attended by journalists, Trump and many top US officials - was getting under way. The US president, Vice-President JD Vance, cabinet members, and a number of White House officials were rushed from the Washington Hilton hotel ballroom after the gunshots rang out. Allen's appearance in court on Monday was his first time standing before US District Judge Trevor McFadden, who will preside over the remainder of the case.

Ailing Iranian Nobel laureate given bail and hospital transfer



AGENCY
Tehran: Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi has been transferred from jail to a Tehran hospital amid concern over her deteriorating health. Iranian authorities granted the human rights activist "a sentence suspension on heavy bail", a foundation run by her family said on Sunday. Her brother, Hamidreza, told the BBC that he was relieved she would now receive adequate treatment from her own medical team. But he cautioned that the seriousness of her condition was not yet clear. Last week, Mohammadi's family and supporters warned she could die in prison after suffering two suspected heart attacks earlier this year. The 54-year-old, who is vice-president of the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran, was awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her activism against female oppression in Iran and promoting human rights. After pleas from her family for her to be transferred from prison, Mohammadi was "now at Tehran Pars

Hospital to be treated by her own medical team", the Narges Mohammadi Foundation said in a statement on Sunday evening. She had spent 10 days at a hospital in Zanjan, about 265km (165 miles) north-west of the capital, where she was serving her sentence. "Narges Mohammadi's life hangs in the balance," her Paris-based husband, Taghi Rahmani, said in a statement. "While she is currently hospitalised following a catastrophic health failure, a temporary transfer is not enough. Narges must never be returned to the conditions that broke her health," he added. Hamidreza Mohammadi, her Oslo-based brother, told the BBC that the bail provided "temporary relief from the certain death that Narges faced in the prison". "It's very early stages, so we don't have any precise news about what's going on. But we trust the doctors that have treated her before. The only worry that I have is the permanent damage that has been caused during these days in the prison," he said.

PHILIPPINE VP SARA DUTERTE IMPEACHED FOR A SECOND TIME



AGENCY
Philippines: The Philippine House of Representatives has voted to impeach Vice-President Sara Duterte for a second time, threatening her plan to run for president in 2028. Monday's vote moves the impeachment process to the Senate for trial, where if convicted, the daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte

will be disqualified from holding public office. The 47-year-old is leading early surveys to replace her ally-turned-bitter foe, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The case against the vice-president stemmed from her alleged misuse of public funds and public threats against Marcos, his wife and his cousin, the former House speaker. Duterte was impeached on the same grounds in 2025, but the Supreme Court blocked it on a technicality before the Senate trial could start. The case was revived this year. Last week, a House committee that looked into the evidence against the vice-president ruled that there was sufficient grounds to impeach her.

Trump calls Iran response to US proposal to end war 'totally unacceptable'

AGENCY
Washington: President Donald Trump has dismissed Iran's response to US proposals to end the war as "totally unacceptable". Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said Tehran's proposal, sent via Pakistan, which has served as a mediator, included an immediate end to the war on all fronts, a halt to the US naval blockade of Iranian ports and guarantees of no further attacks on Iran. A ceasefire meant to facilitate talks to end the war launched by the US and Israel in February has been largely observed, despite occasional exchanges of fire. Earlier this week, Trump repeated that the war in Iran will be "over quickly". But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Iran's stockpile of



enriched uranium must be "taken out" before the war against Iran can be considered over. "There's still enrichment sites that have to be dismantled," Netanyahu said in an interview on CBS's 60 Minutes show. According to Iranian state media, Tehran's proposal includes a demand for compensation for war damage and an emphasis on Iranian

sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. On Sunday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian did not directly reference Tehran's proposal but said: "We will never bow our heads before the enemy, and if talk of dialogue or negotiation arises, it does not mean surrender or retreat." Trump posted on Truth Social: "I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I

don't like it - TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE." US news outlet Axios reported that the one-page, 14-point US memorandum includes provisions such as a suspension on Iranian nuclear enrichment, the lifting of sanctions, and restoring free transit through the Strait of Hormuz. It cited two US officials and two other sources - all unnamed - whom it described as briefed on the issues. These sources were reported as saying that many of the terms laid out in the memo would be contingent on a final agreement being reached. Iran has continued to block the strategic strait, prompting a rise in world oil prices. Normally about 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes through the strait.

Portrait looted by Nazis found in home of Dutch SS leader's descendants



noted that most collisions tended to happen deep offshore, leading to the animals sinking to the bottom of the ocean rather than washing up on the coast. This is referred to as "cryptic mortality", which makes it difficult to estimate the scale of the problem. Vermeulen offered suggestions to deal with the issue, including tweaking shipping routes and reducing the speed at which vessels travel at certain times of the year. But until more data is collected, solutions are hard to recommend, she said. Vermeulen and her team plan to do a systematic survey of whale populations offshore by plane or boat but they "need support for this work", she told the agency.

BOSNIA'S POWERFUL PEACE ENVOY QUILTS, WITH QUESTIONS OVER ROLE'S FUTURE

AGENCY
France: The most powerful figure in Bosnia and Herzegovina has confirmed that he is stepping down. Christian Schmidt has served as international high representative since 2021, the second-longest tenure of any high representative. His time in the post was filled with conflict and controversy. His office said that Schmidt "has taken the personal decision to conclude his service to the implementation of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina". His appointment was never approved by Russia and now it seems he has also lost the support of the US, making his position untenable. A broader conundrum is whether the Office of the High Representative itself



has a future and, if not, where that would leave Bosnia. The role dates back to the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement which ended the country's ruinous ethnic conflict. The UN-appointed high representative is supposed to ensure that the agreement is followed and has wide-ranging powers to keep the country's ever-fractious ethno-political leaders in line.

Dozens of Nigerian fishermen feared dead after Chad air strikes on Boko Haram



AGENCY
Nigeria: Dozens of Nigerian fishermen are feared dead after Chad's military launched air strikes on Boko Haram militants in the Lake Chad region, a local fishermen's leader has told the BBC. Abubakar Gamandi Usman, chairman of Lake Chad Basin Fisheries Association of Nigeria, said several of the union's members were missing and estimated more than 40 had died. No bodies have yet been recovered but Usman believes some fishermen were hit by the strikes, while others drowned after attempting to flee in overloaded boats. Authorities in Chad and Nigeria have not commented, but on Sunday Chad's presidency said it had carried out retaliatory "intensive air strikes" on Boko Haram strongholds. In a statement on Facebook, the presidency said it had responded to "unjustified attacks" by Boko Haram, which took place last Monday and Wednesday and targeted Chadian military bases near Lake Chad, reportedly killing at least 24 soldiers and two generals. The Lake Chad basin is a huge region of waterways and swampland shared by

Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon. It has long been a stronghold for Boko Haram and its rival faction, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). After Chad's air force began circling overhead on Friday, panic broke out, with both Boko Haram fighters and fishermen attempting to flee. The search for the missing fishermen has been slow, Usman said, as some parts of Lake Chad are very deep. The local community also has limited access to canoes, as many are controlled by Boko Haram, Usman added. "Boko Haram controls access to the fishing grounds, transporting fishermen to and from the fish market to the fishing site. Boko Haram collects taxes from these fishermen," he said. Recently, the region has seen a rise in attacks on security forces, as well as kidnappings and raids on communities. Chadian military operations have been accused of causing civilian deaths before - in October 2024, the air force was said to have killed dozens of Nigerian fishermen during air strikes targeting Boko Haram fighters on Tilma Island in Lake Chad.

Whales could be harmed by diverted ships avoiding Middle East, scientists warn

AGENCY
UAE: Scientists are warning of an increased risk of collisions between whales and ships off South Africa's south-western coast, caused by changing shipping routes due to conflicts in the Middle East. The rerouting of ships around South Africa since 2023, when Houthi rebels hijacked a British-owned vessel near Yemen, has substantially increased the chances of vessels striking the mammals in the region, they say. The US and Israel's ongoing war with Iran has worsened the situation. This has led to more ships transporting goods between Asia and Europe sailing around Africa to avoid the Middle East. Around 89 commercial vessels sailed around the



Cape of Good Hope between March and April this year, almost double the figure of 44 over the same period in 2023, according to AFP, quoting the International Monetary Fund's PortWatch report. Chief scientist at the University of Pretoria's Whale Unit Professor Els Vermeulen and her team presented their findings to the International Whaling



IPL 2026: PUNJAB KINGS SETS A TARGET OF 210/5 FOR DELHI CAPITALS



NBA Icon Dwyane Wade Reveals How Supporting Transgender Daughter Zaya Wade Became "One Of The Greatest Strengths" Of His Life

AGENCY

Texas: For many professional athletes, life after basketball often becomes centred around family, legacy and personal growth away from the NBA spotlight. For Dwyane Wade, some of the most important lessons of his life have come not from championship runs or play-off pressure, but from learning how to support his daughter Zaya Wade after she came out as transgender. Over the past few years, Wade has repeatedly spoken publicly about the experience and how it reshaped both his parenting approach and his understanding of identity. The former Miami Heat superstar first shared



Zaya's story publicly in 2020 when she was 12 years old. Since then, Wade and his wife Gabrielle Union have become vocal supporters of LGBTQ+ youth, often discussing the importance of listening to children, creating safe spaces and learning

as parents rather than pretending to already have all the answers. Long before Zaya publicly came out, Wade said he had already noticed signs that his child was expressing herself differently. Looking back, he admitted that adjusting his

mindset took time because of the environment in which he grew up. Raised in inner-city Chicago, Wade previously explained that traditional expectations around masculinity shaped much of his early thinking as a parent. Over time, however, those views changed as he focused more on understanding what his child actually needed. Speaking about his role as a father during a past interview with Business Insider, Wade said supporting Zaya became one of the most important responsibilities of his life. "that's one of my greatest strengths as a parent," he said while discussing how he approaches parenting.

Why Aronimink Has Potential To Be The Next Big Storyline At 2026 PGA Championship

AGENCY

Mumbai: Even though the main attention will certainly be on some of the best golfers out there during the 2026 PGA Championship, this tournament may have one more thing going on this week at Aronimink Golf Club. Located just outside of Philadelphia in Newtown Square, Aronimink Golf Club can definitely become a very important part of this tournament's action this week. Aronimink was built way back in 1928 and, since then, has been used for many major tournaments. Designed by Donald Ross, who is known as the greatest golf designer in history. This golf course is 7,400 yards long and is made up of 174 sand traps to help players feel uncomfortable throughout the entire golf



and tricky greens, will definitely have a very important role in this week's tournament. Aronimink's Tough Design May Determine Who Wins PGA Championship The Aronimink Golf Club is designed by Donald Ross, who is known as the greatest golf designer in history. This golf course is 7,400 yards long and is made up of 174 sand traps to help players feel uncomfortable throughout the entire golf

course. Some golf holes have already begun gaining attention even before the 2017 PGA Championship. The Aronimink's finishing holes will likely be the key component for the event's winner. Importance of Aronimink Lends Added Intrinsic To 2026 PGA Championship Aside from its design, the Aronimink Golf Club carries great historical significance for golfing in America.

Jayden Daniels' 2026 NFL Season In Spotlight Amid Washington Commanders' WR Problems

AGENCY

Washington: The Washington Commanders entered their offseason knowing that they needed to address the issues that held back the team in the past season, but there remains one major question that will loom large as the Commanders head into training camp: Do they have enough support around Jayden Daniels to allow him to be successful? Even though the Commanders made an aggressive push to bolster their defense, which was one of the worst in the NFL, the Commanders' wide receiver situation remains questionable, other than Terry McLaurin, leading to speculation over whether the Commanders have done enough to aid Jayden



Daniels in his third NFL season. Leaders Count On Improvement From Jayden Daniels Amid Uncertainty At Wide Receiver Positions Adam Peters, the team's general manager, worked to bolster the defense by drafting Odafu Oweh and K'Lavon Chaisson, pass rushers who can help alleviate the issues Washington had last year when they led the league in

allowing the most total yards. In addition, Sonny Styles was selected in the 2026 NFL Draft with the seventh overall pick. These changes should improve the performance of the defense quickly; however, they may soon shift their focus to Daniels and his offense. Terry McLaurin will certainly remain the team's top wide receiver. However, right behind him is an uncertain situation since no one else in the team stands out. Williams was picked up in the third round, but it will surely take some time for the rookie receiver to make an impact. In addition, rumors persist of the Commanders attempting to trade for San Francisco's Brandon Aiyuk, and if they succeed.

Mumbai Indians Break Silence On Hardik Pandya's Continued Absence



AGENCY

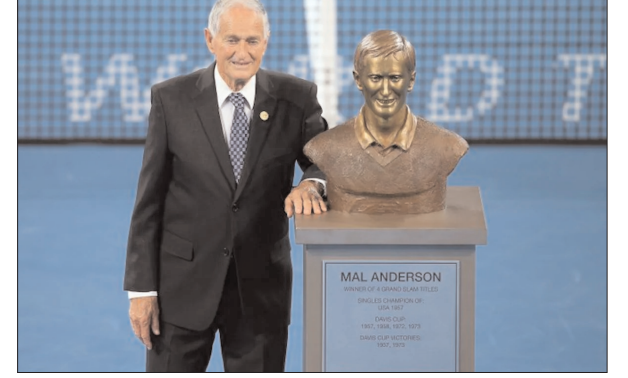
Mumbai: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene provided an important update on skipper Hardik Pandya's injury following MI's IPL 2026 match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday in Raipur. Mumbai were without their regular captain for the second consecutive game, with Suryakumar Yadav leading the side in Hardik's absence. MI went on to lose the match by two wickets, a defeat that also confirmed their elimination from the playoff race, making them the second team after Lucknow Super Giants to be knocked out of the tournament. Speaking after the match, Jayawardene revealed that Hardik has been dealing with a back issue and has been undergoing treatment under the supervision of the medical team. As a result, he was unable to participate in practice sessions. The head

coach added that the team management did not want to take any risks with the all-rounder's fitness, which is why he was rested for the clash against RCB. "Yeah, Hardik had a back issue which we were trying to rectify, but it hasn't settled in yet. So the medical guys were working on him. He couldn't train the last few days, so we didn't want to take a risk without knowing exactly. So we'll see. It's on a day-to-day basis. See how he feels. And then we'll make a decision on that," said Jayawardene. MI did well to post a challenging total of 166/7 on a tricky wicket, but RCB were able to chase down the target on the final ball of the match. As the result confirmed Mumbai's exit from the tournament, Jayawardene had to face some tough questions, including the 'politics' of benching some of the struggling senior stars. "The season is disappointing.

Australian Tennis 'True Legend' Mal Anderson Dies Aged 91

AGENCY

Cranberra: Mal Anderson, the first unseeded player to win the US Open men's singles title, has died aged 91, Tennis Australia said on Monday. Anderson's career started on a dirt court on a farm and he went on to become an Australian tennis great, winning the US crown in 1957 and three major doubles titles. Although unseeded at what was then the United States Championships, Anderson beat three seeds and dropped only two sets on his way to the title. He also won the Davis Cup twice. After retirement Anderson mentored young Australian players including Pat Rafter, who went on to become world number one. "I was really sad to hear of Mal's passing. He was one of those people who helped shape my tennis from very early on," said Rafter, who twice won the US Open. "He was a true legend of the game, but more important-



ly he was a terrific bloke - humble, generous with his time and always happy to help younger players along. "Tennis in Australia has lost one of its greats, and a lot of us have lost a mate and mentor. I feel very lucky to have known him." Anderson appeared in another major final in 1972, when at age 36, he was a finalist at the Australian Open, defeating Newcombe in a long five set quarterfinal, and Metreveli in the semifinal, before losing the final to Ken Rosewall. In that same season, he won the Hong Kong Hardcourt

title defeating Geoff Masters in the semifinal and Pancho Gonzales in the final. In 1973, he captured the Australian Open doubles title along with John Newcombe. Anderson's last important tournament win was the 1973 New South Wales Championships at Sydney White City (billed as Sydney International), where he defeated in succession Hans Plotz, Phil Dent in five long sets, Colin Dibley in five sets, Newcombe in a close four set semifinal, and Rosewall in the final in three close sets.

Pittsburgh Steelers May Shockingly Trade Roman Wilson Over His Early Career Being Plagued By Injuries

AGENCY

Rome: After just two seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, wide receiver Roman Wilson may already be contemplating his next step, as reports continue to link him to a trade. At one time, Roman Wilson was seen as a budding playmaker who would become an important slot receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the years ahead; however, due to injuries, he could be moved. A key contributor for Michigan in his college career, Roman Wilson showed plenty of talent as a rookie and became known for his potential during the draft process. Unfortunately, the young man's NFL career got off to a rough start thanks to a series of injuries suffered in



his first two seasons, and now it looks like he may get traded. Roman Wilson's NFL Career Has Taken An Unexpected Turn So Far When the Pittsburgh Steelers selected Roman Wilson in the third round of the 2024 NFL Draft, they thought they had a slot weapon that could stretch opposing secondaries and create big plays for the team.

This was after he turned out a productive final college season for Michigan, where he managed to amass 789 yards and score 12 touchdowns. Unfortunately, the former Wolverine's transition to pro football proved difficult from the very beginning. Wilson sustained an ankle injury during the first practice session in pads during the Steelers' training

camp, meaning he was not able to make his debut until week six of the season. Just as he was finding some playing time, a new injury forced him onto injured reserve. For a team that desperately needed depth at wide receiver, it was expected that 2025 would be a better year for Wilson. However, he continued to struggle to make his presence felt in the offense. Even though he was starting in four games, Wilson recorded only 12 receptions. Pittsburgh Steelers' Wide Receiver Upgrades Leave Roman Wilson Fighting For Roster Spot With all the moves made in Pittsburgh's offseason, it might only serve to complicate matters even more when it comes to Wilson's career with the team.



India Bow Out Of AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup After 0-3 Quarter-final Loss To China

AGENCY

Mumbai: India's creditable run in the AFC Women's U17 Asian Cup came to an end after a 0-3 defeat against hosts China in the quarter-finals in Suzhou, China, on Monday. The defeat dashed the Young Tigresses' hopes of securing a historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, though the campaign still marked the country's best-ever performance in the competition, with a first appearance in the knockout stage. Head coach Pamela Conti made one change from the side that defeated Lebanon in the

final group-stage match, with Joya replacing Anushka Kumari in the starting line-up. Backed by a vocal home crowd, China started aggressively and immediately looked to impose themselves through quick passing combinations and movement in the final third. India, however, defended resolutely in the opening stages, with Abhista Basnett producing an important block in the fourth minute to deny Li Yaqi from close range. China continued to dominate possession and nearly found the breakthrough in the 15th minute. Liu Yuxi

split the Indian defence with a perfectly weighted pass to Wang Chenxi, who cut inside from the left before curling an effort against the crossbar. Despite spending long spells without the ball, India remained disciplined and almost caught China against the run of play near the half-hour mark. Pritika Barman delivered a dangerous cross into the penalty area for Joya, but the forward's effort was blocked before it could trouble the goalkeeper. China's pressure eventually paid off in the 38th minute with a well-worked team move. After building

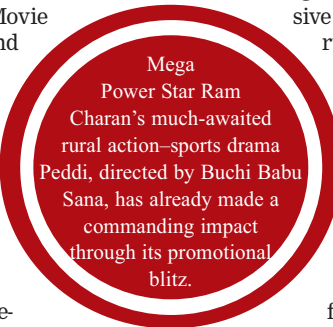
patiently through midfield, Liu Yuxi received the ball inside the box before cutting it back intelligently for Huang Qinyi, who calmly finished from close range to hand the hosts the lead. The goal shifted momentum firmly in China's favour, and India found themselves pinned deeper inside their own half during the closing stages of the first half. Just when the Young Tigresses were hoping to regroup at half-time, China struck again in stoppage time. Ritu Badaik brought down Liu inside the area and the referee immediately pointed to the spot.

MEGA POWER STAR RAM CHARAN'S MUCH-AWAITED PEDDI TRAILER LAUNCH ON MAY 18TH



Mega Power Star Ram Charan's much-awaited rural action-sports drama Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, has already made a commanding impact through its promotional blitz. From the striking first-look posters to the soulful first two songs and the two contrasting character glimpses, every update has received an overwhelming response. Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru of Vriddhi Cinemas in association with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, Peddi is set for a massive Pan-India release on June 4, with overseas premieres scheduled for June 3. With the release countdown underway, the makers have now dropped a major announcement—the highly-awaited theatrical trailer will be unveiled on May 18th. Until now, the team has showcased only two distinct shades of Ram Charan's character, leaving fans eager for the trailer, which is expected to reveal the film's central plot and principal cast. The buzz around this trailer is already sky-high. Adding to the excitement, the new poster showcases Ram Charan in true 1960s rural

person style going on train tracks. The poster amplifies how genuine and creative the team has been to the time period from sets to detailing in visuals. Ram Charan looks absolutely stunning in this outfit and get-up. Meanwhile, Peddi is creating a storm in overseas markets. Pre-sales are surging at an extraordinary pace, placing the film on the brink of new records. Prathyangira Cinemas is handling international distribution. Ram Charan has undergone an impressive physical and rugged transformation for the role, which spans multiple timelines. The glimpses released so far have already highlighted his remarkable dual look. There's also immense curiosity surrounding the performances of the ensemble cast, including Janhvi Kapoor, Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyendu Sharma, and Boman Irani, each adding significant weight to the narrative. On the technical front, the film boasts a stellar crew—Academy Award winner A.R. Rahman composing the music, R. Rathnavelu handling cinematography, Navin Nooli on editing, and Avinash Kolla leading production design.



A new film under the banner HanShiv Entertainments, directed by T.D. Prasad Varma and produced by N. Maheshwari and P. Jyothi, was officially launched on Monday with traditional pooja ceremonies



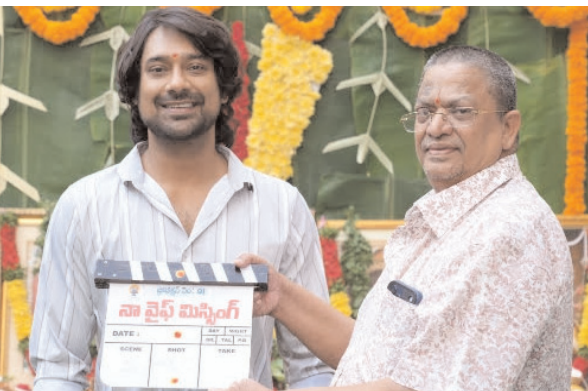
The film features Anurag in the lead role, along with Santosh, Sai Vikranth, Ali, Chammak Chandra, Auto Ramprasad, Phani, and Vinita Reddy in prominent roles. Several noted personalities from the Telugu film industry attended the launch event, including director S. V. Krishna Reddy, producer K. Achchi Reddy, actor Ali, and director Srinivasa Reddy. K. Achchi Reddy gave the ceremonial clap for the

muhurtham shot, while Ali switched on the camera. S. V. Krishna Reddy directed the inaugural shot. Speaking on the occasion, director T.D. Prasad Varma said: "This film, starring Anurag and produced by N. Maheshwari and P. Jyothi under the Hun Shiv Entertainments banner, will entertain audiences with a different storyline. Special thanks to S. V. Krishna Reddy garu, and

Srinivasa Reddy garu for coming and blessing our team. Ali garu will impress audiences in a key role. We are making this film with all the elements needed to entertain viewers. More details about the project will be announced soon." The hero said: "I really liked the concept narrated by Prasad Varma garu. I also got strong support from good producers. I will be entertaining audiences with a unique role in this film. Thanks to Ali garu, S. V. Krishna Reddy

garu, and Achchi Reddy garu." Senior actor Ali said: "This is the first film under the Hun Shiv Entertainments banner. I too will be appearing in a good role in the movie. I wholeheartedly wish the film great success." Producers N. Maheshwari and P. Jyothi said: "We are producing this film with a unique storyline narrated by director Prasad Varma garu. This is the first film under our banner."

Varun Sandesh's Psychological Thriller Love Story "Naa Wife Missing" Launched Grandly with Pooja Ceremony



Hero Varun Sandesh is all set to entertain audiences with an intriguing psychological thriller titled "Naa Wife Missing". Produced under the banner of Komara Media Works? by Shiva Kanthaneni and R. Venkateswara Rao, the film is being presented by Aha?. Directed by Swathi Prakash Mantripragada, who recently impressed audiences with the web series Nayanam, the film is said to be a gripping psy-

chological thriller blended with an emotional love story. Actors Praveen, Mohith, and Jabardasth Sathya Sri will be seen playing important roles in the film. The movie boasts a talented technical team. Satish Kumar NS is handling the cinematography, while Sai Babu Talari is taking care of editing. Music is being composed by acclaimed music director Sai Kartheek, known for delivering chartbuster albums.



Happy Birthday wishes to Hero Raj Tarun from the team of the movie Tortoise

Raj Tarun and Amrutha Chowdary play the lead roles in the film Tortoise, produced under the banners of SK Golden Arts, Prashvitha Entertainment, NVL Creations, and Madhupala Maha Movies. Directed by Rithvik Kumar, the movie features Srinivas Avasaraala and Dhanya Balakrishna in key roles. Producers Vijay Chowdary, Sasidhar Nalla, Ramisetla Rambabu, and Madhupala Suresh have jointly bankrolled this project. On the occasion of Raj Tarun's birthday today, the film team conveyed their wishes and released the first look poster. Speaking on this occasion, the unit members said that they

wish their hero Raj Tarun a very happy birthday. They shared that the film's shooting has been completed and it is currently busy with post-production work. Anup Rubens has composed the music for this film. The team further added that Tortoise will be very fresh with a different story. They believe this 25th film of Raj Tarun will be the best in his career. The characters played by Srinivas Avasaraala, Dhanya Balakrishna, and heroine Amrutha Chowdary are said to be very strong.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA TAKES OVER INSTAGRAM



Priyanka Chopra Jonas once again proved why she is a global fashion icon as she attended the GOLD HOUSE Gala 2026 in Los Angeles. The actress looked breathtaking in a stunning white couture outfit designed by Amit Aggarwal. Her sculptural gown was created using a 20-year-old Lucknowi chikankari saree, giving the look a beautiful mix of tradition and modern style. With soft makeup, open hair, and elegant diamond jewellery, Priyanka carried the out-

fit with effortless grace and confidence. The actress shared pictures from the event on social media, instantly grabbing attention online. Fans loved the detailed embroidery, dramatic trail, and classy silhouette of the gown. Priyanka also received the prestigious Global Vanguard Honor for her contribution to global storytelling and representation. On the work front, Priyanka will be seen in Superstar Mahesh Babu and SS Rajamouli's Varanasi.

Hania Aamir deletes Instagram posts, changes DP: A new chapter?

Pakistani actress Hania Aamir is once again making headlines, and this time it is not because of a drama or public appearance. The actress has left fans surprised after making a major change to her Instagram account, sparking curiosity across social media. Hania Aamir on Sunday deleted almost all posts from her official Instagram handle, leaving only around 11 posts visible on her profile. The sudden social media activity, which reportedly took place around May 10 and 11, quickly grabbed the attention of her millions of followers. The actress also changed her display picture to a simple, unfiltered CNIC-style photo. The new profile picture has now gone viral online, with fans flooding social media platforms with reactions and theories. Interestingly, this move came shortly after Hania became the first Pakistani

celebrity to cross the 20 million followers milestone on Instagram. Many followers believe the move could be a soft launch for a new phase in her life, a promotional strategy for an upcoming project, or simply a break from social media negativity. Notably, Hania had earlier spoken about online hate and the constant judgment women face on social media. The actress had also taken short breaks from Instagram in the past for similar reasons. A year ago, her account, along with several Pakistani celebrities, was restricted for Indian users amid political tensions. During that phase, she briefly interacted with fans through an alternate account named "naamtousunahogaa." On the professional front, Hania Aamir was last seen in the globally popular drama Meri Zindagi Hai Tu alongside Bilal Abbas Khan. Fans are now eagerly waiting for her next project.

Reports suggest that the actress has signed a new drama serial for Geo Entertainment under director Badar Mehmood, although an official confirmation is still awaited. The actress has left fans surprised after making a major change to her Instagram account, sparking curiosity across social media. Her presence at the New York concert was seen as an indication by many fans that their romance had also been rekindled. The last project that Hania Aamir was in was the globally popular drama Meri Zindagi Hai Tu. She starred alongside Bilal Abbas Khan in that drama. No official confirmation for her next project has been given yet, but some

fans have suggested that she has signed a drama under Geo Entertainment with the director Badar Mehmood.