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SCAN FOR E-PAPER

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

11-05-2026  
Total pilgrims: 78,985  
Tonsures: 33,761  
Hundi kanakalu: 3.55 CR  
Waiting Compartments: 22  
Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 8 H

## Four cheetah cubs die in Kuno

**Sheopur (TSIT):** Four cheetah cubs born to female cheetah KGP-12 were found dead at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur on Tuesday morning, in a setback for India's cheetah reintroduction project. Forest officials suspect the cubs may have been killed by a wild predator. The cubs, born on April 11, were about one month old. A monitoring team discovered their bodies near the den site during routine tracking in the Sheopur forest area, the Cheetah Field Director at Kuno said while confirming the report. It stated that the same team had seen all four cubs alive on Monday evening, making the deaths sudden. The Field Director of Project Cheetah, in an official statement on Tuesday, said the cubs' bodies were partially eaten, which suggests an attack by a carnivorous animal.

## Gold and silver prices gain up to 1 pc

**Mumbai (TSIT):** Gold and silver prices traded higher on Tuesday, with both precious metals witnessing gains of up to 1 per cent amid rising global uncertainty. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) opened at Rs 1,53,999 per 10 grams, up Rs 336 or 0.22 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,53,663. At around 10:25 am, gold was trading at Rs 1,53,808, higher by Rs 145 or 0.09 per cent. The yellow metal touched an intraday high of Rs 1,54,243, up Rs 580 or 0.37 per cent, while the intraday low stood at Rs 1,53,771, higher by Rs 108 or 0.07 per cent. On the other hand, silver futures (July 3) opened at Rs 2,80,229 per kg on MCX, rising Rs 1,988 or 0.70 per cent from the previous close of Rs 2,78,311. The white metal touched an intraday high of Rs 2,82,755, up Rs 4,444 or 1.6 per cent. It also touched an intraday low of Rs 2,79,244, higher by Rs 933 or 0.33 per cent.

## CM Revanth Reddy orders mission-mode crop procurement

Collectors directed to complete paddy and maize procurement by May-end; strict action warned against negligence, transport delays and irregularities in procurement centres.



HYDERABAD  
TSIT BUREAU:

A. Revanth Reddy directed District Collectors to expedite paddy and maize procurement operations across Telangana and complete the entire process in mission mode by the end of May. Chief Minister held a video conference with District Collectors and reviewed the ongoing procurement operations, difficulties faced in various districts, transportation arrangements, storage facilities and the impact of unseasonal rains on farmers.

During the review, the Chief Minister warned officials that negligence in pro-

urement operations would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He instructed Collectors to personally monitor procurement centres, conduct field visits regularly and ensure that farmers do not face inconvenience. The CM reviewed the shortage of gunny bags and hamalis and directed officials to ensure adequate supply of bags and speedy transportation of procured grain to warehouses without delay.

Taking serious note of transportation issues, Revanth Reddy warned that strict action, including criminal proceedings, would be initiated against contractors failing to provide sufficient lor-

ries as per agreements. He instructed Transport Department officials to arrange additional vehicles, including tractors and other locally available transport vehicles, to avoid delays. The Chief Minister made it clear that District Collectors would be held directly responsible for ensuring smooth procurement operations and advised them to seek police assistance wherever necessary. To strengthen monitoring, the CM ordered the appointment of a dedicated officer at every IKP procurement centre and rice mill to resolve operational issues and supervise loading activities through adequate deployment

of hamalis. Chief Minister also stressed the need for transparency in procurement and directed officials to ensure that farmers receive receipts immediately after loading to prevent irregular deductions in the name of "tal" or "tarugu".

Reviewing storage capacity, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to create temporary storage arrangements wherever necessary by utilizing Rythu Bazaars and function halls until permanent warehouse transportation is completed. The CM also discussed the impact of unseasonal rains and instructed officials to formulate a permanent action plan to protect farmers from weather-related losses.

He directed officials to provide adequate tarpaulins to farmers and establish a system for disseminating weather forecasts to the farming community. Chief Minister suggested appointing designated Mandal-level officers to alert farmers about weather updates issued by the Meteorological Department.

Revanth Reddy also directed officials to prevent transportation of paddy from neighbouring states into Telangana procurement centres and instructed Collectors to remain vigilant in districts with high maize production.

## Cong alleges ECI-BJP nexus in Bengal appointments

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Congress on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the BJP and the Election Commission of India over key appointments in West Bengal, alleging "brazen collusion" between the ruling party and the poll body. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh



alleged that former Chief Election Officer Manoj Agarwal and senior bureaucrat Subrata Gupta had been rewarded with top posts in West Bengal after allegedly helping the BJP gain electoral advantage through manipulation of electoral rolls.

In a post on social media platform X, Ramesh claimed that Manoj Agarwal, a 1990-batch IAS officer who oversaw the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election as the state's Chief Election Officer, had now been appointed as the new Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal. He further alleged that Subrata Gupta, also a 1990-batch IAS officer who served as Special Roll Observer overseeing deletions under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, had been appointed Chief

Adviser to West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari.

"These appointments reflect the brazen collusion and connivance between the ECI and BJP. There is no longer even an attempt to keep the collusion discrete or concealed," Ramesh said in his post.

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi also attacked the BJP and the Election Commission in a separate post on X, writing: "In the BJP-EC's 'market of thieves,' the bigger the theft, the bigger the reward."



Claiming that the Election Commission acted in a partisan manner during the Assembly polls, the Congress leader alleged that "an entire state went to election with 27 lakh people being debarred from voting" and asserted that the exercise was "tactfully executed by the ECI to create an electoral advantage for BJP". The remarks come amid continuing Opposition criticism of the Election Commission over voter list revisions and alleged irregularities in several states.

## Akhilesh slams BJP over economy & austerity call

PRAYAGRAJ (UP):

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday called the BJP a "threat" to the country's economy, and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to people for austerity reflected the ruling party's "decline".

Addressing mediapersons here, Yadav said the BJP-led government at the Centre has "ruined" the economy despite making tall claims over the years.

"The BJP is a threat to the country's economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to people reflected the ruling party's decline. The BJP has been in



power at the Centre for 12 years. Why has the economy weakened and gone off track? Why is the government having to make such appeals to people?" he asked.

## Himanta Biswa Sarma sworn in as Assam Chief Minister for second term

Bengaluru (TSIT) Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term on Tuesday after leading the BJP-led NDA alliance to a massive victory in the Assam Assembly elections.

Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Sarma at a ceremony held at the Veterinary Ground in Guwahati. Four other ministers representing NDA alliance partners were also sworn in during the event.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attended



the swearing-in ceremony along with several NDA chief ministers and senior BJP leaders. Following the oath ceremony, Prime Minister Modi congratulated Sarma and praised his administration, describing it as a "great day for Assam." Among the ministers sworn in were Rameswar Teli, Ajanta Neog,

Atul Bora, and Charan Boro. After taking oath, Sarma said he felt honoured to serve the people of Assam again and pledged that the NDA government would continue working for the welfare and development of the state under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

## India has ample crude, LNG and LPG reserves: Puri

New Delhi (TSIT)

India has adequate crude and LPG stocks and no immediate supply crisis, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday, while highlighting that the country is maintaining strong energy buffers despite global volatility in oil markets. Speaking at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026, the minister said that India currently holds around 60 days of crude oil reserves and liquefied natural gas (LNG) as well as 45 days of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), adding that these levels are sufficient to ensure stability in domestic supply. "We have 60 days of crude, which is the max we need. We have 60 days of LNG and 45 days of LPG," Puri said, stressing that India's energy preparedness remains strong even amid global price fluctuations and supply pressures.

## CM Revanth at education week celebrations

Hyderabad (TSIT)

As part of the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" Educational Week celebrations, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visited the student stalls set up at LB Stadium and interacted with students who excelled during the previous academic year.

The stalls, organised by the Education Department, showcased various student projects, innovative activities, and academic achievements. The Chief



Minister interacted with the students, appreciated their talent and efforts, and enquired about their projects and learning experiences.

Along with ministers and officials, Revanth Reddy also inspected the

breakfast items being served to students under the government's school breakfast programme. He reviewed the quality and arrangements made under the initiative aimed at improving student nutrition and wellbeing.

## 'NEET & unclean': CBI registers FIR over 'paper leak'

New Delhi (TSIT)

The CBI lodged an FIR on Tuesday in connection with the alleged leak of the NEET (UG) 2026 paper, officials said. The high-stakes entrance examination, held on May 3 for admission to undergraduate medical courses, was cancelled by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday after allegations of malpractice surfaced.

After receiving a reference from the Centre, the CBI moved with alacrity, registering a case of criminal conspiracy, cheating and other offences, the officials said. The agency will soon dispatch a team to Rajasthan to collect material from the Special Operations



Group (SOG) of the state police, which was investigating the case. The CBI had earlier solved the NEET paper-leak cases of 2024.

The Centre has referred the matter to the CBI for what the officials described

as a "comprehensive inquiry" into allegations of paper leak linked to the examination. The NEET-UG 2026 was conducted in 551 Indian cities and at 14 overseas centres. Nearly 23 lakh candidates had registered for the

The examination for students seeking admission to undergraduate courses in medical colleges is cancelled by the National Testing Agency after allegations surfaced

test, which was administered by the NTA at centres across the country. According to the NTA, information relating to alleged malpractice was received on the evening of May 7, four days after the examination was held. The NTA said the inputs were escalated to central agencies the following morning for "independent verification and necessary action".

The Rajasthan Police's SOG had claimed that a "guess paper" for chemistry that was allegedly circulated among students ahead of the examination had approximately 410 questions, including roughly 120 questions that appeared in the test.

While the chemistry paper in the exam carries 45 questions, the test used four sets of question papers. "It is reported that this guess paper had been circulating among the students well in advance; it began reaching them as early as 15 days to a month prior to the actual examination. We are investigating on the basis of the guess paper and it is also available in open domain," ADG, SOG, Vishal Bansal, had said.

## Arvind Kejriwal sees 'political patronage' behind NEET paper leak



New Delhi, May 12 : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday slammed the Central government over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and questioned its 'silence and inaction' against the examination mafia. Speaking to newsmen in a press conference,

Kejriwal claimed that the large-scale collusion at top levels and political patronage to those involved in such crimes are primarily the reasons behind the paper leak of such magnitude. He said that the lives of lakhs of students are at stake because of the NEET paper leak, but the govern-

ment is looking the other way, questioning whether it understands the scale of suffering that the children and their families go through during such times.

The NEET examinations, held on May 3, were cancelled on Tuesday by the National Testing Agency (NTA), the central body that conducts competitive exams, after incriminating inputs were received by the central agencies about irregularities in the examination process.

Kejriwal, accusing the Centre of gross failure as well as negligence, said that this was not the first time that the exam papers had been leaked.

## Haj Pilgrims Flagged Off by MLA Naini Rajender Reddy

Hyderabad TSIT: MLA of Warangal West constituency Naini Rajender Reddy formally flagged off Haj pilgrims from the erstwhile Warangal district at the Haj House in Hyderabad on Tuesday.



On the occasion, the MLA interacted with the pilgrims and conveyed his best wishes for a safe, peaceful and successful Haj pilgrimage. He urged the devotees to pray for peace, harmony and prosperity in the country.

Describing Haj as one of

the most sacred spiritual journeys in the lives of Muslim brethren, Naini Rajender Reddy expressed hope that all pilgrims would complete the pil-

grimage safely and return home in good health.

Several dignitaries and community leaders participated in the programme, including Haj Committee Chairman and Peetadhipathi Azmatullah, Abubakar, Muslim religious leaders, public representatives, Congress party leaders, Haj Committee members and family members of the pilgrims.



Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand paid a courtesy visit to Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy at the Minister's residence in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

## Two Arrested in Shadnagar Murder-for-Gain Case



RANGAREDDY : The Shadnagar Police under the Future City Commissionerate solved a murder-for-gain case within 48 hours and arrested two persons for allegedly killing a farm worker for cash near SRR Venture on the outskirts of Shadnagar.

The victim, Palle Keshavulu, 39, a farm labourer from Sardar Nagar, was found dead with severe head injuries near Veerlapalli road on May 10 after police received a dial-100 alert.

Police said Keshavulu had returned to Shadnagar from Pargi after borrowing Rs.50,000 from his employer to settle a family land dispute. After handing over part of the amount to a relative, he was carrying the remaining cash when he reached

Shadnagar. Using technical evidence, police arrested Pullagoyi Bajaramma, 40, and Bainla Yadamma, 48. According to police, Keshavulu met Bajaramma at a wine shop near the bus stand on the night of May 9. After noticing the cash with the victim, the accused allegedly lured him to an isolated place near SRR Venture on the pretext of spending time there. Police said an argument broke out when Bajaramma allegedly tried to rob Keshavulu, following which he attacked the victim with a stone, causing fatal head injuries. The accused later fled with Rs.7,500 on a motorcycle. Police recovered Rs.3,900 cash, a Honda Shine motorcycle and mobile phones linked to the case. Both the accused were remanded to judicial custody.

## PMO Director stresses coordinated efforts for farmers' development under PMDDKY

Jogulamba Gadwal TSIT. Raghu stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure the economic development and overall welfare of farmers through the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and allied agricultural initiatives in Jogulamba Gadwal district.

A comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of PMDDKY, promotion of oil palm cultivation, intercropping practices, and development activities in agriculture and allied sectors was held at the IDOC Conference Hall on Tuesday. Officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Industries, Cooperation, and allied departments attended the meeting.

During the review, the PMO Director examined the progress of welfare schemes and development activities in various departments. He stated that the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana should bring visible and meaningful changes in farmers' lives rather than remain limited to statistics and targets.

Raghu directed officials to work in coordination on increasing farmers' income, crop diversification, efficient water management, soil health conservation, sustainable agriculture, and strengthening market linkages. He instructed officials to encourage farmers to shift



towards oil palm cultivation, pulses, horticulture crops, and intercropping systems. He also called for an integrated action plan involving Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Cooperation, and allied departments to ensure holistic rural development. Officials were instructed to ensure timely supply of quality seeds, saplings, fertilizers, irrigation facilities, institutional credit, and technical support to farmers.

Highlighting the importance of soil health management, Raghu directed officials to conduct regular soil fertility tests and create awareness on integrated nutrient management using Soil Health Cards. He also stressed expanding agricultural credit access through Kisan Credit Cards and cooperative institutions. The PMO

Director suggested identifying successful model farmers and promoting them as role models to motivate others through sharing of best farming practices at the village level. Senior Technical Officer Srikanth, District Horticulture Officer Akbar, District Agriculture Officer Veerappa, DRDO Mushaida Begum, Animal Husbandry Officer Shivananda Swamy, and officials from various departments participated in the meeting.

Later, Raghu visited oil palm nurseries near the Beechupally Oil Factory in Erravelli mandal, inspected a paddy procurement centre at Konduru village, and visited dairy, fish, and vegetable farms in the district to interact with farmers and review their challenges and farming practices.

## BRS leaders demand resignation of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders in Husnabad demanded the resignation of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar over the controversy involving his son, Bandi Bhagirath.

Addressing a press conference at the BRS party office in Husnabad on Tuesday, M.A. Anwar Pasha and Municipal Councillor Gadepaka Ravinder alleged that Bandi Sanjay no longer had the moral authority to continue as a Union Minister and demanded his immediate resignation.

The leaders accused the Union Minister of allegedly attempting to



influence the case involving the family of a minor girl and demanded strict legal action against those responsible. They urged the state government to arrest Bandi Bhagirath and ensure justice for the victim's family.

The BRS leaders questioned whether different

standards of justice were being applied to influential political families and ordinary citizens. They also alleged that law and order conditions in the state had deteriorated and claimed that such incidents were increasing due to administrative failures.

During the press conference, the leaders also raised concerns over several government offices in Husnabad functioning under in-charge officials instead of full-time officers, alleging that this was causing inconvenience and delays for the public.

## Hi Life Exhibition to showcase designer fashion and luxury collections in Hyderabad



Hyderabad (TSIT) Hi Life Exhibition is set to bring a grand showcase of designer fashion, couture collections, jewellery, and luxury accessories to Hyderabad from May 15 to 17 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre. The exhibition will feature exclusive collections from leading designers across India, offering visitors an opportunity to explore the

latest trends in fashion, bridal wear, statement jewellery, and premium lifestyle products. Fashion enthusiasts can expect a wide range of elegant couture, contemporary designer wear, handcrafted accessories, and luxury collections under one roof. The event aims to provide a premium shopping and fashion experience for visitors in the city. Organisers said the exhibition would bring together top fashion labels and emerging designers, making it a major destination for style, glamour, and contemporary fashion trends in Hyderabad. The three-day event promises to celebrate fashion and elegance with curated collections reflecting creativity, craftsmanship, and luxury.

## Hanuman Jayanti celebrations held at Sri Ardhagiri Veeranjanya Swamy temple



Chittoor (TSIT) Special spiritual celebrations were held at Sri Ardhagiri Veeranjanya Swamy Temple on the auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. Kalikiri Murali Mohan visited the renowned pilgrim centre and offered prayers to Lord Veeranjanya Swamy. On behalf of Kanipakam Devasthanam, he presented silk vestments (Pattu Vastrams) to the deity and participated in special pooja ceremonies conducted at the temple. Tushar Doodi and Shanmugam Reddy also took part in the programme and received the blessings of Lord Anjaneya Swamy. Prayers were offered seeking the divine blessings of Lord Hanuman for the health, happiness, prosperity, and wellbeing of the people of the constituency and Chittoor district.

## VRK Heritage to unveil Ganga Kaveri Collection celebrating Indian textile heritage

Hyderabad "Threads Between Us," an intimate cultural showcase by VRK Heritage, will present the launch of the Ganga Kaveri Collection, celebrating heritage, motherhood, craftsmanship, and emotional bonds across generations. Inspired by the artistic confluence of North and South India, the collection blends intricate Zardozi handwork with timeless Kanjivaram silks. The designs feature rich traditional motifs, handcrafted detailing, and heritage weaving techniques that reflect India's diverse textile legacy. The event will include interactions with National Award-winning Banarasi master artisan Amresh Kushwaha and artisan Angika Kushwaha. A special session titled "Women Behind the Weaves" will feature conversations with Sumitha and Sanya, highlighting the stories and vision behind the craftsmanship.



The evening will also feature an exclusive showcase of the Ganga Kaveri Collection, curated walkthroughs for creators and distinguished guests, along with storytelling sessions focused on craftsmanship and textile artistry. Designed as a cultural and conversational experience, the event aims to celebrate Indian textiles, legacy craftsmanship, and contemporary storytelling while honouring the artisans and traditions behind the weaves.

## Medicover Woman & Child Hospitals participates in nationwide NRP Day initiative

Hyderabad : Medicover Woman & Child Hospitals participated in the National Neonatology Forum (NNF) India's NRP Day celebrations on May 10 by conducting large-scale Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) skill training sessions aimed at strengthening newborn survival and neonatal emergency care.

The nationwide initiative, led by Lallan Kumar Bharti, saw 998 synchronized training courses conducted across the country, training nearly 20,000 healthcare providers in essential newborn resuscitation techniques, making it one of India's largest coordinated healthcare skill-building programs.

At Medicover Woman & Child Hospitals, the program was led by Ravinder Reddy and Navitha, who highlighted the importance of the critical "golden minutes" immediately after birth.

The free hands-on training initiative



equipped healthcare workers from both government and private sectors with evidence-based lifesaving skills to address newborn mortality caused by breathing difficulties during birth.

Dr. Ravinder Reddy stated that every healthcare provider trained in neonatal resuscitation becomes a lifesaver during critical moments and said expanding such skills in urban and rural healthcare systems would help reduce preventable neonatal deaths.

Dr. Navitha said timely neonatal resuscitation during the first few minutes after birth can save countless newborn lives and added that the initiative empowers healthcare professionals with practical lifesaving skills.

Through its participation in the national mission, Medicover Woman & Child Hospitals reaffirmed its commitment to advancing maternal and child healthcare and supporting NNF India's vision of ensuring timely resuscitation support for every newborn.

## HUDCO hosts associates' meet for capital gain tax exemption bonds in Hyderabad

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. organised an Associates' Meet for its 54EC, now Section 85, Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds at Taj Deccan, Hyderabad on May 8, 2026.

The event received an enthusiastic response from Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, financial consultants, channel partners, representatives from broking houses, collecting banks, and other associates from the region. The programme marked a significant milestone in HUDCO's resource mobilisation efforts following the CBDT notification issued on April 7, 2026.

The event also marked one year since the launch of HUDCO's 54EC, now Section 85, Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds, with the first series introduced on May 7, 2025. Officials stated that the anniversary reflected growing investor confidence and strong market acceptance of the product.



During the meeting, HUDCO officials briefed participants about the recently launched Urban Invest Window (UiWIN), aligned with the Government of India's Urban Challenge Fund initiative aimed at promoting sustainable urban infrastructure development.

Sanjay Kulshrestha said the funds mobilised through the bonds would be utilised for financing urban development and infrastructure projects in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. He added that the bonds would create a substantial

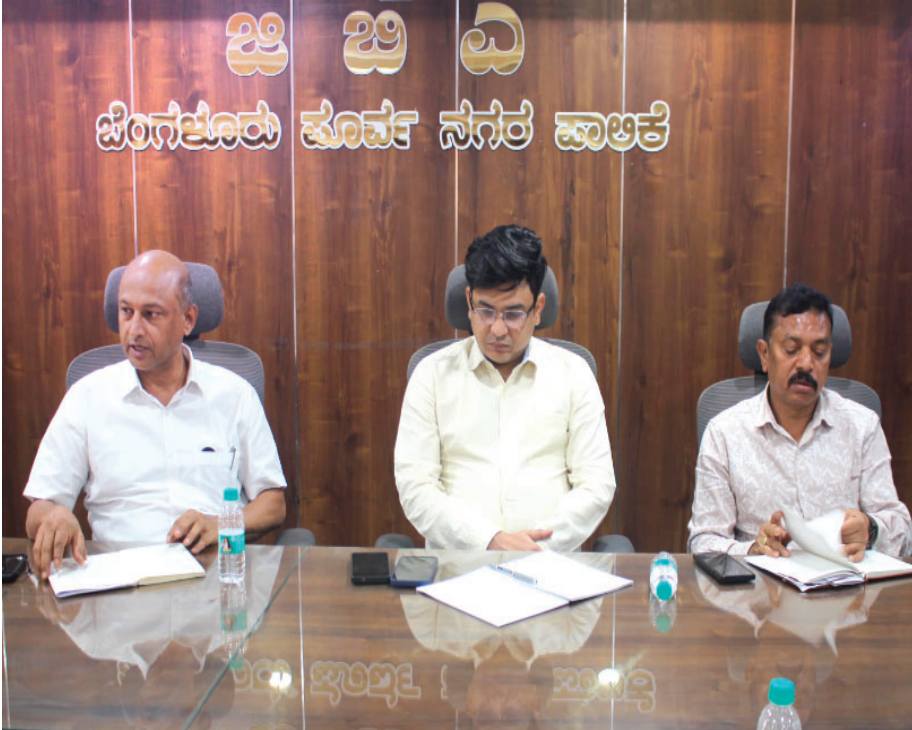
source of long-term funds at competitive rates for urban infrastructure financing. Under Section 85 of the Income-tax Act, 2025, capital gains arising from the transfer of long-term capital assets such as land or buildings are exempt from tax if invested in specified capital gains bonds within six months from the date of transfer, subject to a maximum investment of Rs.50 lakh per investor. These bonds are redeemable after five years. Daljeet Singh Khatri, P Subhas Reddy, and Achal Gupta also participated in the meeting.

# D.S. Ramesh directs comprehensive action plan for storm water drain maintenance

Bengaluru :A review meeting of the maintenance of major storm water drains, progress of development works under CMIDP and SSIP grants, and removal of dilapidated structures in Bengaluru East City Corporation was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner D.S. Ramesh.

During the meeting, the Commissioner instructed officials to prepare ward-wise action plans for maintaining major storm water drains, including around 35 km of concrete drains in Mahadevapura Zone and 45 km in KR Puram Zone. He directed officials to carry out desilting operations four times a year and ensure continuous monitoring by Executive Engineers.

Officials were instructed to fix daily targets for drain cleaning and submit reports detailing the extent of drains cleaned. The Commissioner also directed officials to provide before-and-after drone videos and photographs as proof of maintenance work. Coordination with the Project Implementation Unit was stressed for drains being developed under World Bank-funded projects.



ing and submit reports detailing the extent of drains cleaned. The Commissioner also directed officials to provide before-and-after drone videos and photographs as proof of maintenance work. Coordination with the Project Implementation Unit was stressed for drains being developed under World Bank-funded projects.

drains being developed under World Bank-funded projects. The Commissioner warned that surprise inspections would be conducted and officials would be held responsible if silt accumulation was found in supposedly cleaned drains. Directions were also issued to inspect flood-prone areas and take precautionary measures to prevent monsoon waterlogging.

Regarding CMIDP and SSIP-funded road works, officials were instructed to complete asphalt works by May 15 in completed civil work areas and finish all pending infrastructure works by May 30. The Commissioner also directed immediate identification and removal of dangerous buildings, compound walls, and unsafe structures. Notices are to be issued for private properties, while barricading, public alerts, and alternative traffic arrangements must be ensured in hazardous areas.

# Heavy rain forecast in coastal dists from May 13; IMD issues warning

M a n g a l u r u / Bengaluru, May 12: Pre-monsoon activities are picking up pace in the coastal regions, with the Meteorological Department forecasting heavy rainfall starting Wednesday, May 13. A depression is likely to form in the Bay of Bengal near the Tamil Nadu coast around May 12, which will trigger the change in weather patterns.



Under the influence of this system, widespread heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning is expected across coastal Karnataka, Kerala, and several parts of Tamil Nadu from May 13. Furthermore, the movement of the southwest monsoon winds over the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea is expected to intensify from May 15, paving the way for strong pre-monsoon showers along the coast. Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Kasargod

districts are highly likely to witness moderate to heavy rainfall over the next four to five days. The weather department also noted that highly favorable conditions are forming, indicating that the southwest monsoon might arrive slightly earlier than usual this year in the coastal belt.

Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning to fishermen and residents living along the coastline to exercise utmost caution. Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed parts of Chikkamagaluru district, particularly around Kalasa and Koppa, as well as Haveri on May 11 evening, bringing much-needed respite from the heat in those regions.

# PM Modi's Vision Driving India's EV Revolution: Karnataka Gets 1,243 New EV Chargers Under PM E-DRIVE

Bengaluru : Bengaluru witnessed a major push towards India's clean mobility transformation on Monday as Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy announced key approvals and policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the country's EV charging ecosystem under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme. In a significant development for Karnataka, the Union Minister announced the approval of proposals involving the installation of 1,243 EV chargers in the State with a financial outlay of Rs.123.26 crore. The announcement positions Karnataka among the leading States driving India's transition towards electric mobility.



Addressing the Conference on Enabling Nationwide EV Charging Infrastructure under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy said Bengaluru has emerged as one of India's leading EV charging hubs and urged other States to actively participate in accelerating the nationwide transition towards clean mobility.

The Minister stated that proposals worth Rs.503.86 crore have so far been approved for the installation of 4,874 EV chargers across various States and Central Public Sector Enterprises. Approved proposals include major CPSEs such

as HPCL, IOCL and BPCL, along with States including Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Praising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, Union Minister H.D.Kumaraswamy said India is steadily advancing towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 while remaining firmly committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070. He noted that the Prime Minister's emphasis on sustainability, innovation and scale has fundamentally transformed India's approach towards mobility and energy.

The Minister highlighted that

India's automotive sector contributes over 7% to the country's GDP, accounts for nearly half of manufacturing GDP, and supports close to 30 million livelihoods, making it central to India's clean mobility transition.

He also underlined several major initiatives launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries to strengthen India's position as a global hub for future mobility technologies. These include the Rs.18,100 crore PLI ACC Scheme for battery cell manufacturing, the Rs.25,938 crore PLI Auto Scheme promoting cleaner vehicles including EVs and hydrogen-powered vehicles, and the recently launched Rs.7,280 crore REPM

Scheme aimed at achieving self-reliance in rare earth magnet manufacturing.

Describing the PM E-DRIVE Scheme as the cornerstone of India's EV transformation, Kumaraswamy said the Rs.10,900 crore initiative is accelerating the adoption of electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, buses and trucks while simultaneously creating a robust nationwide EV charging infrastructure. He added that Rs.2,000 crore has specifically been earmarked for EV Public Charging Infrastructure deployment across the country.

The Minister also acknowledged the contribution of Oil Marketing Companies including BPCL, IOCL and HPCL in scaling charging infrastructure nationwide. Under the FAME-II scheme, OMCs have installed 8,932 EV chargers across the country with subsidy support of Rs.873.5 crore from the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Of these, 721 chargers have been installed in Karnataka alone.

H.D. Kumaraswamy further appreciated the role played by Charge Point Operators and industry players such as Tata Power, ChargeZone and Mahindra & Mahindra in strengthening India's EV ecosystem through innovation and execution capabilities.

# BNCC Commissioner reviews monsoon preparedness and civic works progress

A comprehensive review meeting on monsoon preparedness, maintenance activities, and progress of ongoing civic works was held at the Commissioner's Office conference hall in Bengaluru under the

chairmanship of BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar. During the meeting, officials discussed ongoing works, new tender processes, maintenance tenders, desilting of storm water drains, tree maintenance, and vulnerable

locations ahead of the monsoon season. The Commissioner directed officials to complete desilting of all storm water drains and canals before the rains begin to ensure smooth flow of rainwater and prevent public incon-



venience. Officials were instructed to clear garbage heaps and roadside waste immediately and ensure proper waste management across BNCC limits. The Commissioner also emphasized coordinated efforts among engineers,

including scientific studies on special paints for government buildings to reduce heat impact. Senior officials from development, revenue, engineering, finance, health, forest, and disaster management departments attended the meeting.

health officers, and sanitation staff to prevent waste accumulation in public areas. Special focus was laid on maintenance of arterial and sub-arterial roads to avoid water stagnation during monsoon. Officials were also directed to operationalize completed projects without delay and expedite the Jakkur fly-over works on priority.

The Commissioner instructed department heads to identify dangerous buildings, incomplete works, and damaged roads and take preventive measures immediately. Discussions were also held on climate change mitigation measures,

## WHY BANGALORE LEADS INDIA'S INVESTMENT MAP: THE PERFECT BLEND OF TECH GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION, AND HIGH-VALUE REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

Why Bangalore Leads India's Investment Map: The Perfect Blend of Tech Growth, Infrastructure Expansion, and High-Value Real Estate Opportunities



Bengaluru: Bangalore has gradually established itself as one of the most favorable cities for investments due to the perfect combination of growth based on advanced technologies, rapid infrastructure development, and a booming real estate sector.

E. Lakshminarayana Reddy Founder & CEO of EARA Group said, "Referred to as the Silicon Valley of India, Bangalore has been grabbing attention from investors not only due to technological innovation, but also because of being a diversified economy that ensures steady investments." The first driver of Bangalore's investment potential is represented by the thriving technology sector, which includes numerous IT companies, startup ventures, and Global Capability Centers (GCCs). Thus, Bangalore features a high-quality labour force with a great number of employees, including talents from all around the world. Besides, this sector

ensures an inflow of skilled professionals and, therefore, leads to the emergence of demand in different sectors of the real estate market.

E. Lakshminarayana Reddy added, "Development of infrastructure too has been an important aspect that has shaped Bangalore. There has been constant development in the Namma Metro, better arterial roads, ring roads, and airport connectivity. Whitefield, Sarjapur road, North Bangalore, and Electronic City corridors are developing very fast and have created micro-markets for both users as well as investors. Development in and around Kempegowda International Airport is emerging as one of the biggest growth areas due to business parks, logistics centers, and urban development in the area."

# NEET Cancellation Is Central Government's Biggest Scandal: Dr.Sharanaprakash Patil

BENGALURU : Karnataka Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Livelihood and Raichur District In-charge, Dr. Sharanaprakash R. Patil, has strongly condemned the Central Government's cancellation of the NEET examination, calling it a grave injustice to lakhs of aspiring medical students across the country.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET examination held on May 3 & announcing reexamination following the leakage of question papers, throwing the futures of hundreds of thousands of students into uncertainty.

Speaking to media here on Tuesday, Dr. Patil said the NEET fiasco is the Central Government's biggest scandal. "For the past four to five years, irregularities and controversies in NEET have been a recurring phenomenon with no end in sight. The BJP government at the Centre is entirely responsible for this mess," he said. The Minister pointed out that despite repeated representations to the Central Government and the con-



cerned ministry, no corrective action was taken, leading to yet another massive failure.

The Central Government must take full responsibility. The guilty must be brought to justice. This is a testament to the incompetence of the BJP-led government at the Centre. Where there is question paper leakage, crores of rupees are changing hands — this is nothing but corruption," Dr. Patil said. Dr. Patil expressed deep concern for the mental well-being of students who had prepared sincerely and diligently for the examination. "Conducting the exami-

nation all over again is deeply unfair to honest, hardworking students. It causes immense stress and hardship to students and their families," he said. He urged students not to lose hope or succumb to anxiety, and to focus on their future. "My heartfelt advice to every student is to stay strong, keep their future goals in mind, and prepare for the re-examination with confidence," Dr. Patil added. PM MODI MUST DELIVER SOLUTIONS, NOT SPEECHES

speeches and instead provide immediate solutions to problems like these. The man who hosts 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' must first resolve the chaos in this very examination."

He further noted that Karnataka's own Common Entrance Test (CET) has been conducted without a single such lapse, and asserted that Karnataka's examination model stands as a benchmark for the entire nation. "The Central Government and the Prime Minister clearly have no understanding of how to conduct a credible examination. That is why mistakes are being repeated year after year. The people of this country must hold them accountable," he said.

COACHING CENTRES MUST BE REINED IN Dr. Patil alleged that coaching centres in Rajasthan and Haryana are actively orchestrating question paper leaks to boost their own reputation and business. "Elements within the Central Government are complicit in this racket. The Union Minister concerned must resign immediately,"

## AN INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY ON THE LINES OF ELCITA SHOULD BE CONSTITUTED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF PEENYA INDUSTRIAL AREA: MP DR. C.N. MANJUNATH

Bengaluru: MP Dr.C.N.Manjunath stated that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has introduced several significant schemes

modern facilities for the industries functioning there.

Referring to the successful model of Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA) in Electronic City, he suggested



and incentive programs for the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country. He highlighted that initiatives such as Make in India, Startup India, and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme have strengthened small industries financially and created greater employment opportunities.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Technology Cum Common Facility Centre (TCFC) organized by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) in the Peenya Industrial Area he said, The MP observed that the Peenya Industrial Area is one of the State's major industrial hubs and emphasized the need for better infrastructure and

that a similar "Industrial Township Authority" should be established for the Peenya Industrial Area as well. He stated that such an authority would enable effective management of roads, drainage, sanitation, infrastructure development, and overall industrial area maintenance through active participation of industries themselves. In this regard, he urged the State Government, through the Secretaries of the Karnataka Government present at the event, to take necessary steps towards establishing such a system. He further stated that the growth of industries would lead to increased employment opportunities and provide greater momentum to the economic progress of the State.

EDITORIAL

The miracle of the guess paper "Guruji"

These days, the atmosphere surrounding the NEET exam is as if a web series full of mystery and thriller has been released. Every day, a new revelation, a new character, and a new story emerge. Some are saying that the question paper was circulating in advance, while others are claiming that the "guess paper" contained the same questions as the actual exam. Not only the questions, but the order of the options, the language, even commas and full stops are being reported as identical. Now, students and parents are wondering whether this was a "guess" or a miracle of some supernatural power?

If all this is true, then the people of the country certainly want to see the "Guruji" who performed this miracle. For years, large coaching institutes in Kota and Sikar have been building structures worth billions of rupees and claiming success. Thousands of teachers have been teaching day and night. Students have been risking their sleep, childhood, and even mental peace to prepare. But what lakhs of rupees in fees and years of hard work could not achieve, a single "guess paper" has accomplished. This is the most scathing satire on the education system.

It's being reported that 90 out of 90 questions in Biology and 45 out of 45 in Chemistry matched. If so, it can't be a mere coincidence. This is an insult to the hard work of millions of students who study diligently. It's a mockery of the struggle of a farmer father who sells his land to pay his child's fees. It's an attack on the hopes of a mother who sacrifices her dreams for her child's future.

An exam like NEET isn't just an exam; it's a door to millions of dreams. Here, a single mark can change the course of life. In such a situation, if there's a suspicion that the question paper has been leaked or is available in advance, trust is the first thing to be shattered. And when trust in the education system begins to wane, not just the exam, but the entire society is in crisis.

The most interesting thing is that the matter reached the police on the day of the exam. Some people were even arrested, but no FIR has been filed yet. This silence raises questions. Are influential people under attack? Has education become such a big business that people are afraid to expose the truth? Or is this the same old story where money and influence are more valuable than hard work? Today, the hardworking student feels betrayed. He spent years immersing himself in books, taking test series, and studying all night. But someone else "saw" the question paper before the exam. What value does all that hard work hold? It's natural for the student to wonder whether the mistake was his or her honesty's? This isn't just cheating on exams, but an attack on the morality of society.

When young people begin to see that the path to success isn't hard work, but rather through jugaad, networking, and leaks, the entire generation begins to lose faith.

# The NEET crisis and the credibility of the examination system



The repeated breakdown of trust in the name of transparency, and the inevitable challenge of reform. The uncertainty surrounding NEET-2026 and the fear of its cancellation have increased the anxiety of millions of students and parents. Competitive exams are not just a selection process, but the foundation of a young person's future, hard work, and faith. If the examination system is repeatedly questioned, it has the greatest impact on students who are preparing sincerely. In such a situation, the administration's responsibility is not limited to conducting the exam; ensuring transparency, timely information, and fairness becomes equally important. Maintaining trust in the examination system is the paramount responsibility of any democratic education system. India's competitive examination system is not just an admission process, but the foundation of social justice, opportunity, and talent testing. When irregularities, doubts, or cancellations occur in a national examination like the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), it impacts not just one exam but also the trust, time, and mental balance of millions of students. An examination is not merely a technical event; it symbolizes the trust the state ensures that hard



work, ability, and preparation are properly rewarded. Therefore, the credibility of the examination system is the backbone of any democratic education system. The most worrying aspect of cases like NEET is not just the fact that a single incident occurred, but why such incidents keep recurring. When a national exam comes under scrutiny, public confidence is shaken. Students, parents, teachers, coaching institutes, and the administration—all grapple with a question that cannot be answered by mere press releases. The question is: is our examination system truly robust enough to simultaneously deliver on all three fronts: transparency, fairness, and security? If not, the problem isn't just with one exam, but with the entire system. Crises in examination systems don't arise suddenly. They stem from small weaknesses that aren't addressed in a timely manner. If even one link at all these levels—question paper preparation, confidential material protection, logistics transportation, examination

center monitoring, technical verification, identification procedures, and answer sheet handling—is weak, the entire system can be put under scrutiny. In modern times, examinations are no longer merely a pen-and-paper affair; they have become a system interconnected with a highly complex network of information, security, and control. Therefore, negligence at any level directly impacts the future of students. It must also be understood that trust in the examination system is built not only on transparency, but also on consistency. If a student lacks assurance that the value of their hard work is stable and secure, their preparation becomes uncertain. Even before an honest student reaches the examination center, many questions arise—will the question paper be secure? Will no one gain unfair advantage? Will the entire process be fair? When such questions become commonplace, it should be understood that the crisis is not merely administrative, but also moral. The fundamental objective of education is equality

of opportunity, and if this is weakened, the system deviates from its purpose. This concern becomes even more acute in an examination like the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, as it is not merely a professional entrance exam but the center of the socio-economic dreams of millions of families. Students from rural areas, lower-middle class candidates, and youth from small towns dream of advancing on the strength of their merit despite limited resources. But when the integrity of the examination is questioned, these same students suffer the most. Those with influence, resources, or networks often circumvent the system's weaknesses; but those with only hard work are the most affected. Therefore, examination transparency is not just a matter of administrative reform, but also a question of social justice. The crisis in the examination system also has a profound impact on students' mental health. Preparing for competitive exams is already extremely stressful. Students

endure long periods of strict discipline, limited social life, family expectations, and uncertainty about their future. When the future of the exam itself becomes uncertain, the mental pressure increases exponentially. Some students become frustrated, some repeatedly change their strategies, and some even fall into deep depression. Therefore, the examination administration must understand that it is not simply announcing dates or establishing centers, but is also handling the future of young people. The digital age has brought both convenience and new challenges to examination administration. Systems like online registration, digital identity, CCTV surveillance, encrypted data, and centralized control have modernized the examination system. However, this has also increased technological risks. Data leaks, software tampering, internal collusion, cyber intrusions, and the spread of misinformation have all emerged as new challenges. Therefore, simply adopting technology is not enough; its security, audit, and accountability must also be equally robust. If the technology itself is weak, claims of transparency will prove hollow. Improving the examination system requires establishing accountability first. When an examination becomes controversial, attention often focuses solely on the incident. But the real question is whose negligence allowed the incident to occur. A review of the role of everyone—the exam-organizing body, the relevant ministry, security agencies, central-level officials, and local administration—is essential. Accountability means not just removing individual officials, but re-evaluating the entire system. If the culprits are not caught, the shortcomings in the process are not made public, and corrective steps are not taken.

## The Taj Mahal Controversy: Myth vs. History



The Taj Mahal is a cultural heritage of India and one of the world's most famous historical buildings. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, this magnificent monument is considered a symbol of love, art, and architectural beauty. Built between 1632 and 1653, this marble mausoleum is now listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. However, controversies have periodically arisen regarding its origin and construction. Some claim it to be a Hindu temple or a palace, and others question its historicity based on the so-called "Tejo Mahalaya" theory. In recent years, the film "The Taj Story" has reignited this debate. Therefore, it is essential to understand this topic based on historical facts, archaeological evidence, and authenticated documents, rather than on emotions or rumors. The Taj Mahal is located on the southern bank of the Yamuna River in Agra. Contemporary historian Abdul Hameed Lahori, in his famous work "Padshahnama," detailed that after Mumtaz Mahal's death, Shah Jahan commissioned the construction of this mausoleum in her memory. According to historians, approximately 20,000 artisans and craftsmen worked for 22 years to complete the building. Persian, Turkish, Indian, and Central Asian artisans played a role in the construction. The use of white marble from Makrana (Rajasthan) and precious stones from various regions makes its grandeur unparalleled. The Taj Mahal's architecture is considered a fine example of the Mughal style, showcasing a beautiful blend of Islamic arches, Persian

domes, and Indian architectural elements. Its Charbagh-style garden, its surrounding minarets, its intricate marble carvings, and its artistic inscribing of Quranic verses make it a world-class heritage site. UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site in 1983, calling it "the finest example of Mughal architecture." The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) also clearly considers it a Mughal-era mausoleum. The modern controversy surrounding the Taj Mahal is believed to have begun in 1989 with Purushottam Nagesh Oak's book, "Taj Mahal: The True Story." Oak claimed that the Taj Mahal was actually a Shiva temple called "Tejo Mahalaya," which Shah Jahan captured and converted into a mausoleum. He cited the Sanskrit etymology of the word "Taj," certain architectural features, and enclosed chambers in his arguments. However, historians and archaeologists dismissed these claims as baseless. Most importantly, no contemporary Hindu text, inscription, official document, or British-era survey mentions a temple named "Tejo Mahalaya." If such a massive structure had existed as a temple in the past, references to it would surely be found in some historical record. Courts have also dismissed these claims from time to time. In petitions filed in 2000, 2005, and 2017, the courts stated that such claims were inconsistent with historical facts. The Supreme Court also rejected these claims due to the lack of concrete evidence. The so-called "22 Closed Rooms" of the Taj Mahal have long been a subject of curiosity and controversy. These rooms, located in the basement area of the Taj Mahal, have long been kept closed for security reasons. Some groups claim that Hindu idols, Shivalingas, or other religious relics are hidden in these rooms. However, the Archaeological Survey of India has clarified that these rooms are auxiliary chambers built for the structural strength of the building. They were kept closed to the public due to concerns about damage to the marble from high humidity, carbon dioxide, and tourist activity.

Several experts, including archaeologist K.K. Mohammed, have inspected these rooms. They say there's nothing unusual inside, except for the typical walls, arches, and damaged plaster. Even the photographs released in 2022 showed no religious symbols or idols in these rooms. This makes it clear that most of the rumors about these rooms are based on imagination and sensationalism. Recently, the film "The Taj Story" revived this controversy. The film attempts to portray the Taj Mahal as a Shiva temple and presents the mystery of the 22 locked rooms in a mysterious manner. However, historians believe this portrayal is driven more by imagination and political discourse than by historical facts. Art and cinema enjoy freedom of expression, but when presenting history, factual responsibility becomes equally important. The Taj Mahal is not just a building, but a symbol of India's shared cultural heritage. Its architecture reflects a remarkable blend of Indian and Persian artistic traditions. The use of Indian symbols such as the lotus indicates that Mughal architecture was influenced by local art and culture. Limiting it to a single religion or community would be a narrowing of the breadth of history. Today, the Taj Mahal attracts millions of tourists every year and contributes significantly to India's tourism economy. Challenges such as pollution, acid rain, the Yamuna's declining water level, and environmental damage are already raising serious questions about its preservation. At this time, the need for conservation and promotion of this World Heritage Site is greater than baseless controversies. Ultimately, the Taj Mahal is an immortal masterpiece of history, art, and human sensibility. History should be evaluated based on evidence and research, not rumors and political pressures. Rising above myths and controversies, we must view this monument as a symbol of India's cultural unity and shared heritage. This approach is the hallmark of a society that is responsible for its history and aware of its future.

## Greedy owners extract milk and leave them to shovel in the garbage



A horrifying scene is becoming commonplace in almost every city, big or small, in India—cows searching for food in garbage heaps, calves swallowing plastic, animals wandering the streets, and a population struggling with filth. On one hand, society worships the cow as "mother," while on the other, those same cows are dying on the streets due to hunger, disease, and negligence. This is not just a failure of the sanitation system, but a living testament to our social insensitivity and duplicity. Today, the morning scene in most cities across the country is nearly identical. After milking, cattle owners let their cows loose. These animals then wander the streets, markets, and garbage dumps, searching for food. Rotten vegetables, plastic bags, medical waste, and toxic garbage enter their stomachs, gradually leading to their deaths. Many times, kilograms of plastic are removed from cows' stomachs during operations, yet society's sensibilities remain unabated. The biggest question is with those cattle breeders who consider animals merely "milking machines." Cows are worshipped as long as they generate income, but as soon as they are aban-

doned on the streets, their responsibility is considered over. This is the ugliest face of greed and inhumanity. What culture or religion is it to abandon the animal that sustains the household, pays the children's fees, and provides the family income, to forage in the garbage? Ironically, the cow is the most rousing emotion in the country. From political to religious platforms, "Mother Cow" is hailed. People post videos on social media of themselves feeding cows, claiming to be great animal lovers. But if there was true love and respect for the cow, no cow would be seen hungry, injured, or eating plastic on city streets. Today, the situation has deteriorated so much that stray animals in cities are not only losing their own lives but also posing a threat to the lives of ordinary people. Thousands of people are injured in road accidents every year. Animals suddenly appearing in the dark of night often cause fatal accidents. But neither the administration nor society seems serious. The municipal corporation and local administration periodically talk about launching campaigns, but the problem is never addressed at its root. Some animals are captured and sent to cow shelters, action is shown for a few days, and then everything returns to normal. The real problem is that animal owners are not held accountable. Why is there no strict action taken against someone who abandons their animal on the street? This crisis isn't limited to animals. The waste and

generations of children are becoming accustomed to this inhumane sight. The daily sight of injured animals on the streets, cows searching for food in garbage, and the filth of the environment slowly kills their senses. A society that cannot even be kind to its animals cannot remain humane towards humans for long. The solution is clear, all that is needed is willpower. First, the responsibility of livestock owners must be established. Registration of every animal should be mandatory, and heavy fines should be imposed for abandoning animals on the street. Municipal bodies should implement modern waste management systems. Strict action is needed against the open use of plastic and improper waste disposal. Transparent audits of the actual condition of cow shelters should be conducted. Society must also change its behavior. Throwing garbage on the streets, leaving plastic in the open, and blaming the government for every problem is an easy way out. Cities change through civic discipline and collective responsibility. Today, the garbage strewn across the streets and cows searching for food in it isn't just a spectacle of mismanagement. They reflect the moral decline of our society. There's a lot of noise about cows, but the silence about their real suffering is even greater. Until this double standard is eradicated, neither will cities be truly clean, nor will animals be safe, nor will our society remain worthy of being called sensitive.



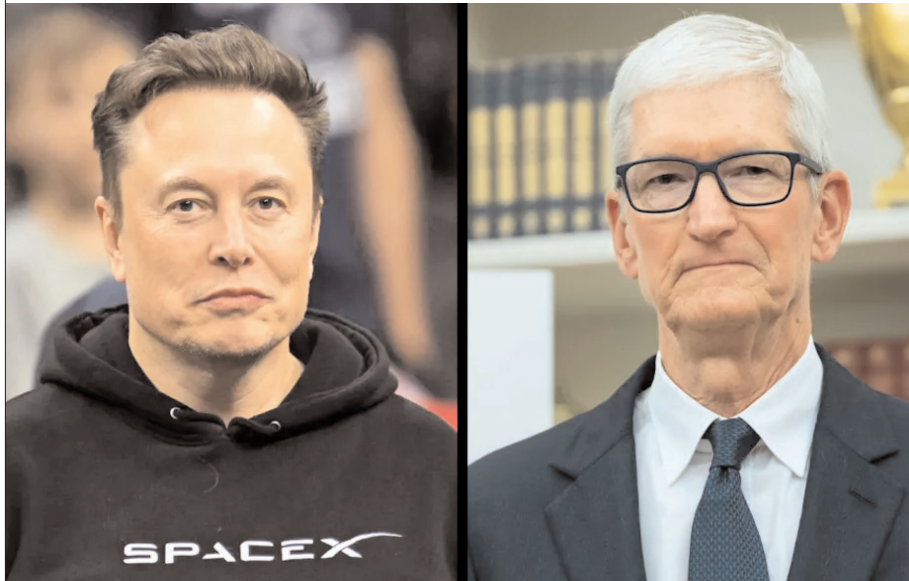
# Musk and Tim Cook among CEOs expected to accompany Trump on China trip

**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** US President Donald Trump is expected to bring a host of top business and technology industry executives on his trip to China this week.

Among those set to join the president on his official trip to Beijing are Tim Cook of Apple, Elon Musk of Tesla and SpaceX, Larry Fink of BlackRock, as well as other executives from Meta, Visa, JP Morgan, Boeing, Cargill and more.

In total, 17 US executives will join Trump on the trip, a White House official with knowledge of the plans told the BBC. The trip is seen as important for the US, as Trump will meet with President Xi Jinping at a time of growing economic and technological animosity between the two countries.

In addition to Musk, Cook and Fink, the full list of the executives set to join Trump as part of the official US delegation to China is as follows:  
Dina Powell McCormick, president and vice chair of Meta  
Kelly Ortberg, president and chief executive of Boeing  
Ryan McInerney, chief executive of Visa  
Stephen Schwarzman, chief executive of Blackstone



Brian Sikes, chief executive and chairman of Cargill  
Jane Fraser, chief executive of Citigroup  
Jim Anderson, chief executive of Coherent  
Henry Lawrence Culp, chief executive of GE Aerospace  
David Solomon, chief executive of Goldman Sachs  
Jacob Thaysen, chief executive of Illumina  
Michael Miebach, president of Mastercard  
Absent from the list is Nvidia boss Jensen Huang, whose company is central to the rivalry between the US and China over computer chips and artificial intelligence (AI).  
The BBC has contacted Nvidia for comment. Last week, Huang told business news channel CNBC that it would be a "privilege" to represent the US in China if he was invited on the trip. It is also notable that Sanjay Mehrotra, the CEO of Micron Technology, will be part of Trump's delegation. His presence is interesting as Beijing restricted the use of some Micron chips in critical infrastructure in 2023 on national security grounds - a move the firm has said negatively impacted its business in China.

Semiconductors remain central to the US-China economic relationship, despite ongoing tensions over technology and export controls. Chuck Robbins, chief executive and chairman of Cisco, had been invited to be a part of the trip "but is unable to due to earnings," according to a company spokeswoman. Together, the executives represent a swath of US business interests, from social media and consumer hardware, to computer chips and commercial manufacturing. A spokeswoman for Illumina, a biotechnology company based in California,

said Thaysen "is honored to be part of the delegation" and that the company hopes the trip will be "an opportunity to strengthen relationships and shape the future of precision medicine." Representatives of the other companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.  
Trump's visit to China will be the first by a US president in nearly a decade and marks a key test of a fragile trade truce between the two countries, following a tit-for-tat trade war which saw them roll out tariffs which at times topped 100%. The tariffs were paused in October 2025 after Trump's last meeting with Xi, which took place in South Korea. Looming large over the upcoming meeting will be the US and Israel's war in Iran, which has already forced a delay to Trump and Xi's meeting. Trump is expected to push China, which relies on Iran for cheap oil, to help facilitate an agreement between Tehran and Washington to end the war. China also wants the conflict to end. It has limited the supply of oil to the country, hitting the buying power of other countries around the world that import Chinese goods.

# eBay rejects \$55.5bn offer from GameStop

**Highlights**  
■ Online marketplace eBay has rejected a \$55.5bn (£40.9bn) takeover offer from video game retailer GameStop, calling it "unsolicited" and "neither credible nor attractive".



**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** Online marketplace eBay has rejected a \$55.5bn (£40.9bn) takeover offer from video game retailer GameStop, calling it "unsolicited" and "neither credible nor attractive". Analysts had expected the offer to be rejected as GameStop is much smaller than eBay, which said there was "uncertainty" over how the deal would be financed. Although eBay has suffered in recent years, partly due to more competition from online sellers like Amazon, Etsy and Temu, it insisted its turnaround plan was working. GameStop rose to prominence as a "meme stock", which sees retail investors buy up shares in unloved companies that professional investors have bet against, causing

the share price to rise and fall sharply. In a letter to GameStop chief executive Ryan Cohen rejecting the surprise offer, eBay's Board of Directors said the online auction giant was a "strong, resilient business". It cited as a reason for rejection "the impact of your proposal on eBay's long-term growth and profitability", adding it had also considered the offer's "operational risks, and leadership structure of a combined entity". It also cited "GameStop's governance" in the list of factors it had determined before rejecting last week's bid. But it wouldn't be the end of the line for GameStop if it chooses to take its proposal directly to eBay shareholders - which Cohen said last week he would do if faced with a "no" from the board.

eBay's net profit in 2025 rose to \$418.4m which, despite a fall in sales, was up from the previous year's \$131.3m. GameStop is worth about a quarter of online auction giant eBay. It has around 1,600 stores globally, mostly in the US. When it made its offer, GameStop said that it had a commitment letter from TD Securities to provide around \$20bn in debt to help finance the takeover. Cohen said eBay could be much more successful under his leadership and even rival Amazon. But analyst Sucharita Kodali, a retail analyst at research firm Forrester, told the BBC at the time that the proposal did not sound like a "terribly good offer" as it would saddle eBay with GameStop's debt. The BBC has approached GameStop for comment.

# ASCI Releases Draft Guidelines for Responsible Labelling of AI-Generated Content in Advertising

**TSIT DESK**  
**Mumbai, May 12, 2026:** The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) today released draft guidelines for the responsible labelling of synthetically generated content in advertising. The guidelines are aligned with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules (2026), amended on February 10, to ensure transparency while avoiding consumer label fatigue around synthetically-generated information. As brands increasingly turn to Artificial Intelligence (AI) to power their campaigns, the draft guidelines advocate a risk-based approach, focusing on consumer outcomes rather than regulating the technology itself. AI use in advertising is considered misleading or harmful only when it creates unfulfillable expectations, exploits vulnerable populations, depicts unsafe situations, or replicates a real person's likeness without consent.

on the risk it poses to consumers. The guidelines classify AI-generated advertising content into three risk categories:  
1. High Risk (Prohibited Content): High-risk advertisements are those that are illegal, infringe on rights, make misleading claims, or violate the ASCI Code. These will violate the code even if an AI label is used. Examples include:  
· Fabricating endorsements or testimonials  
· Exaggerating product results or features through claims or visual representations to create a misleading impression  
· Creating fake locations that appear realistic to the consumer  
· Using deepfakes, copy-righted work or a person's likeness without consent  
· Using AI to generate fictional authority figures with identifiable cues, such as an AI-generated fake doctor promoting a supplement, implying medical endorsement/expertise, etc

advertisements are those where AI use materially influences consumer decisions, and the lack of disclosure would mislead consumers. Labelling is mandatory in these cases to help consumers understand the nature of the representation. Examples include:  
· Using virtual or synthetically generated influencers and ambassadors  
· Replicating a real person's likeness or voice even with their consent for personalised messaging  
· Using synthetically generated visuals for product performance unless the visuals replicate how the product actually performs  
· Creating realistic events, settings or situations entirely with AI  
· Demonstrating a product that does not currently exist  
· Creating AI-generated exaggerated sound effects that are highly relevant to the product's core features  
· Using AI for paid or sponsored product suggestions, which must specifically be labelled as 'sponsored by'

3. Low Risk (No Labelling Required): Low-risk advertisements feature minor modifications or use AI in ways that have no material impact on a consumer's ability to make an informed choice. No label is required for:  
· Minor Enhancements: Routine editing, colour correction, noise reduction, standard blemish removal, and minor lighting tweaks that do not alter the substance or core claims of the ad  
· Background and Ambient Elements: Purely decorative AI-generated backgrounds, abstract skylines, ambient music, jingles, or background sound effects (like crowd cheers) that are unrelated to the product's actual capabilities or promise  
· Fantastical Elements: Obvious, unrealistic effects that audiences recognise as not depicting reality, such as dragons or fairies  
· Administrative and Text Uses: Generating or enhancing advertising copy, creating audio descriptions for the visually impaired.

The requirement to label AI-generated content is based

2. Medium Risk (Labelling Required): Medium-risk

# Asian shares trade mixed after Wall Street rally despite Iran war worries

**AGENCY**  
**Tokyo:** Asian shares traded mixed early Tuesday, May 12, as optimism encouraged by a record rally on Wall Street clashed with anxiety about surging oil prices and a possible AI bubble. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.7 per cent to 62,881.03. South Korea's Kospi dropped 1.2 per cent to 7,726.30, in what analysts are categorising as fallout from overreliance on fraying AI hopes. "Global equities remain dangerously dependent on a tiny cluster of AI leaders, creating a rally structure that looks powerful on the surface but increasingly fragile underneath," said Stephen Innes, analyst with SPI Asset Management. He believes South Korea may be among the first major economies that will undergo what he called "the political redistribution phase of the AI boom." Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.3 per cent to



8,676.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.2 per cent to 26,467.50, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.4 per cent to 4,208.00. Oil prices continued to rise, as the war with Iran threatens to drag on. Benchmark US crude rose 91 cents to USD 98.98 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, climbed 90 cents to USD 105.11 a barrel. Adding to worries were comments from President Donald Trump that the US-Iran ceasefire was on "life support" after rejecting Iran's

latest proposal to end their war. That raises the stakes for Trump's trip this week to China. China is the biggest buyer of Iran's sanctioned crude oil. The war has already sent the price for a barrel of Brent racing up from prewar levels of roughly USD 70 and delivered inflation through the global economy. The war has shut the Strait of Hormuz and kept oil tankers stuck in the Persian Gulf instead of delivering crude to customers worldwide. Still, some compa-

nies are reporting bigger profit than analysts expected, which means the US economy is holding up even though households are feeling discouraged by expensive gasoline and tariffs. On Wall Street, the S&P 500 rose 0.2 per cent from its prior all-time high set on Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 95 points, or 0.2 per cent, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.1 per cent to reach its own all-time high. All told, the S&P 500 rose 13.91 points to 7,412.84. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 95.31 to 49,704.47, and the Nasdaq composite gained 27.05 to 26,274.13. In the bond market, Treasury yields ticked higher. The 10-year yield rose to 4.40 per cent from 4.38 per cent late Friday. In currency trading, the US dollar rose to 157.57 Japanese yen from 157.12 yen. The euro cost USD 1.1761, down from USD 1.1787. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.7 per cent to 62,881.03.

# THINK GAS SWIFTLY RESTORES CITY GAS SUPPLY AFTER PIPELINE DAMAGE

Company Urges 'Dial Before You Dig' Awareness for Safety

**TSIT DESK**  
**Anantapur, 12th May 2026:** A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated excavation work carried out for Electrical Pole installation work Near Neeru Pragati park, Srinagar colony in Anantapur. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Anantapur district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users. Despite the presence of visible route markers, cautionary signage, and emer-

**Highlights**  
■ A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated excavation work carried out for Electrical Pole installation work Near Neeru Pragati park, Srinagar colony in Anantapur. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents.

gency contact boards along the pipeline route, the contractor involved in the excavation failed to notify THINK Gas before starting work and did not submit any post-incident report. As per government regulations, any third-party planning to carry out excavation work must inform the City Municipal authorities or the City Gas Distribution company through the 'Dial Before

You Dig' contact number. The incident occurred without prior intimation to the company, prompting THINK Gas to file an official complaint against the party responsible. As per the current legal provisions under IPC Sections 285 and 336, such unauthorised damage constitutes an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to ₹25 crores.

# MOBIKWIK ENDS FY26 WITH BACK-TO-BACK PROFITABLE QUARTERS

FY26 EBITDA nears breakeven with a swing of INR 742 Mn

**Hyderabad, May 12, 2026:** One MobiKwik Systems Ltd. (MobiKwik) (NSE: MOBIKWIK / BSE: 544305), India's largest digital wallet [2], today announced its earnings results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2026. The Company reported its second consecutive profitable quarter, reflecting disciplined execution across its Payments and Financial Services businesses. This marks a meaningful inflection point in MobiKwik's growth trajectory - demonstrating that the path to scale and the path to profitability are not at odds but firmly aligned. The quarterly results cap a transformational full year. Across FY26, MobiKwik delivered a INR 742 Mn EBITDA improvement and a INR 594 Mn PAT improvement YoY - driven by structural margin expansion in both Payments and Financial Services, and a deliberate shift to higher-quality lending. H2 FY26 turned EBITDA profitable (PAT stood at INR +84 Mn), almost absorbing the entire H1 EBITDA loss, paving the way for a profitable FY27.



**Strategic Context: A Profitable Core Funding Growth**  
In FY26, the Company's Core business (Consumer Payments and Lending) generated a positive EBITDA of INR 495 Mn. During the year, the Company invested INR 547 Mn in building a new business - Merchant Payments, which is expected to deliver 10X growth by FY28. The full-year EBITDA of INR -52 Mn reflects this conscious capital allocation for growth. Commenting on the Company's performance, Bipin Preet

Singh, Co-founder, MD & CEO, MobiKwik, said: "FY26 was MobiKwik's inflection year - we delivered a profitable H2 as committed, and achieved a ₹742 Mn EBITDA swing that demonstrates the strength of our model. Scaling responsibly and building profitability are not at odds; they are firmly aligned. Over the next two years, we will scale up our core business while building four new growth engines: Offline & Online Merchant Acquiring, Unlocking Lending through our NBFC, and AI

powering everything we do. The margins generated from our Core will fund the buildout of these New Moats. We expect to remain baseline profitable through this investment cycle, even as we compound the business for the long term."

**Headline Results for the Quarter and Year Ended March 31, 2026**

**Consolidated Financials**  
• Total income at INR 2,960 Mn in Q4, up 6% YoY; full-year FY26 total income at INR 11,542 Mn  
• Contribution profit grew 112% YoY in Q4 to INR 1,351 Mn; full-year FY26 Contribution Profit at INR 4,374 Mn (+21% YoY).  
• Despite cost allocation to build new businesses, Fixed Costs as a percentage of Total Income held steady at 40% in Q4 FY26 (vs. 39% in Q4 FY25)  
• EBITDA at INR 174 Mn in Q4 - second consecutive profitable quarter, up INR 632 Mn YoY and INR 24 Mn QoQ; full-year FY26 EBITDA: INR -52 Mn (vs INR -794 Mn in FY25); H2 FY26 EBITDA positive at INR 324 Mn

# Trump says Iran ceasefire is on 'massive life support'



AGENCY

Washington: US President Donald

Trump has said the month-long ceasefire between the US and Iran is on "massive life support". He told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday that while the ceasefire remained in place, it was "unbelievably weak". Following Trump's comments, Iranian parliamentary speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf wrote on X that Iran's armed forces were "ready to respond and to teach a lesson for any aggression." Iran laid out its demands to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz in a counter-offer sent to the US on Sunday.

Trump rejected the proposal, calling it "totally unacceptable" and a "piece of garbage". After Trump's comments, Esmail Baghaei, a foreign ministry spokesperson for Iran, said Tehran's proposals were "responsible" and "generous". After his comments saying Iran's armed forces ready to respond, Ghalibaf said in a separate post on X that there was "no alternative but to accept the rights of the Iranian people as laid out in the 14-point proposal". "The longer they drag their feet, the more American taxpayers will pay for it," he said. Tehran's offer includes an immediate end to the war on all fronts - a reference to the continued Israeli attacks against Iran-supported Hezbollah in Lebanon - a halt to the US naval blockade of Iranian ports and guarantees of no further attacks on Iran, according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency. It also reportedly includes a demand for compensation for

war damage and an emphasis on Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. Trump criticised the proposal, writing on Truth Social on Sunday: "I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I don't like it - TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE." In response to Trump's comments, Baghaei said Iran would act "in any way necessary to secure our interests". Speaking in the Oval Office later on Monday, Trump addressed the ceasefire between the two countries which has largely been observed since April despite occasional exchanges of fire. He told reporters: "I would say the ceasefire is on massive life support... when the doctor walks in and says, 'Sir, your loved one has approximately a 1 percent chance of living.'" The US president said Iran's leaders were "very dishonourable people", adding: "Look, I've had to deal with

them four or five times - they change their mind." "That piece of garbage they sent us - I didn't even finish reading it," he said. Trump also accused Iran of going back on an agreement to allow the US to remove its supply of enriched uranium. He insisted that Iran would "never have a nuclear weapon". Iran's Tasnim news agency quoted a source close to the negotiating team as saying: "There is no such thing in Iran's proposal as accepting taking out enriched nuclear material." 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 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.

## No sign of larger hantavirus outbreak, says UN health agency



AGENCY

Washington: There is "no sign" of a larger hantavirus outbreak after the evacuation of the last passengers from a disease-stricken cruise ship, the head of the UN health agency has said. But the World Health Organization's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned "the situation could change" and there could still be more confirmed virus cases. The MV Hondius left Spain's Tenerife island on Monday and is sailing to the Dutch port of Rotterdam. Two flights with the final group of 28 passengers landed in nearby Eindhoven on Tuesday. Three people have

died after travelling on the ship. An American and a French national who previously returned home have tested positive. Overall, seven cases have been confirmed. Twelve employees at a Dutch hospital are now in quarantine over possible exposure to the virus after treating one of the evacuated passengers. The hospital in the city of Nijmegen said on Monday this was a precautionary measure, as the workers did not follow strict protocols while handling the patient's blood and urine samples. At Tuesday's press conference in Madrid, Ghebreyesus said: "At the moment.

## UGANDA'S PRESIDENT SWORN IN FOR RECORD SEVENTH TERM



AGENCY

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, 81, has been sworn in for a record seventh consecutive term following his landslide victory in disputed elections in January, extending his tenure as one of Africa's longest-serving rulers. Heavy security, including armoured tanks, were deployed in the capital, Kampala, ahead of the inauguration in what police said were measures intended to maintain public order. Museveni told the crowd that his new term should be regarded as a time for "no more sleep for all Ugandans". He added that people should focus on creating more wealth and jobs - and build on the progress made over last 40 years through the achievement of peace and the development of infrastructure. Museveni was declared the winner of the election with more than 70% of the vote, with his term expected to end in 2031. His main rival, pop star turned politician Bobi Wine, rejected the result, saying the poll was marred by "ballot-stuffing". Election officials denied the allegation. The 44-year-old opposition leader, whose real name is Robert

Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, fled the country after the election, saying he feared that "the regime wanted to eliminate me". Museveni first came to power as a rebel leader in 1986 but since then has won seven elections. He is among the few African leaders in power for more than 40 years. Others include Congo-Brazzaville's Denis Sassou Nguesso, Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang and Cameroon's Paul Biya. The government declared the day a public holiday and the president's supporters thronged to the Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala for the swearing-in ceremony. In his address, Museveni said that his government would use revenue from planned oil production to grow the economy and alleviate poverty. "We must protect what has been achieved, correct what still needs improvement and move forward together as one country," he added. African leaders who attended the ceremony included Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Democratic Republic of Congo's Félix Tshisekedi, South Sudan's Salva Kiir and Somalia's Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

## MEXICO CANCELS PLANS TO END SCHOOL YEAR EARLY FOR WORLD CUP



AGENCY

Mexico: The Mexican government has cancelled plans to end the school year more than a month early to ease traffic during the Fifa World Cup and an anticipated heatwave. Mexico is due to co-host the football tournament with the United States and Canada from 11 June to 19 July. The reversal comes after an outcry by parents who warned that it would disrupt their chil-

dren's studies. Many families also said that they had been thrown into a tailspin, trying to arrange for weeks of childcare to cover the early finish. After the U-turn, classes will now finish on 15 July - and not on the proposed earlier date of 5 June. The row was brought about by an announcement by the education minister on 7 May, when Mario Delgado said that "an extraordinary heatwave.

## US INFLATION JUMPS TO 3.8% AS ENERGY COSTS SURGE FROM IRAN WAR

AGENCY

Washington: US prices rose in April at their fastest rate since May 2023 as the impact of the war in Iran was increasingly felt by consumers. A jump in the cost of gasoline and groceries pushed the consumer price index (CPI), showing the rate prices rose by in the past 12 months, to 3.8%. It is the highest level since inflation hit 4% three years ago. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) said almost half of the rise was driven by surging energy costs, while housing and food costs also contributed. The US-Israel war in Iran, and the resulting effective closure of the key Strait of Hormuz shipping lane, has led to a jump in oil prices and this has caused a surge in the price of gas in the US. The national average price for a gallon of unleaded



is at its highest level since July 2022, at \$4.50 (£3.33), according to data from the AAA motoring group. The rise in April's inflation figure, from 3.3% in March, makes it increasingly unlikely the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this year. Isaac Stell, investment manager at the Wealth Club, said the inflation increase even left possible interest rate hikes "firmly on the table". It comes

days before Trump appointee Kevin Warsh is set to take over from Jerome Powell as chair of the US central bank. Stell said the incoming chair would enter the role with "little room for manoeuvre" and may be forced to take a more conservative approach. Trump had clashed with Powell over his reluctance to cut the central bank's interest rate, which the president hoped would spur on the US

economy, and has made it clear he expects Warsh to push for cuts. It also poses a challenge for US President Donald Trump and the Republicans ahead of November's midterm elections, after Trump's 2024 re-election campaign focused largely on his plans to cut inflation. Air fares and clothing also increased in the year to April, while the price of new cars fell slightly. April's inflation figure also marked the first time in three years that Americans' pay packets are no longer growing faster than prices are rising. While prices rose by 3.8% for the year to April, average paychecks grew by just 3.6%. US stock markets opened lower on the news with the S&P 500 falling 0.6% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 0.7%.

## Canvas hack: Company pays criminals to delete students' stolen data

AGENCY

Washington: The company behind the popular Canvas software, which was hacked last week causing major disruption at thousands of universities and colleges, has paid the hackers not to publish stolen data online. The cyber-attack affected an estimated 9,000 institutions in the US, Canada, Australia and the UK, with exams disrupted after the Canvas service went down. The hackers threatened to publish 3.5 terabytes of student and university data they had stolen in the breach. Instructure, the maker of Canvas, has now confirmed it has "reached an agreement" with the hackers, who have said they deleted the data and



promised not to extort any students or institutions. Paying cyber criminals goes against the advice of law enforcement agencies around the world, as it can fuel further attacks and offers no guarantee the data has been deleted. In previous cases, criminals have accepted ransom payments but lied

about destroying stolen data, instead keeping it for resale. For example, when the notorious LockBit ransomware group was hacked by the National Crime Agency, police found stolen data had not been deleted even after payments had been made. Instructure said in a state-

ment on its website that protecting students' and education staff data was its primary motivation. "While there is never complete certainty when dealing with cyber criminals, we believe it was important to take every step within our control to give customers additional peace of mind, to the extent possible," the company said. Instructure did not set out the terms of the agreement but said that it meant that the data was returned to the company it received "digital confirmation of data destruction" it had been informed that no Instructure customers would be extorted as a result of the incident the agreement covers all affected customers.

## EU needs to delay social media access for children - von der Leyen



AGENCY

Russels: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed a "social media delay" for children in Europe and has said new legislation could be put forward in months. She told an EU summit in Copenhagen that an expert panel was due to come up with steps on how to protect minors online by July. Several countries in Europe and around the world have already introduced social media bans for minors, and von der Leyen did not rule that out. "The discussion about a minimum age for social media can no longer be ignored," she said. Denmark, where Tuesday's summit was being held, and nine other EU member states including France have proposed various minimum age limits for access to platforms. Australia became the first country in the world to introduce a ban for under-16s last December and European countries are planning to follow suit. In the UK, plans are under way for strict social media regulations, also for under-16s. This entails potential bans, age verification and content restrictions. A

major national consultation is due to close on 26 May 2026. France is pushing to ban social media access for children under 15, aiming for implementation by September this year. In Spain, there are plans to ban social media access for under-16s, to combat addiction, pornography, and harmful content. The Portuguese government passed a bill earlier this year requiring parental consent for users aged 13 to 16 and strengthening restrictions on those under 13. The plan includes mandatory age-verification technology. Plans are being formed by the German government focusing on a potential ban for children under 14, with restrictions for teenagers up to 16. Key measures include enforcing strict age verification, creating "safe" youth versions, and removing addictive algorithms. Norway plans to introduce a strict social media ban for under-16s by the end of 2026. The legislation will require technology companies to implement age verification systems. New Zealand, Malaysia and India have all proposed social media bans for children as well.

## TEXAS ACCUSES NETFLIX OF SPYING ON USERS, INCLUDING CHILDREN

AGENCY

Washington: Netflix has been sued in Texas over claims it collects data belonging to children and adults in the US state without their consent, and uses "addictive" design to keep them hooked. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton accused the streaming giant of "spying" on citizens saying it "records and monetises billions" of pieces of information about how users behave on the platform, despite suggesting otherwise. "Every interaction on the platform became a data point revealing information about the user," his office said. Netflix has rejected the claims and says it will challenge them in court, according to a statement



shared with Reuters. "Respectfully to the great state of Texas and Attorney General Paxton, this lawsuit lacks merit and is based on inaccurate and distorted information," a Netflix spokesperson told the news agency. "Netflix takes our members' privacy seriously and complies with privacy and data protection laws everywhere we operate."

The BBC has approached Netflix for comment. "When you watch Netflix, Netflix watches you," says the complaint filed on Monday by Texas' top prosecutor. According to the filing, the streaming company championed itself as unlike other big tech firms in how it processed data and advertised to users. It quotes the company's former boss Reed

Hastings as having said in 2019 and 2020 that it did not and would not collect or monetise user data, such as to sell ads. But the filing says Netflix used a combination of "addictive" design features, like auto-playing content, and extensive "logging" of user activity to keep people on the site. Among billions of technical events it recorded were what users would click and linger on, and for how long, the filing adds. In 2022, it says, the company also began "leveraging the mountains of data it quietly extracted from the children and families it kept fixated on their screen" - sharing this with commercial data brokers to help raise billions of dollars in revenue.

## Snack giant switches to black and white packaging as Iran war hits ink supplies



AGENCY

Moscow: Japanese snack giant Calbee says it will temporarily switch to black and white packaging for some of its best-known products as supplies of an ingredient used in ink have been disrupted by the Iran war. The firm says new-style packets for 14 of its products, including crisps and prawn crackers, will start to appear in shops in Japan from 25

May. It marks the latest example of how everyday goods are being impacted after Iran effectively closed the key Strait of Hormuz waterway in retaliation for US and Israeli strikes on the country. In recent weeks, companies around the world have warned that supply disruptions to things like fuel, plastics and helium are pushing up costs for their businesses.



## IPL 2026: GUJARAT TITANS SETS A TARGET OF 168/5 FOR SUNRISERS HYDERABAD



## Where problems started with 2026 rules & calendar congestion

**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** Rule changes have continued to be a big focus in Formula 1, with the previous race in Miami the first since a series of tweaks designed to address concerns about the 2026 engine regulations. Since then, F1 bosses have agreed to further changes to engine design for the 2027 season. With plenty to talk about, BBC F1 correspondent Andrew Benson answers your latest questions. How did the people who run F1 make such a mistake when implementing the new regulations? Having watched F1 for decades, this is the worst regulation change I can remember. - Michael Before answering this question directly, it's important to point out that not everyone views the new rules in such a negative way. There is an acceptance in F1 that qualifying has been significantly negatively affected, in terms of the driving experience of being on the limit. Efforts have already



been made to address that up to a point this year, and larger steps are in the making for next year. At the same time, most senior figures in F1 - including some of the drivers - agree that there has been a positive effect on the racing, even if some of the increased number of overtakes that have been seen can be argued to be artificial and down to offsets between states of charge. TV figures over the first three races were up by more than 20% - all three of Australia, China and Japan had significant increases. Miami's are not available yet. Now, as for the genesis of the new regulations, the target when talks started five or so years ago was to attract more manufacturers. At the time, the direction of road-car technology was firmly electric, so it was decided in concert with the manufacturers to increase the amount of electrification. A nominal 50-50 split between internal combustion and electric was agreed. Fully sustainable, carbon-neutral fuels were added for further environmental credibility. The MGU-H, a part of the hybrid system that recovered energy from the turbo, was removed.

### 'WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO PAKISTAN':

## Bangladesh Star's Brutal Taunt At Mohammad Rizwan Caught On Stump Mic

**AGENCY**  
**Dhaka:** Bangladesh wicket-keeper Litton Das was caught on a stump-mic taking a brutal dig at Pakistan batter Mohammad Rizwan during the first Test match in Mirpur, Dhaka, on Monday. The incident took place during the 38th over of Pakistan's innings when Litton mocked Rizwan by claiming he has a "bad reputation" back home. "They are now trying to save the Test. They have no chance of winning. Rizwan's reputation is really bad back in Pakistan. If he gets out trying to hit a big shot, he won't even be able to set foot back in the country - his reputation is that bad," Litton was heard



saying. The fightback was short-lived as Rizwan was dismissed for 15. While Pakistan looked set to salvage a draw, a five-wicket haul from Nahid Rana triggered a dramatic collapse, and Bangladesh clinched the match by 104 runs. He (Mohammad Rizwan) already has a poor reputation in his own country. If he tries to play aggressively and gets out, he may find it difficult to return home. Meanwhile, Pakistan's under-fire Test captain Shan Masood advised against

pressing the panic button after the loss to Bangladesh. Masood, who has been Test captain since December 2023 and seen his team suffer 11 defeats in 15 games, said he would not offer excuses but Pakistan were playing Tests after too many long gaps. "Definitely there should be accountability and everyone has to take responsibility and I don't believe in blaming anyone but it is disappointing to lose the Test in this manner as at one stage I felt we were in a position to get a draw," Masood told a media conference in Dhaka. "We played South Africa last year after nearly 12 months after hosting the West Indies at home.

## Yonex Sunrise India Bring Global Stringing Expertise To India With Technical Workshop Series

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** As racquet sports continue to grow rapidly in India, Yonex Sunrise India took a significant step toward strengthening one of the most critical yet often overlooked aspects of player performance professional racquet stringing through an exclusive Yonex-Sunrise Stringing Workshop held today at Novotel New Delhi City Centre, Jhandewalan. The workshop was led by globally renowned stringing expert Tim Willis, Head Stringer and Supervisor of the Yonex Stringing Team, and focused on advanced racquet stringing techniques, machine precision, athlete-specific requirements, and evolving international servicing standards across bad-



minton and tennis. With over 40 years of experience, Tim Willis is regarded as one of the world's foremost racquet stringing experts. A founding member of the Yonex Stringing Team, he has worked across premier global events including the Olympic Games, BWF World Championships, Thomas &

Uber Cup, and major international badminton tournaments, supporting some of the world's leading athletes like Viktor Axelsen, Carolina Marin among others. Designed as a hands-on technical learning platform, the workshop brought together over 100 stringing professionals from 38 cities across the states of Assam, Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, making it one of the largest structured technical workshops for racquet stringers conducted in India.

## Why Gujarat Titans Are Wearing Lavender Jersey Against Sunrisers Hyderabad

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** Gujarat Titans are wearing a special lavender-coloured jersey for their match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday. The special jersey has been worn to raise awareness about cancer. The initiative was started in 2023. Lavender is the universal symbol representing support against all forms of cancer. Talking about the match, Sunrisers Hyderabad won the toss and elected to field first against Gujarat Titans in a clash of former winners in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. The clash could prove pivotal in the IPL 2026 playoff race, with both sides firmly in contention for a top-two finish. SRH briefly



occupied the top spot before being overtaken by Royal Challengers Bengaluru, but their turnaround this season has been remarkable. After managing just one win in

## Krunal Pandya's Stunning Revelation On Virat Kohli: "Those Eyes Don't Lie"

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Krunal Pandya said that he has learnt a lot by watching Virat Kohli-both as a teammate and as an opponent. Krunal pointed out that the intensity in Kohli's eyes has remained the same over the years and that the star batter's preparation for every tournament is something the all-rounder has gained a lot from. Although Kohli was dismissed for ducks in his last two matches, he has already scored 379 runs this season at a strike rate of 163.36. Krunal, who was the match-winner in the previous game against Mumbai Indians, revealed that Kohli still possesses that same 'hunger to improve.' "I have learned a lot just by watch-



ing Virat Kohli, the way he prepares for a tournament and the intensity he brings to every practice session. I have played with him for India when he was captain, and I have also played against him," Krunal said on JioStar's Superstars. "Now, I am lucky to share the same dressing room with him again. What I have realized is that his hunger is still

unbelievable. Those eyes don't lie. The same intensity in every net session, the same hunger to improve," he added. Krunal Pandya also credited mentor and batting coach Dinesh Karthik for Royal Challengers Bengaluru's improved batting approach. This followed Krunal's gritty knock against Mumbai Indians.

## "So Excited": Mike Vrabel's Playful Exchange With Dianna Russini In Resurfaced Clip Sparks Buzz



**AGENCY**  
**Cramberra:** The controversy involving NFL insider Dianna Russini and New England Patriots head coach Mike Vrabel has taken another turn after old videos featuring the two resurfaced online. Social media users have been circulating clips from Barstool Sports' "Family Feud" segments, adding fresh attention to a story that has already dominated NFL gossip circles for weeks. The latest video sparked strong reactions online because of Russini's comments and Vrabel's playful response during the game, while fans continue to revisit past reports and photos connected to the pair. Mike Vrabel and Dianna Russini's old Family Feud clip sparks another viral NFL moment. A recently resurfaced clip shared on X by the account @CollegeFBPortal showed Dianna Russini and Mike Vrabel appearing remotely on a Barstool Sports version of "Family Feud."

During the segment, the host asked contestants, "Tell me something a man might do to get a woman in the mood." "Kiss her," Russini answered before adding, "I feel like this is good advice for you guys too." Vrabel quickly responded with a sarcastic comment, saying, "I'm paying very close attention. I'm so excited." The exchange immediately caught the attention of NFL fans online, especially because the pair have already been surrounded by public controversy in recent weeks. The resurfaced video comes after reports and photos involving Russini and Vrabel spread widely across social media earlier this year. Photos published in April allegedly showed the two spending time together at a resort in Arizona. Since then, additional images and reports have continued to surface online, keeping the story active across NFL fan communities and entertainment media pages.

## World Heavyweight Champion Roman Reigns vs. Jacob Fatu

**AGENCY**  
**Cranberra:** At WWE Backlash, World Heavyweight Champion Roman Reigns will battle his dangerous cousin Jacob Fatu. For the first time in more than two years, Reigns claimed a championship when he defeated CM Punk for the World Heavyweight Title in the main event of WrestleMania. The following night, The OTC reemerged on Raw with The Usos to celebrate a new era by expressing an interest in once again doing business with The Usos. As they raised their ones to the sky united, however, Fatu suddenly interrupted and shocked the WWE Universe when he challenged The OTC to a title showdown at



Backlash. Fatu doesn't think The OTC has ever done anything for him and his family because Solo Sikoa was the one who brought Fatu to WWE to help destroy Reigns. For this reason, Fatu is determined to take the World Heavyweight Title. Reigns knows he needs to put down this dangerous family threat and make The

Samoan Werewolf acknowledge him. Don't miss WWE Backlash, streaming live Saturday, May 9, at 7 ET/4 PT on the ESPN App with an ESPN Unlimited plan in the United States and Netflix internationally. The next chapter in wrestling kicked off with Backlash 2026, with WWE turning the page on its calendar while also dealing with the fallout of WrestleMania 42. Newly crowned World Heavyweight Champion Roman Reigns had his first title defense, and it was a family affair with Jacob Fatu challenging his cousin for the title in a thriller that had a wild ending. Four other matches took place and most of them were great performances. Asuka and

Iyo Sky delivered, while Seth Rollins and Bron Breakker stole the show. But the question is, who won, and how will it carry the momentum forward? Reigns learned very early on Fatu isn't easy to take down, absorbing the early hits and knocking the champion down. He would be able to bounce back with some of his own hits, just for Fatu to get right back to unleashing his punishing arsenal. The champion landed his patented Superman punch that has taken out so many stars before, but when he went for the pin, Fatu kicked out before the count could begin and immediately got up, shocking his cousin. A second Superman punch still wasn't enough.

## From The Makers Of SHAMBHALA, Shining pictures X Aadi Saikumar #2, Ugandhar Muni Presents, Brunda Ravindar Directs, First-Of-Its-Kind Horror Thriller Announced



dried leaves. His piercing eyes stand out sharply, while blood trickling down one side of his forehead adds a dark, unsettling edge to the otherwise visually poetic composition.

After years of exploring fresh narrative possibilities, the team is now set to deliver a visually striking atmospheric horror thriller woven with a deeply emotional mystery. Blending fear, suspense, and high-tension entertainment with a strong emotional backbone, the film promises a horror experience unlike anything seen before on the Indian screen.

Sound is being envisioned as the heartbeat of this cinematic world. From haunting ambient layers to unsettling sonic textures, every auditory detail is being meticulously shaped to immerse the audience in terror. Known for his intense and immersive audio craft, Sree Charan is set to experiment with entirely new haunting tones, eerie patterns, and innovative sound-design techniques that push the fear factor far beyond visuals. Here, the soundscape isn't merely an element-it becomes a living presence, amplifying tension, evoking emotion, and making viewers sense fear even in moments of silence. More details about this first-of-its-kind project will be unveiled soon.

After delivering the sensational blockbuster Shambhala, the successful team is back with yet another intriguing project. Presented by Ugandhar Muni, who helmed the blockbuster Shambhala, and produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajasekhar Annabimoju under the banner of Shining Pictures, the film to be mounted on a massive scale marks the direc-

torial debut of Brunda Ravindar. Featuring the versatile Aadi Saikumar in the lead role, the project also marks his second collaboration with the banner after Shambhala. The announcement poster carries a hauntingly artistic and mysterious vibe, instantly creating curiosity around the film. Aadi Saikumar appears in an intense close-up look, partially hidden behind layers of colorful flowers and

## 'Veerabhadradu' is a good mass masala entertainer that will celebrate in theaters. Audience will definitely enjoy it: Hero Suriya at the pre-release event



Only an elder brother can play a character like 'Veerabhadradu'. Such films should be watched in theaters: Hero Karthi Suriya's magnum opus is a mass commercial entertainer 'Veerabhadradu'. Trisha is playing the heroine. Directed by RJ Balaji, this most awaited movie is being produced by Dream Warrior Pictures, a production company that has made a name for itself by producing many successful films. The promotional content that has already been

released has created huge expectations. The film will be released in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana through the prestigious Annapurna Studios. The film will be released worldwide on May 14th. On this occasion, the makers organized a grand pre-release event. Hero Karthi, director Venky Atluri and producer Supriya Yarlagadda participated in this event.

Speaking at the pre-release event, hero Suriya said.. Greetings to all the Telugu audience. Every

time I come here, I feel very lucky. I may not be very good at Telugu... but I know the Telugu people's minds very well. We have always had a very good friendship with Supriya garu. We feel very honored that Annapurna Studios is releasing this film. Heartfelt thanks to Annapurna Studios for such wonderful promotions and release planning.

audience will definitely be very satisfied with this film. Rakendu Mouli garu has written very good dialogues. Thank you to Ramajogayya Sastry garu and Shyam garu. He has written very good songs. It is very happy that they are getting a good response. R.J. Balaji garu's journey is very inspiring. He is multi-talented. This story was written very sincerely... and it was also directed sincerely. The first half is a very good emotional courtroom drama. The second half will be full-fledged the-

ater with mass masala moments. There will be a lot of good humor and fun... This is my promise. This film is releasing on May 14. I enjoyed this film a lot. RJ Balaji and GK Vishnu presented me very wonderfully. They showed me very differently from all my films that came out recently. This is the film where I worked with Trisha after 23 years. She performed very wonderfully. Vikram garu designed amazing action sequences. Everyone who worked on this film treated it very specially and worked. That sincere effort is visible in the film for all of you. This is a wonderful entertainer. We need your blessings and love. Thank you very much for your support and admiration. Hero Karthi said..Hello everyone. Thank you very much for your love. They said that there was a 'Rolex' here while the shooting was going on. That's why I came to say hi. (Laughs). I really liked the first look of this film. It can be said that it is a mass masala as well as a family entertainer. The visuals are amazing. I enjoyed the trailer a lot. I remembered the Ghajini days. Only an elder brother can do such a character. Only he can achieve that mass. I will definitely watch the Telugu version too. Such films should be watched in the theater. This is a film made for the audience who celebrate films.

### GERMAN MODEL LIZLAZ SAYS SHE WAS PAID TO TARGET VIRAT KOHLI



## "Doordarshini" Will Touch Everyone's Hearts: Director Karthikeya Kommi

'Doordarshini', a feel-good love entertainer based on a real-life incident, stars Suvikshit and Geethika Ratan in the lead roles. The film carries the tagline "Kalipindi Iddarini." Directed by Karthikeya Kommi, the movie is produced by M. Jay Shankar Reddy and Patimeedi Santosh under the Varaha Movie Makers banner. Having completed all formalities, the film is set for release on May 15. On this occasion, director Karthikeya Kommi shared several interesting details about the movie. Here are the highlights.

**What is your background?** Earlier, I directed films like Saadhyaam, Vasool Raja, and Lakshmi Bomb. This is my

first project with newcomers. Since the film is based on a real incident, I made it in a very realistic manner.

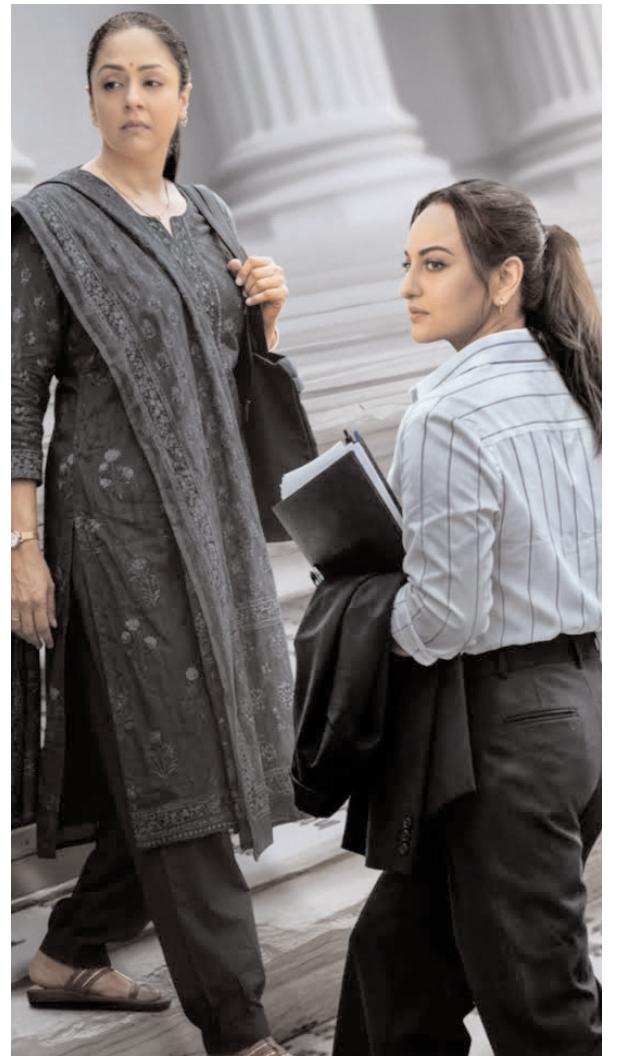
**What is the story of "Doordarshini"?**

The film revolves around the conflict between parents' choices, society's choices, and children's choices. This movie will completely satisfy those who miss the Chitralahari era and those who experienced that nostalgic period. It showcases how eagerly people used to wait for the Chitralahari program and the love story that unfolds around it. Back then, Chitralahari used to be like a gathering point for everyone. Many are assuming this is just a love story, but the film has elements that will connect with par-

ents, youth, and society alike.



## Prime Video Unveils the Captivating Trailer of SYSTEM, a Prime Original Movie that Navigates the Battle Between Power and Justice



Prime Video, India's most loved entertainment destination, today unveiled the gripping trailer of its upcoming Prime Original movie System, offering a powerful glimpse into hard-hitting social realities and questions a system where power defines truth. Directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari and produced by Pammi Baweja, Harman Baweja, and Smitha Baliga, System captures the universal themes of ambition, revenge, fight for justice, and moral ethics. Written by Harman Baweja, Arun Sukumar, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Tasneem Lohandwala, and

Akshat Ghildial, System features Sonakshi Sinha, Jyotika, and Ashutosh Gowariker in lead roles, supported by Preeti Agarwal, Adinath Kothare, Aashriya Mishra, Gaurav Pandey, and Sayandeep Gupta in pivotal roles. The movie will premiere exclusively on Prime Video in Hindi, across India and over 240 countries and territories worldwide on May 22. The trailer for System opens with Neha, a determined young lawyer played by Sonakshi Sinha, taking on a tough challenge from her father (Ashutosh Gowariker) to be worthy of a partnership in his firm.

## "RK Deeksha" Grand Theatrical Release on June 12th: Director-Producer Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud

Under the banners of RK Films and Sigdha Creations, Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud has directed and produced the film "RK Deeksha", presented by DS Reddy. The movie stars Dhee and Jodi fame Aksha Khan and Alekhya Reddy as the female leads, while Kiran plays the hero. Tulasi, Anusha, Keerthana, Pravallika, and Rohit Sharma appear in important roles. The film has successfully completed its censor formalities and is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on June 12th. The makers officially announced the release date during a press meet held today. Speaking at the event, direc-

tor-producer Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud said: "Our film 'RK Deeksha' has completed censor formalities and received an 'A' certificate due to the intense action sequences in the movie. We thank the censor officials for granting the certificate with very minimal cuts. The film has shaped up really well. The hero's character reflects determination and dedication, proving that anything can be achieved with strong willpower. Hero Kiran will earn a good name through this movie. His one-minute non-stop dialogue as Bhimuni will be one of the highlights. Aksha Khan plays a dancer in the film. Her song 'Nandi Nandi' will receive a great response from audiences.



Rohit Sharma appears as her boyfriend in a negative role. Tulasi has played a strong role alongside Aksha Khan and Alekhya Reddy. Music director Raj Kiran has delivered chartbuster songs highlighting the greatness of Indian sol-

diers has been sung by Madhupriya. We will soon release the audio. I strongly believed in this story and produced the film without compromising anywhere. We faced a slight delay during the censor process, but now we are bringing 'RK Deeksha' to

theatres on June 12th. After this project, we will begin a women's kabaddi-based film."

**Hero Kiran said:** "I have acted in several films earlier and am currently working on three pan-India movies. I am very happy to be part of 'RK Deeksha'. I got a performance-oriented role in this film. Since my childhood as a child artist, I have been striving hard to establish myself in the film industry with dedication, and director Ramakrishna Goud gave me a similar role in this movie too. I performed a one-minute dialogue as Bhimuni, followed by a powerful fight sequence. 'RK Deeksha' has action, romance, comedy, and all commercial elements. We

hope audiences will support our film."

**Heroine Aksha Khan said:** "I play a dancer in 'RK Deeksha'. Since I am also a dancer in real life, I strongly connected with the character. The 'Nandi Nandi' song, which is based around Nandi Awards, has come out beautifully. Along with songs, the movie also has impressive action sequences. I thank Ramakrishna Goud garu for giving me this opportunity. My characterization in the film is beautiful. My co-star Kiran worked very passionately for the movie, and I wish him a bright future. Our film is releasing on June 12th, and I request everyone to watch and support it."