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SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA06-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 71,029
Tonnage: 31.84
Hundi kamakalu: 3.07 CR
Waiting Compartments: 11Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens)-6hrsGOLD & SILVER FUTURES
EXTEND GAINS IN TRADE**Indian military
warns Pakistan
on Op Sindoor
anniversary**

JAIPUR (TSIT): No terror sanctuary across the Line of Control is safe, and India will target every terrorist infrastructure at a time and manner of its choosing, the Indian military said on Thursday, sending a clear warning to Pakistan on the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor. Detailing what is now considered India's most significant combat mission in five decades, the then heads of military operations for the three services elaborated on the strategic successes of the massive tri-services campaign during a media briefing here. They asserted that the window for military action against cross-border terrorism remains firmly open. "No sanctuary across the Line of Control is safe. We will hit everything. We will go after everything and that has been made clear in the new normal that the prime minister said last year.

**Police form teams to trace
Suvendu aide's killers**

KOLKATA (TSIT):

The police have been examining CCTV footage and have formed multiple special investigating teams to trace those involved in the killing of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's close aide Chandranath Rath, a senior officer said on



Thursday. The police are also probing whether contract killers were engaged to murder Rath, who was shot dead in his car by bike-borne gunmen in the middle of a road at Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday night. A forensic team visited the

**Another milestone at 77: Siddaramaiah
now India's oldest Chief Minister**

Bengaluru (TSIT)

: At 77, Siddaramaiah has now achieved the distinction of being the oldest sitting chief minister in the country. Previously, 82-year-old Pinarayi Vijayan held this position. However, following his resignation after his party's defeat in the recent Kerala assembly elections, Siddaramaiah has moved to the top spot among the country's oldest serving chief ministers. Recently, Siddaramaiah also etched his name in history by setting the record for the longest-serving chief minister in Karnataka.



Serving his second term as chief minister, he equalled the record of Devaraj Urs, who was in office for 2,792 days, on January 6, 2026. By surpassing this milestone, he has firmly established himself as the longest-serving

chief minister in the state's history. This development has sparked discussions in political circles, once again drawing attention to Siddaramaiah's vast political experience and enduring administration.

**Mangaluru: Rising heat, humidity make
life difficult; rain likely in two days**

Mangaluru: As the intensity of heat continues to rise in Dakshina Kannada district, humidity levels are also increasing alongside, making conditions more uncomfortable. Over the past week, temperatures have been recorded between 35 and 38 degrees Celsius, posing a challenge to daily life. A significant

change in the low-pressure systems forming over the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean is expected to determine the onset of summer showers and the monsoon. More than the heat, the rising humidity is causing discomfort, with increased evaporation of moisture adding to the sultry conditions. Even if tem-

peratures drop slightly, humidity levels are continuing to rise steadily, creating a new pattern this season. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), it is usually common to witness summer showers along with pre-monsoon rains during some days in May.

**TN govt formation battle may reach court as
Governor says Vijay's TVK lacks majority**

New Delhi (TSIT)

A cliffhanger is emerging in Tamil Nadu, with no party yet invited to form the government despite three days having passed since Joseph Vijay's TVK emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar met Vijay on Thursday and

explained that his party had not presented the numbers required to prove a majority and take the oath as chief minister. Vijay had staked his claim to form the government during a meeting with the governor on Wednesday, but the governor remained unconvinced about his numbers. Vijay needs the support of 118 MLAs and, so far, has received public

backing only from Congress, which has five MLAs. The Left parties, VCK and IUML, which have two MLAs each, have not yet formally extended support to Vijay and remain engaged in talks. TVK, meanwhile, may move court on the grounds that the Sarkaria Commission had, in 1988, laid down guidelines for governors to act in cases of a hung Assembly. Under those guidelines, the governor may first invite the largest pre-poll coalition, followed by the single largest party, to form the government and prove its majority on the floor of the House.

TVK is the single largest party in this case and could therefore stake a claim to form the government, since no pre-poll coalition has the required numbers.

**Amit Shah: The strategist who redrew
Bengal's electoral map**

New Delhi: On May 4, when BJP finally managed to paint Bengal in saffron, the party's stunning victory came wrapped in the quiet efficiency of a plan executed almost exactly as designed. An occurrence rare in Indian politics and rarer in the eastern state which historically has defied all pan-India trends and gone its own way much to the consternation of leaders from Delhi. At the centre of that plan stood Amit Shah, whose imprint on the Bharatiya Janata Party's 2026 breakthrough was at once methodical and deeply personal in style and outcomes.

"He worked with consistency, built up a core team, oversaw the structure which would deliver us results and kept interacting with us at the ground level to make changes wherever necessary," said a top Kolkata-based BJP functionary, who had a ring side view of how the plan unfolded over the last several months. Since the heydays of Hindu Mahasabha when Syama Prasad Mookerjee fought elections from Bengal, the right-wing organisation's ambitions in Bengal had been thwarted by the state's stubborn political culture.

First the Left-off-Centre Congress, then the Marxists and finally the Left democrats in the Trinamool Congress under Mamata Banerjee appeared to have entranced the populace with a blend of welfare politics, regional pride and wily organisational agility.

However, what Shah recognised, and acted upon, was that the BJP's earlier approach, reliant on defectors and headline-grabbing momentum, had reached its limits. He also recognised that local cultural sensibilities had to be worked into the plan to make it yield dividend.

The recalibration began not in Kolkata but in Delhi, in a series of strategy sessions that resembled corporate briefings more than political conclaves. BJP leaders made their way to households to eat 'mach-bhaat', to woo the 'mache-bhaate' Bengali populace and break the oft-repeated myth that the party was against non-vegetarianism.

Constituencies were broken down into data points; voting histories were parsed with forensic attention. Shah's team mapped each seat with an almost technocratic precision, identifying not only winnability but the micro-issues that could tilt out-



comes, a factory closure here, a law-and-order grievance there, an undercurrent of discontent among government employees.

Key lieutenants who included Bhupendra Yadav were deployed with defined mandates, overseeing the electoral machinery. More Bengali-speaking leaders and workers from Tripura, Assam and elsewhere were press-ganged to reinforce coordination on the ground.

Their roles, however, were tightly choreographed within a command structure that remained firmly centralised. Late into the night, reviews were conducted, feedback loops tightened, and adjustments made. The campaign was run less like a mass movement than a disciplined corporate blitzkrieg.

Call centres with Bengali speaking workers were set up in Delhi to launch massive social media messaging campaigns. Yet data alone does not win elections in Bengal, where politics is as much about symbolism as it is about arithmetic. Shah's campaign therefore extended beyond spreadsheets into the realm of cultural signalling.

"His visits to Gangasagar and the Kapil Muni Ashram in April were not incidental. They were calibrated gestures, aimed at embedding the BJP within the state's cultural landscape rather than presenting it as an external force," BJP insiders pointed out. On the ground, the shift was equally pronounced. Party workers were instructed to build from the booth upwards, emphasising local leadership rather than parachuting in high-profile leaders from outside.

"The issues our workers foregrounded were carefully chosen - ranging from concerns over women's safety, anxieties about industrial stagnation, to a growing fatigue with the corruption visible in the state and party administration under the incumbent government," BJP officials said. Amit Shah himself became a constant presence, traversing districts with a relentlessness that blurred the line between strategist and campaigner.

Rallies and roadshows were not merely displays of strength but instruments of calibration, each appearance feeding back into the campaign's central nervous system.

Promises were sharpened accordingly from the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission for state employees to a hard line on law and order with a freer hand to the police. For the politically important Matua community who were hit by the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, camps were set up to ensure they would either be enrolled for the next round of polls or be given citizenship certificates. The hard work paid off with BJP managing to win a resounding 206 seats in a 293-member assembly, marking the end of a 15-year rule that once seemed unassailable. Politically, it seemed to prove BJP's theory that even the Bengali electorate, often seen as uniquely resistant to national currents, could be persuaded by a campaign that spoke simultaneously to local grievances and broader national narratives. The question that arises from this victory is can this model be sustained.

Shashi Tharoor moves Delhi HC seeking protection of personality rights

New Delhi, May 7 : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of his personality and publicity rights against the alleged misuse of his name, likeness and identity across digital platforms, including through AI-generated and morphed content.

As per the cause list published on the official website of the Delhi High Court, the matter is scheduled to be heard on Friday by a single-judge Bench of Justice Mini Pushkarna.

Tharoor has reportedly sought relief against several defendants, including unidentified persons impleaded as John Doe parties, alleging unauthorised use and commercial exploitation of his persona.

The plea is also stated to seek the removal of deepfake and AI-morphed content allegedly circulating online using his identity without consent.

The development comes amid a



growing number of personality rights disputes before the Delhi High Court involving allegations of AI-generated impersonation, deepfakes, fake endorsements and unauthorised commercial exploitation of celebrity identities.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi High Court said that it would pass an interim order protecting the

personality and publicity rights of entrepreneur and Shark Tank India judge Aman Gupta in a suit alleging widespread unauthorised commercial exploitation of his identity across digital platforms.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela indicated that it would pass an interim order after hearing submissions made

on behalf of Gupta, co-founder of electronics brand boAt Lifestyle. The suit alleged circulation of fake endorsements, AI-generated impersonations, unauthorised merchandise, fraudulent event-booking services and objectionable online content linked to Gupta's identity.

The Shashi Tharoor case adds to a growing list of high-profile personalities invoking their personality and publicity rights before the Delhi High Court.

In recent months, former cricketer and current head coach Gautam Gambhir, former cricket captain Sunil Gavaskar, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, actors Arjun Kapoor, Allu Arjun, Nagarjuna, Kajol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Abhishek Bachchan, singer Jubin Nautiyal, filmmaker Karan Johar, and podcaster Raj Shamani have secured court protection against the unauthorised use of their identity, likeness, or AI-generated imitations.

STALIN MEETS NEWLY ELECTED DMK LEGISLATORS AS TAMIL NADU FACES POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

Chennai, May 7 : DMK president M.K. Stalin on Thursday chaired a crucial meeting of the party's newly elected MLAs at Anna Arivalayam in Chennai as the party prepared to assume the role of the Opposition amid continuing uncertainty over government formation in Tamil Nadu. The meeting was attended by all victorious DMK legislators and focused on the evolving political situation in the state, the party's legislative strategy, and the future course of action following the Assembly election verdict.

The post-election political landscape in Tamil Nadu has witnessed dramatic realignments. In the recently concluded Assembly elections, the DMK-led alliance secured 73 seats.

However, the Congress, which had won five seats as part of the alliance, later shifted its support to the Tamilaga Vетtri Kazhagam (TVK) led by actor-politician C. Joseph Vijay.

The TVK emerged as the single largest formation with 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly.

Amid the rapidly changing political scenario, the TVK has also been attempting to rally support from smaller parties. Sources said the party has initiated discussions with the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), and the Indian Union Muslim League



(IUML), each of which has four MLAs in the new Assembly. Their support is being considered significant in the ongoing political calculations as parties continue exploring possible alignments. Despite these efforts, the DMK alliance, which now effectively commands the support of 68 MLAs following the Congress exit, appears set to occupy the Opposition benches in the Assembly.

The election results also dealt a personal setback to Stalin, who lost the Kolathur Assembly constituency to TVK candidate V.S. Babu by a margin of nearly 10,000 votes. The defeat marked one of the biggest political setbacks for

the DMK leadership in recent years.

However, Udhayanidhi Stalin retained the Chepauk-Triplicane constituency, strengthening his position within the party. Political observers believe he is now likely to be elected leader of the DMK Legislature Party, a move that could pave the way for him to become the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Meanwhile, Stalin is learnt to have assured party legislators that the DMK would not interfere in the ongoing efforts by the TVK to secure the support of 113 MLAs required to form the next government in Tamil Nadu.

TWO BAGS CONTAINING CASH THROWN FROM NINTH FLOOR OF MOHALI FLAT IN ED RAID

Chandigarh, May 7 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out raids at a flat near Kharar in Punjab's Mohali district where two bags allegedly containing cash were reportedly thrown from a ninth floor of the house during the operation, officials said. The ED officials added that the raid was carried out in the flat of an IT professional, Nitin Gohal, in Western Towers and during the search operation two bags allegedly containing cash bundles were thrown within the building premises. He is considered close to an aide of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Morning walkers reportedly found currency notes scattered around the complex and notified the authorities. ED officials later confiscated the bags and continued with the search operation. They said 12 locations in Mohali and Chandigarh were raided, including premises of builders and housing projects as well as that of Gohal.

Andhra local body polls soon: Chandrababu Naidu

Amaravati, May 7 : Local body elections in Andhra Pradesh would be conducted soon, announced Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday.

Addressing the conference of the district Collectors at the State Secretariat here, he said the local body polls would be held soon.

He reviewed the performance of various departments and the implementation of programmes at the field level. Discussions were held on education, healthcare, and the grounding of investments, among other subjects.

He directed the district Collectors to encourage the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector, as the increasing number of industries create significant opportunities for ancillary industries.

He emphasised that Micro, Small and Medium



Enterprises should play a vital role in the industrial ecosystem evolving around major investments coming into the state.

The Chief Minister said that any issues faced by companies coming forward to invest in the state, particularly related to land allocation, should be resolved immediately.

He stressed that products from various districts should evolve into pan-India and global brands, similar to the successful branding of Araku Coffee.

The Chief Minister noted that the arrival of

the Google Cloud Artificial Intelligence Hub in Andhra Pradesh had attracted the Carrier Air Conditioning company to the state.

He said the company would supply bulk chillers required for data centres and quantum computing facilities. He stated that a Quantum Reference facility has already been established in Amaravati and that once the Quantum Computing Centre becomes operational, an ecosystem for manufacturing the required equipment would also emerge.

Telangana: BJP men attack BRS MLA's office, damage car in Karimnagar

Hyderabad, May 7 : Tension prevailed at BRS MLA Gangula Kamalakara's office at Karimnagar in Telangana on Thursday as BJP workers allegedly tried to attack BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy over his remarks against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

reached Kamalakara's office and tried to attack Kaushik Reddy. They attacked the MLA's car with sticks and damaged the windowpanes. They also ransacked the office furniture.

A group of BRS workers also reached there and damaged Bandi Sanjay's car parked in the same

tions posed by BRS leaders. Every time, instead of addressing the failures of the state Chief Minister, Bandi Sanjay has done nothing for the people of Karimnagar except hurling empty boasts. As a Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, behaving in a way that undermines peace and security with



Supporters of Bandi Sanjay damaged the car of Kaushik Reddy and ransacked the furniture at the office of Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakara.

Workers of Bharat Rashtara Samithi (BRS) confronted the rival group. Police intervened to disperse both groups and detained some BRS workers. The trouble began when Kaushik Reddy, while addressing a press conference at Kamalakara's office, alleged that Bandi Sanjay takes drugs mix with tobacco. He also remarked that because of this bad habit, Sanjay has lost his hair.

Kaushik Reddy also stated that BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) is ready to undergo a drug test and challenged Bandi Sanjay to come forward to undergo the test.

Angered over his remarks, BJP workers

area. Meanwhile, BRS working president KTR has strongly condemned "the reprehensible attack by Union Minister Bandi Sanjay's followers on the camp office of Karimnagar BRS MLA Gangula Kamalakara, along with MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy."

KTR said immediately after the attack, he spoke with Kaushik Reddy. "Entering the camp office in broad daylight like a pack of wild dogs and destroying vehicles and the office is an utterly despicable act. It's a disgrace that the police are standing by as mere spectators, watching the commotion unfold right before their eyes," he posted on X.

"Bandi Sanjay, who has turned into a B-team for CM Revanth, is resorting to these thuggish tactics out of frustration because he can't answer the ques-

his own followers is nothing short of mocking democracy," added KTR.

BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao also condemned the attack by BJP ranks on the camp office of Karimnagar BRS MLA and on MLA Kaushik Reddy.

"When brazen attacks are taking place on the camp offices of people's representatives elected by the people, does the state have peace and security? Or does it not? It is extremely unfortunate that such situations are persisting even in the constituency represented by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. We demand that the state government take strict action immediately against those involved in the attacks and ensure that Telangana DGP protects peace and security in the state," he said.

ADLURI LAXMAN KUMAR CRACKS DOWN ON LONG-TERM DEPUTATIONS IN GURUKULS

Hyderabad TSIT: In a decisive move to strengthen classroom teaching in Gurukul institutions, Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar directed the cancellation of long-standing deputations of teaching staff working at the Head Office and administrative wings of the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS).

Acting on the Minister's directions, TGSWREIS Secretary (FAC) Sharada issued orders on Thursday repatriating nearly 16 teaching personnel from various cadres back to their parent institutions.



The decision was taken following growing concerns over shortage of teachers in Gurukul schools, which reportedly affected classroom instruction and academic activities. At the same time, several teachers had been continuing on OD deputation at the Head Office for extended periods, drawing criticism from teachers' unions and employee associations. Sources said Minister

Adluri Laxman Kumar conducted a comprehensive review after receiving multiple representations from stakeholders and instructed officials to ensure that teaching staff return to classrooms where their services are most needed. The government believes that with examinations and competitive academic schedules approaching, the availability of qualified teachers in educational institutions is crucial for improving academic performance and maintaining quality standards in Gurukul schools. The move is being seen as part of the State government's broader effort to improve educational standards, ensure accountability and provide uninterrupted teaching for students studying in residential welfare institutions. Teachers' unions and employee associations welcomed the decision, stating that the cancellation of prolonged deputations would help address staff shortages and strengthen the academic environment in Gurukul institutions. Education stakeholders and parents also appreciated the initiative, observing that the government had prioritised the future and academic welfare of students through timely intervention.

NEWLY APPOINTED FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES MEET GOVERNMENT ADVISOR HARKARA VENUGOPAL RAO



Hyderabad TSIT: The newly appointed Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of various caste federations called on Harkara Venugopal Rao at the Secretariat on Thursday and expressed their gratitude to the Telangana Government for entrusting them with key responsibilities.

During the courtesy meeting, the representatives thanked the Government for placing confidence in them and providing an opportunity to serve their respective communities. They assured that they would work with dedication and commitment towards the welfare, empowerment, and socio-economic development of all sections under their federations.

Speaking on the occasion, Harkara

Venugopal Rao congratulated the newly appointed Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons and advised them to work sincerely for the upliftment of weaker sections and the effective implementation of government welfare schemes at the grassroots level. He emphasized that the caste federations should act as strong bridges between the Government and the people by addressing community issues, promoting awareness on welfare initiatives, and ensuring that the benefits of various development programmes reach the deserving sections of society.

The representatives reiterated their commitment to strengthening public outreach and contributing towards the inclusive development vision of the Telangana Government.

VADDERA CORPORATION CHAIRMAN RENUKA MEETS HARKARA VENUGOPAL RAO

Hyderabad TSIT: Renuka, Chairperson of the Vaddera Corporation, paid a courtesy visit to Harkara Venugopal Rao at the Secretariat on Thursday. During the meeting, Renuka expressed gratitude to the Telangana Government for entrusting her with the responsibility of leading the Vaddera Corporation. She assured that she would work with dedication for the welfare, empowerment, and socio-economic development of the Vaddera community across the State.

Harkara Venugopal Rao congratulated Renuka on her appointment and advised her to work with sincerity and commitment towards



strengthening welfare initiatives and ensuring that government schemes effectively reach the deserving beneficiaries. The meeting also focused on community development, welfare measures,

and the importance of creating better opportunities for socially and economically weaker sections through coordinated efforts between the Government and the corporation.

EDITORIAL

One Year Of Op
Sindoor: Why 'Round
2' Will Be A Different
Beast Entirely

A unique military operation in global military history marks its first anniversary. 'Operation Sindoor' followed fundamental military doctrines astutely, in keeping objectives steady, clear and based on the reality of a nuclear environment. While these principles still apply, warfare and international relations have changed beyond recognition in the last year. Another Operation Sindoor, though highly likely, would have to be framed and executed in quite a different milieu, since both sides have built upon their experiences to hone their own capabilities and doctrines. The key for the next round may be flexibility, and learning some very hard lessons on what the world is like now. The Uniqueness of Sindoor
Sindoor will remain unique in the annals of warfare for three reasons.
First, it was just 88-hours long and ended at a time of our choosing. Consider Ukraine, Iran and other wars.
Second, it hit pause at each stage, allowing Pakistan to step back if it chose to, thus knitting diplomacy firmly into operations. Third, the political leadership held tightly on to the reins, allowing the operation to expand judiciously and calling a stop when it was judged that enough punishment had been delivered. Clarity of purpose was, therefore, across the board, which was to show Pakistan that India would no longer be blackmailed by nuclear threats into 'restraint', even while exercising operational restraint throughout the operation, so as to remain under the nuclear threshold.
That last point was vital. The lessons of the Balakot strike, for instance, which led to the capture of Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman, were learned well. There was to be no crossing of the border. Complete air superiority meant that neither would Pakistan break this rule. It stopped in time, too. That's interesting and needs further study. Understanding the enemy is the foremost requirement in war planning.

The Wide Reach Of Pak Terrorism
In terms of the future, one constant is that Pakistan's terrorist sponsorship continues, as apparent in at least five major modules interdicted in India in April alone. A key one among them had Bangladesh roots, while another was smuggling weapons from India. All our borders are again of concern, with Nepal now openly anti-India, and Bangladesh's new Prime Minister, Tarique Rehman, facing strong internal headwinds from multiple sources. Then there are other multiple groups that seem to be acting independently. Recent arrests of another duo of doctors planning a ricin attack, apparently on the basis of Islamic State' handlers, is an indication, as are reports of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) penetration into Bangladesh.
The next major terror attack could thus come from almost anywhere, with a twin threat of causing not just carnage but also damage to bilateral relations. That means a far more intensive intelligence collaboration or aggressive penetration with neighbours. This is a deliberately engineered cocktail, intended to make it difficult for India to provide 'proof' of a terrorist attack, a narrative that was successful post-Pahalgam, even within some sections in India. More diffusion is, therefore, a certainty.

The Arms Come Flowing In
A somewhat new aspect is that the Pakistan army is now fully in power. No doubts about that as the Field Marshal holds talks and flies internationally in his expensive, private jet. Decision-making will now be far more discreet, with only a loud-voiced and unreliable Defence Minister's constant threats serving as a measure. Data show that arms imports by Pakistan grew by 66%, with China supplying 80% of weapons, up from 73% in 2016-20. Add to that the induction of new stealth fighter J-35 jets, whose delivery is expected to be fast-tracked to mid-year. This will be a concern for the Indian Air Force.
Then there is the marked increase in space assets, with three launches so far, and a hyperspectral satellite last year, all from China. This is a constellation that would deliver on Munir's threat to attack even the furthest point in India, both in the South and the Northeast. This is China making sure that not only is India forced to increase its defence budget, but also that Delhi is 'kept in place' in the subcontinent. Remember that prior to the Pahalgam attack as well, Chinese satellite imagery was possibly given to Pakistan, while during the conflict, a continuous stream of imagery helped. This pattern still holds. Then there is the fact that two months after the end of Operation Sindoor, the Pakistanis announced the formation of the Strategic Rocket Force, which will have conventional rockets from the Nuclear Command. Point to note for the future: in today's wars, missile use is the norm rather than the exception - count some 650 missiles by Iran and probably double that by the US, and an estimated 9,600 missiles of various types by Russia (not including attack drones), along with Ukraine's veritable storm of drones and some 500-plus Western-supplied missiles. As both wars progress, it's the drones that are causing the most damage. Future emphasis is thus not just on ballistic missile defence but, most vitally, on short-range, slow-flying drones. The point is that with today's 'no-rules' order in force, forget a 'condemnation' for any country that fires missiles. That's history.

And, Trump
The most critical is the stance of not just the United States, but also much of Europe, now praising the Pakistani army for its 'mediation' efforts. After Operation Sindoor, while US Vice-President JD Vance very sensibly said that the US would be engaged diplomatically but not intervene between two nuclear powers, President Trump took complete credit for ending the war. True, there were certainly phones buzzing, once Pakistan - as usual - announced that it was convening its Nuclear Command Authority (in the event, however, the meeting was never held, and Pakistan reached out for a ceasefire). What the extent of US pressure was is unclear, much like whether the Pakistani armed forces themselves stepped back after they found their sky virtually unprotected. The point is that a US role this time might be very different. That could include, for instance, a quiet go-ahead until Indian cities are hit,

WHY DISTANCE FROM IN-LAWS
AND HOLD ON HUSBAND

(STOP POLITICIZING MARRIAGE, IT'S TIME FOR PARTNERSHIP)



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Marriage isn't a power struggle, but rather a relationship of trust, respect, and responsibility between two individuals. However, in our society, marriage is often transformed from a partnership into a game of control, where one party seeks to impose its traditions and the other adopts a rigid stance to protect its independence. This conflict eventually turns into conflict, distance, and distrust, leading people to blame the relationship as a whole. The real problem lies not in the relationship itself, but in the way we understand it. It's easy to dismiss the marital tensions we see today as merely a matter of women's perception, but that would be an incomplete analysis. Indian families have long placed the man in the role of decision-maker and the woman in the subservient role. Within this framework, the daughter-in-law was expected to accept, remain silent, conform, and unquestioningly follow family traditions. On the other hand, a new generation of women, with education, jobs, self-reliance, and self-respect, are challenging this role. They no longer want to be just "daughters-in-law"; they want to be respected as individuals. This is where the generational divide becomes clearly visible. In the past, marriage meant moving into the



husband's home and adapting to the same system, whether it was fair or not. Today's woman believes that even after marriage, she should retain her own individuality, her own family, her own thoughts, and her own boundaries. This demand is not wrong in itself. Every person has the right to live with dignity and self-respect. The problem begins when this right is mistaken for stubbornness or rebellion. On the other hand, many men also remain stuck in old patterns. They want their wives to completely integrate into their family, obey their parents' every word, follow every household tradition, and remain unquestioning under any circumstances. They forget that marriage is a union of two individuals, not a power of one over the other. When a man believes that his wife simply has to adjust, and only he has the power to change her, it creates an imbalance

in the relationship. This imbalance gradually turns into suspicion, bitterness, and distance. The relationship with in-laws remains sweet as long as there is respect. Respect doesn't just mean formal respect, but emotional acceptance. Expecting a daughter-in-law to abandon her parents, her values, her thoughts, and her priorities is actually a form of emotional pressure. It's one thing to acquire a new home after marriage, but it's quite another to sever old ties. A woman can be a daughter, a wife, and a daughter-in-law all at the same time. The problem arises when she is asked to remain only a daughter-in-law, and her other identities are neglected. Similarly, it's true that in some cases, wives turn the relationship into a struggle for control rather than a partnership. They try to control their husbands not through love, understanding, and communication, but through pres-

sure, complaints, and accusations. Such behavior also weakens the relationship. If one party in a marriage tries to dominate everything, the other either breaks down or becomes rigid in resistance. Therefore, it wouldn't be correct to say that the fault lies solely with men or solely with women. The problem lies with the mindset that turns marriage into a struggle for power balance rather than cooperation. In fact, many layers of marriage interact in Indian society. Love, tradition, caste, family, property, prestige, and social pressure all influence marriage. Expecting one person to accept everything without protest is unrealistic. Society is changing, education has increased, economic independence has grown, and access to information has also expanded. People no longer accept past decisions without question. This is why the need for communication within mar-

riage is greater than ever. Unfortunately, communication is often replaced by accusations, complaints, and emotional distance. In many homes, problems arise less from the husband and wife than from the family's intrusive role. In-laws, siblings, relatives, and society all join forces to voice their opinions about the couple's personal lives. Advice, comparisons, and interference on every small matter erode the relationship. When the husband doesn't stand by his wife, the wife feels she has no support left after marriage. And when the husband feels that because his wife has come to his home, he must completely submit to her, he loses sensitivity. This creates a distance between the two parties. The relationship becomes less loving and more strategic. It's also important to understand that freedom and independence are not the same thing. A woman speaking up for her dignity, making her own decisions, and protecting her self-respect isn't independence. However, if she sees conflict as the only solution to everything, there can be no peace in the relationship. Similarly, a man's responsibility to his family is essential, but unilaterally ruling over his wife in the name of responsibility is unfair. The relationship between husband and wife should be balanced by dignity, compassion, and respect. Until this balance is achieved, tensions will persist in the marriage. Society must accept that today's woman is no longer the silent and tolerant woman she once was. This change isn't bad. It's a sign of social progress. A woman who is educated, earns, and understands her rights won't compromise on everything. She also realizes that marriage doesn't mean surrender, but a shared life.

From Confrontation to Consultation



AMARAVAJI NAGARAJU

The role played by RTC workers in the Telangana movement remains deeply etched in public memory. They were not mere participants but frontline contributors who sacrificed livelihoods, halted services, and risked personal security to support the cause of statehood. In the aftermath of Telangana's formation, there was a widespread expectation that their contributions would be honoured through job security, institutional strengthening, and welfare measures. However, those expectations remained largely unfulfilled during the previous regime. The discontent among RTC workers reached a peak during the 52-day strike in 2019. Far from being a routine labour protest, it was a movement rooted in dignity, livelihood security, and long-pending demands. The response of the then government was marked by rigidity. Declaring the strike illegal, refusing dialogue, and invoking the "self-dismissal" of nearly 48,000 employees created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. Reports of worker deaths, including alleged suicides, underscored the human cost of the crisis. Yet, a conciliatory approach was conspicuously absent.

The episode revealed a deeper structural issue: the failure to engage with labour concerns through democratic dialogue. Decisions such as delaying pay revisions, withholding retirement benefits, discontinuing union

recognition, and shelving the promise of RTC's merger into the government further eroded trust. For a workforce that had stood firmly behind the Telangana movement, this phase was widely perceived as a betrayal. In contrast, the current Congress government has adopted a markedly different approach. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, there has been a visible shift from confrontation to consultation. The government's handling of recent labour concerns reflects a willingness to engage, listen, and resolve through dialogue—a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

Transport Minister Ponnambal Prabhakar's proactive intervention played a key role in resolving the latest strike within days. By facilitating discussions between management and worker unions, the government created space for negotiation and mutual understanding. The acknowledgment that long-pending issues cannot be resolved overnight, but require sustained engagement, reflects administrative maturity.

Concrete measures have further reinforced worker confidence. The government has agreed to an 11% fitment, initiated discussions on the long-pending merger issue through a committee, and restored the recognition of unions that were previously dissolved. Additionally, the clearance of pending dues, including Rs.280 crore in wage revision bonds and other allowances, signals a commitment to financial accountability. Equally significant has been the government's humane approach from engaging directly with workers to offering assurances on wages during strike periods and withdrawing cases filed earlier. Such gestures, though administrative in nature, carry symbolic weight in rebuilding trust.

At The Edge Of The Map, A Bet On Power:
Why India Is Building In Great Nicobar

On a map of global trade, the southern tip of India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago looks like a remote outpost, forested, fragile, and far from the mainland. But to planners in New Delhi, Great Nicobar Island is something else entirely: a hinge point between the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific, a vantage over the world's busiest sea lanes, and potentially, a lever of both economic and strategic power. India's proposed Great Nicobar project, a deep-sea transshipment port, international airport, power plant and township, has triggered sharp debate. Critics warn of ecological damage, seismic risks and questionable commercial viability. Proponents argue it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reposition India in global trade and maritime strategy. The truth lies in understanding what the project is and what it is not. A Location That Rewrites the Map The case for Great Nicobar begins not with engineering, but geography. Just north of the Indonesian archipelago, the island sits near the Six Degree Channel, a key maritime passage feeding into the Malacca Strait. This narrow corridor connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and, by extension, to East Asia's manufacturing heartlands. The numbers underscore its importance: Roughly 40% of global trade passes through Malacca. Around \$5 trillion in goods flows annually. Nearly 80% of China's oil imports transit this route. For decades, India has observed this traffic from a distance. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands host the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the country's only integrated military command, but logistical limitations have constrained sustained operations. The Great Nicobar project aims to change that.



It would turn a remote island into a permanent, serviced node, a place where ships dock, aircraft refuel, and surveillance extends continuously over one of the world's most sensitive maritime chokepoints. "Presence," in maritime strategy, is not symbolic. It is sustained, supplied and visible. Much of the public debate has framed Great Nicobar as a commercial port competing with mainland facilities like Vizhinjam International Seaport. But that comparison misses the project's primary logic. Vizhinjam, located on India's southwest coast, is designed for efficiency, proximity to shipping lanes, strong hinterland connectivity, and rapid cargo movement inland. It is a commercial asset. Great Nicobar is something different: a forward operating platform. From this vantage, India can: Monitor shipping traffic entering and exiting Malacca. Track naval movements in the eastern Indian Ocean. Respond rapidly to crises, from piracy to military escalation. Sustain long-duration maritime patrols it cannot, as some rhetoric suggests, "block" the strait, as international law, like UNCLOS (The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), protects transit passage. But modern power rarely relies on outright con-

trol. It rests on awareness, deterrence and readiness. The island's existing airstrip at INS Baaz already supports surveillance flights. Expanded infrastructure would extend that capability into a permanent operational presence. In strategic terms, the difference is stark: Without development - intermittent reach. With development - continuous influence. The China Factor No discussion of Great Nicobar can ignore China. Over the past two decades, Beijing has built a network of ports and facilities across the Indian Ocean, Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Kyaukpadaung in Myanmar and a military base in Djibouti. Analysts often describe this as a "string of pearls," designed to secure China's maritime lifelines. India's response has been more restrained, focusing on partnerships and selective infrastructure. Great Nicobar represents a shift: a move to anchor its own presence near a critical chokepoint. China itself has long worried about the "Malacca dilemma"; its dependence on a narrow passage vulnerable to disruption. While India cannot legally interdict this route, its ability to observe and operate near it introduces a layer of strategic uncertainty for any adversary. In peacetime, that

translates into influence. In crisis, into leverage. The Commercial Promise and Limits If the strategic case is compelling, the economic one is more complex. Today, India depends heavily on foreign ports for transshipment, the process of transferring cargo between large and smaller vessels. Government data indicates that about 75% of India's transshipment cargo is handled abroad, primarily in Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang. Direct losses are estimated at \$200-220 million annually, with larger indirect costs in logistics inefficiency. Great Nicobar aims to internalise a portion of this traffic. The planners envision: Phase 1 capacity: 4 million TEUs by around 2028. Ultimate capacity: 16 million TEUs. For context, India's major ports together handle roughly 13-14 million TEUs today. The project's location offers advantages: Natural deep draft (around 20 meters), accommodating large container ships. Proximity to Bay of Bengal markets. Minimal deviation for ships entering or exiting Malacca. Beyond container handling, revenue streams could include bunkering (fuel supply), ship repair, warehousing, and aviation services. Yet success is far from guaranteed. Global transshipment is a competitive.

Ai+ Smartphone disrupts the Flip Smartphone Market: Launches India’s First Flip Smartphone Under Rs. 30,000

New Delhi, May 7, 2026: Ai+ Smartphone today redefined the flip smartphone category in India with the launch of the Ai+ NovaFlip 5G, the first flip smartphone in the country priced under 30,000. In a segment long dominated by ultra-premium devices, Ai+ Smartphone has made the iconic flip form factor truly accessible, without compromising on performance, design, or everyday usability. Launching at a breakthrough price of 29,999. The NovaFlip 5G brings together a bold, pocketable design, a powerful camera system, and next-generation performance marking a pivotal moment in the democratization of foldable technology. This milestone launch follows the overwhelming response to the Nova 2 Series, with both Nova 2 and Nova 2 Ultra selling out rapidly, reinforcing growing consumer trust in the Ai+ ecosystem.

“Making Flip Phones Truly Accessible”
"The NovaFlip 5G is not just a product launch, it's a category shift. Flip phones have always been aspirational, but never truly accessible. With NovaFlip, we are breaking that barrier. This is where expressive design meets real performance at a



price India has been waiting for," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. Ai+ NovaFlip 5G - A New Benchmark for Photography The NovaFlip 5G introduces a 50MP rear camera, setting a new benchmark for flip smartphones in its segment. Built for a generation that lives on the front camera, it also features a 32MP selfie shooter with autofocus, delivering sharp, natural, and detailed images across lighting conditions. Whether open for immersive shooting or folded for quick selfies, the NovaFlip ensures versatility without compromise. **Power Meets Efficiency:**

Dimensity 7300X
At its core, the device is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7300X, delivering seamless performance across gaming, multitasking, and daily use. Paired with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage, and running on Android 15 with NxtQuantum OS, the experience remains fluid, clean, and optimized. Dual AMOLED Displays, One Seamless Experience The NovaFlip 5G features a 6.78-inch FHD+ AMOLED inner display for immersive viewing, complemented by a 3.0-inch AMOLED cover screen for quick interactions on the go. From notifications to controls, users stay connected

without always needing to unfold — making the device as functional as it is visually striking. **Designed to Stand Out** Compact when folded and expansive when opened, the NovaFlip 5G blends portability with presence. Weighing just 193g, it comes packed with features including: Side-mounted fingerprint sensor Dual SIM with 5G+5G support NFC Wi-Fi 6 (tri-band) Flip-aware UI powered by a hall sensor Measuring just 87.3×76×15.6mm when folded and opening to 169.4×76×7.5mm,

All-Day Power, Fast When You Need It The NovaFlip 5G is backed by a 4325mAh battery delivering up to 310 hours of 5G standby and 19.5 hours of VoNR talk time. With 33W fast charging support via USB Type-C (PD3.0 and PPS), topping up is quick and effortless ensuring the NovaFlip 5G is always ready when you are **Availability** The Ai+ NovaFlip 5G will be available at a special launch price of 29,999, with sales going live on May 8, 2026 at 12 PM, exclusively on Flipkart. Also available from the Ai+ Smartphone portfolio: Ai+ Pulse 2 — 7,999 Ai+ Nova 2 5G — 9,999 Ai+ Nova 2 Ultra 5G — 14,999 Ai+ PulseTab - 9,999 All prices are exclusive to the Flipkart Big Saving Days Sale starting from May 8 exclusively on Flipkart. In The Box The Ai+ NovaFlip 5G comes complete and ready to use, right out of the box. Each box includes the NovaFlip 5G smartphone, a 33W fast charger, a USB Type-C cable, a protective case, along with a protective case installation guide, a SIM ejector tool, a warranty card, and a user manual/QSG.

Investor Meet to be Held in Hyderabad on May 8th under the Aegis of ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM) – 2026’

Hyderabad, May 7, 2026. In a significant step towards positioning Rajasthan as a leading hub for agricultural innovation, Agritech investment and technology-driven agricultural development, the Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Rajasthan Foundation will organize a pivotal Investor Meet in Hyderabad on May 8th. Held under the umbrella of the ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM) – 2026,’ this event will take place at The Park Hyatt hotel in Hyderabad, bringing together key industry representatives, investors, and experts from the fields of agriculture, Agritech, IT, seed technology, protected cultivation and agricultural research. During the roadshow, a special panel discussion will be held on the theme: “Scope of IT Interventions and Technological Innovations in Agriculture.” Representatives from renowned institutions and companies—such as ITC, Coromandel, Nuziveedu Seeds, Kheyti, ICRISAT and the Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR)

will participate in the panel discussion. The deliberations will focus on Agritech expansion in Rajasthan, technological innovations, inter-state cooperation and new avenues for agricultural investment. Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhajanlal Sharma will grace the event as the Chief Guest. He will be accompanied by Rajasthan's Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture Dr. Kirodi Lal, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Shri Joraram, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Department of Cooperatives Shri Gautam Kumar and the Principal Secretary of the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, Smt. Manju Rajpal, among other administrative officials. During the event, the Chief Minister will also hold a special interactive session with investors, industrialists and members of the Rajasthan Foundation to discuss opportunities regarding agriculture-based investments, Agritech startups, food processing, supply chains, and technological partner-

ships in Rajasthan. In addition to this, Chief Minister Sharma will hold one-on-one meetings with pharmaceutical companies, alongside agritech firms. Through ‘GRAM-2026,’ the State Government aims to position Rajasthan as a premier global hub for investment in the fields of agricultural innovation, smart farming, water management, agri-infrastructure, and technology-driven agricultural solutions. The Hyderabad Investor Meet is regarded as a significant initiative in this direction. Notably, extensive preparations are currently underway for the main conference of the ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM)-2026’, scheduled to be held in Jaipur from May 23 to 25, 2026. Prior to the Hyderabad Investor Meet, similar investor meets have already been organized in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad. A significant highlight is that the State secured investments exceeding 150 crore during the Ahmedabad Investor Meet. A substantial turnout of investors, industry representatives, and policymakers both domestic and international is anticipated at ‘GRAM 2026’.

DS GROUP EXPANDS ITS CATCH SPRINKLER PORTFOLIO

New Delhi, 07th May, 2026: Catch Salt and Spices, a popular brand of Dharampal Satyapal Group (DS Group), a leading FMCG conglomerate and multi business corporation, has announced the expansion of its Sprinkler portfolio with the launch of new-age seasonings and regionally inspired flavours. Marking a key step in evolving a legacy range that has long been synonymous with salt and pepper in Indian households, the expanded Catch Sprinkler range includes contemporary variants such as pizza pasta seasoning, chilli flakes, oregano, magic masala and mixed herbs along with regional offerings like Jeeravan (Poha Masala) and Podi Masala. With this move, the company is extending the sprinkler format into a wider seasoning platform designed for today's increasingly experimental and convenience-seeking consumer pan India. The expanded Catch Sprinkler range is now available across general trade, modern retail and leading e-commerce and



quick commerce platforms. The Sprinklers are available in unique HIPS containers that keep the salt/seasoning moisture-free, and the easy dispensing technique ensures a free flow of the seasoning on to the dishes. The bottles are easy to store and easy to use as table top dispensers. Catch is ambitiously strategizing to dominate the Indian Kitchen space with differentiated products that bring purity, taste and convenience as key drivers. The brand is making substantial investments in brand building (marketing), technology, innovation and R&D which will help the brand evolve to the needs of the consumer. Speaking on

the expansion, Mr Sandeep Ghosh, Business Head, Catch Salt & Spices, DS Group said, “At DS Group, we continuously track the evolving consumer behaviour to deliver products that combine convenience, quality and flavour innovation across major cities extending upto tier 3 markets. The expansion of the Catch Sprinkler range is a step towards building a more contemporary and versatile seasoning portfolio that blends national trends with strong regional relevance. As demand grows, DS Group is focused on scaling accessible formats that enhance everyday cooking experiences, strengthening Catch

Salt & Spices’ market leadership across India and reinforcing DS Group’s focus on premium, value-added offerings.” India’s food consumption landscape is witnessing a clear shift toward hygienic, packaged solutions and convenient formats. At the same time, consumers across metros as well as Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets are increasingly experimenting with global cuisines while also embracing the regional flavours. The premiumisation trend in the category has further strengthened the growing demand for high-quality, easy-to-use food enhancers, positioning the Catch Sprinkler range as a relevant and scalable solution in the evolving market. The Catch brand was introduced by DS Group in 1987 with the launch of a revolutionary table-top salt sprinkler and the brand has since grown to encapsulate the very essence of cooking which ranges from straight spices to myriad blends and pastes and wholes; across nine categories with more than 140 variants and 330 SKUs.

Alcoholic beverage industry seeks price hike amid rising costs from West Asia crisis

New Delhi: Alcoholic beverage makers have sought a reasonable price hike from state governments to deal with pressures arising out of rising can and bottle costs due to supply chain disruptions triggered by the West Asia crisis. Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) and the Brewers Association of India (BAI) have urged states to allow revisions of IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor), wine and beer products and provide interim relief measures to help manufacturers cope with rising production costs. BAI has asked state governments to allow suppliers a price increase of 15-20 per cent to partially offset the impact of rising input costs. In letters sent to state governments, BAI Director General Vinod Giri said the conflict has triggered a sharp increase in input costs across categories. “Glass bottle prices have risen by around 20 per cent, paper cartons have increased by almost 100 per cent, and materials such as LDPE, BOPP and adhesives have



become costlier by 20-25 per cent,” Giri said. Severe shortage of commercial LNG supply has put glass bottle manufacturers under significant strain, and they too face partial or full shutdowns. “Supply of glass and cans may be severely strained in the coming months and even years,” BAI said. Moreover, the beer industry, which is also facing issues with the supply of cans, sees it prolonging due to rising aluminium costs. “Aluminium supplies from the Middle East have been badly hit, and suppliers have warned that prolonged dis-

ruption risks not only output but also a shutdown of manufacturing plants,” said Giri. Freight and logistics costs have also increased by around 10 per cent, while the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar has further pushed up import costs, he added. As an interim relief measure, BAI has also sought a reduction in manufacturing levies by around 10 per cent, while the depreciation of the rupee against rising costs. BAI represents leading players from the brewing industry – United Breweries, ABInBev and Carlsberg – which

together account for around 85 per cent of the beer sold in the country. CIABC, which represents IMFL (India Made Foreign Liquor) and domestic wine makers, has asked various state governments to revise the ex-distillery/winery price (EDP/EWP) in its representations. CIABC Director General Anant S Iyer said the volatile geopolitical situation in the Middle East, which accounts for nearly 20 per cent of global crude oil supplies and is a key supply chain hub for India, has intensified inflationary pressures across the industry.

Lenskart Block Deal Launched: Eyewear Retailer To Offload 4% Stake For Rs 3,299 Crore, Say Sources

Lenskart Solutions shares will be in focus as block deal worth Rs 3,299 crore is likely to take place on Friday, sources told NDTV Profit. This confirms NDTV Profit's earlier news break of a block deal for the eyewear firm. People in the know added that the indicative price is set at Rs 470 per share, indicating a discount of 3.6% to the current market price. Kotak Securities and Spark Institutional bankers are the brokerages responsible for the deal. There are multiple sellers looking to sell in the block deal, however sources had earlier revealed that Svf Ii Lightbulb (Cayman) and Platinum Jasmine two foreign companies holding stake in the company may sell stake in the company via block deals. As of March 2026, Svf Ii Lightbulb (Cayman) holds 13.13% stake and Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust holds 12.08% stake. The eyewear firm Lenskart in quarter



ended December quarter with a multifold jump in profit at Rs 132.7 crore, driven by growth in margin, new customer addition and positive returns from international business. The company had posted a profit after tax of Rs 1.8 crore in the same period a year ago. The revenue from operations of Lenskart increased 38% to Rs 2,308 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 1,669 crore in the December 2024 quarter. Lenskart CEO Peyush Bansal in a letter said

Lenskart's international segment is outpacing India's historical profitability curve, with superior profitability with half the footprint. He said India delivered a record 28% same-store sales growth with 36% same pincode sales growth during the reported quarter which was an 800 basis points premium. Lenskart shares closed 3.08% lower at Rs 487.75 per share after it fell as much as 4.42% to Rs 481 apiece. This compares to a 0.02% decline in the NSE Nifty 50 Index.

Dabur Q4 Results: Profit Rises 15%; Highest-Ever Dividend Declared — Check Record Date

Debur India's net profit surges 15% at Rs 369 crore in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal. This is in comparison to profit of Rs 320 crore in the same quarter of fiscal 2025, according to its stock exchange notification on Thursday. Consolidated revenue of the FMCG major surges 7.3% year-on-year for the three months ended March, reaching Rs 3,038 crore in comparison to Rs 2,830 crore. Operating income, or earnings before interest and taxes rose 8.2% to Rs 462 crore from Rs 427 crore. Margins expanded marginally to 15.2% from 15.1% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025.

Dabur Q4 Result Highlight (Cons, YoY)
Net Profit rises 15.1% at Rs 369 crore versus Rs 320 crore. Revenue rises 7.3% at Rs 3,038 crore versus Rs 2,830 crore. Ebitda rises 8.2% at Rs 462 crore versus Rs 427 crore. Margin at 15.2% versus 15.1%. To pay final dividend of Rs 5.5 per share. Dabur's India FMCG business posted a growth of 9.5% during the quarter. Operating profit for India



FMCG business rose 12.5%, reflecting strong execution in the domestic FMCG business and healthy underlying volume of growth of 6%. In the quarter under review, hair care portfolio rose by about 27% during the quarter led by the hair oil business. Home care business saw over 24% growth, while the digestive business saw a 15% jump. Dabur's skin and salon business rose by 12%. Dabur's Toothpaste business reported 7% growth during the

fourth quarter, while the Badshah portfolio posted 12% growth during the quarter under review. In the fourth quarter, rural markets continued to outpace urban consumption with rural demand growing ahead of urban India by 350 basis points. Dabur's international business saw a 2.5% growth, despite the headwinds in Middle East, according to a press release. Its UK business reported a 10% growth, while sub-Saharan African section grew 20%,

and the Namaste US saw growth of 6.2%. The Bangladesh business also reported a 22% constant-currency growth. During the concall on Thursday, Dabur said there will be second round of price hikes in first quarter of fiscal 2027.

Dabur Dividend
Dabur on Thursday has announced dividend of Rs 5.5 per equity share for the fiscal 2026 as its profit surges. This is the highest-ever dividend announced by the company. The company announced distribution of nearly Rs 975 crore to shareholders. The record date for ascertaining entitlement of final dividend for fiscal 2026 has not been set as July 17. According to the exchange filing the final dividend is subject to approval of the Members of the company at the ensuing annual general meeting. The company on Nov 7 had given a dividend of Rs 2.75 per share, this means in total in fiscal 2026, Dabur gave dividend of Rs 8.25. In 2024 the company gave a dividend of Rs 8 per share and in 2023 it gave a dividend of Rs 5.5 per share.

Trump meets Brazil's President Lula at White House

Lula's motorcade has arrived at the White House, our correspondent who is there for the meeting tells us. The meeting between Trump and Lula will begin shortly. The US-Brazil relationship broke down significantly last year after Trump imposed a 50% tariff on most of Brazil's goods last year. This affected several key products, including coffee and beef, that Americans like to buy. Trump framed the tariffs as retaliation for the prosecution of his ally, right-wing former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. He had been accused - and later convicted - of attempting to stage a coup after losing the 2022 presidential election to current President Lula. The aim was to exert pressure on Brazilian authorities to back down on criminal proceedings against Bolsonaro. But in November, as prices rose at home, Trump reversed the tariffs. His broader tariffs were also overturned by the US Supreme Court in February. And in Brazil, Bolsonaro's legal troubles continue: he was sentenced to 27 years in prison and is

currently under house arrest due to ill health. President Trump and Brazilian President Lula are set to meet and speak soon. Last September, Lula told the BBC in an exclusive interview that he has "no relationship" with Donald Trump. It was just the latest in a war of words between the two leaders since Trump put a high tariff - 50% - on goods from Brazil in 2025. "The American people will pay for the mistakes President Trump is incurring in his relationship with Brazil," Lula said at the time. He also accused Trump of foreign interference and behaving like an "emperor". Trump has previously said that Lula can "call him anytime." But Lula insisted that members of the Trump Administration "do not want to talk". Part of the reason for Trump's high tariffs on Brazil was the trial and conviction of Lula's predecessor, the right-wing Jair Bolsonaro, who had a close relationship with Trump. He was found guilty of attempting a coup d'etat after he lost the 2022 election to Lula. "His



relationship is with Bolsonaro, not Brazil," Lula said of Trump. But after a brief meeting at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, relations seemed to thaw. They spoke on the phone the next month, a conversation both leaders described as positive and friendly. Trump said on his Truth Social platform that the call "was mostly focused on the economy, and trade, between our two countries". "We will be having further discussions, and will get

together in the not too distant future, both in Brazil and the United States." Today is that day - and it remains to be seen if the relations thaw further or not. President Trump is expected to greet Brazilian President Lula outside the White House in about half an hour, around 11:00e (15:00b). The two will then head inside for a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office, and we anticipate getting to hear each of the leaders speak and answer questions from

press. Before Lula departs, the two leaders will then have lunch together, outside of reporters' view, scheduled to start at 11:45e. This will be Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's first time visiting Trump at the White House after a tense year. The two leaders briefly met during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in October. They also spoke on the phone earlier that month, a call described by both sides as friendly and positive as Brazil sought to reduce the 50% US tariff on some of its goods. Those tariffs played a large part in creating the tension that had overshadowed their relationship. Trump raised them last in response to the trial of Lula's predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, who was found guilty of plotting a military coup. Lula had accused Trump of foreign interference and behaving like an "emperor". But Lula described the October phone meeting as an opportunity to restore friendly relations between "the two largest Western democracies" and

China announces suspended death sentences for former defence ministers



Two former Chinese defence ministers have been handed suspended death sentences on corruption charges, according to state media. A military court on Thursday sentenced Wei Fenghe and Li Shangfu to death with a two-year reprieve. This means their death sentences will be commuted to life imprisonment after two years, without the possibility of sentence reduction or parole, Xinhua reports. Both men were found guilty of bribery, and all of their personal assets were confiscated. The announcement follows the recent

ousting of several top military figures in the country amid a sweeping anti corruption crackdown. Wei served as defence minister from 2018 to 2023 and was replaced by Li in March 2023. Li's tenure as defence minister was much shorter. He was dismissed in October 2023, two months after he suddenly disappeared from public life, sparking speculation of his removal. Reuters news agency quoted past reports in Xinhua which said that Li had been suspected of receiving "huge sums of money" in bribes as well as bribing others.

Iran considering US proposal as Trump says war will be 'over quickly'



US President Donald Trump has predicted that the war in Iran will be "over quickly" and says that most people "understand" his goal of ending Tehran's nuclear ambitions. His comments come after Iran said a US proposal to end the war is "still being considered". US news outlet Axios reported that the White House believes it could be closing in on a 14-point memorandum of understanding with Iran, which could set a framework for more detailed nuclear negotiations. A senior member of Iran's parliament has dismissed it as a "wish list", while a foreign ministry spokesman said Tehran would share its views of a US proposal with Pakistani mediators. Pakistan's foreign minister said his country was "endeavouring to convert this ceasefire into a permanent end to this war". In its report, Axios describes the memorandum as a one-page, 14-point memo which could set a framework for more detailed nuclear negotiations. Among the provisions it lists are a suspension on Iranian nuclear enrichment, the lifting of

sanctions, and restoring free transit through the Strait of Hormuz. It cites two US officials and two other sources - all unnamed - whom it describes as briefed on the issues. These sources are reported as saying that many of the terms laid out in the memo would be contingent on a final agreement being reached. The Reuters news agency reported that two sources briefed on the mediation between the US and Iran had confirmed the information initially reported by Axios, but the proposal has not been publicly outlined. Speaking during a virtual campaign event on Wednesday evening, Trump told Republicans in the State of Georgia that he was optimistic that the war would end soon. He added that most people understood he was right to deny Iran the opportunity to have a nuclear weapon. Earlier in the day, the president said the US has had "very good talks with Iran in the last 24 hours" and that was deal is possible, emphasising that any hardship caused to Americans - because of high fuel prices - would be short term.

South Africa condemns 'fake videos' of alleged xenophobic attacks



South Africa's government has condemned the circulation of what it called "fake videos and images" that have been described by some as recordings of attacks on foreign nationals in the country. The call comes as diplomatic tension has increased between South Africa and other African nations following accusations that xenophobic violence is on the rise once again in the country. Ghana's government has written to the African Union

(AU) asking the continental body to discuss the issue, which it says is a "serious risk to the safety and wellbeing" of Africans in South Africa. Nigeria has also raised the issue and has offered to repatriate its nationals amid fears of attacks. Kenya, Malawi, Lesotho and Zimbabwe have also warned its citizens in South Africa to be aware of possible attacks. South Africa responded to Ghana's message saying that it "had nothing to hide".

RACE TO TRACE PASSENGERS WHO LEFT HANTAVIRUS CRUISE SHIP AT ISLAND

Health authorities are racing to trace dozens of people who disembarked from a hantavirus-hit cruise ship on the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic. The operator of the Dutch vessel said 29 passengers, of at least 12 different nationalities, left the MV Hondius on 24 April. The Dutch government gave a different figure of 40. A 69-year-old Dutch woman who later died in South Africa was among those. Two other people died on the ship, which set sail from southern Argentina a month ago. Their deaths are now under investigation. On Thursday, the World Health Organization (WHO) said five of eight suspected cases of hantavirus were now confirmed. But while it was serious, the WHO said it "assesses the public health risk as



low". The Dutch government said a Swiss national who has since been diagnosed with hantavirus was also one of those who left the cruise at the British Overseas Territory. Another three people - British, Dutch and German nationals - were evacuated from the vessel on Wednesday. The British man has been named as 56-year-old Martin Anstee and is in a stable condition.

Anstee, a retired police officer and an expedition guide on the MV Hondius, on Thursday told the BBC that "he's fine". The other two evacuees were a 41-year-old Dutch crew member and a 65-year-old German, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). St Helena is one of the remotest islands on Earth, at 47sq miles (127 sq km) - a third of the size of the Isle of Wight -

with a population of about 4,400 and one hospital. Oceanwide Expeditions said in an update on Thursday that 30 people, including the body of one of the guests who died, had disembarked on 24 April. This included seven British people and six Americans, as well as guests from countries including Canada, Germany, Singapore, Turkey and Switzerland. It added that the first confirmed case of hantavirus was not reported until 4 May and that all guests who disembarked the ship have been contacted by it. Oceanwide Expeditions also said it remained in "close and continual discussion with relevant authorities regarding our exact point of arrival, quarantine and screening procedures for all guests".

Three women linked to Islamic State arrested in Australia on return from Syria

Three women with links to the jihadist Islamic State (IS) group have been arrested on returning home to Australia following years in detention in Syria. All are Australian citizens. Police said they arrested two of them - Kawsar Abbas, 53, and Zeinab Ahmed, 31 - on arrival in Melbourne. Janai Safar, 32, was arrested after landing in Sydney. A fourth woman in the party, which includes nine children, was not arrested. The group are the subject of heated political debate in Australia, with the government saying it would give them no help to return. The children - thought to be aged from about six to their mid-teens - are to get psycho-

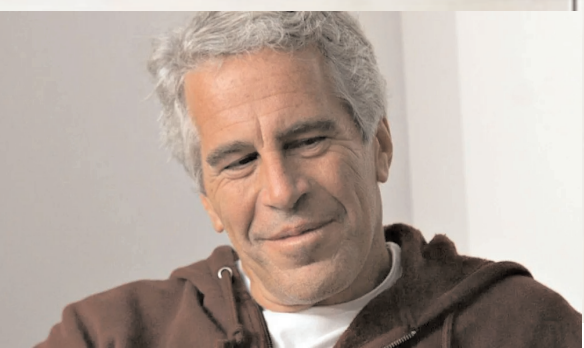


logical support and be assessed for possible radicalisation. Australia is one of a number of countries grappling with how to deal with the return of citizens - and their children - from Syria after the so-called Islamic State caliphate was destroyed in 2019. Tens of

thousands of foreigners, most of them under 18, have been held in life-threatening conditions in IS camps across Syria, human rights groups say. The group that arrived in Melbourne had been held in al-Roj camp since 2019. It included grandmother Kawsar Abbas and

her adult daughter Zeinab Ahmed, reportedly as well as another daughter Zahra Ahmed, and their eight children. Kawsar Abbas is married to Mohammad Ahmad, who ran a charity that Australian police suspect was used to send cash to IS. He denied the accusation in an interview with the national broadcaster ABC in 2019, after it tracked him down to a prison in Syria. Before the Qatar Airways flight carrying the women and children arrived from Doha late on Thursday afternoon, a group of about 15 men dressed predominantly in black had gathered in the international arrivals area of Melbourne airport.

US judge releases Jeffrey Epstein's purported suicide note



A US judge has ordered the release of a document purported to be a suicide note written by convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein a month before his death. A copy of the handwritten note - unsealed on Wednesday mentions a months-long investigation that "found nothing", and says "it is a treat to be able to choose one's time to say goodbye". Epstein's former cellmate claims he found the note tucked into a book after Epstein tried to kill himself in July 2019. Epstein was found dead in his cell a month later. The BBC has not verified that the note was written by Epstein, and US authorities have not commented. His death, which was ruled a suicide by authorities, came as he awaited a sex-trafficking trial. The purported note was placed under seal as part of criminal proceedings involving the former cellmate, Nicholas Tartaglione, who was being held in the cell at the time while awaiting trial for four murders. Tartaglione is a former police officer convicted of quadruple murder who was at one point accused by Epstein of attacking

him, which he denied. He first mentioned the note's existence last year on a podcast. A scan of the note in the court document unsealed on Wednesday shows a handwritten sentence saying, "They investigated me for month - FOUND NOTHING!!!", and mentioned years-old charges. "It is a treat to be able to choose one's time to say goodbye," the note says. "Watcha want me to do - Bust out cryin!!" it continues. "NO FUN - NOT WORTH IT." The note amounts to only seven lines of text, leaving uncertainty over its purported meaning. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) did not immediately respond to the BBC's request for comment. A DOJ spokesperson previously told NBC News in a statement that the department had not seen the note. They highlighted the DOJ's "exhaustive effort" in collecting and publicly releasing millions of other Epstein-related files in recent months. The note was accompanied by a May 2021 letter submitted to the court by John A Wieder, a former lawyer for Tartaglione.

Fears of renewed Gaza war as Hamas disarmament talks stall

Ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas have stalled, and Gaza risks sliding back into war. This week an Israeli air strike killed the son of Hamas's leader and chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya, and Palestinian sources confirmed to the BBC that the two sides had reached a deadlock in negotiations. Israeli media reports suggest Israel is preparing to resume fighting in the Gaza Strip because of the impasse and Hamas's refusal to give up its weapons. "We understood, everyone understood that Hamas would not disarm, and they have followed through on their intentions," Michael Eisenberg, an adviser to the Israeli prime minister, told the



BBC, describing Hamas as "an unrepentant terrorist group". "Nobody in Israel wants to go back to war," he said, but added "all options are on the table right now." Citing unnamed security sources, Israel's Channel 12 News has reported that Washington may give Israel the "green light" to resume "operations". One of the

main options it says Israel is considering is to expand the so-called "Yellow Line" marking some 60% of Gaza that has remained under full Israeli military control during the ceasefire. Locals say this is already happening. Israel insists that Hamas's approach to disarmament is in breach of the ceasefire deal which came

into effect on 10 October. However, Hamas insists that Israel is violating the agreement by failing to meet its humanitarian commitments and continuing deadly attacks. On Wednesday, a Hamas statement called on "the US administration and the guarantor states of the Sharm el-Sheikh [ceasefire] agreement" to "move immediately" to stop Israel's "aggression against the innocent people in Gaza". This came after Israeli air strikes across the Palestinian territory killed at least six people - including a Hamas commander and Azzam al-Hayya, a son of Hamas's top negotiator, Khalil al-Hayya, who has been leading the indirect talks with Israel.

Superdry co-founder James Holder jailed for rape

Superdry co-founder James Holder has been jailed for eight years for raping a woman in a "despicable piece of sexual violence". The 54-year-old, of Cheltenham, attacked the woman in her flat after a night out in 2022. His victim told Bristol Crown Court he had taken her "choice, dignity and body". Holder, who appeared via video link from prison, showed no emotion as he was sentenced by Recorder David Chidgey, who said the attack was "about your sense of entitlement and your sense of doing what you wanted and your causal disregard for the victim's absolute right to say what she wanted to do with her own body". Holder was



found guilty by a jury of seven men and five women at Gloucester Crown Court, sitting in Cirencester, on Friday. The fashion tycoon, who set up Superdry with Julian Dunkerton in 2003, was on an "impromptu night out" on 6 May 2022 which ended at the woman's flat, the court was told during his trial.

IPL 2026: LSG VS RCB MATCH STOPPED DUE TO RAIN



T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE TO BE HELD AT WANKHEDE STADIUM FROM JUNE 1-13

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) today announced that Season 4 of the T20 Mumbai League and the inaugural edition of the T20 Mumbai Women's League will be held from June 1 to 13 at the iconic Wankhede Stadium, setting the stage for a landmark cricket carnival in the city. The men's and women's competitions will be conducted simultaneously, marking a significant step in the MCA's vision to create a high-visibility platform for cricketing talent across categories. The men's competition will bring together some of the world's biggest cricketing names alongside the city's most promising emerging players, including Suryakumar Yadav,



Shreyas Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shivam Dube, Sarfaraz Khan, Shardul Thakur, Tushar Deshpande, Ayush Mhatre, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Musheer Khan, Suryansh Shedge and Abhigyan Kundu, among others. The inaugural women's league will also feature some of the leading

names alongside the brightest young prospects in the domestic circuit, including Sayali Satghare, Saima Thakor, Humaira Kazi, teenage batting sensation Ira Jadhav, who became the costliest buy at the auction, Sanika Chalke and Simran Shaikh. All matches will be telecast live on Star Sports and streamed on

JioHotstar, significantly expanding the league's reach and giving fans across the country an opportunity to witness high-voltage cricketing action. MCA President Ajinkya Naik said: "The T20 Mumbai League has consistently played an important role in strengthening Mumbai's cricketing ecosystem and providing opportunities for emerging players to perform alongside some of the biggest names in the game. Conducting both the men's and women's tournaments at the Wankhede Stadium reflects the MCA's commitment to creating a larger and more inclusive platform for talent development and taking Mumbai cricket to a wider audience."

Suryakumar Yadav, Wife Devisha Shetty Welcome Baby Girl "With Giggles, Bows And Dreams". MI React

Mumbai Indians star batter Suryakumar Yadav and wife Devisha Shetty welcomed a baby girl on Thursday. "With giggles, bows, and dreams to unfurl - we welcome our baby girl," the Indian cricket team T20 captain wrote on Instagram. Suryakumar on Wednesday was not among the first batch of MI players who went to Raipur for the IPL 2026 team's next match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday. Yadav even captained MI in their last match against Lucknow Super Giants. MI and his teammate Deepak Chahar congratulated Yadav on the occasion. Yadav has often credited his wife as having a great influence on his career. In fact, it was her matter-of-fact query



that drove him to slog hard for a national call-up. Suryakumar Yadav, who is a T20 World Cup-winning captain, earlier couldn't praise his "brutally honest" wife Devisha enough for shaping the man that he has become. It was in 2018 when Devisha asked Suryakumar a simple question: "If you want to play for India, how do you plan to do it?" Eight

years since that "brutally honest conversation", Suryakumar led India to a successful T20 World Cup title defence in 2026. "We got married in 2016 when I was still playing for KKR. Everything was going very smoothly. I was playing well, enjoying, and she looked at my journey and my routines till 2018 when I joined Mumbai Indians. I

think we started doing things a little differently," Suryakumar recalled during a podcast interview with 'PTI Videos'. "She told me that all those who played with you in age group cricket, a lot of them are now playing for India - what do you have in mind I said: 'Mujhe bhi India khelna hai (I want to play for India too)'. 'Kaise khelo' (how do you plan to do it), she asked. 'It was a nice little conversation with her, not an argument but a discussion. But yes, it was a discussion about how you can take one extra step forward in your endeavour. If I want to play for India and want to win games for India, how do I do it' the 35-year-old revealed his career-changing tete-a-tete with his wife.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar Scripts IPL History, Becomes First Pacer To Achieve This Mammoth Feat

Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar scripted history with his appearance an IPL 2026 match against Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Thursday. He became the first-ever fast bowler in the tournament's history to play 200 matches. Bhuvneshwar was named in RCB's playing XI as captain Rajat Patidar won the toss and opted to bowl first. It is worth noting that Bhuvneshwar is the only pacer in IPL history to claim 200 or more wickets. Speaking about the milestone, Bhuvneshwar said, "It is indeed special-any milestone is, really-and playing 200 matches is, in itself, a massive achievement. So, naturally, I am feeling very happy. Furthermore, I think



the best part is that I am achieving this with a team that won the trophy last year and is playing exceptionally well this season; that makes it even better. "It is very difficult to pick just one (special moment), but if I absolutely had to name something special, I would choose my debut wicket. My journey began so many years ago, and that very first

wicket is always something special. "Things are going well right now. It has certainly been demanding, especially considering the way the format itself has evolved... Given the way batsmen are changing and the aggressive approach they are adopting during the Powerplay, it is always a demanding challenge to constantly improve one's game.

Yuzvendra Chahal Caught Vaping In Flight After Riyan Parag, New Controversy Hits IPL 2026

Punjab Kings spinner Yuzvendra Chahal found himself in the headlines for all the wrong reasons after he was allegedly caught vaping on a flight. Social media users shared screenshots and clips from Arshdeep Singh's vlog to claim that Chahal was using a vape while travelling with the Punjab Kings squad from Ahmedabad to Hyderabad. The social media users further claimed that the original version of the vlog was later edited and shortened in order to crop out the portions featuring the veteran spinner. The clips went viral on social media and sparked a massive conversation among users. There has been no statement from the player or franchise, and NDTV cannot independently verify the authenticity



of the video or the claims. Look at Yuzvendra Chahal, man. He was risking everyone's safety by vaping an e-cigarette inside the flight while Shashank Singh and other Punjab Kings players were around him. The ongoing IPL 2026 has already witnessed a major vaping controversy after Riyan Parag was found using a vape inside the Rajasthan Royals

dressing room during the match against Punjab Kings. He was fined 25 per cent of his match fees. Meanwhile, former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin termed Riyan Parag's vaping incident during an IPL match as something that could have been avoided, urging young players to be mindful of their actions in public spaces.

How Kane goal could earn Germany extra Champions League spot



It seemed as if Harry Kane's stoppage-time goal for Bayern Munich on Wednesday was nothing more than a consolation - but it could mean so much more to the Bundesliga. The England captain netted in the 94th minute to earn a 1-1 semi-final second-leg draw against Paris St-Germain, but it was the Ligue 1 side who went through to the Champions League final 6-5 on aggregate. The draw could prove to be absolutely crucial in the battle to gain one of the two European Performance Spots (EPS) - the extra places in the Champions League based on each country's overall performance in Europe. The Premier League is way out in front and claimed one of the two places a month ago. But the battle for second has gone right down to the wire between the

Bundesliga and La Liga. Kane's goal earned Germany 0.142 points towards its coefficient score. That might not seem like much, but in such a close battle it could prove to be the difference. La Liga (21.781) sits in second going into the second legs of the Europa League and Conference League semi-finals on Thursday. The Bundesliga (21.357) is just 0.424 points behind. In real terms, that is a win and a draw. Going into Thursday's games, each league has one team left - Freiburg for Germany and Rayo Vallecano for Spain. Freiburg must overcome a 2-1 deficit at home to Braga, while Rayo Vallecano take a 1-0 lead to Strasbourg. This is how Kane's goal could help to decide it. If Freiburg beat Braga and go through to the final, they will add 0.428 to Germany's score.

THE AI FITNESS INSTRUCTORS SELLING UNREAL GAINS

If you use social media you've probably seen them - polished fitness videos promising dramatic body transformations in weeks. They show chiselled physiques, striking before-and-after images and claims that you can look years younger by following a simple routine. The results often look too good to be true. In many cases, they are. A BBC investigation has uncovered misleading fitness adverts featuring AI-generated characters that breach UK advertising rules. Many adverts also failed to make clear that the people featured were not real. And why were they doing it To sell a subscrip-



tion to a fitness app. So how easy is it to tell whether the person giving fitness advice exists And does it matter 'Hard to tell who to believe' AI content has flooded social media feeds in the past couple of years, and videos promoting exercise and online

fitness programmes are becoming increasingly common. Many of the adverts flagged to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) by the BBC featured AI-generated characters claiming to have followed workout programmes themselves.

They also show transformations experts say are scientifically implausible in such short timeframes. The videos promise users they can change their bodies in weeks, "look 20 years younger", or "lose 40lb in one month". Once users engage with exercise or fitness content, algorithms quickly flood their feeds with similar material. Prof Andy Miah, an AI expert from the University of Salford, says the trend is "huge" and those scrolling are drawn in because they are looking for advice. "People are looking for solutions to their health, their fitness, their looks," he says.

Villa's Staniforth 'at ease' with decision to retire



Aston Villa midfielder Lucy Staniforth says she did not hesitate when making the decision to retire from football at the end of the season. The 33-year-old began her career at Sunderland in 2008 and has gone on to represent seven clubs - the most of any player in the Women's Super League. Staniforth also earned 17 England caps and was twice a losing FA Cup finalist, with Sunderland in 2009 and Bristol Academy in 2013. But having been plagued by injuries, she is ready for life after football.

“Agadha” Is Set to Be a Visual Wonder; The Film Has Many More Surprises Beyond the Teaser – M.S. Raju



Under the banner of Sri Aadi Varaha Productions, Kasi Visalakshi Balusu is producing the film “Agadha” on a grand scale in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages simultaneously. The film is written and directed by M.S. Raju. The movie stars Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Shravan Reddy, Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijay Kumar, Sijju, Roshan, Shreya Rani Reddy, and others in key roles. The teaser of the movie was released on Thursday. Speaking at the teaser launch event...

M.S. Raju said, “As filmmakers, we have many dreams. I have made several films according to my dreams. I would like to thank my sister-like Visalakshi garu, Dr. Raju garu, Subbaraju, and another friend for bringing my dream project ‘Agadha’ to this level. I believe everyone will like our teaser. With the blessings of the Goddess I believe in, I think this film will become a huge success. The teaser itself shows the kind of work done by the technicians and artists. This movie will be a visual wonder. There are many elements in the film that were not shown in the teaser. Hats off to Kamakshi for her dedication and sincerity as Mahadevi. ‘Polimera’ fame Anil garu supported this project a lot. Without Shravan, this movie would not exist. This film will take Shravan to another level. Ulka is a wonderful actress. Jovika, granddaughter of Manjula garu and daughter of Vanitha garu, is making her Telugu debut with this film. She will carry forward Manjula garu's legacy. Editor Junaid, cameraman Nani, Chaitanya, Rajeev, Vicky, Rajesh — everyone worked wholeheartedly for this film. I wish ‘Agadha’ becomes a big hit,” he said. Producer Kasi Visalakshi Balusu said, “Thanks to

everyone who came to the teaser launch of ‘Agadha.’ I entered film production because of my elder brother M.S. Raju garu. I thank Raju garu and Subbaraju garu for supporting me in this journey. I believe everyone liked our teaser. I hope audiences watch and make our movie a hit,” she said. Kamakshi Bhaskarla said, “Thanks to M.S. Raju garu for giving me an opportunity in a wonderful film like ‘Agadha.’ Raju garu told me that the ‘Polimera’ poster looked good. I was very happy when he called me for this project. Thanks to Raju garu for believing that I could perform the role of Mahadevi. You will continue to hear more about this film in the coming days. Only a few films stay with us forever, and ‘Agadha’ will be one such film. The character Mahadevi will always remain within me. I believe the audience will also experience the same feeling,” she said.

We offered a Rs. 1 Lakh reward because we believe in the film's suspense

Vision: Passionate about making cinema with a fresh perspective.
Genre: “M4M” is a unique suspense thriller.

Acclaim: Already bagged 15 International Awards (IMDb recognized) before release.

Release Date: Worldwide theatrical release on May 8.

Pan-India Presence: Releasing in 5 languages: Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Mohan Vadlapatla, known for producing tasteful Telugu films like Malleepuvvu, Mental Krishna, and Kalavaramaaye Madilo, is making his directorial debut with the suspense thriller M4M (Motive For Murder). Starring American actress Jo Sharma in the lead, the film is set to hit screens worldwide on May 8. Distributed by PVR Inox Pictures in South India, JVEL in North India, and Tekflix overseas, the director sat down with the media to share insights about the project.

Interview Excerpts

Q: What is the story behind the title

“M4M”

Mohan Vadlapatla: The concept of serial killers is quite popular in the US. When we brainstormed the central question—“What is the motive behind this murder”—the phrase Motive For Murder stuck. We shortened it to M4M for a crisp and catchy title.

Q: Were there challenges in working with a new cast

Mohan Vadlapatla: I treated every scene like a mini-movie, giving it immense care. The screenplay was meticulously crafted. Although we had a lot of footage, we edited it sharply into a 90-minute Hollywood-style thriller. We didn't even feel the need for an interval, but we included one because Indian audiences are accustomed to it. One specific climax scene, where a character is tied up like a mummy, took half a day to shoot and was quite challenging.

Q: The film is ready for release. Can you share details about the production journey

Mohan Vadlapatla: Honestly, the

release was slightly delayed because we opted for some reshoots. We also wanted a high-energy promo song choreographed by Bhanu Master. We actually shot two versions and scrapped them before finalizing the third version with him. We shot for three and a half days continuously at Sarathi Studios. Initially, we approached OTT platforms, but they suggested a post-theatrical release strategy. That is how the final shape of the film emerged.

Q: What was the main reason for the reshoots

Mohan Vadlapatla: I wasn't fully satisfied with the first version of the “Who is the Killer” song. I wanted a top-tier choreographer, so we brought Bhanu Master on board. We also had singer Noel perform a rap portion, which turned out brilliantly.

Q: Did reshoots escalate the budget

Mohan Vadlapatla: Definitely. We worked through night shifts and used 10 different sets over three and a half days.



BORN FOR THE SCREEN BHAGYASHRI BORSE AND THE MAKING OF A PAN-INDIA STAR



There are two kinds of stars in Indian cinema. The first kind arrives with a bang, a debut that shatters records, a face that is everywhere overnight, a name that trends before the first review is even published. The industry celebrates them loudly, and then watches, often anxiously, to see if the substance matches

the noise. The second kind builds quietly. Film by film, language by language, director by director. They do not announce themselves. They let the work do it. And by the time the wider world fully recognises them, the foundation they have laid is so solid that nothing can shake it. Bhagyashri Borse, who turns 26 today, belongs entirely to the second kind.

And on her birthday, the announcement of Seyon, the highly anticipated Tamil thriller starring Sivakarthiskeyan, directed by Sivakumar Murugesan, and produced by the legendary Kamal Haasan under Raaj Kamal Films International, makes one thing impossible to ignore any longer. This is not a rising star.

Hilarious Family Entertainer Purushaha Releasing Worldwide On My 22nd With High Expectations



Presented by Saraswati Battula and produced by Battula Koteswara Rao under the Kalyan Productions banner, Purushaha is shaping up to be a hilarious family entertainer with strong commercial appeal. The film introduces Pavan Kalyan Battula as the lead hero, while director Veeru Vulavala helms the project with a perfect blend of humor, emotions, and engaging storytelling aimed at audiences of all age groups. The ensemble cast includes Saptagiri, Vennela Kishore, Kasireddy Rajkumar, Rayancha Kokkura, Vishika, Hasini Sudheer, and Ananth Sriram in pivotal roles. After initially announcing the film for a summer release, the makers have now officially locked May 22nd as the worldwide theatrical release date. The timing works perfectly for the film, as it arrives during the extended summer holiday season, giving it ample opportunity to attract family audiences. Adding to the advantage, the release window cur-

rently remains free from major big-ticket competition, which is expected to work in the film's favor. With the release date now confirmed, the team is gearing up to intensify promotions in the coming days. Purushaha has already succeeded in creating solid buzz with its innovative promotional strategy. The quirky character introduction posters, entertaining teaser, and amusing glimpses have struck a chord with viewers and sparked curiosity around the film. The songs too have been receiving encouraging responses across digital platforms, steadily increasing the film's reach and anticipation ahead of release. On the technical front, the film boasts music composed by Shravan Bharadwaj, cinematography by Satish Muthyala, and editing by Koti, with the team collectively striving to present a colorful and engaging commercial entertainer on the big screen. Expectations are already high and the trailer to be released soon will take them to next level.

“Society will improve if journalists remain honest” — with this strong message, I made Operation "Aruna Reddy" Movie — director, producer and actor Posani Krishna Murali



Operation Aruna Reddy" Film has nothing to do with politics

- People from all political parties can watch this film; there are no vulgar dialogues or obscene scenes

- It has the best screenplay of my career; it will become one of the best screenplay films in India

- I always supported the politician I felt was better at that time; I never expected anything from anyone

- With everyone's support, I want to continue making good films

- Posani Krishna Murali at the press meet

Popular writer and actor Posani Krishna Murali is producing, directing, and playing the lead role in the film Operation Aruna Reddy. Interestingly, Posani himself is handling the story, screenplay, dialogues, lyrics, and editing as well. Hindola Chakravarthi, Kajal Sharma, Ayesha Khan, and BJP leader Raghunandan Rao are playing key roles in the film. At the press meet held today in Hyderabad, Posani Krishna Murali

shared details about Operation Aruna Reddy. During the event— Actor, director and producer Posani Krishna Murali said - “This is the story of honest journalists. The core point of this film is that if journalists remain honest, society will improve. Hindola Chakravarthi is playing the journalist character named Aruna Reddy. Hers is the lead role. Her character warns people about who entered politics for public service and who entered for business. We have shown in an interesting way how people became alert because of the warnings given by that journalist, and what kind of decisions they took while choosing political leaders. Many people don't want those who speak the truth openly to exist in society. When such a good journalist faces a situation where she ends up on the streets because of the politics played by some people, a good Chief Minister comes forward to help her. He supports her because he believes girls like her should remain in journalism.

