



SCINDIA LAUNCHES
'Arunachal Kiwi' mission to
boost cultivation and value
chain development

NATION & SOUTH | PAGE

Trump touts
USD18 trillion
investment surge

WORLD | NEWS



DAVID REDDY TEASER:
MANCHU MANOJ
BIRTHDAY SPECIAL BANGER

CINEMA | PAGE



OM NAMO
VENKATESAYA



India's peak power
demand hits record
amid heatwave

New Delhi, May 20 : India's electricity demand touched a fresh all-time high for the third consecutive day on Wednesday as scorching temperatures and heatwave conditions across several parts of the country pushed up the use of air-conditioners, coolers and other electrical appliances in homes and commercial establishments. According to the Union Power Ministry, peak power demand during solar hours reached 265.44 GW at 3:45 pm and was fully met without any shortage in supply. The latest figure surpassed Monday's previous record of 260.45 GW recorded at 3:40 pm. Earlier, on May 18, the country had registered a peak demand of 257.37 GW. The ministry also said non-solar peak demand hit a record 247.21 GW at 10:29 pm on May 18, marking the highest-ever electricity requirement during non-solar hours.

PM Modi dedicates 'FAO 2026 Agricola Medal' to food providers of India

Rome (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was conferred the 2026 Agricola Medal, the highest honour of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), on Wednesday dedicated the prestigious medal to the food providers of India.

The medal was presented by FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu at the historic FAO Plenary Hall in recognition of PM Modi's contribution to food security, agricultural development and farmer welfare, according to the organisation.

"I accept the FAO's 'Agricola Medal' with great humility. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the FAO for this honour. I dedicate this medal to the food providers of India," PM Modi said in a post on X.

"This is an honour for millions of Indian farmers, livestock keepers, fish farmers, agricultural scientists, and workers. It is also an honour to India's unwavering commitment, at the centre of which lies human welfare, food security, and sustainable development," he added.



At the FAO Headquarters in Rome, PM Modi met FAO chief Qu, and discussed various topics relating to agriculture and food security. "Also highlighted India's efforts in these sectors," said PM Modi.

He further stated that FAO's Agricola Medal reflects India's unwavering commitment to food security, sustainable development and the hard work of those associated with our agriculture sector.

Congratulating the Prime Minister, Qu said

the honour recognised his commitment to improving the welfare of people through landmark initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, strengthening food security and improving the lives of farmers.

He also acknowledged India's support for FAO's efforts to combat hunger and poverty and advance universal food security and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The FAO chief praised PM Modi's leadership in transforming

India's agricultural landscape through farmer-centric and technology-driven initiatives. Qu further lauded India's emphasis on digital public infrastructure during its G20 Presidency, describing it as a major step towards improving access to digital technologies in developing countries and enabling efficient service delivery. According to the FAO chief, these sustained initiatives have contributed significantly to lifting millions of people out of poverty in India.

Goyal slams Rahul over remark on PM Modi's Italy visit

NEW DELHI:



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday after the latter criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy in a snide social media post on X. "Why does Rahul Gandhi hate India and everything made in India so much?" Piyush Goyal quipped.

"India has today become the world's Trusted Destination through 'Made in India' and 'Local Goes Global', but the Congress sees a problem in every Indian achievement," the Union Minister said. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is now earning the global respect, investment, and trust that the country has been waiting for decades and that is what Rahul Gandhi cannot tolerate," he added.

PM Modi, Italian counterpart Meloni hold talks in Rome

Leaders discuss India-Italy ties, trade, and tech cooperation.

ROME (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome in Rome on Wednesday as he held delegation-level talks with Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni at Villa Pamphili, discussing expanding bilateral partnership between both countries and exchanging views on the current geopolitical issues.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other officials were present during the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the two leaders warmly greeted each other and PM Modi was accorded a military honour.

The two leaders are scheduled to attend a working lunch with the heads of several major Italian and Indian industrial groups following their meeting. PM Modi will then visit the Food and Agriculture Organisation before concluding his visit to Italy.

PM Modi had last visited Italy in June 2024 for the Group of Seven Summit.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi met Italian President Sergio Mattarella and discussed various aspects related to



'Melody' for Meloni:
PM Modi's toffee gift clip races past 100 million views in just a few hours

bilateral ties, including trade, investment and cultural linkages. "Met President Sergio Mattarella in Rome.

LoP Rahul urges Congmen to protect economy, constitution

RAEBARELI (TSIT):

Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday launched an attack on the Centre and the BJP, warning that the country must be protected from a looming economic crisis and threats to the Constitution.

Addressing the 'Bahujan Swabhimaan Sabha' held during the unveiling of a statue of freedom fighter Veera Pasi in Lodhwari village, LoP Gandhi said India could soon face an economic downturn, the burden of which would fall heavily on the common people.

He said rising tensions in West Asia and the US-Iran confrontation have disrupted global trade. According to him, any impact on the Strait of Hormuz would affect the supply of oil and other essential commodities, likely pushing up inflation in the coming months.

"Petrol, gas, and everyday essentials are set to become more expensive," he said, accusing the Centre of being disconnected from the problems of ordinary citizens. He added that people would face significant hardships if economic conditions further worsen.



Rahul Gandhi also highlighted issues related to the Constitution and social equality. Referring to Veera Pasi and Dr B.R. Ambedkar, he said both had fought for equality and rights. "Every citizen in India is equal. Everyone should get the full reward of their labour and equal rights. This country belongs to everyone, not to any one caste or organisation. That is what our Constitution says," LoP Gandhi said.

Describing the Constitution as the voice of the people, Rahul Gandhi stressed that safeguarding it is the duty of every citizen. Holding a copy of the Constitution in hand, he said, "Slogans alone will not bring change. Rights and transformation can be ensured only by protecting the Constitution."

Global oil prices ease nearly 1 pc after Trump hints at Iran deal

NEW DELHI:

Global crude oil prices fell nearly 1 per cent for a second consecutive session on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump reiterated that the conflict with Iran could end "very quickly", raising hopes of a possible diplomatic breakthrough.

International benchmark Brent crude futures slipped 0.9 per cent or nearly \$1 to \$110.28 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures declined about 1 per cent or \$1.03 to \$103.12 per barrel. Moreover, both benchmarks had already fallen nearly \$1 in the previous session following signs of progress in talks between Washington and Tehran.



The Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh meets the Minister Defense Acquisition Program Administration, Republic of Korea, Mr Lee Yong-chul at Seoul, in South Korea.... (PIB PHOTO)

T'gana seeks Rs 5,000 cr from Centre under SASCI

Hyderabad (TIST):

Telangana has requested an additional Rs.5,000 crore from the Centre under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI). Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka made the appeal to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New



Delhi. Vikramarka highlighted the state's investments in education, healthcare, rural infrastructure, and human

development, urging FRBM exemption for Externally Aided Projects, including the Rs 30,000 crore Young India Integrated Residential Schools programme. The initiative aims to improve education, nutrition, and opportunities for marginalized communities, benefiting lakhs of children in backward, SC, and ST sections of Telangana.

VCK weighs joining Vijay cabinet as TVK renews offer

CHENNAI (TSIT):

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) President Thol Thirumavalavan on Wednesday indicated that the party would deliberate on Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's (TVK) renewed invitation to join the C. Joseph Vijay-led cabinet, amid growing speculation that the party could soon be accommodated in the government with a ministerial berth.

The development comes after the VCK had earlier maintained that its support to the Vijay government was purely from outside and intended only to ensure political stability while preventing any possible intervention by the BJP-led Union government during the government formation process.



Addressing reporters, Thirumavalavan said the TVK leadership had conveyed to him that rebel AIADMK legislators would not be inducted into the Cabinet.

The clarification assumes significance as the VCK chief had previously warned that the party would be compelled to reconsider its support if AIADMK dissidents were accommodated in the ministry.

Bengal govt hands land to BSF, CM vows crackdown on infiltrators

KOLKATA (TSIT)

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Wednesday handed over land to the BSF for international boundary fencing and security infrastructure, beginning with a 27 km stretch, and said more land would be provided wherever required to strengthen border management in the

state. Addressing a BSF land transfer meeting, Adhikari said the process marked the beginning of a larger initiative to improve border security in the state. "The land will be handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) within two weeks. Initially, land covering a 27 km stretch along the India-Bangladesh international boundary is being



handed over," he said. Calling it the first step in a broader exercise, Adhikari said, "As a beginning, the land required to secure the 27 km stretch is being pro-

vided to the BSF."

Highlighting the need to expedite border infrastructure, the chief minister said a sizeable portion of West Bengal's international boundary still remained unfenced. "In West Bengal, around 1,600 km of the total 2,200 km border with Bangladesh has already been fenced, while nearly 600 km still remains

unfenced," he said.

"Wherever land is needed for fencing and border security, we will hand it over to the BSF," he added. Targeting the previous Trinamool Congress government, Adhikari alleged that it had failed to cooperate on border infrastructure because of "vote bank politics and appeasement policies".

Scindia launches 'Arunachal Kiwi' mission to boost cultivation and value chain development

Itanagar, May 20 : Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday launched the "Arunachal Kiwi" mission, a cluster-based kiwi cultivation and value chain development initiative aimed at boosting production, marketing, and economic growth in Arunachal Pradesh.

With an outlay of approximately Rs 167 crore, 'Mission on Arunachal Kiwi: The USP of Arunachal Pradesh' has been designed through a whole-of-government, convergence-led approach, anchored by MDoNER. The mission, woven together with the schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, NABARD, ICAR-CITH, APEDA, NERAMAC, and committed private investors, an official statement said.

The Mission has been shaped with the perspectives of all stakeholders in the value chain in mind,



ensuring that interventions reflect the ground realities and the aspirations of Arunachal's kiwi-farming communities. The Mission adopts a cluster-based approach with six integrated cluster-level Post-Harvest Management Hubs identified across Ziro Valley (Lower Subansiri), Dirang and Kalaktang (West Kameng), Shi Yomi, and Dibang Valley.

According to the official statement, over 30 strategic interventions under the

Mission seek to address critical gaps across the kiwi value chain, bridging the price-realisation gap, restoring Arunachal's lapsed NPOP organic certification, building cold-chain and post-harvest infrastructure to end the 7 to 10-day distress-sale window, and integrating thousands of farming households into a unified ecosystem of plantation development, post-harvest processing, branding, traceability, export, and experiential

agri-tourism.

The DoNER Minister underscored Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to ensuring that farmers become true stakeholders in the entire agricultural value chain — "from farm to fork." "Emphasising the convergence-driven character of the initiative, the Minister said: Through the High-Level Task Forces constituted with all 8 Northeastern states, and in collaboration with all the Chief Ministers and governments of the 8 states, we have identified one unique product from each state with a distinct unique selling proposition, like from Mizoram's ginger and Nagaland's coffee to Sikkim's organic farming, Manipur's polo heritage, Assam's muga silk and Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric." He said: "Today (Wednesday), with the launch of Project Kiwi in Arunachal Pradesh, we are taking another major step in building globally competitive value chains rooted in the strengths of the Northeast."

Commissioner Hari Kiran Emerging as Tech-Driven Reformer in Telangana Excise Administration

Hyderabad TSIT : Telangana Excise Commissioner C. Hari Kiran is increasingly being recognised within administrative and policy circles for introducing technology-driven reforms, modern enforcement systems and transparent governance practices aimed at transforming the functioning of the state's Excise Department.

Officials and industry observers say the department, under the leadership of Hari Kiran and the guidance of Principal Secretary M.Raghunandan Rao, has been focusing on combining strict enforcement with digital monitoring, intelligence-based operations and streamlined administrative systems to improve efficiency and accountability.

The department's revenue performance in recent months has also attracted attention. Telangana recorded liquor sales exceeding Rs.40,306 crore during the 2025-26 financial year,

reflecting nearly 7 per cent year-on-year growth over the previous fiscal.

December 2025 alone emerged as a record-breaking month, with liquor sales touching an all-time high of Rs.5,102 crore — the first time monthly excise revenue crossed the Rs.5,000 crore mark in the state. Official figures showed that liquor worth more than Rs.350 crore was sold on December 31 alone, while cumulative sales during the final five days of the month crossed Rs.1,344 crore. Administrative sources attribute part of this improved performance to tighter monitoring systems, enhanced coordination between district enforcement units and stronger control mechanisms aimed at curbing illegal liquor movement and revenue leakages.

Hari Kiran, known for his methodical and result-oriented administrative style, has reportedly been encouraging data-driven monitoring mechanisms, digital sur-



veillance tools and faster response systems across the department's field formations.

Officials say greater emphasis is now being placed on intelligence-led enforcement, tracking patterns of illicit liquor activity and improving inter-departmental coordination for enforcement operations.

The Excise Department has also been focusing on improving internal accountability structures and streamlining operational workflows through technology-enabled systems. Administrative observers note that the department's approach increasingly reflects broader governance trends centred around

digitisation and real-time monitoring. The Telangana government has simultaneously intensified measures against illegal liquor trade and unauthorised belt shops. Excise minister Jupally Krishna Rao recently stated that enforcement activity has significantly increased, with excise-related cases rising by nearly 56 per cent under the current administration.

The department has also seen strong participation in the recently completed liquor retail licensing cycle. Telangana received more than 95,000 applications for 2,620 liquor shop licences for the 2025-27 policy period, underlining the scale and commercial significance of the sector. Apart from enforcement, officials say Hari Kiran has been encouraging a more public-oriented administrative culture focused on transparency, regulatory compliance and efficient service delivery mechanisms.

Telangana's Tourism Week Push Blends Heritage, Youth, Influencers and Community Participation

From influencer competitions and heritage walks to tribal guide training and experiential tourism, districts across Telangana launch innovative tourism initiatives under Praja Paalana programme

By M. Rajanikanth

Hyderabad: Telangana's week-long tourism promotion campaign under the Praja Paalana programme is witnessing a diverse range of grassroots initiatives across districts, combining heritage conservation, youth participation, digital content creation, eco-tourism and local livelihood generation. The Tourism, Heritage and Culture department's "Tourism Week" campaign, being conducted from May 18 to 23, is part of the state government's 99 Days Action Plan aimed at strengthening tourism awareness and citizen participation across Telangana. Several district administrations have introduced innovative local activities aligned with the broader tourism promotion framework issued by the department.

In Adilabad, the District Collector announced an Influencer Reels Competition encouraging content creators to showcase the district's waterfalls, forests, tribal traditions and historic sites through high-quality digital storytelling. The competition offers cash prizes of Rs.5,000, Rs.4,000 and Rs.3,000 for the top three entries respectively, with videos required to be submitted in 4K format.

Hanumakonda launched a similar Influencer Reels and YouTube competition with significantly higher rewards Rs.15,000 for first prize, Rs.10,000 for second prize and Rs.5,000 for third prize. Officials stated that winners would be announced on World Tourism Day on September 27. Even content that does not win



prizes may still be featured on official tourism department social media platforms to promote Telangana destinations.

The Tourism Week guidelines specifically emphasise digital tourism promotion, noting that tourism in 2026 is increasingly discovered through mobile screens and social media content before physical visits take place.

In Hyderabad, officials organised a clean-up drive at the historic Raymond's Tombs in Malakpet, combining conservation activities with a guided heritage tour explaining the monument's historical significance. The initiative attempted to blend civic participation with heritage education.

Rangareddy district organised a tourism-themed painting competition at Saroornagar, encouraging artistic engagement with Telangana's tourism and heritage themes through student and community participation.

Bhadrachal Kothagudem district adopted an experiential tourism approach by organising boat visits to the scenic Kimmersani region, allowing participants to directly experience the natural tourism potential of the area rather than limiting activities to awareness sessions.

In Nagarkurnool district, tourism awareness activities were conducted aboard a boat along the Krishna river at Somasila, creat-

ing an immersive and memorable outreach programme linked to river tourism.

One of the most socially impactful initiatives emerged from Mulugu district, where tribal youth from Wazeedu and Venkatapuram mandals were trained as tourist guides under a programme titled "Giri Darshak".

Ten candidates from tribal communities were selected and trained to guide visitors at Karreguttala Hills and other eco-tourism destinations in the region. The initiative is expected to create direct employment opportunities for local tribal youth while also strengthening community participation in tourism development.

The Tourism Week framework released by the department focuses heavily on youth participation, heritage awareness, local guide training, influencer engagement and cleanliness drives at tourism destinations.

The programme also includes Yuva Tourism Clubs in schools and colleges, heritage walks, local guide volunteer registration drives, tourism awareness campaigns and district-level tourism branding exercises.

Officials said the broader objective is to transform tourism into a participatory community movement while simultaneously strengthening local economies, preserving heritage assets and generating employment opportunities through tourism-linked activities.

The week-long initiative also reflects Telangana's attempt to increasingly position tourism not merely as a hospitality sector, but

Ooty Student Krinith: A Young Historian Making Global Waves

Udhagamandalam: Krinith, a 10th-grade student from The Orchid International School, Bengaluru, hailing from Kappathurai village near Ooty, is gaining recognition for his extraordinary historical knowledge.

Krinith can identify the national flags of all countries in under three minutes and pinpoint every nation on the world map. He narrates historical events from Chola-era inscriptions to World War II with dates and clarity. His achievements include



the Young Emperor Award - 2025, Child Prodigy Award 2022, and listings in the India Book of Records for

retaining exceptional historical information. Teachers and officials praise his dedication, noting his passion blossomed during the COVID lockdown, supported by his mother. Krinith now conducts sessions for students, sharing insights into history. He has also been felicitated at events like the Lawrence School, Lovedale, NSS camps, and by the Nilgiris District Collector, aiming to showcase his skills to the Tamil Nadu Governor and Chief Minister.

BJP condemns Rahul Gandhi's remark calling PM Modi a "Gaddar", demands apology

Hyderabad: N V Subhash, BJP Chief Spokesperson and Media Incharge of Telangana, strongly condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent remark calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "Gaddar".

He described the statement as irresponsible, shameful, and reflective of the Congress party's repeated habit of insulting the Prime Minister.

Subhash highlighted that over the years, Congress leaders have



made more than 90 derogatory comments against PM Modi, including calling him "Maut ka Saudagar" in Gujarat. He accused Rahul Gandhi and the Congress of resorting to personal abuse due to

repeated electoral defeats and lack of vision or constructive politics.

The BJP spokesperson praised Prime Minister Modi's 12 years of initiatives for villages, farmers, women, and deprived sections of society, noting that 140 crore Indians continue to trust his leadership. Subhash demanded that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress Party immediately apologise to the nation for hurting the sentiments of the people.

Hindustan Zinc hosts Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy at Rajpura Dariba Complex, showcases responsible mining, technology and community impact

Hyderabad, 20th May 2026: Hindustan Zinc Limited hosted Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Coal and Mines, at its Rajpura Dariba Complex in Rajasthan. The visit included a tour of the Sindesar Khurd Mine, one of the world's largest technologically advanced silver-producing underground mines, and the Dariba Smelting Complex.

The minister reviewed Hindustan Zinc's technology-led mining operations, integrated smelting processes, and flagship community development programmes. He appreciated the company's safety-focused



culture, diverse workforce—including 26.3% women employees—and contributions towards building a self-reliant metals ecosystem for India.

Reddy witnessed remote-operated mining equipment, a live demonstration by India's first women mine rescue team, and engaged with employees and contract workers. He also

observed Hindustan Zinc's community initiatives, including women empowerment programmes, quality education projects, healthcare outreach, and sports development for rural youth.

Shri Reddy highlighted the role of responsible mining in strengthening India's critical mineral value chains, supporting domestic manufacturing, and driving inclusive growth. He said Hindustan Zinc's integrated, tech-first approach exemplifies India's journey towards self-reliant industrial growth and Viksit Bharat 2047.

- 50-year-old man relieved from years of severe pain and urinary problems

Visakhapatnam, May 20, 2026: Doctors at KIMS ICON Hospital successfully removed five giant bladder stones, each nearly the size of a hen's egg, from a 50-year-old man who had been suffering from severe urinary problems for several years. Sharing details of the case, Dr. Sandeep Maheswara Reddy Kallam, Consultant Urologist, Laparoscopic Uro-Oncologist and Andrologist, said the patient approached the hospital with complaints of lower abdominal pain, burning sensation during urination, difficulty in passing urine, frequent urination, and recurrent urinary tract infections.



Diagnostic investigations, including scanning and other tests, revealed the presence of multiple massive stones in the urinary bladder. While bladder and kidney stones are commonly seen in routine practice, the unusually large size of the stones in this patient came as a surprise to the medical team, he said.

Considering the size and number of the stones, the doctors carefully planned a specialized surgical procedure. All five stones were successfully removed, providing immediate relief to the patient. Following the surgery, the patient recovered well and returned to normal condition. Doctors said he would now be able to pass urine without difficulty.

Dr. Sandeep explained that bladder stones are commonly caused by urinary obstruction, incomplete emptying of the bladder, recurrent infections, and enlargement of the prostate gland. If left untreated, such conditions may lead to repeated infec-

tions, bleeding, complete blockage of urine flow, bladder damage, and even kidney complications.

He advised people experiencing symptoms such as pain during urination, blood in urine, recurrent urinary infections, or difficulty in passing urine to consult a urologist without delay. The successful surgery once again highlighted the advanced urology services and expert medical team available at KIMS ICON Hospital. Doctors also advised the patient to maintain adequate hydration, follow dietary precautions, and undergo regular medical check-ups to prevent recurrence of stones in the future.

CM Naidu offers Sri Vari Saree to Goddess Gangamma during Kuppam Jatara



Tirumala, 20th May 2026: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu offered the sacred Sri Vari Saree to Goddess Prasanna Tirupati Gangamma during the annual Jatara in Kuppam, Chittoor district. Performing special prayers alongside his wife, the Chief Minister sought the Goddess's

blessings for the well-being, prosperity, and happiness of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) annually presents the Sri Vari Saree to the Goddess, maintaining a longstanding tradition. TTD Additional Executive Officer Sri CH Venkayya Chowdary formally handed over the sacred saree

to the Chief Minister couple. Devotees thronged the temple to witness the rare Vishwaroopa Darshan, held only once a year, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere. TTD officials, including Board Member Sri Shantarama and Deputy Executive Officer Sri Lokanatham, participated in the event, adding to the solemnity of the occasion.

Collector Holds Stakeholders' Meeting on Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Visakhapatnam Region



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : District Collector M. Abhishek Kishore on Wednesday conducted a meeting with stakeholders at the Collectorate conference hall regarding the preparation of a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) linked to the proposed Metro Rail Project in the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region. Representatives of SYSTRA, an organisation with extensive experience in metro rail projects, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining various aspects of the plan, including underpasses, footpaths, cycle tracks, traffic surveys and phased implementation, keeping in view the projected population growth in the Visakhapatnam region up to 2055. The representatives informed that the Comprehensive Mobility Plan had been prepared as per the

guidelines of the Central and State governments and that the preliminary survey was completed by May 2025. Addressing the meeting, Collector Abhishek Kishore said that departments and agencies associated with the plan, including GVMC, VMRDA, Police, Railways and National Highways, should submit their suggestions, objections and

recommendations in writing. He stated that the Comprehensive Mobility Plan would play a crucial role in the future development of the Visakhapatnam region and help ensure systematic and efficient urban growth keeping future generations in mind. Officials from GVMC, VMRDA, Police, Transport, R&B and other departments participated in the meeting.

AP govt to develop Rayalaseema as major horticulture hub: Atchannaaidu

Vijayawada, May 20 (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture K Atchannaaidu has reiterated the government's commitment to develop the Rayalaseema region as one of the biggest horticulture hubs in the country. The Agriculture Minister here on Wednesday said that the Rayalaseema region, which has been backward for several decades, is now moving towards rapid development. "The government has issued orders to implement the Rayalaseema Integrated Horticulture Development plan to develop the region as one of the biggest horticulture hubs in the country. There are abundant opportunities for horticulture activities in the Rayalaseema region," Atchannaaidu observed.

Atchannaaidu said that drip irrigation is being promoted, and cold storages and food-processing units are being established in the Rayalaseema region. Horticulture crops, including fruits, vegetables, and spices, are being raised in the Rayalaseema region now, he highlighted. "Horticulture crops are being cultivated in 8.41 lakh hectares in Andhra Pradesh, and the government has aimed to increase the cultivation of horticulture crops to 14.41 lakh hectares in the coming years. As part of it, the RIHD plan was evolved and being implemented," he revealed. The development of horticulture in Rayalaseema would enhance the living standards of farmers and create employment in a big way in the region, the Agriculture Minister hoped.

Centre Approves Three Mega Projects Worth Rs.1501 Crore for GVMC

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, VISAKHAPATNAM: The Central Government has approved three key infrastructure development projects proposed by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg stated in a press release on Wednesday that the National Apex Committee (NAC), under the "Urban Challenge Fund" scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, has given the green signal for these projects. The projects, designed with an estimated total cost of Rs.1501.03 crore, include Rs.658.61 crore for the development of the Underground Drainage (UGD) system in Madhuravada Zone, Rs.725.18 crore for a 24x7 smart drinking water supply system, and Rs.117.24 crore for the restoration and modernization of the bulk and semi-bulk water supply system.

J.S. Bindra Assumes Charge as Chairperson of Visakhapatnam Port Authority

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Visakhapatnam Port Authority Chairman J.S. Bindra, IRTS, assumed charge as the Chairperson of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. A 1996-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, Bindra brings with him extensive experience in railway operations, commercial management and safety. Prior to his new assignment, he served as Principal Chief Operations Manager of the South East Central Railway at Bilaspur. Between 2023 and 2025, Bindra worked as the Divisional Railway

Manager at Ranchi and later served as Executive Director of MCL and SCCL. Bindra holds a B.Tech degree in Electronics Engineering from NIT Jalandhar and an MBA from GNDU, Amritsar. He also earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, USA. During his career, Bindra received several awards and honours and represented India at various international conferences, seminars and inter-governmental meetings. He is widely recognised for his expertise in logistics and transportation sectors.



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POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited ("Encore ARC"), acting in its capacity of being Trustee of EARC - BANK - 029 - Trust, has acquired all rights, title and interests of Managaram Home Finance Limited ("Bank") in the financial assets of DASTAGIRAMMA NADINDLA originated by the Bank under section 5 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) vide Registered Assignment Agreement dated 14-12-2023.

And whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Encore ARC under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules), issued a demand notice dated 21-12-2024 calling upon the DASTAGIRAMMA NADINDLA (Borrower), KULLAYAPPA NADINDLA (Co-borrower 1), SIVA KUMAR NADINDLA (Co-ApPLICANT2) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.725394/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Four Only) as on 21-12-2024 together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses, and costs w.e.f. 22-12-2024, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given by the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 15-05-2026.

The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited for an amount of Rs. 99,76,94/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety-Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Four Only) as on 21-12-2024, together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. 22-12-2024. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE: Description of Immovable Property: RCC HOUSE HAVING D.No-4/206, KANCHI REDDY STREET CHILAMKURU, YERRAGUNTALA MANDAL, CHILAMKURU GRAMA PANCHAYATH IN WARD NO-04, IN PLOT NO-60, NEAR BY KADAPA TADIPATRI ROAD, INSIDE OF VILLAGE FIELDS OF CHILAMKURU IN SY NO-1209 PYKPA AN EXTENT OF 189.33 SQ YARDS PYKPA AN EXTENT OF 94.66 SQ YARDS, P.O CHILAMKURU, DIST-Y.S.R KADAPA, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin: 516310. Boundary Description, EAST- RASTHA, WEST- SANDU KALUVA, SOUTH-HOUSE OF NADENDLA SIVAKUMAR HAVING SAME PLOT NO, NORTH-SITE IN PLOT NO.59

Place: KADAPPA Date: 20-05-2026 Sd/- K. Lokesh Kumar, Authorised Officer Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt Ltd.

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)
Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1) and (2)]

Whereas, The Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor mentioned herein, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of NHFL has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against each property.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the NHFL for the amount mentioned below and interest and other charges thereon.

Loan Account Number	Borrower(s) & Property Details	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
LNCUD0HL-11230037411	1.MEESALA VENKATA RAMANA (BORROWER) 2.MEESALA SUJATHA(CO-BORROWER)	Rs. 6.13,328/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred TwentyEight Only) DATE: 18-Feb-2026	18-May-2026	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

PROPERTY BEARING :- ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY SYNO.301-1B H.No.1/46,1ST WARD,PULLURU VILLAGE, KHAJIPETA MANDAL,CUDDAPAH DISTRICT- ANDHRA PRADESH PIN CODE:516203, ADMEASURING 72.6 SQ.YARDS BOUNDARIES EAST BY: HOUSE OF GOPALA DASARI BHASKAR, WEST BY:RASTHA, NORTH BY: HOUSE OF MEESALA RAMA SUBBAMMA, SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF MANDAPALLE RAMANAMMA TOTAL LAND : 72.6 SQ YARDS

Date: 21-May-2026 Place: Andhra Pradesh Sd/- Authorized Officer NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

POONAWALLA FINCORP LIMITED
Corporate Office: Unit No. 2401, 24th Floor, Altium, Dr. G.M Bhosale Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018, Maharashtra
Registered Office: 201 and 202, 2nd Floor, AP81, Koregaon Park Annex, Mundhwa, Pune - 411 036, Maharashtra

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (Formerly known as Magma Fincorp Limited) of the above Corporate/Registrar office under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred as the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice below dated calling upon the below Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on this 19th May of the year 2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (Formerly known as Magma Fincorp Limited) the amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details of Property taken in possession are herein below:

Name of Borrowers	Description of Property	Possession taken Date	Date of Statutory Demand Notice	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
PRIYANKA CHILLIES TRADERS	Schedule of property: ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF MORTGAGE PROPERTY SITUA AT GUNTUR DISTRICT, GUNTUR SUB DISTRICT, NOW WITH IN THE GUNTUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AREA, GUNTUR CITY, RAMACHANDRAPURAM AGRAHARAM, CHAPARALVEEDHI, OLD WARD NO. 16, NEW WARD NO. 24, BLOCK NO. 2, T.S. NO. 13, AN EXTENT OF 106.00 SQ.YDS OUT OF 110 SQ.YDS SITE WITH "SWETHA GEETA COMPLEX" BEARING DOOR NO. 24-2-81, OLD ASST.NO. 31670, NEW ASST.NO. 1021097964 IS BEING BOUNDED BY: EAST: MUNICIPAL ROAD - 21'10"; SOUTH: BALANCE SITE OF VENDOR (GANITA NAGESWARA RAO) - 2'; AGAIN EAST: BALANCE SITE OF VENDOR (GANITA NAGESWARA RAO) - 2'; AGAIN SOUTH: BALANCE SITE OF VENDOR (GANITA NAGESWARA RAO) - 4'; AGAIN EAST: BALANCE SITE OF VENDOR (GANITA NAGESWARA RAO) - 4'; AGAIN SOUTH: MUNICIPAL GALLI BAZAR - 28'6"; WEST: PROPERTY OF KOPPARAVURI MALLIKARJUNA RAO & THIS PROPERTY WALL - 25'; NORTH: PROPERTY OF KOPPARAVURI MALLIKARJUNA RAO & THIS PROPERTY WALL - 45'; WITHIN THESE BOUNDARIES OF AN EXTENT OF 106.00 SQ.YDS OR 88.62 SQMTRS OF SITE RCC COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.	19/05/2026	26/02/2026	Loan Account No. LAP02191000019451733 Rs. 1,15,70,963/- (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lacs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three only) payable as on 26.02.2026 along with interest @ 10.50% p.a till the realization.

Place: Andhra Pradesh Date: 21.05.2026 Authorised Officer Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd. (Signature)

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.
Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 028

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to MHIL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest at 2% p.m. as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to MHIL by the said Borrowers respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor/ Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	K Mohammed Ifranulla/ K Sabira Bhanu/ ANA-NHL-000316/ Anantapur	Rs. 5,00,800/- Rupees Five Lakh Eight Hundred Only.	24-Apr-2026	Door No.18/1670 (As Per Doc), 18/670, 671 (As Per Tax), Sy No.471-10, Darga Street, Revenue Ward No.18, Dharmavaram Town and Mandal, Satyasai District, Municipal Limits, Dharmavaram, Andhra Pradesh, Pincode: 515671, East- House of Donthula Savitramma, South- Rastha, West- Property of Rudra Krishappa, North- House bearing D.No.18/671 of D. Nagaraju.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MHIL as aforesaid, MHIL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of MHIL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: May 21, 2026 Place: Satyasai Sd/-Authorized Officer Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office : Bajaj Finance Limited, C/o Bajaj Auto Limited Complex Mumbai Pune Road Akurdi Pune 411035
Branch Add: Bajaj Finance Ltd Puttaparthi Andhra Pradesh

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand by registered post ("Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned here under to repay the amount mentioned in the notice U/s. 13(2) of the said Act within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors named below having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Sec. 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealing with this property will be subject to the charge of the Bajaj Finance Limited. For the amount mentioned herein below along with interest thereon at contracted rate. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

No.	Loan Account No./Name of the Borrower(s) Mortgagor(s) Guarantor(s)	Description of Property Schedule of Property	Date of Notice U/s. 13(2) and U/s. 13(2) Notice Amount and Date of Possession
1	LAN: P05RPL2099083 & P05RPL455892 1. Aditya Jewellery Works Tr. Its Prop. Saste Nitin R/o. Door No Room No 4 Sankarapocmplex Dharmavaram Main Road. Kothacheruvu Village Kothacheruvu Mandal Sri Satya Sai District Anantpur Andhra Pradesh 515133 Contact: 9100512037 Email id: nitinsaste84@gmail.com. Also at, R/o. D.No. 17/85 Main Road Kothacheruvu Anantpur Andhra Pradesh 515133. 2. Saste Pallavi Clo Saste Nitin, R/o. 2/161 Bukkapatnam Road Kothacheruvu Ananthapuramu Andhra Pradesh Anantpur 515133 Contact: 9100512037 Email id: nitinsaste84@gmail.com 3. Saste Nitin S/o Saste Krishna Rao, R/o. 2/181 Bukkapatnam Road Kothacheruvu Ananthapuramu Andhra Pradesh Anantpur 515133 Contact: 9100512037 Email id: nitinsaste84@gmail.com	All the piece and parcel of Sy No: 469-3, S.D. No: 1-425, Near Old RTC Bus Stand, Penukonda - Mudigubba Road, Kothacheruvu Village & Grama Panchayathi, Puttaparthi Taluk 515133 along with proportionate share in common areas (Area adm. 164 Sq.Yds). Bounded as: East: P. Surendra Babu (Vendor Plot); West: Railway Line; North: Railway Land; South: 20' wide Road. As per sit visit: East: Vacant Plot; West: Railway Line, Existing building; North: Railway Land; South: 20' wide Road.	28.03.2026 Rs. 37,15,510.78 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Ten and Seventy Eight Paise Only) 20.05.2026 at 01:00 PM to 01:30 PM For Bajaj Finance Limited, Authorised Officer

Date: 20.05.2026, Place: Andhra Pradesh

APIC land acquisition: Rs. 28 lakh compensation per acre; government assures support and jobs for youth



Tirupati, 20th May 2026: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar held a review meeting with farmers from Irugulam, Kolladam, and Pedda Eetipakam villages regarding the ongoing APIC industrial land acquisition in Satyavedu Mandal. The Collector announced that farmers will receive Rs. 28 lakh per acre, along with additional compensation for mango trees, borewells, sheds, and other immovable assets. He assured that children of affected farmers with higher education will be offered employment opportunities within the Sri City industrial area. Dr. Venkateswar emphasized that the government will support farmers fully, conduct the process transparently, and balance regional development with welfare. He highlighted that previous cooperation had transformed the region through Sri City, and new indus-

trial projects will further boost employment and infrastructure. Farmers welcomed the government's approach and expressed gratitude. The meeting included Joint Collector R. Govindaraju, Sullurpeta RDO Devendra Reddy, Tahsildar Shivprasad, VROs, and Land Acquisition officials.

L&T Finance Limited
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch office: Vijayawada

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Herein after referred to as The Act)

We have issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Act to you all (Borrowers, Co-borrowers & Guarantor/s) through Registered Post Acknowledge Due, as you have defaulted in payment of interest and principal installments of your loan account, and have failed and neglected to clear the said outstanding dues. As a result, the loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) in the book of account in accordance with the directives relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The Notice has been returned as "undelivered" and therefore we are now issuing this notice to you all under 13(2) of the Act and hereby calling upon to repay the amount mentioned in the notice appended below to the L&T Finance Limited, within the period of 60 Days from the date of this Paper Notification together with further interest and other charges from the date of Demand Notice till payment or realization. In case you are not discharging your liabilities under the terms of this notice, we shall be constrained to exercise all or any one of the rights conferred under Section 13(4) or Section 14 of the Act. "This is without prejudice to any rights available to us under the Act and/or any other law in force from time to time."

Loan Account Number	Borrower's & Co-borrower's Name	Demand Notice date / NPA date / Outstanding Amount		Description of the Immovable Property (Mortgaged)
		NPA Date	Outstanding Amount (₹) As On	
H0229524062112 1243. VJWHL20000031	1. Shaik Kalesha Vali 2. Shaik Rihana	Demand Notice Date: 09/05/2026 NPA Date: 03/04/2026	Rs. 4808725.85/- (Rupees Forty-Eight Lakh Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Five and Eighty-Five Paise Only) As On Date 06/05/2026	Schedule -1 Property Being Flat No. 303, Block No. 5 (As Per Working Plan) And Flat No 308, Block No.2 (As Per Municipal Approval Plan), 3rd Floor, Admeasuring 45.5 Square Yards Or 38.04 Sq Meters Out Of Total 12.10 Square Yards In Panchavati Apartments Situated At Town Survey No. 778/3, Revenue Survey No. 778/3f, 778/3g, 778/3h, District Guntur, Ponnur Road, Anandpet Extension, Near Power Office.

Boundaries	East By	Open To Sky
	West By	Common Corridor
	North By	Open To Sky
	South By	Open To Sky

Date: 21.05.2026 Place: Vijayawada Sd/- Authorized Officer For L&T FINANCE LIMITED

EDITORIAL

Why India's Wealthiest Women Are Still Dying In 'Respectable' Marriages

Two tragic deaths have captured mainstream media attention over the last week. The stories of 33-year-old MBA graduate, Twisha Sharma, in Bhopal, and 24-year-old Deepika Nagar in Greater Noida, have jarred the national conscience. What is more concerning is the structural reality these highlight.

The two cases reveal a profound statistical paradox. In India, despite rising female educational attainment, courtships, and affluent urban societies, the data concerning fatal spousal violence is on an increasing high. There is a massive chasm between population-level prevalence surveys and actual administrative crime records. A Handful Of Registered Cases Around 5,700 dowry deaths occur annually in India. As many as 31.9% of ever-married women in India experience physical, sexual, or emotional spousal violence, as per NFHS-5. But only around 1.20 lakh cases are registered annually under "cruelty by husband or relatives".

Cross-referencing the population-level prevalence against the administrative records of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals an acute statistical anomaly. The NFHS-5 Help Seeking Behaviour Dataset points out that only 1% of the women who face abuse ever approach legal institutions. Therefore, NCRB data cannot be taken as a measure for dowry deaths or spousal violence. It does not track crime prevalence. It merely highlights institutional friction.

Education No Bar
The Bhopal and Greater Noida incidents challenge the myth that capital, professional independence, or urban relocation can protect women from domestic fatalities. The stratification of data across geographic layers in the NFHS-5 Socio-economic Profile disproves this very narrative.

The data show that intimate partner violence is highly persistent across different landscapes. It stands at a rate of 34% in rural areas and 27% in urban centres. The margin between the two is quite narrow. This proves that urban migration does not offer drastic cultural immunity to victims. While relocating to new cities is often viewed as a path toward modernisation, it frequently cuts off immediate physical safety nets and familial protection, creating a localised panopticon of domestic control.

Furthermore, while the physical threat remains constant across economic classes, the financial mechanics scale up dramatically in wealthy circles. The shadow economy of marital transactions thrives under the guise of high-profile weddings. NFHS data shows that women belonging to the lowest (~13,270) women out of 72,056 surveyed) and highest (~13,276 out of 72,056 surveyed) wealth quintiles have equally been exposed to physical violence. It is pertinent to note that the Greater Noida tragedy involves a similar layer of severe, ongoing dowry harassment, which was tied to substantial financial demands. This shows that high educational backgrounds fail to alter deep-seated domestic prejudices.

The Never-Ending Judicial Pipeline
The criminal justice pipeline is highly inefficient. A domestic violence survivor or a grieving family must wait for a long time to achieve legal redress. This is evident as per the NCRB Court Disposal Datasets, where only 2.03% of the total number of cases for trial were convicted in 2022. Some 6,160 dowry death cases were sent for trial in 2022, when 60,577 cases were already present for trial, which is massive. Out of these, only a minuscule 1,231 cases reached the conviction stage, and 2,189 cases were acquitted.

Elon Musk Might Just Have Lost The Most Important Case Of His Career

Elon Musk has experienced many setbacks in his extraordinary career. His rockets have exploded, his Tesla cars have malfunctioned, regulators in several countries have confronted him, investors have sued him, and, more recently, he had a huge public falling out with President Trump. Yet, somehow, through every trouble, Musk has come out even more valuable than money, and that is an image of inevitability. That image has now taken a hit. His recent courtroom defeat against OpenAI and Sam Altman will, of course, not damage Tesla or slow SpaceX. But symbolically, it could become one of the defining moments in the history of the artificial intelligence industry. During the month-long, daily hearings, it became increasingly clear that the trial was about who gets to control and then shape the future of AI. In terms of long-term importance, I would place it alongside the Strait of Hormuz crisis, though in very different ways. Hormuz represents the fragility of the present global economy because oil still powers the modern world. Artificial intelligence, meanwhile, represents the architecture of the future economy because data, algorithms and machine intelligence may soon shape everything from jobs and warfare to education, medicine and political power. One chokepoint controls the energy of today. The other may determine the AI systems of tomorrow.

On Monday, a California court rejected Musk's claims against OpenAI, dealing a major legal and reputational blow to the world's richest man. Musk had argued in his suit that OpenAI abandoned its founding mission as a non-profit organisation dedicated to building artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity. According to Musk, Sam Altman and OpenAI effectively transformed a charity into a commercial empire closely tied to Microsoft. He wanted damages worth \$150 billion, restrictions on OpenAI's transition into a for-profit structure, and Altman removed from the board. The court was unconvinced. I followed the trial almost daily, sometimes siding with Musk, other times siding with Altman. I knew the ruling could shape how the AI industry evolves over the next decade. In the short



term, the tech world is probably breathing a sigh of relief. Beneath the public fascination with Musk versus Altman lay genuine industry anxiety. Had Musk succeeded, OpenAI's corporate structure could have been destabilised just as the global AI race enters its most commercially explosive phase. Remember What OpenAI Has Become ChatGPT is not just a clever chatbot. OpenAI sits at the centre of a technological arms race involving governments, corporations, militaries, educational institutions, media and financial markets. AI is now viewed as potentially as transformative as electricity, the internet or the industrial revolution itself. Whoever dominates foundational AI systems could shape everything from healthcare and education to defence, finance, media and labour markets, no doubt about that. The numbers involved are staggering. Microsoft alone has invested billions into OpenAI. Nvidia's valuation in recent months has exploded because of AI demand. Google is reorganising itself around AI. Amazon, Meta, Apple and even governments from Washington to Beijing are pouring extraordinary resources into the sector. Against this backdrop, the last thing

investors wanted was legal uncertainty surrounding the most influential AI company on the planet. The verdict has given OpenAI breathing room. It has reassured markets that the company's structure and commercial trajectory are unlikely to be derailed immediately by courtroom battles. That matters enormously because AI development depends on staggering amounts of capital. It is estimated that building frontier models requires vast computing infrastructure, energy consumption, talent acquisition and data processing. This is no longer a garage-startup industry. It is industrial-scale technology, which demands investor confidence. That is why many within Silicon Valley quietly preferred stability over Musk's legal crusade, even if some privately sympathised with parts of his argument. Because Musk was not entirely wrong about the broader issue he raised. How It All Began OpenAI began in 2015 as a non-profit initiative with lofty language about benefiting humanity and avoiding a dangerous concentration of AI power. Musk himself helped launch it partly out of concern that Google could monopolise advanced artificial intelligence. But over time, OpenAI evolved into

something very different: a heavily commercialised enterprise deeply integrated with Microsoft and increasingly centralised around immense corporate power. The organisation, founded partly to prevent AI concentration, may now represent one of the largest concentrations of AI capability in human history. That tension is not going away simply because Musk lost. In fact, the case exposed something much deeper about the future of AI. The public conversation around artificial intelligence still revolves around ethics, safety and existential risks. Politicians talk about regulation. Executives speak about responsibility. Researchers warn about bias and misinformation. But what about the ownership? Who owns the future? Who controls the models? Who controls the data? That is the real battle now unfolding. For all his eccentricity and theatrics, Musk recognised early that AI would become the defining economic and geopolitical force of the 21st century. His warnings about AI were never merely rhetorical. He understood that whoever dominates advanced AI systems could eventually shape entire industries, labour markets, political systems and even military capabilities. Which

explains why he later launched xAI, his own artificial intelligence company. Musk And His Fear Of Losing Influence Musk projected himself in court as a betrayed idealist trying to defend OpenAI's original mission. But he is also now a direct competitor to OpenAI through xAI. That duality complicated his case politically and morally. Critics argued he was less concerned about humanity and more concerned about losing influence over the most important technology platform of the future. And both things are true simultaneously. The courtroom battle revealed something uncomfortable about modern Silicon Valley: even its ideological wars increasingly revolve around market dominance. A decade ago, technology leaders spoke like evangelists about liberal values, openness, democratisation and changing the world. Today, AI increasingly resembles a geopolitical resource similar to oil, nuclear technology or semiconductor manufacturing. Nations want control over it. Corporations want monopolies around it. Investors want exposure to it. Open-source idealism is slowly colliding with trillion-dollar incentives. The Musk-Altman feud symbolises that transformation perfectly. And what about Musk himself? In the short term, this is clearly a setback. The loss adds to a growing list of courtroom defeats and legal frustrations. Recent years have seen Musk lose cases involving Twitter investors, advertisers and former executives while regulators continue scrutinising aspects of his business empire. The aura of legal invincibility around him has weakened. Don't Write Him Off - Yet However, one lesson repeated endlessly throughout his career is that he rarely retreats after defeat. If anything, setbacks seem to energise him. Legal experts already expect appeals, and Musk himself has publicly attacked the ruling and signalled he intends to continue fighting. Could he eventually knock on the doors of the US Supreme Court? Possibly, though success there appears uncertain. The bigger challenge for Musk is not merely legal but structural. OpenAI today is no longer a vulnerable startup. It sits inside a vast ecosystem of corporate alliances, government relationships and financial backing.

How Royal Challengers Bengaluru Transformed Itself Into A Winning Machine

"Red and Gold, Play Bold" screamed loud across the serene tracks of the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru as one made their way past the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy and the tranquil swimming pool within the complex. Inside were leaders, the makers of RCB, the world of sport, and, of course, the energy magnet - Virat Kohli, who arrived as the final act. In a well-lit foyer leading to the hall of greats and leaders stood giant blowouts of the men's and women's teams that have tasted IPL and WPL success. The women have done it twice; the men are now gearing up to follow suit. Mo Bobat, RCB's Director of Cricket, helped explain the mindset after the franchise became the first team to qualify for the playoffs this season. "The IPL is a very tough competition. You've got ten fantastic teams who have all played good cricket and have strong records. But we tell ourselves - why can't we be the third team to win back-to-back? That's been our focus. You are always playing this internal game. The obsession is always around how we play our cricket." "We are always hunting for the best version of ourselves," Bobat said on the sidelines of the summit. "There is a lot more fun chasing something than being chased. We want the players and support staff to understand the mindset we need - that we haven't climbed our Everest yet or achieved everything we set out to. We're only just getting

started. "That doesn't mean we take things lightly or disrespect the competition. We know how difficult it is to win the things we're trying to win. But that's the mindset we want to embrace." Tuesday felt like the annual Virat Kohli day - or rather, RCB day. For the past three years, the RCB Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit, powered by Leaders, has reminded those with a ringside view of just how far the franchise - and Kohli - have travelled. It was a moment for reflection, a temporary oasis amid the high-octane IPL season. This year, sandwiched between qualification and their final league game against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the summit felt like a strategic time-out in the IPL calendar. Franchises that have qualified for the playoffs this season are recalibrating in their own ways. While 'process' remains an oft-used term in sport, RCB has pivoted slightly, focusing instead on "harnessing shared energies" - essentially trusting individuals to manage their own energy. That is where the culture conversation begins. "Leaders need the emotional and mental strength to keep others motivated. But that also raises a fair question - is there a downside to constantly carrying that responsibility? If everyone depends on your energy, it can become exhausting and create pressure," Bobat said. "That's why it's important to manage your own energy and limits.

Personally, I'm highly driven and willing to push myself hard to achieve success. But I've learned that not everyone is willing - or able - to make the same sacrifices, and that's completely okay." When Bobat transitioned from his role as England's Performance Director to Director of Cricket at RCB in 2023, after 12 years in that position, his remit evolved from building England's talent pipeline to helping RCB's high-performing group achieve its ultimate goal - winning the title - while ensuring the shirt did not weigh heavily on younger players. After 17 years without a title, the franchise had to confront an uncomfortable question: why? That demanded humility - a willingness to examine shortcomings at both individual and organisational levels. RCB had done many things right: building a massive fan base, housing iconic players, and creating unforgettable moments. But the trophy remained elusive. The first step, then, was learning from failure. One key shift came in squad building. Historically, RCB revolved around a few superstars, with success hinging heavily on their performance. To become a championship-winning side, the franchise needed balance - talent and experience spread more evenly across the squad. Off the field, changes were equally significant. A phrase often associated with England's football team - "the shirt weighs heavy" - resonated

at RCB. New players appeared burdened by the franchise's past failures and the pressure to deliver a first title. A major focus, therefore, was removing that weight and freeing players from that burden. The question shifted from "When will we finally win?" to "Why not us?" Once that belief took hold, the obsession turned to clarity - how they wanted to play their cricket. The transformation was not driven by marquee signings or sweeping personnel changes. Instead, data became central to decision-making. "I get asked about this often, and my response is that we are not 'data-driven' - we are 'data-informed,'" Bobat explained. "There's an important difference. "The focus shouldn't be entirely on data, but on judgment and decision-making. Ultimately, people like myself, Andy, Rajat and the senior players make the big calls. If you want to make elite decisions, you need strong information to support that judgment. "Data is one source - but experience, instinct and intuition are equally important. It's about balancing the human and analytical sides. In the end, it's the quality of the decisions that matters." Data has influenced their match-by-match thinking, auction strategy and opposition analysis. A key figure in this transformation has been Freddie Wilde, whose work with CricViz helped Bobat, Andy Flower and Dinesh Karthik buy into a more structured analytical approach.

Jyoti Basu To 'Bhaipo': BJP's New Bengal Strategy Turns To Image Politics

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has signalled a clear political intention to expose what he describes as a system of corruption, violence, lawlessness, and voter suppression allegedly built under former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, along with those associated with them. He made these remarks at Diamond Harbour, Abhishek Banerjee's own political constituency. Choosing that location for his first political rally as Chief Minister carried an unmistakable message. Addressing the gathering, he said: "Respected Bhaipo Babu, yesterday I obtained property lease documents from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The company Leaps and Bounds alone has twenty-four properties in Kolkata." Continuing his attack, he added, "You have a palace-like office in Amtala. Do we not know what people like Jahangir Khan and others did with the support of the police?" He said this while speaking at a party workers' meeting in Falta, an assembly segment under Abhishek Banerjee's Diamond Harbour parliamentary constituency, where a by-election is scheduled for May 21. But an important question arises here. Is this only about the Falta by-election, or does the BJP have a broader political plan behind these attacks? The answer appears to go much deeper than a single by-election. At this stage, the BJP's immediate objective seems to be to dismantle the carefully built public image of both Mamata Banerjee and



Abhishek Banerjee. Over the years, a particular perception has been created around them, and the BJP now wants to challenge that perception directly. Their message to voters appears to be simple: you believed a myth, now we are presenting what we call reality. The strategy can perhaps be understood better through Bengal's own political history. Take the case of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. Although he was not West Bengal's first Chief Minister, that distinction belonged to Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, who served for a brief period. Bidhan Roy eventually became one of the defining figures of Bengal's political history. He is still remembered as the architect of modern Bengal. Durgapur was developed under him. Salt Lake was conceptualised under his vision. He also believed that satellite townships should be built so that people would not have to migrate in large numbers into Kolkata, creating exces-

sive urban congestion. Projects such as Kalyani and alternative urban centres were imagined as part of a larger vision. Even today, Bidhan Roy's image remains largely untouched. Then came Jyoti Basu. During Bidhan Roy's tenure, Jyoti Basu served as leader of the opposition. He built a distinct image of his own. Educated in London as a barrister, he gave up a comfortable life and embraced Communist politics. He went to jail, joined movements, and acquired a reputation as a principled leader. But over time, circumstances changed. The Left Front remained in power for thirty-four years. During Jyoti Basu's later years, particularly toward the end of his second term, allegations of police excesses, anti-social activity, and local strongman politics began surfacing. These issues, which are commonly discussed today, had already started appearing during the Left era. Before the Left Front, there had

been the United Front government under Ajay Mukherjee. Jyoti Basu had then served as deputy Chief Minister and had himself raised questions over law and order issues. He had publicly clashed with Ajay Mukherjee over political violence involving Congress and CPM workers. As time passed, Jyoti Basu's public image began to change. A section of Bengal's media started campaigns against him. Among them, the Bartaman newspaper became particularly significant because it openly supported Mamata Banerjee. Mamata Banerjee gradually emerged as a fresh political force. She was portrayed as an honest fighter, someone willing to struggle against an entrenched system. Many senior Congress leaders, such as Ashok Sen, Pranab Mukherjee, Priyoranjan Dasmuni, Barkat Gani Khan Choudhury, and Somen Mitra, had held major positions.

India, Italy upgrade ties to special strategic partnership

Rome: India and Italy on Wednesday, May 20, upgraded their ties to a special strategic partnership and reaffirmed the shared objective of expanding bilateral trade to Euro 20 billion by 2029 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni held wide-ranging talks to expand bilateral relations in the face of increasing geopolitical upheavals. The two leaders expressed "deep concern" over the situation in the West and its effects in the region as well as the rest of the world, while underlining the importance of de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy for a lasting peace in the region. They also called for freedom of navigation and the resumption of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Modi landed in Rome on Tuesday in the fourth and final leg of his European tour that was aimed at exploring ways to shore up cooperation in a range of areas, including defence and security, trade and investment, critical technologies and energy. In their talks, Modi and Meloni agreed to leverage the opportunities from the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)



that was firm up in January and called for its early implementation. "I am delighted that we are upgrading our relations to a special strategic partnership," Modi said in his media statement. "The India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29 provides a practical and futuristic framework for our partnership. We are progressing on it in a timely manner. Through our joint efforts, bilateral trade is rapidly moving towards the target of 20 billion euros," he

said. The India and Italy bilateral trade volume in 2025 was around Euro 14.25 billion. In her comments, Meloni underlined the importance of having freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific, a region that has witnessed growing Chinese military muscle-flexing. The Italian prime minister also made a mention of the elevation of India-Italy ties to special strategic partnership from the existing strategic partnership and said the relationship is now

capable of "realising its fullest potential". In a significant move, the two sides also agreed to establish a foreign ministers-led mechanism to review the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29 and provide strategic guidance to the special strategic partnership. Both Modi and Meloni agreed to further expand collaboration in trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, research and innovation, space, energy, AI and critical technologies,

education, culture and people-to-people ties, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). "Technology and innovation are the engines of our partnership. There is immense potential for our cooperation in areas like AI, quantum, space and civil nuclear energy," Modi said. "We are working on the India-Italy Innovation Centre to connect the startups, research centres, and industries of both countries." The prime minister said close cooperation between the two countries in the defence and security sector is a symbol of "deep mutual trust". "Cooperation is increasing between the defence industries of both countries as well as between our militaries. Our defence industrial roadmap has paved the way for co-development and co-production," he said. The two prime ministers welcomed the adoption of a Joint Declaration of Intent and a Defence Industrial Roadmap, which will promote partnerships for technological cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, including helicopters, naval platforms, marine armament and electronic warfare.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES LAUNCHES FIRST OVERSEAS INNOVATION HUB IN HYDERABAD



Hyderabad: Southwest Airlines, one of the largest airlines in the United States, launched a global innovation centre in Hyderabad on Wednesday, May 20. This marks the airline's first-ever innovation centre outside the United States. The facility was inaugurated by Telangana Minister for Industries and Commerce Duddilla Sridhar Babu. It will serve as a strategic hub within the company's global network, supporting technology, engineering, and enterprise capabilities that enable secure, scalable and future-ready aviation operations, a release stated. The centre will employ over 1,000 high-skilled profes-

sionals across deeptech, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data science, data analytics, digital engineering, cybersecurity, enterprise platforms, digital operations and product development fields. Discussing the company's long-term growth plans in Hyderabad, Sridhar Babu informed senior leaders that the city is steadily emerging as a strategic centre where aviation, space-tech, defence and deep-tech are converging at scale. "Over the last year, Hyderabad has continued to attract a series of landmark global investments and first-of-their-kind innovation centres. BASF established its first

centre outside Germany in Hyderabad, while Vanguard chose the city for its first Global Capability Centre in India. Marriott International established its first India GCC here, HCA Healthcare launched its first innovation centre in Hyderabad, and Hartford selected the city for its first India presence." Sridhar Babu said. Lauren Woods, Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Southwest Airlines, also acknowledged Hyderabad as one of the deepest analytics, engineering and innovation talent pools in the world, making the city an ideal location for the next phase of the firm's journey.

Hindustan Zinc Hosts Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy at Rajpura Dariba Complex; Showcases Responsible Mining, Technology and Community Impact

Hyderabad, 20th May 2026: Hindustan Zinc Limited (BSE: 500188 & NSE: HINDZINC), the world's largest integrated zinc producer and one of the top global silver producers, hosted Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Government of India, at its Rajpura Dariba Complex in Rajasthan. The visit included a holistic tour of the company's Sindesar Khurd Mine, one of the world's largest silver-producing and technologically advanced underground mines, and Dariba Smelting Complex, a state-of-the-art smelting facility. With an annual refined metal production capacity of over 1.1 million tonnes, Hindustan Zinc plays a strategic role in strengthening India's mineral security and domestic metals ecosystem. The visit highlighted the growing strategic importance of India's mining and metals sector in securing the raw materials required for the country's infrastructure expansion, manufacturing growth, energy tran-



sition and emerging technologies. Metals such as zinc, lead and silver are critical for sectors including steel galvanization, renewable energy, electric mobility, electronics, defence and advanced manufacturing. As India moves towards becoming a globally competitive self-sufficient manufacturing and industrial economy under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the development of large-scale, technology-driven and globally competitive mining operations will play a vital

role in reducing import dependence, strengthening mineral security and unlocking long-term economic value for the nation. Hon'ble Minister was accompanied by Mr. Arun Misra, CEO of Hindustan Zinc, Mr. Vivek Bajpai, Joint Secretary - Ministry of Mines, along with the company's senior leadership team during the visit. During the visit, the Hon'ble Minister undertook an underground visit to Sindesar Khurd Mine, which stands as a benchmark in underground mining through its scale, silver-

rich ore body and technology-led practices focused on safety, productivity and operational excellence. He visited the product gallery and was briefed through a special video and presentation on the mine's history, capacity, safety systems, paste filling and tele-remote operations. He also visited the control room and reviewed remote-operated equipment, witnessing the company's technology-led approach to safer and more efficient underground mining. The Hon'ble Minister also witnessed a live demonstration by India's first women mine rescue team, recognising the company's efforts towards inclusion, capability-building and safety excellence in mining operations. He interacted with 54 Zinc Ratna contract workers, women mining engineers and other employees during lunch at the Sindesar Khurd Mine canteen, acknowledging their contribution to Hindustan Zinc's operational excellence and India's mining growth story.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Announces Launch of Oral Semaglutide Biosimilar 'Obeda®' (tablets) in India

Hyderabad, India, May 20, 2026 - Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. (BSE: 500124, NSE: DRREDDY, NYSE: RDY, NSEIFSC: DRREDDY; along with its subsidiaries together referred to as "Dr. Reddy's"), a global pharmaceutical company, today announced the launch of its oral semaglutide biosimilar, indicated for type 2 diabetes mellitus. Dr. Reddy's oral semaglutide is available in tablet form under the brand name Obeda® in India. This launch follows Dr. Reddy's recent generic Semaglutide injection launches in India and Canada, further establishing the company's position as a full-stack player in GLP-1 therapies. As per the ICMR-INDIAB study, India represents one of the world's largest diabetes burdens with over 101 million adults living with the condition and a prevalence of 11.4%. Alarming, nearly 136 million individuals are prediabetic, and close to 40% of adults have abdominal obesity, placing them at high



risk of progression. Despite multiple treatment options, uncontrolled type 2 diabetes remains a significant challenge. Oral semaglutide, a Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA), is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes. It can offer convenient, and flexible option which may support earlier treatment initiation, improving adherence and helping reduce the risk of long-term complications. Dr. Reddy's Obeda® (semaglutide

tablets) is formulated using recombinant DNA (rDNA) origin of semaglutide active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). Dr. Reddy's obtained approval for its oral semaglutide biosimilar from the CDSCO following a review of a Phase III clinical study enrolling 288 participants with type 2 diabetes mellitus conducted in India, which demonstrated non-inferior efficacy and a safety profile comparable to the innovator oral drug. Similar results were seen for fasting and post-prandial plasma glucose, weight

loss, and overall glycaemic control, as measured by the proportion of participants achieving an HbA1c level below 7% at 12 and 24 weeks. Further, no anti-drug antibodies were detected, and the immunogenicity profile was comparable to that of the innovator drug. Dr. Reddy's Obeda® (semaglutide tablets) is available in 3 mg, 7 mg and 14 mg strengths and recommended for once-daily oral use. It is priced at Rs. 99, Rs. 135, and Rs. 225 per tablet for the 3 mg, 7 mg, and 14 mg doses, respectively.

MioPods launches on-demand privacy workspaces at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad: MioPods.Space on Wednesday, May 20, said it has launched on-demand privacy workspaces at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad. The MioPods allow travellers to instantly reserve and access a one-person workspace through a QR-based system, the startup said in a release. Founded by Vikas Sethia, the startup was envisioned to create a focused and seamless travel experience for modern professionals who often juggle meetings, calls, presentations, and travel schedules right up to boarding. By transforming the 45-60 minutes before a flight into a "sprint calendar of calls and meetings," MioPods enables travellers to complete priority tasks, make

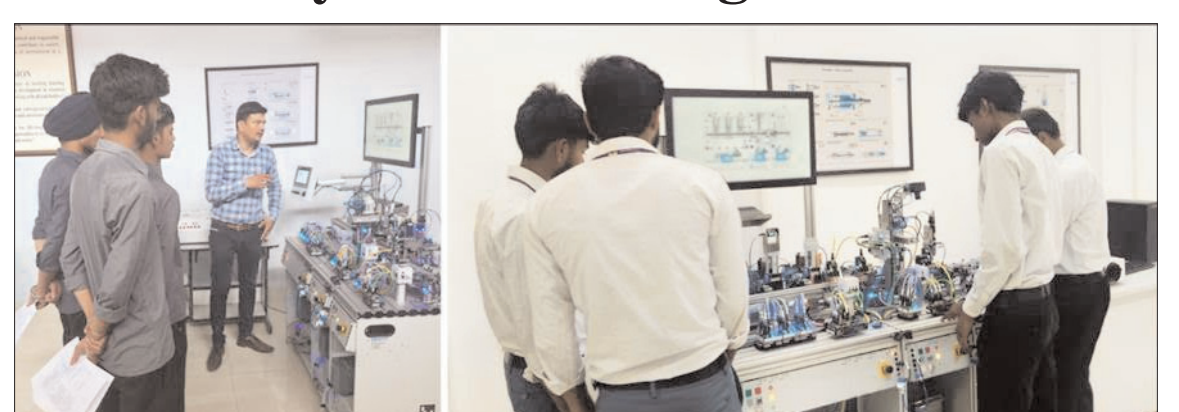


important decisions, or use transit time with greater focus and productivity, it said. Manufactured in Chennai, each MioPods unit is designed with "acoustic calibration, intelligent ventilation,

ambient lighting, integrated charging ports, ergonomic seating, and IoT-enabled systems" to support uninterrupted work and conversations in high-traffic environments such as airports, the release added.

Maruti Suzuki sets up state-of-the-art Smart Factory Lab at Government Polytechnic College in Lucknow

New Delhi, 20 May 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") has set up Smart Factory Lab at the Government Polytechnic College, Lucknow, as part of its ongoing commitment to skill development and industry-academia collaboration. In the inaugural year, around 400# students at the Government Polytechnic College Lucknow, will be trained in the Smart Factory Lab. Established under the Company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the Smart Factory Lab aims to empower diploma students with hands-on training in advanced manufacturing technologies relevant to the evolving needs of the automotive and manufacturing sectors. The facility is designed to provide practical exposure to modern production systems, helping bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements. Through this initiative, Maruti Suzuki seeks to inculcate the right mindset required by the industry, enhance employability, strengthen technical competencies, and prepare students to emerge as



industry-ready professionals, contributing to a future-ready workforce. Speaking on this initiative, Mr. Rahul Bharti, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "Skill development is a core pillar of Maruti Suzuki's CSR initiative. By upgrading facilities into Smart Factory Labs, we are building future-ready professionals in alignment with the Government of India's Skill India mission. These labs will provide experiential learning opportunities to meet the evolving needs of the manufacturing sector, minimise the skill gap, and instil con-

fidence in students in using industry-specific equipments." He added, "Alongside upgrading facilities at Government colleges, Maruti Suzuki has also set up four Japan India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM), a collaboration between the governments of Japan and India. JIMs impart advanced manufacturing techniques, hands-on learning, and efficient shop-floor management practices based on Japanese manufacturing principles and soft skills required to make students industry-ready." The state-of-the-art laboratories provide students with hands-on exposure to

advanced, industry-relevant technologies, including automation, Industry 4.0(IoT), pneumatics, energy measurement, and motion control systems. Designed to replicate real-world manufacturing environments, the labs aim to strengthen practical learning and technical proficiency among diploma students. Under the guidance of Maruti Suzuki experts, students will be able to effectively bridge the gap between classroom learning and shop-floor applications, equipping them with the skills required for future-ready careers in smart manufacturing.

NEWS BOX

5.9-magnitude earthquake hits Japan's Kagoshima, no tsunami warning for now

World.(Agency)

A powerful 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck Kagoshima region of southern Japan on Wednesday, shaking buildings and triggering panic among residents. The tremors were felt across several parts of the area, though authorities were still assessing the situation. No tsunami warning had



been issued immediately after the quake, and there were no initial reports of casualties or major damage. According to Japanese media, the Japan Meteorological Agency said "the magnitude 5.9 quake struck near Okinawa Main Island, and had an intensity of upper 5 on the Japanese scale of 0 to 7 in the hardest-hit areas," adding, "There is no risk of tsunami".

Japan, one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries, frequently experiences seismic activity due to its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire. The latest seismic activity comes just four days after another strong earthquake struck off the eastern coast of Japan's main island of Honshu, briefly disrupting train services and prompting emergency alerts across parts of the Tohoku region. That quake also caused no tsunami threat or immediate reports of casualties or significant damage.

Mosque security guard hailed as hero for saving 140 children in San Diego attack

World.(Agency)

A security guard killed in the shooting at the Islamic Centre of San Diego has been hailed as a hero for helping save about 140 schoolchildren by confronting two teenage gunmen during the attack, authorities said on Tuesday. San Diego police identified the guard as Amin Abdullah, also known as Brian Climax. According to Police Chief Scott Wahl, Abdullah exchanged gunfire with the suspects in the mosque parking lot on Monday, delaying and distracting them as they attempted to move deeper into the complex.

Abdullah was fatally shot during the confrontation, along with two other men who authorities said helped draw the attackers away from crowded areas of the mosque while officers rushed to the scene. Police said Abdullah also transmitted the emergency radio call that triggered lockdown procedures inside the mosque complex, allowing worshippers and children attending classes at the adjacent Bright Horizon Academy to shelter behind locked doors. "His actions, without a doubt, delayed, distracted and ultimately deterred those two individuals from gaining access to the greater areas of the mosque where as many as 140 kids were within 15 feet of these suspects," Wahl told reporters, according to Reuters. The two suspects, identified by officials as Caleb Vasquez, 18, and Cain Clark, 17, fled the mosque complex by car shortly after the shooting. Police later found both teenagers dead inside the vehicle several blocks away from what investigators believe were self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

Taha Hassane, imam and director of the mosque, described the three victims as "our martyrs and our heroes." Authorities said the attack is being investigated as a hate crime. FBI officials confirmed that one of the suspects left behind a manifesto, while investigators also discovered anti-Islamic writings inside a vehicle connected to the pair.

India's Nuclear Sector Opens to the World: How the SHANTI Act Is Rewriting History

World.(Agency)

A 20-member U.S. nuclear industry delegation met Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday to explore investment opportunities in India's nuclear sector, months after the SHANTI Act overhauled the country's six-decade-old nuclear laws.

The delegation, comprising representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute and the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum, discussed manufacturing partnerships, supply chain integration and technology cooperation under India's Nuclear Energy Mission.

Singh said India aims to scale nuclear power capacity from 8.8 gigawatts to 100 gigawatts by 2047 through a phased expansion strategy, adding that the programme was creating major opportunities for global partnerships in manufacturing, technology cooperation, supply chain integration and advanced research. The estimated market value stands at nearly 300 billion dollars. The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act, 2025, repeals the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010, replacing both with a single comprehensive law.

US set up a chessboard with Munir as a pawn years ago. It's playing out now

A chessboard had been laid much earlier. A game had begun even before former Pakistan PM Imran Khan realised it, and Asim Munir took over as the army chief. The US moved the pieces for a regime change in Pakistan. It now has a strategically placed player as the Middle East burns.

DAKAR.(Agency)

Pakistan is where anything can happen. It's also a place where everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens in isolation. Governments fall, generals rise, prime ministers turn into prisoners and prisoners into symbols of resistance. Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan's rise to power, his anti-American posturing, his "absolutely not" doctrine, his Moscow visit

on the very day Russia invaded Ukraine, the all-out war between him and the military establishment, his fall from grace, imprisonment, and now the rise of Field Marshal Asim Munir as arguably the most powerful man in Pakistan has seen are all connected. The chain of events in Pakistan since the early 2020s led to the outcome which was planned. It all seemed orchestrated by a king and his pawn, according to a report by American outlet Drop Site News on May 18. The Drop Site News report now appears to fit all the events mentioned above together like a jigsaw puzzle.

The chessboard had been laid much earlier. The game had already begun long before Imran Khan realised it. And in the game reminiscent of the "Great" one from the Cold War-era, Asim Munir was not the king, but the pawn being moved across the

board. Washington watched, nudged and orchestrated events in Pakistan from a distance. While headlines on the report's



revelations focused largely on Imran Khan's removal from the prime minister's post through an internationally-backed plot. But another angle, perhaps even more intriguing, is that the man who today sits at the pinnacle of Pakistan's power structure,

Asim Munir, was central to the bigger rouse geopolitical rearrangement. The report also noted that Pakistan, in pursuit of its "strategic depth", continues to oscillate between dependence and bargaining at high tables in Washington, Beijing, Riyadh and Rawalpindi, while behaving like a sovereign nation.

At the heart of it all is the cipher case. It is a classified diplomatic cable sent in March 2022, by Pakistan's then ambassador to Washington, Assad Majeed Khan, to Islamabad's Foreign Ministry. The cable quoted senior US official Donald Lu as allegedly saying that "all will be forgiven in Washington" if the no-confidence vote against Imran Khan succeeded. That single line would go on to become the political nuclear weapon around which Imran Khan would base his anti-American narrative, much to the displeasure of the establishment in Rawalpindi.

Moment US cargo plane lost engine before fiery crash that killed 15

World.(Agency)

New surveillance footage released by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) shows the precise moment UPS Airlines Flight 2976 lost its left engine and pylon during takeoff from Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, offering investigators their clearest visual evidence yet of the catastrophic November 2025 crash that killed 15 people, New York Post reported. The newly released CCTV video captures the cargo aircraft accelerating down the runway before lifting off.



The aircraft, a 34-year-old McDonnell Douglas MD-11F freighter, had departed for Hawaii on November 4, 2025. The crash happened moments after takeoff, scattering debris over

seconds later, the left engine and its pylon — the structure attaching the engine to the wing — can be seen tearing away from the aircraft.

In the footage, the detached engine falls toward the ground as the jet continues

nearly half a mile and igniting a large blaze near the airport.

All three crew members on board died, along with 12 people on the ground. More than 20 others were injured. UPS identified the deceased crew as Captain Richard Wartenberg (57), First Officer Lee Truitt (45), and International Relief Officer Captain Dana Diamond (62). One of the injured on the ground, Alain Rodriguez Colina, later died from his injuries on Christmas Day, raising the death toll to 15.

NTSB PROBES UPS FLIGHT 2976 CRASH

The footage was released as the NTSB opened a two-day hearing in Washington this week to examine why the aircraft lost an engine shortly after departure, a CNN report said.

Trump says US could strike Iran again within days as Tehran warns of 'new fronts'

World.(Agency)

Tensions between the United States and Iran escalated sharply on Tuesday after US President Donald Trump said Washington could launch fresh military strikes against Iran within days if ongoing negotiations fail, while Tehran warned it would retaliate by opening "new fronts" against the US.

Speaking at the White House, Trump claimed he had been close to authorising military action before pausing the decision following requests from American allies in the Gulf region. "I was about an hour away from making a decision," Trump told reporters, adding that Gulf partners had informed him that negotiations brokered by Pakistan were making progress and requested additional time for diplomacy.

The US President said he agreed to allow

"a limited period of time — two or three days, at least" for talks to continue. However, he warned that military action remained on the table.



"It could be Friday, it could be the weekend, it could be early next week," Trump said while discussing the possibility of renewed strikes. "We can't let them have a new nuclear weapon."

Trump also claimed that Iranian leaders were "begging" for a deal, though he

did not provide further details. Referring to previous failed negotiations, Trump said the current round of diplomacy appeared different from earlier attempts. "We've had periods of time where we had, we thought, pretty much getting close to making a deal, and it didn't work out. But this is a little bit different," he said. Meanwhile, Israeli broadcaster Kan TV reported that the United States and Israel had completed joint preparations for a possible resumption of military operations against Iran.

Citing a US security official, the report said, "The United States and Israel are fully coordinated. Neither side will be surprised if a decision is made to resume the war." According to the report, the Israeli military has also strengthened defensive preparations amid fears that growing speculation about renewed conflict could trigger a preemptive Iranian response.

Russian troops secretly trained by China return to fight against Ukraine: Report

World.(Agency)

China's armed forces secretly trained about 200 Russian military personnel in China late last year and some have since returned to fight in Ukraine, according to three European intelligence agencies and documents seen by Reuters. While China and Russia have held a number of joint military exercises since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Beijing has repeatedly stated that it is neutral in the conflict and presents itself as a peace mediator.

The covert training sessions, which predominantly focused on the use of drones, were outlined in a dual-language Russian-Chinese agreement signed by senior Russian and Chinese officers in Beijing on July 2, 2025. The agreement, reviewed by Reuters, said about 200 Russian troops would be trained at military facilities in locations including Beijing and the eastern city of Nanjing. The sources said around this number subsequently trained in China.

The agreement also said hundreds of Chinese troops would undergo training at military facilities in Russia.

By training Russian military personnel at an operational and tactical level who then participate in Ukraine, China is far more directly involved in the war on the European continent than previously known, one intelligence official said.

The Russian and Chinese defence ministries did not respond to requests for comment on the details outlined in this article.

On the Ukraine crisis, China has consistently maintained an objective and impartial stance and worked to promote peace talks, this is consistent and clear and is witnessed by the international community," China's foreign ministry said in a statement to Reuters. "Relevant parties should not deliberately stoke confrontation or shift blame." The intelligence agencies spoke on condition they not be identified in

order to discuss sensitive information. European powers, which see Russia as a major security threat, have watched warily at increasingly close relations between Russia and China, the



world's second largest economy and an important European Union trade partner. The two nations announced a "no limits" strategic partnership days before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and pledged to conduct military exercises to

rehearse coordination between their armed forces. As the West tried to isolate Russia, China provided a lifeline by buying its oil, gas and coal.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping is due to host Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday and Wednesday, less than a week after U.S. President Donald Trump's high-profile visit.

China and Russia have cast Putin's trip - his 25th visit to China - as further evidence of their "all-weather" partnership, even as the West urges Beijing to pressure Moscow into ending its war in Ukraine.

DRONE WARFARE

Drones have proved to be a vital weapon in Ukraine. Both sides use long-range models to attack targets hundreds of miles away, while on the battlefield, smaller drones remote controlled by pilots using first person view equipment (FPV) and armed with explosives dominate the sky, making it hazardous for armoured.

Small price to pay: Norwegian journalist says Insta, Facebook accounts suspended

World.(Agency)

Norwegian journalist Helle Lyng, who drew attention after attempting to question Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a joint media briefing in Norway, has claimed that her Instagram and Facebook accounts were suspended amid a wave of online backlash. Posting on X, Lyng said she had been unable to access her Instagram account throughout the day before it was suspended. "It is a small prize to pay for press freedom, but I've never experienced it before," she wrote while sharing a screenshot of the alleged suspension notice.

In another post, Lyng informed users trying to contact her through Meta-owned platforms that both her Instagram and Facebook accounts had been suspended. "I have wanted to respond to as many Indians as possible, but my responses will now be delayed. I hope I will get my accounts back," she wrote while tagging Meta.

The controversy began after Lyng attempted to question PM Modi during a joint media interaction with Norway's prime minister. "Why don't you take some questions from the freest press in the world?" she shouted as the Indian prime minister left the room. While it was unclear whether Modi heard the remark, the moment quickly went viral on social media.

Later, Lyng defended her actions on X, saying she did not expect Modi to answer her question. Referring to global press freedom rankings, she wrote that Norway occupies the top spot on the World Press Freedom Index while India ranks 157th. Lyng works for Oslo-based newspaper Dagsavisen.

As the exchange triggered political reactions online, the Indian embassy in Norway invited Lyng to a separate press briefing later in the day. During that interaction, she again raised questions related to India's credibility and human rights record. MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George responded by highlighting India's civilisational history, contributions such as chess and yoga, and the country's Covid vaccine outreach.

The episode also sparked a fierce social media backlash against Lyng, with several users accusing her of being a "foreign plant", "spy" and even a "Chinese proxy", citing some of her earlier articles on China and President Xi Jinping. Others argued that the event was a joint media briefing rather than a formal press conference. As criticism intensified, Lyng issued another clarification on X. "I never thought I would have to write this, but I am not a foreign spy of any sort, sent out by any foreign government. My work is journalism," she said.

Despite the controversy, the incident dramatically boosted Lyng's visibility online. Her X following reportedly surged from fewer than 800 followers before Monday to more than 45,000 within days.



NEWS BOX

Ravindra Jadeja 2.0? Harsh Dubey could be India's next all-format weapon

New Delhi. (Agency)

For more than a decade and a half, Ravindra Jadeja has been the ultimate security blanket for Indian cricket. At 37, he remains a multi-format monster, the kind of foundational player who single-handedly balances an entire starting XI. But logic dictates that the clock is ticking, and India's team management is staring down a massive, existential headache: who actually replaces him?

For years, the blueprint for life after Jadeja seemed simple: Axar Patel. A like-for-like clone down to electric fielding and sharp left-arm orthodox angles. Axar was the natural heir, yet, succession plans rarely survive the reality of form and time. Axar himself is now 32, and a largely forgettable Indian Premier League campaign has exposed the fragility of relying on a single contingency plan.

The future, it turns out, needs to be built now.

Enter Harsh Dubey.

In a decisive move to test the true depth of the domestic circuit, selectors have called up the 23-year-old talent from Nagpur for both the



one-off Test and the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan.

"I am very confident he can fill Ravindra Jadeja's boots," Usman Ghani, head coach of the Vidarbha senior men's cricket team, told India Today. "He has done it for Vidarbha, and he could surely do it for India. What sets him apart isn't just his skill set, but his mentality. He is incredibly strong mentally, and he has been proving that across multiple formats in the domestic circuit."

THE BREAKOUT

Ghani's unwavering faith is rooted in hard data. When Vidarbha lost veteran spinner Aditya Sarwate to Kerala in 2024, a massive vacuum opened at the heart of their bowling attack. A young Dubey was thrust into the role of spearhead. "He was required to step into giant shoes, and he did a splendid job," Ghani says.

Another Banglwash: Pakistan sink to new low despite Rizwan fight in Sylhet Test



NEW DELHI. (Agency)

History has a cruel habit of repeating itself, but for Pakistan cricket, it has begun to feel like an endless loop of humiliation. Two years after being subjected to an unprecedented home whitewash at the hands of Bangladesh, the humiliation was complete on foreign soil. On a humid Wednesday morning at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, the final wickets crumbled to seal a comprehensive 78-run victory for the hosts, confirming another historic "Banglwash" with a 2-0 series sweep.

Chasing a mammoth, record-breaking target of 437, Pakistan's fourth-innings resistance ended at 358. On paper, scoring over 350 in the final innings of a subcontinental Test is a commendable feat—a point captain Shan Masood futilely clung to in the post-match ceremony. But in reality, it was a veneer of respectability masking a familiar, structural collapse. The final morning began with an agonising, rain-delayed wait, but once the wet patches dried and play commenced, Bangladesh required less than an hour to dismantle the remaining resistance.

All Pakistani hopes rested squarely on the shoulders of Mohammad Rizwan. Resuming on his overnight score of 75 with Pakistan at 316 for seven, the wicketkeeper-batter played with the grit of a man fully aware that he was standing on a burning deck. He navigated a probing, hostile short-ball spell from Taskin Ahmed early on, surviving an awkward inside edge that narrowly missed his stumps.

Rizwan and Sajid Khan began to score freely, adding 46 runs to the overnight score and bringing the equation down to less than 100 runs. However, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam got the breakthrough, removing Sajid in the 96th over and completing a five-wicket haul. The definitive, heartbreaking moment for the visitors came when Rizwan, orchestrating a lonely crusade after Sajid's exit, fell just six runs short of a well-deserved century. He poked at a delivery angled across him by Shoriful Islam and was caught at slip cordon.

India's squad vs Afghanistan: Decoding the big snubs, what it means for the future

➤ **The squad announcement for the Afghanistan series marks the official blueprint for India's future. While senior pillars remain, the selectors have actively initiated a transition phase, blooding a younger core ahead of the 2027 World Cup cycle.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's squad announcement for the Afghanistan ODI and Test series was supposed to mark the beginning of two massive journeys.

In ODI cricket, it officially starts India's final year of combinations, experiments and selection calls before the 2027 World Cup in

South Africa, while in Tests, it opens what the Shubman Gill-led side will hope becomes a redemption season after a deeply disappointing 2025-26 red-ball cycle. But once the squads dropped, the real conversation quickly shifted towards the names missing rather than the names included.

Rishabh Pant lost both his ODI spot and Test vice-captaincy. Mohammed Shami was not even in the selectors' longer-format thinking any more. Jadeja and Axar were rested together, while even recent ODI centurions Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rituraj Gaikwad could not force their way into the 50-over squad.

At the same time, India pushed several younger names into the spotlight.

Harsh Dubey earned selection in both formats. Manav Suthar entered the Test setup. Gurnoor Brar received a maiden call-up across formats. Prince Yadav was brought into the ODI squad as another younger fast-bowling option India want to assess ahead of the 2027 World Cup. It was difficult to ignore the larger pattern unfolding underneath the

selection meeting. India are not exactly shutting the door on the older core yet. But they are very clearly preparing for what comes next.

"With regard to one-day cricket, we have 15-16 months left to that World Cup. We



want to assess what our options are, particularly keeping in mind the conditions in South Africa, and give exposure to some of the newer guys," India chief selector Ajit Agarkar said.

India ODI squad vs Afghanistan: Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas

Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Nitish Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey.

India Test squad vs Afghanistan: Shubman Gill (capt), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul (vc), Sai Sudharsan, Rishabh Pant, Devdutt Padikkal, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey, Dhruv Jurel.

PANT'S WHITE-BALL SPOT IS NO LONGER SAFE

Pant's omission felt harsh because it arrived from two directions at once. He was removed as India's Test vice-captain, with KL Rahul stepping into the role under Gill's leadership setup. Then came the bigger surprise, Pant missing entirely from the ODI squad.

But the selectors very carefully separated those two decisions. Agarkar repeatedly stressed that Pant remains one of India's most valuable Test cricketers.

Arsenal crowned Premier League champions: The 22-year wait is finally over

Arsenal are Premier League champions, ending a 22-year drought. Mikel Arteta's side clinched the title after Manchester City's 1-1 draw at Bournemouth, sparking wild celebrations ahead of Sunday's coronation clash at Crystal Palace.

London. (Agency)

The agonising 22-year drought is officially over. Arsenal are the champions of England once again. Mikel Arteta's side secured the club's 14th top-flight league title on Tuesday night after second-placed Manchester City stumbled to a dramatic 1-1 draw away at Bournemouth.

The arithmetic is locked. The Gunners sit an unassailable four points clear at the summit with just one match remaining. What was supposed to be a high-stakes final weekend has transformed into a glorious coronation this Sunday when Arsenal travel to Selhurst Park to face Crystal Palace.

How the Title Was Won: A Tuesday Night Drama

The tension in North London had been building since Monday evening, when Arsenal ground out a gritty 1-0 victory over Burnley at the Emirates Stadium. Kai

Havertz proved to be the hero on the night, latching onto a pinpoint assist from Bukayo Saka in the 36th minute to secure the vital three points. The result threw the ultimate



gauntlet down to Manchester City. Pep Guardiola's side travelled to the Vitality Stadium knowing that only a victory on the south coast would suffice to take the title race down to the final day of the campaign. Instead, they ran into a Bournemouth brick

wall. The hosts took a stunning first-half lead in the 38th minute through Eli Junior Kroupi, sending shockwaves through the footballing world. City piled on the pressure in the second half, throwing everything forward. A stoppage-time equaliser from Erling Haaland in the 90th minute offered a brief glimmer of hope for the visitors, but the final whistle blew mere moments later, mathematically handing Arsenal the silverware.

In a poetic twist of fate, the title was delivered to Arsenal with a massive tactical assist from Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola, a close childhood friend of Mikel Arteta. Arteta, who had jokingly admitted the previous day that he would be Bournemouth's "biggest fan" for a couple of hours on Tuesday, saw his wishes answered in spectacular fashion.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi not buying into the hype, it's just the start of a long journey

Jaipur. (Agency)

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has long been a launchpad for instant stardom, but few players have seen their stock rise as rapidly as 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. On Tuesday night, the teenage opener left the cricket world awestruck at the Sai Mansingh Stadium, smashing a breathtaking 38-ball 93 to lead Rajasthan Royals to a crucial seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

Chasing a massive target of 221, Sooryavanshi demolished the LSG bowling attack with 10 towering sixes and seven boundaries. It was an extraordinary exhibition of raw power and hand-eye coordination that even earned him the highest praise from legendary commentator Ian Bishop on air: "He is ready." Yet, despite reclaiming the

tournament's Orange Cap with 579 runs and securing an India-A call-up, he remains completely unmoved by the hype



surrounding his name. CALCULATED CHASE, NOT IMPULSE What makes Sooryavanshi's knock stand out is how deeply calculated it was. Faced with a steep 221-run mountain, a teenager might

normally look to hit his way out of trouble immediately. Instead, the young southpaw showed a level of tactical maturity that completely belies his age, taking his time early on to assess the conditions before launching an all-out assault.

"Nothing much. I was just thinking because I was sitting outside during the bowling innings and the wicket looked good," Sooryavanshi revealed in his post-match interview. "I was thinking that today I shouldn't rush too much at the start, I should take some time and if I bat for a longer period, it's going to help the batter at the other end as well." Even after a quieter start, he reached his half-century in the blink of an eye, eventually going on to plunder 29 runs in a single over against India's fastest bowling asset, Mayank Yadav.

KKR vs MI: Playoff hopes on the line for Kolkata as Mumbai look to crash party

KKR vs MI Preview: Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders find themselves in a do-or-die situation as they take on an already-eliminated Mumbai Indians at Eden Gardens on Wednesday, with their IPL 2026 playoff hopes hanging in the balance.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Kolkata Knight Riders have no margin for error left in IPL 2026. With their play-off hopes hanging by a thread, Ajinkya Rahane's side will need a win against an already-eliminated Mumbai Indians at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday to remain alive in the race for the final play-off berth.

A defeat would officially end KKR's campaign for the second successive season under Rahane after their eighth-place finish in 2025, a year after winning the title under

Shreyas Iyer. Even a win may not guarantee qualification, with KKR also relying on Punjab Kings slipping up against Lucknow Super Giants later this week.

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad have already sealed playoff spots, while LSG and MI are out of contention. Punjab Kings, Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals and KKR remain in the fight for the lone remaining place.

KKR IN MUST-WIN SPACE

KKR's qualification equation is simple on paper but complicated in reality. They must win both their remaining matches and hope Punjab Kings lose to LSG. Rajasthan Royals currently hold the clearest path among the chasing teams, and their big win over LSG, powered by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on Tuesday, has put them ahead.

A defeat on Wednesday will bring the curtains

down on KKR's chances. KKR will regret the way their season began. The Shah Rukh Khan-owned franchise has won five of its last six matches, but the late



surge came after a poor start that left them playing catch-up through most of the campaign. Captain Rahane and coach

Abhishek Nayar took time to settle on a stable combination, something marquee overseas signing Cameron Green admitted after KKR's win over Gujarat Titans.

"I think it just took us a while, maybe a bit too long, to figure out the right roles and get the right people in the right positions," Green had said.

Since their first win against Rajasthan Royals, KKR have looked a more settled side. Finn Allen has rediscovered his touch at the top, including a century and a 35-ball 93 in his last three innings. Angkrish Raghuvanshi has continued to impress, while Green has started delivering with both bat and ball after arriving for Rs 25.20 crore at the auction.

Vice-captain Rinku Singh has played his finisher's role consistently, while Sunil Narine remains KKR's biggest weapon with the ball.

Purushaha is made for audiences to sit back, relax, and enjoy in theatres: Producer Battula Koteswara Rao

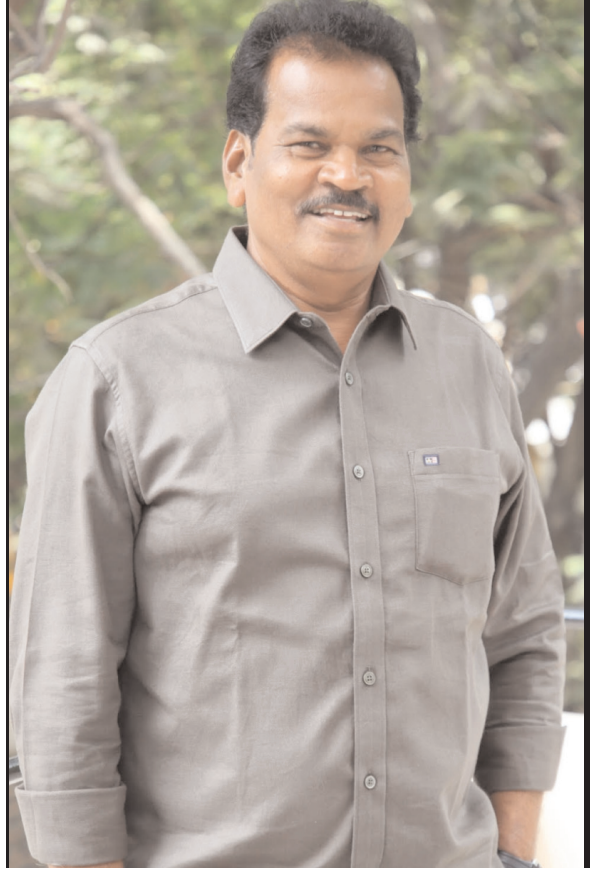
Purushaha is produced by Battula Koteswara Rao under the banner of Kalyan Productions, and presented by Battula Saraswathi. With this film, Pawan Kalyan Battula is being introduced as the lead actor. The movie is directed by Veeru Vulavala and features Pawan Kalyan, Saptagiri, Kasireddy Raj Kumar, Rayancha Kokkura, Vishika, and Hasini Sudheer in key roles. Purushaha is gearing up for release on May 22. As part of promotional activities, producer Battula Koteswara Rao interacted with the media. Here are the highlights:

• Tell us about your background:

My name is Battula Koteswara Rao. I'm from Karampudi in Guntur district. I have no prior connection with the film industry, but ever since I entered this field, everyone has been extremely supportive. Coming into this industry feels like a very positive step for me.

• Why did you name your son Pawan Kalyan?

After watching Gokulamlo Seetha, I felt that Pawan Kalyan garu would rise to great heights. At that age, I saw myself in him and became a huge admirer. I



always wished that if I had a son, I would name him after Pawan Kalyan. And coincidentally, during the time of the film Thammudu, my son was born, and I named him after him.

• Whose idea was it to enter films?

I've always loved cinema. My son used to be very shy and introverted. Becoming a hero was my dream, and I

wanted to fulfill it through him. I also believed that his shyness would go away through this journey. That's why I introduced him as a hero.

• Tell us about your association with the director:

Before this project, we were supposed to do a film with a different director, but it didn't materialize. Later, Satish Muthyala garu introduced us to

Veeru garu. He narrated the story, and I liked it a lot. We converted our construction office into our film office.

• What aspects of Purushaha did you like the most?

The story of Purushaha is excellent. His narration was also very unique. I particularly liked the love story. This film will appeal to audiences across all segments. I never wanted to make a huge film just for grandeur. My only wish was for my son to overcome his shyness and hesitation. I didn't make the film for money and I'm not expecting profits.

• Tell us about the characters in the film:

VTV Ganesh garu's role will make everyone laugh. He supported us a lot and helped us immensely with dates. Vennela Kishore garu brings the main conflict in the story. Saptagiri delivered a fantastic performance. Kasireddy garu acted very well. Our heroines not only look beautiful but performed well on screen. Ananth Sriram garu's role is quite special. As for my son, I won't say anything, audiences will judge him after watching the film.

• Tell us about the music:

Shravan garu gave us wonderful music. We're lucky that Keeravani garu sang a song for us. The songs released so far have already received very good response.

• How many theatres is Purushaha releasing in?

We are releasing Purushaha in around 300 theatres. From May 21st, we are also planning premieres in both Telugu states. Our film is made for audiences to sit comfortably in theatres and enjoy every moment.

• Did you face any challenges during this journey?

Throughout Purushaha, everyone, from car drivers to light men, supported us wholeheartedly. They treated our money as if it were their own and never troubled us for anything. This entire journey felt very smooth. Contrary to what people say, I didn't experience any negativity or bad environment in the industry.

• What about your next projects?

I made a promise to my son long ago that I would produce three films for him. If he proves himself as a hero by then, great. If not, I told him we would return to our village and continue farming. But within my capacity, I will definitely make three films for him.

DAVID REDDY TEASER: MANCHU MANOJ BIRTHDAY SPECIAL BANGER

Raw King Manchu Manoj's upcoming pan-India period action spectacle David Reddy has officially revealed its teaser today. Celebrating the phenomenal actor, makers unveiled a powerful glimpse that introduces David Reddy and it's world.

It opens with British officials discussing ways to suppress Gandhi's movement before transitioning into intense moments from the freedom struggle. As the British search for someone capable of opposing Gandhi, an officer introduces David Reddy.

Manoj appears in a fierce and rugged avatar that instantly grabs attention, while Maria Ryaboshapka's character adds an emotional layer through her scenes with him. Feared by the British, David Reddy earns the title "Rakshas Reddy."

Mounted on a lavish scale, the story is set between 1897 and 1920 during British rule and revolves around a fearless warrior who rises against the British Empire. The teaser impresses with its powerful action episodes, while Ujjwal Kulkarni's sharp editing enhances the intensity.

Ravi Basrur's electrifying background score further elevates the visuals, and the detailed sets, artwork,



and props authentically recreate the pre-independence period. Set against the British era, David Reddy is being made as a grand pan-India intense action drama in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

Starring Manoj Manchu in the lead role alongside Maria Ryaboshapka, the film also features Ramya

Krishnan, Samuthirakani, Abhay Deol, and Kanchana in pivotal roles. The film is slated for a theatrical release during Dussehra 2026. Produced by Nallagangula Venkat Reddy and Bharat Motukuri under Velvet Soul Motion Pictures and True Radix, the film is directed by Hanuma Reddy Yakkanti.

He-Man and The Masters of the Universe Telugu Trailer Reveals Nikhil Siddhartha as the Voice of He-Man, Aditya Menon as Skeleton

He-Man and The Masters of the Universe is set to release in India in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam. While the English trailer had already given fans an exciting glimpse into the world of Eternia, the newly released Telugu trailer comes with a major surprise for audiences. The makers have revealed that Nikhil Siddhartha (Karthikeya, Karthikeya 2 and Spy) is stepping behind the mic to lend his voice to He-Man in the Telugu version of the film.

Joining him is Aditya Menon (Pushpa 2: The Rule, Billa and Karthikeya 2) who voices the menacing Skeleton, while Rao Ramesh (Pushpa 2: The Rule, The Girlfriend, Anaganaga Oka Raju) lends his voice to Duncan. The powerful voice cast adds a fresh layer of excitement to the Telugu version, making



the battle for Eternia even more epic for fans. Backed by Amazon MGM Studios and directed by Travis Knight, He-Man and The Masters of the Universe stars Nicholas

Galitzine as Prince Adam, Camila Mendes as Teela, and Jared Leto as Skeletor, with Man-At-Arms played by Idris Elba. The film also features Alison Brie, Morena

Baccarin, and Kristen Wiig as the voice of Roboto. The film aims to bring one of pop culture's most iconic fantasy worlds back to life for a new generation.

Nandu's Unique Promotions Boost Buzz for 'Ugly Story'

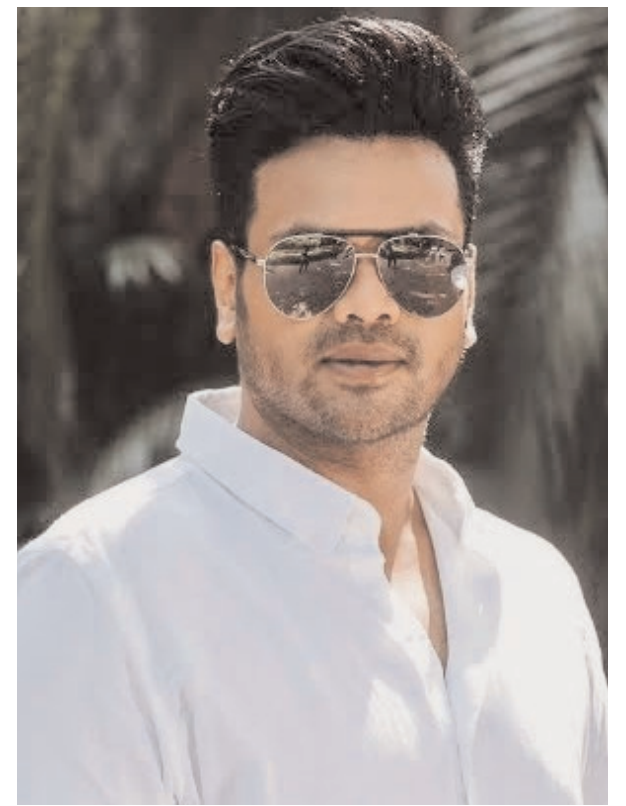


The upcoming romantic thriller Ugly Story, starring Nandu, is all set to release on May 22. The film has already created strong buzz with its intense trailer, which is trending on social media.

Directed by , the movie explores the dark side of love with emotional scenes and unexpected twists. The music for the film is composed by , while the production values by Riya Jiya Productions are said to be impressive.

The film's promotions are also grabbing attention. Nandu has been actively promoting the movie among the public in creative ways. He recently appeared in a Blinkit delivery boy look and also dressed up as a vegetable seller in local markets, which went viral online. With these unique promotions and growing excitement around the trailer, audiences are eagerly waiting to see how Ugly Story performs after its release.

Rawking Manchu Manoj, AnilSunkara's AK Entertainment Strikes Back with Vaddi Kaasula Vaada



Rawking Manchu Manoj is all set to strike back in style with the hilariously entertaining title announcement of Vaddi Kaasula Vaada, which has instantly grabbed attention across social media. The title concept video was unveiled on the special occasion of Manoj's birthday and has already sparked curiosity among audiences alike.

Interestingly, the film marks Manoj Manchu's reunion with AK Entertainments after the super success of Bindass, a film that remains one of the most loved entertainers in his career. Bringing back those vintage comedy vibes, Manoj once again showcases his trademark comic timing in the title concept video, reminding audiences why he earned a special fan base for his energetic and humorous performances. The concept video cleverly

taps into the current trending EMI and installment culture, presenting a hilarious and relatable setup with Manoj pleading to God amidst financial tensions. The title Vaddi Kaasula Vaada itself sounds striking, catchy, and instantly connects with today's audience. The fun-filled presentation, combined with a rooted commercial entertainer vibe, hints that a solid laughter-loaded entertainer is on the way. What makes the concept even more appealing is how naturally it connects with every middle-class household. From EMIs and monthly installments to financial struggles wrapped in humor, the theme feels highly relatable to today's generation. At the same time, the video balances comedy with subtle emotions, making the concept feel entertaining yet emotionally grounded.

RAMANI KALYANAM TEAM SEEKS AUDIENCE SUPPORT AHEAD OF MAY 22 RELEASE

Ramani Kalyanam is a heart-touching movie with good emotions and entertainment. We request everyone to watch it in theaters on May 22nd and support it: Hero Surya Vasishtha & team at the trailer & pre-release event. Ramani Kalyanam is a feel-good entertainer directed by Vijay Adireddy with Surya Vasishtha and Deepshika as the lead heroines. Vijay Adireddy and Manoj Chinthireddy are producing it under the banner of Kites Creatives.



Srinath Pasupuleti and Sanjay Vemparala are producing it. Ram Jagadish of Court movie fame is providing the dialogues. The teaser songs of this movie have received a

good response. The movie will be released on May 22. On this occasion, the makers organized a grand trailer launch and pre-release event. Speaking at the trailer launch and pre-release event,

hero Surya Vasishtha said. Greetings to everyone. Director Vijay has made this film with a lot of passion. It is not uncommon to choose such a story for a first film. It takes a lot of guts. Thank you

to Vijay for choosing such a script. Ram Jagadish has written wonderful dialogues. Suraj has given very good music. All the songs have also become great hits. Such films come very rarely. We have made a very good effort. I hope you all will encourage the film. I request everyone to watch this film in theaters on May 22nd and support it. Heroine Deepshika Chandran said. Hello everyone. The trailer has received a very good response. I am very happy that everyone is talking well about the film. Thank you to the directors and producers for believing in me and giving me a chance in such a good story. I am very proud of Vijay garu. This is my dream project. I have a very emotional connection with this film. We all made this film with a lot of love. I hope the audience will also give that love. I am very happy to have made this film. Everyone gave their best to

this film. This film will surely entertain all of you. Director Vijay Adireddy said. Hello everyone. Everyone should definitely watch this movie in theaters on May 22. Sooraj has given soulful songs to this movie. The wedding song has become everyone's favorite. The background score in the last 20 minutes of the movie is amazing. Yuvraj and Jagadish have supported this movie like two pillars. They have brought life to what I thought. The dialogues are getting a very good response. Poorna has given wonderful lyrics. All the songs in this are meaningful. Our friends have supported this movie a lot in the making.