

Heat-Linked Illness Cases Surge Sixfold in Andhra Pradesh

Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh is experiencing a sharp rise in heat-related illnesses, reflecting the growing impact of changing climatic conditions, studies show. According to official data, the number of people affected by heat-related ailments increased nearly six-fold in just two years -- from 833 cases in 2023 to 5,154 cases in 2025. However, fatalities due to heat-stroke have remained stable. Three deaths were reported in 2023, and the same number in 2025, signifying a success in timely medical intervention and awareness campaigns. Also Read - Nara Lokesh Announces AP SSC Results 2026 Date; Results on April 30 at 11 AM Mete orologists attribute the rise in temperatures to shifting weather patterns. "Climatic conditions in the state are undergoing a significant transformation.



We are observing a steady rise in extreme temperatures, which is directly impacting public health," said a weather scientist. Temperatures in several districts have reached alarming levels, particularly in the coastal and Raya laseema regions. Officials from APSD-MA noted that parts of Konaseema district were recording temperatures in the warning zone. Also Read - One Killed, 10 Injured as Bus Rams Parked Lorry at Vuyyur Doctors have advised the people to be careful while they

are out in the sun, especially during the peak summer. "People must take personal precautions, particularly throughout May," said a professor of General Medicine at Ruia Hospital in Tirupati. The district-wise, 2025 data shows that a few regions accounted for a larger Eluru district reported the highest number with 1,294 cases, followed by Krishna with 1,214 and Visakhapatnam with 1,089 cases. These districts are cited as hotspots for heat-related illnesses.

Newly Appointed DGP CV Anand Meets Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Newly appointed DGP C.V. Anand paid a courtesy visit to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the ICCA on Wednesday. Senior most IPS official C.V. Anand, who has vast experience in policing and numerous success stories adorning in his CV, was appointed Director-General of Police (Head of Police Force) here on Tuesday. He will assume charge after incumbent DGP (full additional charge) B. Shivadhar Reddy demits office on April 30 on attaining superannuation. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The state government finalised the appointment of Anand, a 1991 batch IPS officer, strictly in accordance with the guidelines prescribed



by the Supreme Court in the 'Prakash Singh' case. "Anand was the natural choice given his seniority and efficiency," sources close to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said. A city lad in the true sense, born in Jajiki Khana (Maternity) Government

Hospital in Petlaburj, Anand did his schooling in Hyderabad Public School and graduated from Nizam College and did his MA in economics from Osmania University. Also Read - Telangana Govt Releases Rs.1,000 Cr Pending Dues to Employees After clear-

ing civils in his first attempt, Anand joined the service with his first posting as ASP in Warangal and served as district superintendent of police for the first time in Nizamabad. "His first nine years of service was in Naxal-affected districts, where he personally led the forces and participated in exchange of fire and encounters," according to a police official. Anand has received the President's Gallantry Medal. He served as police commissioner in Vijayawada, Hyderabad and twice in Hyderabad, as civil supplies commissioner, DG Anti Corruption Bureau and the

Enforcement wing before reaching the top. He also served on deputation in CISF and NISA. Also Read - Man Held in Hyderabad for Stealing Bikes Streamlining the Ganesh immersion procession as well as the city traffic, bringing the accused in the Krushi Bank scam to book, reducing the debt burden of civil supplies from `15,000 crore to `3,000 crore — were some of Anand's notable initiatives. Anand also developed a standard operating procedure to deal with land disputes in the city surroundings and bagged first prize at the World Police Summit in Dubai for his IT initiatives in policing.

Telangana Govt Releases Rs.1,000 Cr Pending Dues to Employees

Hyderabad: Taking another significant step towards resolving long-pending issues of state government employees, the government has released Rs.1,000 crore towards pending dues. Acting on the clear directions of the Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the funds were released on Wednesday. Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, issued the orders for the release. With this, the Deputy Chief Minister has fulfilled the assurance given

in the Assembly. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Last year, during discussions with employee unions, the government had promised to release Rs.700 crore per month. Accordingly, it honored its commitment and made monthly payments up to March 2026. However, after personally observing the financial needs and difficulties faced by employees, Bhatti Vikramarka decided to increase the monthly allocation to Rs.1,000 crore from the current financial year. Also Read - Man Held in Hyderabad



for Stealing Bikes As part of this, Rs.1,000 crore for the month of April has been released on a war footing. The government has responded very positively towards retired employees. All pending GPF (General Provident Fund) dues up to October 2025 have been completely cleared with these

funds. This brings great relief to thousands of senior citizens who were waiting for their retirement benefits. Regarding employees' health needs, the government has directed officials to ensure that medical bills are cleared without even a single day's delay and on a priority basis. Also Read - Newly Appointed DGP CV Anand Meets Revanth Reddy At present, medical bill payments are being processed at a very fast pace. processed regularly without any delay. With the slogan, "Employees are partners in governance; addressing their

issues is our responsibility," the government is moving forward. Senior officials stated that the increased allocation and clearance of GPF dues reflect the government's commitment and sincerity. This latest decision demonstrates the government's dedication to the welfare of employees. Officials stated that the government will always stay one step ahead in recognizing and resolving employees' problems. Employee unions have expressed happiness over the large-scale release of funds initiated by the Deputy Chief Minister.

Man Held in Hyderabad for Stealing Bikes



Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police on Wednesday arrested a person on charges of stealing bikes. The arrested has been identified as Mohd Nayeem Khan alias Mohammed Salman alias Salman (26) of King Koti. The police recovered three bikes from the possession

of Salam. The police collected information about Salam through an informant source and gathered complete information about him using CCTVs footage. The police monitored his present activities observing his posts in Instagram and social media. After continu-

ous surveillance on the movements of the accused, the police nabbed him at Madina Crossroads near Charminar. After being grilled, he admitted that he had stolen three bikes from the Charminar and Narayanguda police station limits.

KT Rama Rao slams Revanth Reddy over criticism remarks

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his reported remarks that he derived sadistic pleasure when the opposition criticised him. He said the Chief Minister's remarks were shameful and displayed insensitivity towards people's issues. He was addressing a gathering after inducting leaders from different parties into the Kalwakurthy constituency at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday. Rama Rao said the Chief Minister appeared to draw pleasure from public criticism at a time when several sections of society were grappling with hardships under the Congress government, rather than addressing their concerns. "When the opposition is raising genuine issues of the people, claiming to enjoy such criticism is shameful and unac-



ceptable," he said. Listing the government's failures across sectors, he cited distress among farmers, alleged delays in procurement of paddy and other crops, and the weakening of schemes like Rythu Bandhu. He said farmers were being forced into distress sales as procurement centres remained ineffective. "The Revanth Reddy government is delaying procurement only to avoid payment of Rs 500 bonus and MSP to all farmers," he said. The BRS leader also raised concerns in the education sector, stating that delays in fee reimbursement had left students struggling. He said colleges were withholding certificates and restricting access to classes due to unpaid dues, pushing many families into financial strain. Recalling that the scheme was introduced during the tenure of late YS Rajasekhara Reddy, he said it was effectively continued during BRS rule but was now being neglected. He saits, including Rangareddy scheme, were being neglected. He pointed out that despite significant borrowing by the current government, visible progress in development works remained limited. He accused the Revanth Reddy government of prioritising rhetoric over execution.

AP Fuel Stations To Have Sufficient Stocks From Wednesday Evening

Vijayawada: Fuel stations in Andhra Pradesh would have sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel from Wednesday evening, ensuring uninterrupted supply to vehicles. The number of dry fuel stations across the state was 254 on Tuesday. The quantity of petrol dispatched by OMCs to the fuel stations was 11,297kl and diesel 19,409kl, as per the recordings by 7pm. The authorities have noticed a bulk sale of 200 litres of fuel in a single transaction at a retail station in violation of norms. District collectors, civil supplies authorities and others have been asked to verify the reason for such bulk sales, if any, in Vizianagaram, Nellore, Ongole, Rajamahendravaram, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kakinada, Palnadu and other areas across the state. Also Read - Nara Lokesh Announces AP SSC Results 2026 Date; Results on April 30 at



11 AM As per norms, retail stations should fill up the fuel tanks of vehicles but are not permitted to fill up containers in bulk sales. For bulk consumers, specific pumps are allotted for them, where the price of diesel per litre is approximately Rs150 against the normal retail price of Rs 96.52. Civil supplies director Ajay Kumar said, "We are not denying fuel to anyone other than by imposing some rationing on quantity for supply to all the needy consumers. Bulk consumers are not permitted to get fuels from retail outlets and we will take action on those who do so. One Killed, 10 Injured as Bus Rams Parked Lorry at Vuyyur Meanwhile, several stations started supplying fuels to vehicles across the state by imposing rationing on the quantum of supply. General secretary of the AP federation of petroleum traders, P Ravi Kumar said, "We are having good relief. Tankers are continuously supplying fuel to us since Monday morning and this was continuing on Tuesday also." Some pumps are still running short of fuel, but by Wednesday evening, we are expecting to get sufficient stocks at all petrol pumps."

Bengal Voters Feel True Democracy for First Time

Hyderabad: Amid polling in West Bengal for the second phase covering 142 seats, Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president N Ramchander Rao on Wednesday lauded the role of the Election Commission (ECI), saying that voters are exercising their franchise in a "democratic setup" for the first time. Speaking to ANI, Rao urged voters to participate in large numbers in the democratic festival. He also targeted the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government, adding that Bengal politics was earlier "marred with violence and threats". Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 "In Bengal politics, which was earlier marred with violence and threats, this time the Bengal voters are feeling for the first time that they are voting in a democratic setup. The entire credit goes to the EC and the poll officials who have taken all the care to see that free and fair elections happen and a large number of voters turn out."



"We hope that in this phase also, a large number of voters will come out and vote," Rao said. Voting for the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections 2026 is currently underway amid tight security arrangements across 142 constituencies out of 294. West Bengal recorded a voter turnout of 18.39 per cent until 9 am on Wednesday, as polling for the remaining 142 seats across the commenced earlier in the day.

High Court Wraps Up DGP Appointment Row As State Names C.V. Anand For Top Post

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court, on the request of government counsel, adjourned till April 30 a petition seeking appointment of a full-time DGP (Head of Police Force). The government on Tuesday afternoon had issued an order appointing C.V. Anand as DGP (HoPF). The Advocate-General submitted that the process had been completed and sought a day's time. In the petition filed earlier, T. Dhangopal Rao had argued that the government had been deliberately delaying the appointment despite a clear direction from the apex court in the matter. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 High Court Orders Status Report on Alleged Encroachment of Errakunta in Balanagar The Telangana High Court has directed the state government to file a detailed explanation over the alleged conversion of the Errakunta (also known as Yerrakunta) in Balanagar village of Mahbubnagar district into residential plots. The matter has been posted for further hearing after the court's summer vacation. Also Read - Telangana SSC Results 2026 Today A division bench comprising Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Nandikonda Narsing Rao was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by K.V. Madhu, a farmer of Balanagar mandal, who requested the court to direct the authorities to protect the Errakunta spread over 4.33 acres in Survey No. 6 of the village. The petitioner alleged that local



authorities, in connivance with private entities, were attempting to convert the tank land into housing plots for sale, posing a serious threat to public interest and the local ecosystem. Also Read - Constable Booked in Saifabad; Hunt on Over Viral CM Security Reel The court issued notices to the principal secretary, irrigation, the Mahbu bnagar collector, chief engineer, minor irrigation, the revenue divisional officer and tahsildar of Balanagar. The court also issued notices to private respondents, including Spectra Ventures Private Limited, represented by its director and others. KVP's Red Corner Battle: High Court Hearing Postponed as State Seeks More Time Also Read - Telangana Govt Trains Tribal Youth from Former LWE-hit Areas as Tourist Guides Justice N. Tukaramji of the Telangana High Court on Tuesday adjourned to June 17, hearing in a petition filed by former MP K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao challenging a red corner notice issued against him, after the state government sought time to file a detailed counter. Interpol had issued the notice in 2014, based on a FBI-regis-

tered case before a court in North Illinois, US, alleging payment of about \$18.5 million in bribes to central and state government officials to secure approvals for a titanium mining project. According to the case, there were alleged irregularities in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the then undivided Andhra Pradesh government and Switzerland-based Bauti Trade AG over titanium mining leases. Ramachandra Rao had challenged the notices on April 25, 2014, before then AP High Court and had arrayed the government of undivided AP and the CID as respondents. The court later stayed the notices. Rama chandra Rao's petition had been pending before the High Court since then. He recently filed an impleadment application seeking to array the Telangana state government as party to the case. The Telangana government objected to this, and counsel representing the home department indicated that a counter affidavit would be filed detailing its objections to the impleadment. Taking note of this submission, the court granted time and deferred the matter further hearing.

Constable Booked in Saifabad; Hunt on Over Viral CM Security Reel

Hyderabad: The Saifabad police booked a case against the police constable Nikhil Yadav for making a reel claiming that the security of Telangana Chief Minister was in his hands. A hunt is on to nab the constable. Yadav hailing from Gadwal drew sharp criticism for making a reel claiming that in the police uniform. The video went viral on various social media platforms. The police suspect that the constable would have arrived at the Secretariat with a visitor's pass. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 In a video made near the Telangana Secretariat, he went to Yadav hailing from Gadwal drew sharp criticism for making a reel claiming that in the police uniform. One more netizen said the constable needed a psychiatrist's help. This was not the first time that the constable was involved in contro-



for making a reel claiming that in the police uniform the extent of suggesting people that they could contact him to arrange a meeting with the Chief Minister. Responding to the reel, a netizen urged the police department to dismiss

the constable from service. One more netizen said the constable needed a psychiatrist's help. This was not the first time that the constable was involved in controversies. He earlier made a reel saying that he could provide IPL matches tickets.

TDP Forms New Executive Committees, Lokesh Assumes Charge as Working President

Amaravati: The Telugu Desam Party on Wednesday constituted its new executive committees, striking a balance between veteran experience and fresh talent, and party chief N Chandrababu Naidu administered the oath to newly appointed members of the Politburo, national and state committees. TDP leader and IT Minister Nara Lokesh assumed responsibilities as the party's working president, with the leadership describing the position as a significant responsibility aimed at strengthening the organisation across all levels. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 "We have constituted new executive committees blending senior leaders with fresh faces, and I administered the oath to the Politburo, national and state committees," Naidu said at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly formed execu-



tive committees. The leadership elevated mandal and cluster-level leaders to the Politburo, reflecting its emphasis on grassroots workers and the principle of "cadre is the leader," while prioritising those who worked hard. Also Read - Telangana Govt Releases Rs.1,000 Cr Pending Dues to Employees The committees were formed after multiple screenings and strategies, respecting seniors, accommodating newcomers, and recognising those who contributed to the party's strength, he said. The

newly constituted panels seek to present a fresh outlook for the party even after 44 years, balancing the experience and guidance of senior leaders with the dynamism of younger members. The highlight of the swearing-in ceremony were Lokesh, Mangalagiri cluster in-charge G Dhanunjay, and Gajapatnagar mandal president G Sridevi. Also Read - Man Held in Hyderabad for Stealing Bikes The party also accommodated individuals who have been active on social media, recognising their contribution to organisational outreach and communication efforts. According to Naidu, his government is implementing multiple welfare schemes while accelerating infrastructure

and irrigation projects to ensure inclusive development across the state. Irrigation projects are being expedited to ensure water security and supply to farmers, while works on Polavaram and Amaravati are being fast-tracked. Also Read - Newly Appointed DGP CV Anand Meets Revanth Reddy "We are implementing numerous welfare schemes, accelerating irrigation projects to ensure water security, and fast-tracking Polavaram and with said. He noted that with the support of the Centre, the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been put back on the path of profitability, while the government has upheld the self-respect of Telugu people. Naidu said the government has restored the state's brand and credibility, which he claimed was affected during the previous YSRCP government between 2019

and 2024, and is working in line with the goals of Swarna (golden) Andhra. On the power sector, he claimed that it had suffered setbacks earlier, but has been revived with measures taken to protect consumers from additional financial burden. The Chief Minister said the government is bearing the burden to shield people from true-up charges while reducing electricity costs through true-down measures. Visakhapatnam Steel plant has already announced that tariffs will not be increased. He added that efforts are underway to reduce power purchase costs, and tariffs were reduced by 30 paise last year with plans to bring down another 30 paise. Naidu said infrastructure development is being strengthened with the completion of ports, airports and highways to improve connectivity across Andhra Pradesh.

Careless smoking leads fire accident causes in Telangana, says data

Hyderabad: Careless smoking and carelessly discarded cigarette butts have emerged as the single largest cause of fire accidents in Telangana, accounting for a staggering 1,915 cases so far in 2026. According to data from the Fire Disaster Response Emergency Services Department, overall, the department has responded to 3,858 incidents across the state till April 28. Of these, 3,447 were small fires, 106 medium, 27 serious, and 14 major incidents. Fire personnel also attended 228 rescue operations and 36 other emergency calls. Apart from careless smoking, electrical faults caused 871 fires, while 375 incidents were attributed to unknown reasons and 307 to other miscellaneous causes. Additional triggers included 60 incidents of arson, 21 incidents of burning of waste, 69 incidents of gas related issues, 89 mechanical sparks, and 35 spontaneous combustion inci-

dents. Fire mishaps have led to an estimated property loss of Rs 276.887 crore, while swift fire-fighting efforts helped save assets worth Rs 535.460 crore. In terms of casualties, 14 people lost their lives and 67 were rescued in fire related incidents. In non-fire emergencies, 161 lives were lost, while 49 persons were saved. Careless smoking has emerged as the leading cause of fire accidents in Telangana, accounting for 1,915 cases in 2026, according to fire department data. The State recorded 3,858 incidents, with Hyderabad reporting the highest number of fire calls. Residential premises accounted for the highest number of fire accidents at 987 cases, followed by miscellaneous categories of 539 incidents, 534 farm lands, and 400 households' incidents. Fires were also reported in 207 rail and road vehicles, shops, offices, educational institutions, and industrial establishments.



Fire officials said that a majority of these incidents were the outcome of avoidable human negligence, with careless smoking and electrical issues continuing to pose serious risks. Where fires occurred? A large number of fire accidents were reported in: Residential

buildings - 987 cases Miscellaneous categories - 539 cases Farm lands - 534 cases Households - 400 cases Rail and road vehicles - 207 cases Other affected locations include shops, offices, educational institutions, and industrial units. Major causes of fires: Careless smoking is

the leading cause, responsible for 1,915 incidents. Electrical faults - 871 cases Unknown causes - 375 cases Other miscellaneous reasons - 307 cases No. of fire calls - 3,858 Highest calls - Hyderabad (573). Lowest calls - Kumaram Bheem Asifabad (22).

Telangana Govt Trains Tribal Youth from Former LWE-hit Areas as Tourist Guides

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has trained tribal youth from two districts formerly affected by Left Wing Extremism as professional tourist guides, as part of an initiative to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday handed over appointment letters to 20 tribal youth from areas previously affected by Naxalism, appointing them as "Giri Darshaks" (tourist guides). Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 'Giri Darshaks' initiative represents a convergent, multi-departmental approach led by the Telangana Police, in coordination with Forest, Tourism, Endowment Departments, and ITDA. It aims to promote sustain-

able tourism and facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of tribal communities in the "Legacy and Thrust" districts of Mulugu and Bhadradi Kothagudem, official sources said. MHA categorised Mulugu and Bhadradi Kothagudem as "Legacy and Thrust" districts. A "Legacy and Thrust district" is one completely free of Naxal insurgency. The initiative promotes community participation as professional tourist guides in eco tourism and pilgrimage activities to foster sustainable regional development and to ensure overall law and order and provide a secure environment for tourists, they said. Also Read - Telangana SSC Results 2026 Today The core objectives of Giri Darshaks include engaging local tribal youth as



professional guides and community facilitators and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for unemployed tribal youth, they said. The other objectives include strengthening community-police trust and "enhance

the state's presence" in remote tribal areas and position Mulugu and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts as models for tourism-led inclusive development. The 20 youth underwent a training programme for about a

month covering tour guiding, etiquette, heritage knowledge, and safety and first aid. They will be deployed on a rotational basis across heritage, eco-tourism, and pilgrimage circuits to facilitate tourist, the sources said.

10.83 % Growth By DMK Govt For Second Year

Chennai: Exultant over Tamil Nadu clocking 10.83 percent growth in 2025-26, close on the heels of the 11.19 percent recorded in the previous year, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the Dravidian Model was distinct and that it had been proven in numbers. 'We built the foundation in three years. Delivered two consecutive years of double-digit growth,' Stalin said in his message on X and thanked the people of Tamil Nadu for their work and trust, attributing the progress to them. Also Read - Puducherry Records Highest Turnout Among Third Gender Electors at 91.81 percent: EC He said that it was only the beginning. With people's support, the climb would accelerate and Tamil Nadu was not competing within India but would lead South Asia. State Finance Minister T R B Rajaa said the two-digit growth for two years in a row was achieved without noise and without any propaganda. They were just plain factual numbers of 10.83 percent growth in 2025-27 following the 11.10 per-



cent recorded in the previous year, leaving the national average of 7.4 percent far behind, he said. Also Read - ECI Making All Arrangements For Counting While some were busy dividing people, Tamil Nadu was busy multiplying prosperity and it happened because governance in the State was driven by industry-first policies, social justice and a stable leadership under the Chief Minister, he said. Making it clear that the

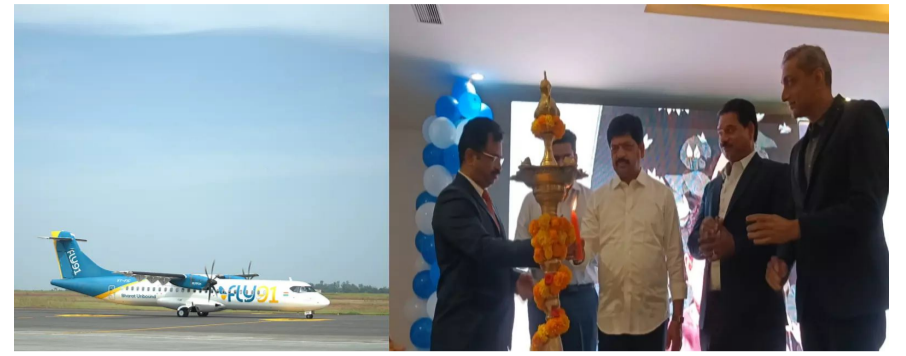
'Dravidian Model' does not speak but delivers, Rajaa said, 'This becomes even more special when one factors the trade head winds and taery Meet Rajaa attributed the growth to the initiatives taken by Stalin for triff wars. Also Read -ery Meet Rajaa attributed the growth to the initiatives taken by Stalin for t Demand To Put Off Cauvery Meet Rajaa attributed the growth to the initiatives taken by Stalin for the development of manu-

facturing, services and the rebounding agriculture sectors, besides the industrial hubs and skilled workforce. The State's GSDP reached Rs 35.29 lakh crore at current prices with per capita income at Rs 4.08 lakh, which is only second to Karnataka, and the trend could push the State towards the goal set by the DMK government of becoming a US \$ 1 trillion economy by 2030, outpacing India's 7.4 percent national average.

Goa Regional Carrier Fly91 Launches Operations at Vijayawada Airport

Vijayawada:

Goa-based regional carrier Fly91 officially launched its operations at Vijayawada airport on Friday at Gannavaram in Andhra Pradesh. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Andhra Pradesh Minister K Ravindra, Vijayawada Airport director M Lakshmi Kantha Reddy, and other dignitaries. Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu joined the programme virtually. Speaking to reporters after the event, Minister K Ravindra said, "Today, from Vijayawada airport, Fly91 started its operations. In future, the operations will be extended. We have seven airports now, and we are aiming to expand to nine airports, under the scheme



of UDAN." Also Read - AP High Court Warns of Dangerous Trend as Social Media Misuse Goes Unpunished Airport director Lakshmi Kantha Reddy highlighted the growing connectivity. He said, "Presently we have seven flights to Hyderabad, next week we will increase to nine flights between Hyderabad and Vijayawada." He further added that on the first

day, 70 per cent occupancy was observed. "We hope people from the surrounding areas are going to get more opportunities for flying from Vijayawada," he said. As per their website, the regional carrier has inducted planes, taking its fleet count to six ATR 72-600s and is exphas inducted planes, taking rapidly from its Hyderabad base. The expansion now takes

place from Hyderabad with double daily operations to Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, and once a day service between Hyderabad - Hubballi and Bengaluru - Hubballi. The airline will also connect Solapur to Hyderabad with five flights a week service and increase frequency between Goa and Solapur to six flights per week.

AP High Court Warns of Dangerous Trend as Social Media Misuse Goes Unpunished

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday came down heavily on the police for their alleged failure to curb abusive and objectionable content on social media platforms. Observing that such inaction has emboldened individuals to post derogatory and provocative material, the court remarked that "police are sleeping while offenders are becoming aggressive." The court expressed concern over a controversial flex banner in Vijayawada that read, "We are waiting for the destruction you will carry out in 2029," questioning the audacity behind such messages. It asked whether this reflected inefficiency on the part of law enforcement and warned that such unchecked behavior could threaten public order. Also Read - Goa Regional Carrier Fly91 Launches Operations at Vijayawada Airport During the hearing, the court noted that insulting the Chief Minister amounts to insulting the people of the state, and emphasized that while ideological differences are acceptable, personal attacks and offensive posts targeting individuals and their families cannot be



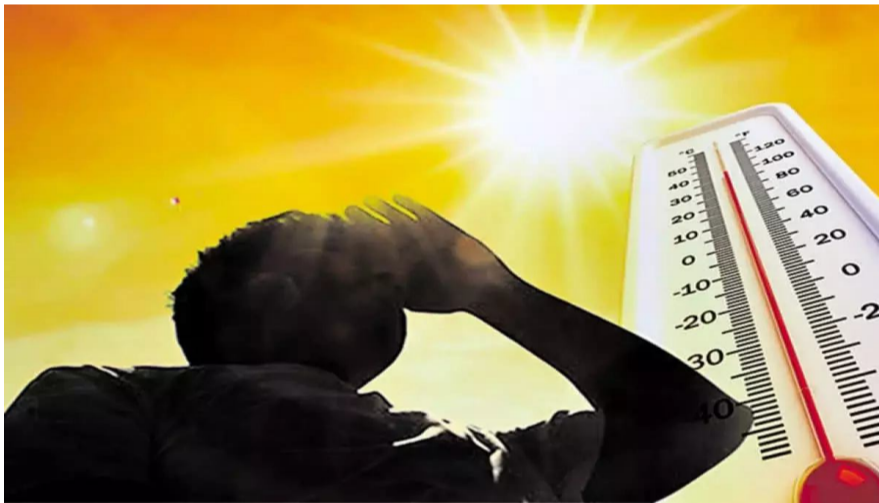
justified. The bench also recalled similar incidents in 2020 involving derogatory posts against sitting High Court judges. Despite the case being handed over to the CBI, the court observed that there had been little progress, which may have encouraged repeated violations. Also Read - 55-Years-Old Woman Dies After Falling In Kitchen The observations came during the hearing of a petition filed by former YSRCP social media in-charge Sajjala Bhargava Reddy, who challenged a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against him. The court questioned the police on whether proper proce-

dures were followed, including issuing notices under Section 41A of the CrPC and establishing evidence of non-cooperation in the investigation. The public prosecutor argued that Reddy had failed to appear for questioning in a case registered in Annamayya district, prompting authorities to seek the LOC. However, the court noted that the LOC, issued on November 8, 2024, had a validity of one year and had already expired in November 2025. After hearing arguments from both sides, Justice Battu Devanand reserved the judgment.

Severe Heat Wave Forecast Today in 54 Mandals of AP

Visakhapatnam:

Andhra Pradesh is expected to face extreme weather on Friday, with the AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) warning of severe heat wave conditions across multiple districts. It forecast the possibility of unseasonal rains with lightning in select coastal and southern regions. APSDMA managing director Prakhhar Jain said North Andhra is likely to face intense heat, while Rayalaseema could record peak temperatures. Simultaneously, a trough stretching from Telangana to the Mannar may trigger light-to-moderate showers in Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, Annamayya, and Chittoor districts. Regional Carrier Fly91 Launches Operations at Vijayawada Airport According to APSDMA,



16 mandals across Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Chinturu, Kunavaram, and Vararamachandrapuram in Polavaram; and Kukururu and Velerupadu in Eluru. Also Read - AP High Court Warns of Dangerous Trend as Social Media Misuse Goes Unpunished Additionally, 19 other mandals across Vizianagaram, Manyam,

Polavaram, Eluru, and NTR districts are expected to experience heat waves. Prakhhar Jain urged people, especially women, children, and elderly, to remain cautious, as they are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. Residents have been advised to consume plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.

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1.24 Lakh Students of ANU in Limbo, Seek CM's Help

Hyderabad:

Uncertainty looms over the future of 1,24,524 students who completed distance education courses through Acharya Nagarjuna University, as they approached the CM Prajavani to seek recognition of their certificates and job eligibility on Tuesday. Students gathered at the 217th CM Prajavani at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan and submitted their appeal. They said admissions were given under Section 95 of the A Reorganisation Act, 2014, which allows students from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to study through distance mode. Many secured jobs in various departments until 2021. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops



Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The situation changed in 2022 after the Telangana Council of Higher Education refused to accept certificates issued by the Andhra Pradesh-based university. Students told officials that even though the High Court ruled in their favour,

recognition for employment is still pending. "Due to this, the future of 1,24,524 students from Telangana has become uncertain," they said. CM Prajavani incharge Dr G Chinnna Reddy spoke to senior officials from the education department and the Public Service Commi-

ssion and brought the issue to their notice. He assured students that he would take steps to secure justice. Candidates also requested that vacancies in Gurukul schools be offered to next-ranked candidates after current selections are completed.

AP Fuel Stations To Have Sufficient Stocks From Wednesday Evening



Vijayawada: Fuel stations in Andhra Pradesh would have sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel from Wednesday evening, ensuring uninterrupted supply to vehicles. The number of dry fuel stations across the state was 254 on Tuesday. The quantity of petrol dispatched by OMCs to the fuel stations was 11,297kl and diesel 19,409kl, as per the recordings by 7pm. The authorities have noticed a bulk sale of 200 litres of fuel in a single transaction at a retail station in violation of norms. District collectors, civil supplies authorities and others have been asked to verify the reason for such

bulk sales, if any, in Vizianagaram, Nellore, Ongole, Rajamahendravaram, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kakinada, Palnadu and other areas across the state. Also Read - Nara Lokesh Announces AP SSC Results 2026 Date; Results on April 30 at 11 AM As per norms, retail stations should fill up the fuel tanks of vehicles but are not permitted to fill up containers in bulk sales. For bulk consumers, specific pumps are allotted for them, where the price of diesel per litre is approximately Rs150 against the normal retail price of Rs 96.52. Civil supplies director Ajay Kumar said, "We are not deny-

ing fuel to anyone other than by imposing some rationing on quantity for supply to all the needy consumers. Bulk consumers are not permitted to get fuels from retail outlets and we will take action on those who do so." Also Read - One Killed, 10 Injured as Bus Rams Parked Lorry at Vuyyur Meannagaram, Nellore, Ongole, Rajamahendravaram, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kakinada, Palnadu and other areas across the state. Also Read - Nara Lokesh Announces AP SSC Results 2026 Date; Results on April 30 at 11 AM As per norms, retail stations should fill up the fuel tanks of vehicles but are not permitted to

fill up containers in bulk sales. For bulk consumers, specific pumps are allotted for them, where the while, several stations started supplying fuels to vehicles across the state by imposing rationing on the quantum of supply. General secretary of the AP federation of petroleum traders, P Ravi Kumar said, "We are having good relief. Tankers are continuously supplying fuel to us since Monday morning and this was continuing on Tuesday also." Some pumps are still running short of fuel, but by Wednesday evening, we are expecting to get sufficient stocks at all petrol pumps."

NCB Gets 2 Days' Transit Remand From Delhi Court To Take Drug Trafficker To Mumbai



New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday allowed a two-day transit remand to NCB to take notorious drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola to Mumbai. Judicial Magistrate Kautuk Bharadwaj allowed the Narcotic Control Bureau's application seeking transit remand of Dola after he was produced at the magistrate's residence late in the evening. "Since the accused Mohammad Salim Dola is required to be produced before the sessions court in Mumbai where the main case is registered, two days' transit remand is required," the NCB's remand paper said. The "main case" stems from the NCB, Mumbai's seizure of around 20 kg of Mephedrone from Dongri in a raid (succeeded by a follow-up raid at the same place) on June 9-10, 2023, following

which a case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act provisions, and seven people were arrested. Mephedrone is a designer or synthetic narcotic drug, which has various street names, such as Meow-Meow, Drone, M-Cat, White Magic, Rush and Bubbles. The NCB had also identified Dola as the supplier of the drugs in the present case, and according to its remand paper, he had been absconding to date. Court sources said that various allegations against Dola, including him being a close aide of international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, were being thoroughly probed by the NCB. Earlier in the day, in a major breakthrough, the NCB secured Dola's return from Turkiye. Dola (59) was arrested in Turkiye on the basis of an Interpol Red

Notice issued on India's request in March 2024. He was wanted in multiple narcotics trafficking cases in India and had been absconding from law enforcement agencies. In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said that Dola was brought from Turkiye under "Operation Global-Hunt". He was taken into custody on his arrival at IGI Airport, New Delhi, early this morning by the NCB, it said. The Interpol Red Notice database states that Dola, born on December 31, 1966, speaks Hindi and Marathi and faces multiple charges under the NDPS Act. e-long criminal antecedents include direct involvement in cases involving multiple high-value seizures of heroin, charas, mephedrone, mandrax and methamphetamine mine in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the ministry said.

Govt Notifies CAPF (General Administration) Act After President Murmu's Assent

New Delhi: The government on Thursday notified the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, after President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the "umbrella law" that will regulate recruitment, deputation, promotion and other conditions of service for the officers of the CAPFs. All CAPFs -- the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) -- are governed by their respective Acts. The rules under these Acts govern the recruitment and conditions of service for 'Group-A' general duty officers and other officers and members of the CAPFs. The new Act provides that 50 per cent of the posts will be filled through deputation from the Indian Police Service (IPS) in the rank of an inspector general and a minimum of 67 per cent of the posts through deputation in the rank of an additional director general. The posts in the ranks



of special director general and director general shall be filled through deputation only, it says. The law comes after the Supreme Court, in October last year, dismissed the Centre's plea seeking a review of its 2025 verdict that directed that IPS officers' deputation in the CAPFs up to the level of Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) should be "progressively reduced" and asked for a cadre review to be carried out in six months. Posts earmarked for deputation in the cadres of the CAPFs up to the level of Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) should be progressively reduced over a period of two years, the apex court had said. According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Central Armed Police Forces

(Administration) Bill that was introduced in Parliament, the expanding functional and operational requirements have led to the distinct organisational structure of these forces. "In recent years, due to the absence of an umbrella law, regulatory provisions have evolved in a fragmented manner, resulting in several litigations on service-related matters, leading to some functional and administrative difficulties," the statement of objects and reasons read. A group of retired CAPF officers had approached the Supreme Court with a contempt plea for not implementing its October 2025 order in this regard. "The proposed CAPF Regulation Bill, 2026, assumes considerable importance. Any legislative intervention affecting the command structure, service conditions and

Tamil Nadu Elections 2026: Accept Results Gracefully And Avoid Drastic Reactions, Retd Justice Kirubakaran To Political Leaders

Chennai: Former Madras High Court judge Justice N Kirubakaran has appealed to political leaders to issue strong public messages urging party workers and supporters to accept election outcomes with maturity and restraint, warning against extreme reactions in the wake of results set to be announced on May 4. Speaking to reporters near the High Court, Retired Justice Kirubakaran said that while the high voter turnout in the recently concluded Assembly elections was encouraging, the behaviour of some youths and even children post-poll was deeply disturbing. "Victory and defeat are natural in any democracy. Since 1952, elections have been a regular feature of our system. In a multi-cornered contest, only one party can win - it

is unrealistic for supporters to expect otherwise," he said. He expressed concerns over growing emotional attachment among sections of supporters, particularly in social media, where some individuals assume their leader's victory is inevitable. "Celebrations are understandable if a party wins. But if it loses, supporters must have the mental strength to accept the outcome," he added. Citing a shocking example, he referred to reports of a woman stating she would take her life along with her children if her preferred leader lost. "Such statements are alarming and reflect a dangerous mindset," he said. The former judge pointed out that even towering leaders like Indira Gandhi, C N Annadurai, and J Jayalalitha had faced



electoral defeats before returning to power, underscoring that setbacks are part of democratic politics. He urged political parties, film personalities, and social activists to proactively spread awareness before vote counting begins, emphasising calm

acceptance of results. He also called on parents to guide children and monitor their reactions, especially on social media platforms. Justice Kirubakaran suggested that basic lessons on elections and democratic processes be incorporated into school

curricula, and advised the Election Commission of India to take precautionary steps to prevent unrest. "Everyone has a social responsibility. Political maturity must be encouraged, and election outcomes must be accepted with dignity," he stressed.

Allahabad HC Junks Pleas Against Land Acquisition For Phases 2-3 Of Noida International Airport At Jewar

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has disposed of the petitions filed against the land acquisition for phases 2 and 3 of the Noida International Airport at Jewar. The court upheld the validity of the acquisition, but issued strict directives to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and the state government to ensure the protection of the farmers' residential land (known as Aabadi). This order was passed by a Division Bench comprising Justices Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Kunal Ravi Singh, after hearing a petition filed by 12 farmers, represented by their counsel Mahesh Sharma, as well as arguments presented by the lawyers representing the state government and the authority. The court acknowledged that the acquisition process was completed in compliance with all stages of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 (such as the



social impact assessment (SIA) survey, public hearings, and the requirement for 70 per cent consent). Regarding the protection of residential land, the court incorporated into its order an affidavit submitted by YEIDA, which states that possession of the residential land belonging to displaced families shall not be taken until the designated rehabilitation

site is fully developed. Further more, possession will not be taken until several conditions are met. These include proper measurement of each family's existing residential land, allotment of developed plots under the rehabilitation scheme, and passing of awards under Section 31. The new plots must also be handed over to the farmers before any eviction, the

court observed. Further, the bench clarified that the authority should renege on this commitment, else such action would be deemed contempt of court. The court also provided the farmers with an option: if they are dissatisfied with the compensation rates offered, they may file an appeal with the reference authority under Section 64 of the Act. The court clarified that the additional 78 hectares of land, listed in Schedule B under Section 19, has not been earmarked for the airport itself, but rather for the resettlement of the displaced farmers. While disposing of the petitions, the court directed that the distribution of compensation, implementation of the rehabilitation scheme, and the process of taking possession of the land must be conducted in strict accordance with the rules and regulations stipulated under the 2013 Act.

Detained For Two Weeks In Madhya Pradesh

Patna: The train journey for 163 children from Bihar, meant to be a joyful ride to study in madrasas in Maharashtra and Karnataka, turned into an ordeal for them and their parents. Labelled as trafficking victims, they spent around two weeks confined in railway police stations, child care homes and other shelters in Madhya Pradesh before being reunited with their families. To top it, their torment is yet to end. Their parents or guardians must present them before the Child Welfare Committees (CWC) - district-level, quasi-judicial bodies constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 - every 15 days until a closure report is submitted in the case. It is a step that will keep reminding them of the nightmare they suffered. Experience Of 163 Bihar Children Going To Study In Maharashtra And Karnataka Madrasas And Karnataka Madrasas Parents of the children and Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS) members (ETV Bharat) Their parents and social organisations alleged that the prevailing communal situation, narrative against madrasas, and targeting people on the basis of their religion were among the reasons behind the mess. Hailing from socio-economically disadvantaged



Seemanchal (northeastern) districts of Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Supaul in the state, the kids aged between six and 15 years arrived in buses to the Patna junction on April 11. Altogether 145 were from Araria district, 16 from Supaul, and one each from Purnea and Kishanganj. They were chaperoned by eight people - local madrasa teachers - and were being taken to Madrasa Jamia Ashrafia Anjuman-e-Islamia at Udgir and Faizul Quran madrasa at Nanded in Maharashtra, and Madrasa Darul Uloom Imdadiya at Bidar in Karnataka. Harrowing Experience Of 163 Bihar Children Going To Study In Maharashtra And Karnataka Madrasas Parents of the children and Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS) members (ETV Bharat) The Government Railway Police (GRP) at the Patna Junction verified their documents and credentials to ascertain that it was not an attempt at human traf-

ficking and allowed them to proceed. The children and their accompanying teachers boarded train number 17609 Patna - Purna (Pune) Express as a part of their onward journey on the same day. The railway police once again vigorously checked their tickets and documents once they reached Prayagraj Junction, and the GRP and Railway Protection Force (RPF) allowed them to proceed toward their destination. The next day as the train reached Katni Junction, the RPF and GRP again checked their documents and asked them to disembark. They were detained and kept at the railway police station there. "It was a joint intervention by the GRP, RPF, CWC, and Child Protection Unit (CPU) based on information provided by Durgesh Maraiyya, a CWC member. The group's pleas fell on deaf ears. All of them were kept at the railway police station at Katni for

around seven hours," Araria-based advocate and member of civil society organisation Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS), Rameez Reza told ETV Bharat. "An FIR (0430/2026) was registered at the Katni GRP police station and the eight guardians and teachers accompanying the children were charged with human trafficking, forced labour, kidnapping, concealment from parents and illegal transit. The children were shifted to government-run shelter homes and other buildings at Katni and Jabalpur, about 90km away, during the wee hours. The railway police authorities also started enquiring whether being taken to the three madrasas in Maharashtra and Karnataka. They received an affirmative ground report, the local police stations informed the parents about the detention of the children, triggering a wave of panic. Mohammad Asif, a part-time vegetable seller and farmer from Bhangia village under Baigachhi police station was one of them. His 14-year-old son was going to the madrasa at Udgir in Maharashtra to continue his studies. "I was surprised and worried when the police knocked at my residence and told me that my son had been detained along with other

children. He has been studying at the madrasa at Udgir since 2024 and returned home when it closed for over a month for Ramazan and Eid. He was simply going there to continue his studies," Asif said. Harrowing Experience Of 163 Bihar Children Going To Study In Maharashtra And Karnataka Madrasas Parents of the children and Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS) members (ETV Bharat) "I and parents of a few other children spent the night at the police station. Police officials recorded videos of our statements, sent them to Katni and assured us that the children would soon be released. But nothing happened. The authorities at Katni had taken away mobile phones from the children, so we couldn't even contact them. We were completely worried, and some of us even cried," Asif added. The next day, 55 parents of the detained children took a bus to Patna, boarded a train and reached Katni. They had a harrowing experience. Madhya Pradesh government authorities initially did not allow them to meet their sons but relented later. However, all of them had to return empty-handed as officials refused to release the children pending investigation.

Trump Pursues New Import Taxes To Replace The Tariffs The Supreme Court Rejected

Washington: When the Supreme Court killed his favorite tariffs in February, President Donald Trump promptly rolled out temporary import taxes to replace them. But those stopgap levies expire in less than three months.

Now the administration is scrambling to put more durable tariffs in place to keep revenue flowing into the U.S. Treasury and to shore up the president's protectionist wall around the American economy.

Starting this week, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative will begin hearings in two investigations that are expected to lead to a new round of U.S. tariffs — taxes paid by importers in the United States and usually passed on via higher prices to consumers who are already fed up with the high cost of living.

Trump's newest tariff push is sure to face more challenges in court but is likely to prove sturdier than the one the Supreme Court tossed out. First up is a hearing Tuesday and Wednesday into whether 60 economies — from Nigeria to Norway and accounting for 99% of U.S. imports — do enough to prohibit the trade in products created by forced labor.

"For too long, American workers and firms have been forced to compete against foreign producers who may have an artificial cost advantage gained from the scourge of forced labor," U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in March. The administration could punish scofflaws with new tariffs. Then, next week, the administration will hold hearings on whether 16 U.S. trading partners — including China, the European Union and Japan — are overproducing goods, driving down prices and putting U.S. manufacturers at a disadvantage.

The economies being investigated account for 70%



of U.S. imports, according to Erica York of the Tax Foundation. Again, the probe could result in new tariffs. Most major economies, including China, the EU and Japan, are on both lists. s top trade official insists he won't prejudice the investigations

The administration has brought the cases under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which authorizes tariffs and other sanctions against countries found to engage in "unjustifiable," "unreasonable" or "discriminatory" trade practices. U.S. Trade Representative Greer, who is overseeing the investigations, has insisted he won't prejudice them. s and foreign countries have doubts the process will be fair. After all, Trump's Treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, did not wait for the investigations to be completed to proclaim that the U.S. government will replace its original tariff revenues with new import tle-digit tariffs on almost every country on Earth. Trump had used the act to plaster taxes on imports with eager abandon. For example, he conjured up a new tariff on Canada (though he never actually imposed it) because he didn't like a Canadian television ad criticizing his trade policies. He used the threat of IEEPA tariffs to strong-arm top U.S. trading partners —

including the EU, Japan and South Korea — into accepting lopsided trade agreements. The levies also brought in a lot of revenue — \$166 billion — before the Supreme Court shut them down, ruling that IEEPA couldn't be used to impose tariffs. Now the federal government must refund money to importers who paid thTariffs rmain Trump's go-toTrump had a handy way to quickly recoup some of the lost revenue — which had been expected to hit \$1.6 trillion over the next decade — at least temporarily. Section 122, also of Trade Act of 1974, allows the president to impose global tariffs as high as 15% for up to 150 days.

The administration wasted no time. Two days after the Supreme Court decision, it slapped 10% Section 122 tariffs on imports. Trump said he'd raise the levies to the maximum 15% but hasn't. The clock runs out on those tariffs July 24. Congress could extend them. But lawmakers have little enthusiasm for approving what amounts to a big tax as November's midterm elections approach: American voters are already furious about the high prices, for which tariffs are at least partly to blame. Section 301 offers another opportunity to replicate the the protectionist impact of the

IEEPA tariffs. There are no limits on the size of Section 301 tariffs. They expire after four years but can be extended.

Perhaps best of all, from the Trump administration's perspective after its Supreme Court defeat, Section 301 tariffs withstood legal challenges when the president used them in his first term to pound China in a dispute over Beijing's sharp-elbowed policies to promote its owAny new 301 tariffs are sure to be challenged again in court. But judges might not throw them out. "Even if it is a veiled — or less-than-veiled — attempt to reinstate the IEEPA tariffs, he still has the cover of the process itself," said trade lawyer Joyce Adetutu, a partner at law firm Vinson & Elkins. Critics have latched onto the speed with which Trump's latest inve. If the latest investigations produce new tariffs in time to replace the expiring Section 122 levies, the process will have taken less than half that long. "It's such a short time-frame," said Kenya Davis, a partner at the law firm Boies Schiller Flexner who has done pro bono work on human trafficking and forced labor. "It's so condensed that it doesn't make a lot of sense that they can do it that quickly."

King Charles Highlights US-UK Bond In Speech To Trump

Washington: King Charles III marked the 250th anniversary of American independence from Britain with gratitude that the two countries united to build "one of the most consequential alliances in human history" while urging "that we ignore the clarification calls to become ever more inward-looking." Speaking on Tuesday to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, Charles repeatedly highlighted the historical and cultural ties that he said have cemented an enduring bond between the United States and the United Kingdom. But even as he spoke in unifying, optimistic terms, he delivered a series of nuanced warnings encouraging leaders in the U.S. to remain collaborative and engaged in global affairs.

He said the alliance between the U.S. and the U.K., tested anew by President Donald Trump's war in Iran, "cannot rest on past achievements." Charles urged "unyielding resolve" in backing Ukraine against Russia and heralded the NATO alliance that Trump has consistently under-

mined. The king praised religious pluralism and interfaith dialogue in terms that are rare in Trump's Washington. As the White House rolls back regulations aimed at denting climate change, the king encouraged those in power to "reflect on our shared responsibility to safeguard nature, our most precious and irreplaceable asset." At one point, the king traced the notion of checks and balances on executive power to the Magna Carta, the foundational legal document sealed by King John in 1215. Trump told The New York Times earlier this year that he was constrained only by "my own morality."

And acknowledging a scandal that has roiled politics in both the U.S. and U.K., he subtly alluded to the victims of Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted sex offender with ties to British officials, including the king's brother, Andrew. King celebrates independence and focuses on repairing a frayed relationship Charles is on



a four-day visit to the U.S. intended to both celebrate American independence and to repair the country's fraying relationship with the UK. He hardly arrived in Washington as an oppositional figure to Trump. Joined by Queen Camilla, Charles had a warm greeting with the president and first lady Melania Trump at the White House earlier Tuesday welcome remarks. Trump also highlighted the shared history between the two countries. an patriots today can sing, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,' only because our colonial ancestors first sang, 'God save the king.'" Trump said.

The leders met privately

in the Oval Office for a meeting Trump later described as "really good," adding that Charles is a "fantastic person." Trump will host the royal couple for a state dinner later Tuesday before they continue their U.S. tour with stops in New York City and Virginia.

The 20-minute speech to Congress may amount to the most extensive public remarks Charles will deliver during his trip. And though the king, who is expressly apolitical, never directly criticized Trump, the contrast was apparent at times. Some British commentators described his speech as more political than they had expected.

Akshaya Patra-Inspired Initiative Highlights Challenge Of Food Insecurity Among US College Students

New York: A global food initiative, inspired by the Akshaya Patra Foundation, has highlighted the need to combat the challenge of food insecurity among college students in the US, and called on the Indian-American diaspora to extend their support.

The Consulate General of India in New York, in collaboration with the World Food Movement (WFM), hosted a special event titled 'No One Hungry' here on Monday. The World Food Movement, a US-based not-for-profit organisation, had in September last year launched an initiative to provide hot nutritious meals to students in New York, New Jersey, Boston and California across community colleges with a target of serving one million meals annually across the US by 2030. Addressing the event at the Consulate, co-founder and Vice Chairman of the Akshaya Patra Foundation and the World Food Movement Sri Chanchalpathi Dasa said students across



communities in the US should not be struggling to choose between food and education. Dasa cited data to point out that about 41 per cent of students experience food insecurity in college campuses in the US. The data, collected from over 74,000 students from 91 institutions in the country, also found that over half of structurally disadvantaged groups went hungry at college campuses. "Seeing all of this, hearing all of this, we incorporated the World Food Movement as a charity to address food insecurity primarily in college campuses and also in certain food insecure communities," he said. The World Food

Movement currently serves three community colleges each in New York City and New Jersey, two community colthats about 41 per cent of leges in the suburbs of Boston, seven community college campuses in the Bay area and provides about 1800 meals to elementary school kids in Virginia, totalling about 3700 meals per week.

India's Consul General in New York Binaya Pradhan noted that the statistics pointed to a "very telling" issue. Using efforts of the diaspora in the US to give back to communities in need across India, Pradhan stressed that it is "befitting" that Indian-

Americans also "give back to the communities in the countries" where they live. Chef Vikas Khanna, who was this month named among the 100 most influential people in the world by TIME magazine, said that in India, "food is a form of worship, care, healing" and connects people to each other. Students, college officials and community members shared experiences of how the WFM initiative is helping address food insecurity challenges in New York. A woman beneficiary shared that she does not have to choose between buying her next meal or purchasing sanitary products for herself.

India Finalising Agreement To Supply Oil, Gas To Mauritius Amid West Asia Crisis: Jaishankar

Port Louis: India is finalising an agreement for the supply of oil and gas to Mauritius to strengthen its energy security amid the crisis due to the West Asia conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Thursday.

Jaishankar, who is in Mauritius to attend the 9th Indian Ocean Conference, said the ongoing crisis in West Asia as Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam reminded him, has underscored the importance of strategic partnerships, especially in the energy sector.

The West Asia war and Iran's chokehold of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway through which a fifth of global oil passes, had halted shipping and sent global oil prices soaring. "We are finalising a government-to-government agreement for the supply of oil and gas, which will play an important role in rein-



forcing energy security for Mauritius," he said. Jaishankar said he was also pleased to note that an Indian public sector enterprise was developing the country's first floating solar power project. "India and Mauritius share an expanding and dynamic partnership in clean energy and environment-friendly solutions," the EAM said. "Building on our cooperation in renewable energy, including the 8 MW solar power plant at Henrietta, we also work closely with the International Solar Alliance and the Global Biofuels Alliance," Jaishankar said.

The EAM said he is also looking forward to handing over the last lot of e-buses to Mauritius to further strengthen sustainable public transportation and reduce carbon emissions. "In the span of just over a year, the partnership between our nations has witnessed remarkable and substantive progress," he said. Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Mauritius in March last year, he said the two countries jointly agreed to elevate bilateral ties to an 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership'. "This elevation equally reflects the expanding scope and deepening substance of

our cooperation across a wide range of shared priorities," he said.

Jaishankar also recalled Ramgoolam's visit to India in September last year for his first bilateral overseas visit. "That visit was marked by a significant milestone, namely the joint annus' development priorities and aspirations," he said. "Your visit again in February this year for the AI Impact Summit, immensely contributed to the dbilateral relationship, encompassing maritime cooperation, development partnership, health, education, capacity building, and Jaishankar, after contrip, will visit the United Arab Emirates from April 11 to 12. The US and Iran agreed to a two-week conditional ceasefire on Wednesday as the two countries prepare for high-stakes talks in Pakistan to convert the ceasefire into permanent peace agreement.

US: North Carolina Labour Official Backs Federal Rule To Hike H-1B Wages

Washington: The top labour official of North Carolina has supported a federal proposal to increase the minimum wages employers will have to offer to hire foreign workers under H-1B, H-1B1 and E-3 visa programmes. North Carolina Labour Commissioner Luke Farley said American workers were being hurt by foreign visa programmes that depress wages. "H-1B visas take jobs from American and North Carolina workers. Last week, I submitted official comments in support of a Administration to make sure H-1B visa holders don't undercut wages for American workers," Farley said in a statement. In a letter to Brian Pasternak, US

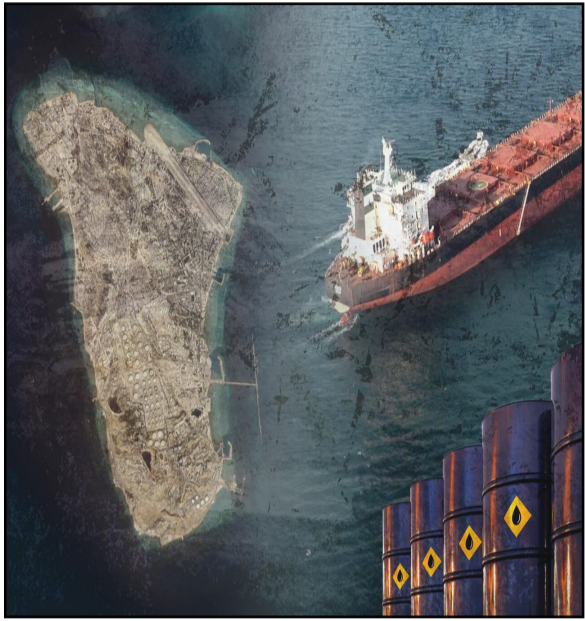
Department of Labour, Farley pointed to what he described as long-standing issues within the current system, including loopholes that allow some employers to fill jobs at wage levels below market rates — contributing to downward pressure on wages and fewer opportunities for North Carolina and American workers.

The proposed rule aims to ensure wages more accurately reflect market conditions across visa programmes. On March 26, the US



Department of Labour proposed new rules to raise wages for foreign workers under H-1B and other visa programmes. The Department of Labour is seeking public comments on the issue till May 25.

Kharg Island, Iran's oil lifeline, and the rise of Mojtaba Khamenei



The ongoing military confrontation involving Iran has drawn attention to several strategic targets across the Persian Gulf. Yet few locations are as critical to Iran's economic survival — and to global energy stability — as Kharg Island. Recent strikes reportedly targeting nearly 90 military installations on the island have once again highlighted its central role in the geopolitics of oil.

Rewind: Myths of Lands, Words of War Kharg Island, often described as Iran's "forbidden island", lies about 25 kilometres off Iran's coast in the Persian Gulf and roughly 483 kilometres north-west of the Strait of Hormuz. Though modest in size — approximately eight kilometres long and covering just about 20 square kilometres — its importance far exceeds its geography. Kharg serves as the principal hub for Iran's crude oil exports and functions as the backbone of the country's petroleum economy.

Nearly 90 per cent of Iran's crude oil exports pass through this island. It houses enormous oil storage tanks capable of holding around 30 million barrels of crude. The island is also equipped with extensive loading facilities, multiple jetties, and an airstrip supporting logistical and security operations. At peak capacity, around 10 million barrels of oil can be loaded onto tankers from its terminals every day. Kharg's importance stems not merely from its infrastructure but from its location within Iran's energy network. Several of Iran's largest oil fields are situated nearby, and the pipelines carrying crude from these fields converge on Kharg's export terminals. In effect, the island acts as the final gateway through which Iranian oil reaches global markets. The island's development as a major oil terminal dates back to the 1960s during the reign of the Shah of Iran. At the time, it was built with the assistance of the American oil company Amoco as part of Iran's broader effort to modernise its petroleum export infrastructure. Following the Iranian Revolution, the Iranian state seized control of these facilities, transforming Kharg into the

cornerstone of its national oil export system. Indispensable for another reason Kharg is indispensable lies in the geography of Iran's coastline. Much of Iran's Gulf coastline is relatively shallow, making it unsuitable for large crude carriers to dock safely. Kharg, however, lies close to deeper waters, allowing massive oil tankers to berth easily at its terminals. Over the decades, Iran has constructed numerous jetties on the island to facilitate this process, enabling large vessels to load crude efficiently.

Under normal conditions, roughly 1.5 million barrels of Iranian oil pass through Kharg every day. In anticipation of escalating tensions and possible strikes, Iran had significantly ramped up exports earlier this year. By mid-February, exports had reportedly reached nearly 3 million barrels per day as Tehran sought to move as much crude as possible before the possibility of military action. At the same time, Iran also appeared to adopt precautionary measures to protect its infrastructure. By mid-January, nearly 27 storage tanks on the island were filled with crude. However, as tensions intensified, Iranian authorities reportedly reduced this number to about nine by early March, lowering the amount of oil stored at the terminal and thereby reducing the risk of catastrophic losses in the event of a strike.

Interestingly, despite the recent attacks on military installations, oil infrastructure on Kharg Island has largely remained untouched. This restraint may not be accidental. One plausible explanation is that the United States and its allies are keen to avoid triggering a dramatic surge in global oil prices. Any direct strike on Iran's oil export facilities would almost certainly disrupt supplies and send shockwaves through global energy markets. There may also be a strategic signalling component. By refraining from targeting oil infrastructure, Tehran not to retaliate against the oil facilities of neighbouring Gulf states. Such an escalation could potentially

ignite a wider regional conflict with severe consequences for global energy security.

Another possible calculation is political. Iran's economic recovery after the conflict will depend heavily on its ability to resume oil exports. Preserving the export infrastructure could therefore prevent further economic devastation and reduce the likelihood of long-term instability within Iran itself.

Nevertheless, even without direct attacks on oil facilities, the strategic vulnerability of Kharg Island is already influencing global energy markets. The mere threat to Iran's primary export hub introduces significant uncertainty. Energy markets tend to react sharply to such risks, especially in a region that accounts for a substantial share of the world's oil supply.

Should Kharg Island's operations be disrupted — even temporarily — the consequences would ripple far beyond Iran. A prolonged interruption could push global crude prices dramatically higher. Analysts warn that Brent crude could potentially approach \$150 per barrel if tensions escalate further or if shipping routes in the Persian Gulf come under threat. For energy-importing nations such as India, such a spike would have serious economic implications. Rising oil prices translate directly into higher fuel costs, inflationary pressures and widening trade deficits.

Kharg Island thus represents far more than a military objective. It is the beating heart of Iran's oil economy and a critical node in the global energy system. Any escalation around this small island has the potential to reshape oil markets and influence geopolitical calculations across continents.

In the volatile strategic environment of the Persian Gulf, geography often dictates destiny. And in the case of Kharg Island, a small patch of land in the Gulf carries a weight that far exceeds its modest size.

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Estimated storage capacity on the island: 30 million barrels (one barrel is around 159 litres) Share of Iran's crude oil exports routed through Kharg: around 90% Typical export range: 1.5–3 million barrels/day of the Persian Gulf, geographically often dictates destiny. And in the case of Kharg Island, a small patch of land in the Gulf carries a weight that far exceeds its modest size.

Total area of the island: around 20 sq km Decade when Kharg was developed into a major oil terminal: 1960s Distance from Iran's mainland in the Persian Gulf: 25 km The Mojtaba Moment The rise of Mojtaba Khamenei, the second son of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, has rapidly emerged as

one of the most consequential developments of the conflict. What was once an internal question of succession is now inseparable from the regional war, shifting American objectives, and the fragile stability of global energy markets. Formally elevated as Iran's Supreme Leader following the death of Ali Khamenei, Mojtaba inherits not merely a powerful office but a crown of thorns.

Yet his leadership begins under a cloud of uncertainty, with limited public visibility and lingering questions about his health. The pressures on Iran — from military confrontation with Israel, hostility from the United States, and a restless domestic population — are converging at a moment when the country may be approaching its most controversial leadership transition since the Iranian Revolution. Iran's political system has always rejected the idea of monarchy, yet the potential succession of Mojtaba Khamenei suggests an unmistakable drift toward dynastic continuity.

The Islamic Republic has had only two Supreme Leaders: Ruhollah Khomeini and his successor, Ali Khamenei. The elevation of Mojtaba would mark the first time that the position effectively passes from father to son. Despite holding no formal government office, Mojtaba is widely regarded as a quiet but influential figure within Iran's power structure. Unlike reformist clerics who periodically advocate moderation or political opening, he is seen as a hardline conservative. His reputation is that of a silent strategist rather than a public political figure — someone who prefers operating through networks rather than institutions.

His strongest ties appear to be with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the powerful military and ideological force that has become central to Iran's security apparatus and regional strategy. The IRGC's influence has grown significantly in recent years, particularly as Iran has confronted international sanctions, covert operations, and military threats.

If Mojtaba assumes leadership, it is likely that the IRGC will become even more central to the Persian Gulf, regional war, shifting American objectives entrenched in the Iranian state. This could reinforce the dominance of hardline factions within Iran's political system and reduce the already limited space for reformist politics.

The world's most hunted leader? The geopolitical implications of such a succession would be immediate. Both the United States and Israel have taken an uncompromising stance toward the Iranian leadership during the ongoing conflict. For Washington and Tel Aviv, a hardline figure closely aligned with the IRGC would represent

India's youngest State, Telangana, constitutes a large part of Dakshinapatha



(the Deccan region), which has a hoary civilizational past. Its antiquity is reinforced by ancient volcanic rock formations, a treasure trove of archaeological sites and a plethora of prehistoric rock paintings and burial sites. As a performing artist-cum-researcher, I have always been fascinated by Telangana's complex past. Its temple culture continues to interest me, as I have been privileged to dance during live temple rituals in Nanakramguda, Ranga Reddy district, for almost three decades. I also had the pleasure of choreographing and presenting a large group dance production of an ancient temple ritual to commemorate the 800th year of the founding of the Ramappa Temple at Palampet, Telangana. Independently, I studied Jayappa Senapati's Nrta Ratnavali and built a inspired by it. All these experiences keep me connected with the lore and lure of Telangana.

The author, Swapnasundari, stands beside the handloom watching the weaving process, in Mahadevpur near Kaleshwaram. To obtain authentic information about the now-obsolete dances of Dakshinapatha, I have been delving into the history of Shiva temples and researching the worship system followed therein. The Agama Shastras, ancient treatises that prescribe the rules of temple worship, state that music and dance are compulsory features of temple worship. Such dances were performed as sevās (dance service to the deity). Though the Agama Shastras list such ritual dances, along with related songs and rhythms, none of the original dances have survived. Based on my study and analysis, I have developed a pedagogy for Agamic temple dance, which I have named Agama Bharatam.

Through this idiom, I continue to create ritual dances afresh and place them in the public domain. One misconception about Shaivism is that it spread to the Telugu regions from Dravida Desa. This is factually incorrect. Epigraphic, numismatic and literary evidence establish the prevalence of Shaivism in Telangana from early times. Early Shaivism, Pasupata sects, was widely prevalent in Dakshinapatha. Shaiva Siddhanta principles were propagated by Shivacharyas of the Golaki Mathams, who migrated from the Jabalpur region of

Madhya Pradesh and established monasteries across the Deccan. They integrated pre-existing practices of Shiva worship with elements of Shaiva Siddhanta from northern and central India. Several rulers extended patronage to this tradition. Arikesari (775–800 CE) made a donation to a Mugdha Shivacharya of the Kalamukha sect. Baddega (850–895 CE) Chalukya lineage built the venerated Shiva temple at Vemulawada. Beta II (1076–1108) constructed the Beteshwara in Hanumakonda and granted land for establishing a matham. Prola II (1110–1158) similarly contributed to the consolidation of Shaivism.

The Kakatiya nobles and rulers consolidated Telangana's Shaivite tradition. Some Shivacharyas became Raja Gurus of Kakatiya kings and were appointed as Sthanacharyas in major temples across the Telugu regions. The flourishing temple tradition of Shaivism in Dakshinapatha is further reinforced by the mighty Shiva temples built between c 1195 and c 1262 by Kakatiya rulers. Mahadeva and Ganapati Deva. Therefore, the view that Shaivism spread to Telangana from other regions must be dismissed as erroneous.

The Temples, Rivers in this Shaiva narrative of Telangana, the famed temple of Kaleshwaram in Jayashankar Bhupalpal ly district occupies a special position. The term Telanga itself is derived from Trilinga, which refers to three ancient Shiva temples of the Telugu land ie, Kaleshwaram, Srisailem and Draksharamam. The language of Sironcha taluk of Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra. Eighty-four per cent of its population speaks Telugu, while the rest are Marathispeakers. The forest deity Shiva presides over this pictorial in Trilinga Desa was later called Telinga, Telungu.

Located at the confluence of the Pranahita and Godavari rivers, Kaleshwaram finds mention in ancient texts and treatises such as the Skanda Purana. A third, invisible underground river is belie. Tussar Trove In north-eastern Telangana, I discovered another hidden treasure: Tussar silk production in the contiguous weavers' colony at Mahadevpur near Kaleshwaram. Tussar silk products produced entirely in Telangana remain unknown to many. The silkworms thrive on leaves of trees that grow in lush forests hand Tuniki Chekka, the wood of the Tendu tree (Diospyros melanoxylon), which grows abundantly in Telangana's outer layer of the boiled

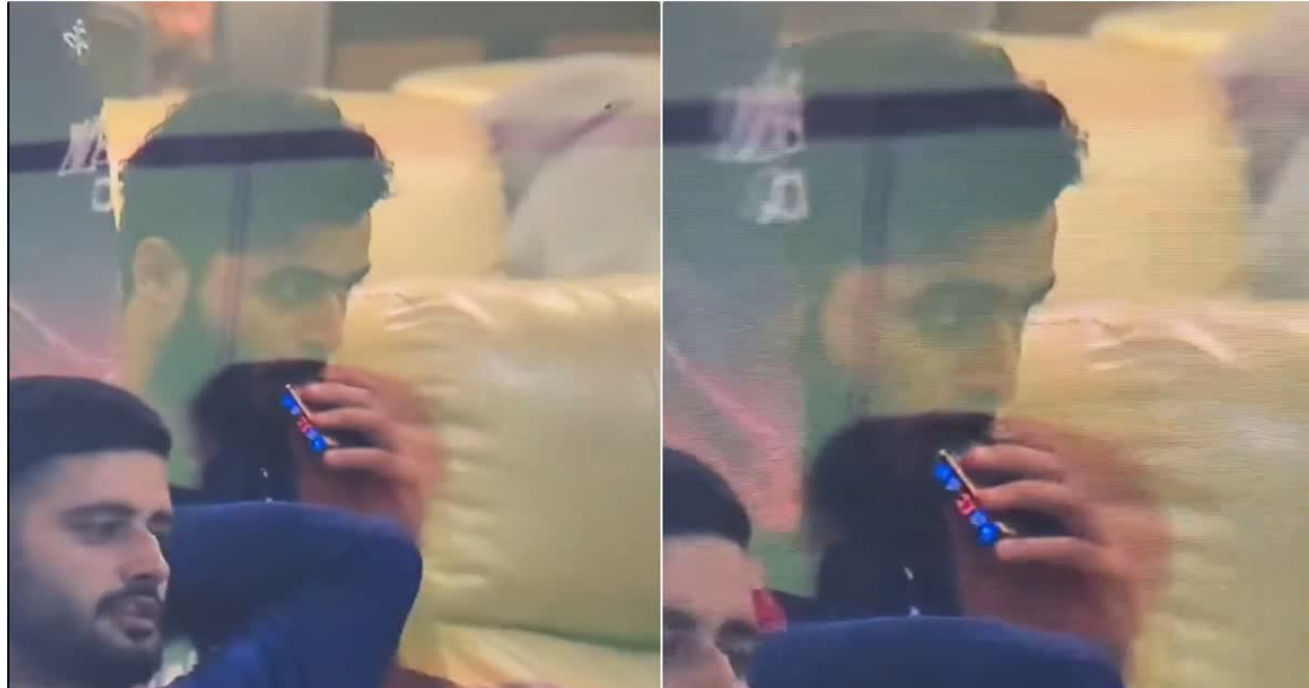
activity. Swapnasundari. Various accounts attribute the establishment of the Kaleshwaram temple to the Shaivite Acharya Rameshwara Deekshita; to Gangadhara, a minister to Kakatiya Rudra Deva; to Vishveshwara Shivacharya of the Pasupata sect and to Kundamamba, sister of Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva. A rare and unique feature of the temple is that one peetham (pedestal) has two Lingams — (Yama) Mukteshwara (Shiva). Telangana also provides access to many hidden cultural and natural treasures in its bordering areas. About 10 km from Kaleshwaram lies Somnur Triveni Sangam in Sironcha taluk of Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra. Eighty-four per cent of its population speaks Telugu, while the rest are Marathispeakers. The forest deity Shiva presides over this picturesque meeting point of the Godavari and Indravati rivers, along with the subterranean Saraswati. Situated at it attracts pilgrims from all over the world. The peetham (pedestal) has two Lingams — (Yama) Mukteshwara (Shiva). 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Fresh Controversy Erupts In Tournament As Riyan Parag Captured Vaping Inside RR Dressing Room

Rajasthan Royals skipper Riyan Parag has been in the headlines for all the wrong reasons this season. The right-handed batter is already under scrutiny for his below-par performance, and now one more controversy has directed the spotlight towards him. Parag was seen using a vape in the dressing room in a live broadcast clip that went viral on social media.

The incident was caught on camera during the 16th over of RR's chase of 223 in Mullanpur. Fans quickly pointed out the moment, and the clip has been doing the rounds on social media since then.

What is the vaping incident involving Riyan Parag? The viral clip shows Parag seemingly using a vape in the RR dressing room in the second innings despite the match being underway. The visuals were picked by the live cameras, and the footage has become a point of discussion on social media since then.



According to the IPL disciplinary rules, smoking is prohibited in dressing rooms and stadium premises, except for designated areas. Parag's actions are under scrutiny because e-cigarettes or vapes are banned in India under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019. The Act prohibits their production, sale,

purchase and use, with violations of the same attracting fines and even imprisonment. Parag played E-cigarettes in India. Notably, similar disciplinary issues have resulted in fines earlier this season. For example, Abhishek Sharma was penalised with 25 percent of his match fee for using obscene language.

Also, a knock of 29 runs from 16 balls in yesterday's match, but he has been dismal throughout the season. The 24-year-old has accumulated only 117 runs from nine age of 14.63 and a strike rate of 124.47. What punishment face for vaping? RR Riyan Parag has-

n't been handed any official punishment yet, but his actions are likely to be under review for breaches of IPL disciplinary rules and national law. The incident becomes severe due to the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019, which prohibits the use of E-cigarettes in India. Notably, similar disciplinary issues

have resulted in fines earlier this season. For example, Abhishek Sharma was penalised with 25 percent of his match fee for using obscene language. Also, R manager Romi Bhinder was penalised with INR 1 Lakh for breaching protocol by using a mobile phone in the dugout.

Stock markets decline in early trade



The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday released a discussion paper that sets out four options for introducing extra layers of safeguards in digital transactions, which include a lagged credit for authorised push payments above Rs 10,000 in order to check mounting frauds which crossed the Rs 22,930 crore mark in 2025. The other three options include additional authentication by a trusted person for high-value digital transactions by senior citizens, only accounts with satisfactory additional review to receive large credits, and customer-induced controls. According to the first option, banks would be required to hold account-to-account transfers above Rs 10,000 for one hour at the payer's end before executing them. During this period, customers would retain the option to cancel the transaction. If a transaction appears suspicious, the bank would be required to seek reconfirmation from the payer before proceeding. Merchant payments, e-mandates, NACH transactions, and cheques would be exempt. Customers could also whitelist specific payees to bypass the delay. Transactions above Rs 10,000 account for approximately 98.5 per cent of total fraud value while making up around 45 per cent of reported fraud cases by volume, which justifies the threshold as a targeted safeguard. The RBI paper points out that most digital frauds today do not involve a technical breach of systems. Instead, fraudsters use social engineering, impersonation, and coercion to pressure victims into transferring money themselves, a category known as Authorised Push Payment or APP fraud. Once funds move through near-instant channels like UPI or IMPS,

recovery becomes extremely difficult. "Fraudsters typically rely on creating urgency and maintaining continuous psychological pressure on the victim to prevent deliberation. Introducing lag at the payer's end breaks the fraudster's psychological control," the paper observes. The other proposals would require citizens aged 70 and above and persons with disabilities to nominate a "trusted person" whose authentication would be mandatory for transfers above Rs 50,000. Such cases cover nearly 92 per cent of the fraud value reported to NCRP. The second proposal would cap annual aggregate credits into individual and small business accounts at Rs 25 lakh. Amounts beyond after the account holder satisfies the bank about the transaction's legitimacy. If no justification is provided within 30 days, the funds will be returned to the sender. The fourth proposal involves a "kill switch" that would allow customers to instantly disable all digital payment channels from their account in one step, a feature already operational. The RBI said these options are aimed at the broad objectives of inducing a lag in select categories of digital payments (by way of process-level changes or in terms of additional due diligence thereby buying time for both customers and PSOs to be executed or proceeds thereof from being moved quickly, and empowering payments and could confuse users. It also flagged that fraudsters may simply pressure victims into whitelisting transactions, reducing the mechanism's effectiveness. Stakeholders have until May 8 to submit comments through RBI's Connect 2 Regulate portal. Central bank said it will consider draft guidelines after reviewing feedback.

Why Olympic Gold Medalist Manu Bhaker's Praise For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Triggered Social Media Backlash?

The recent comment made by Manu Bhaker about a young cricketer, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, has triggered a controversy on social media. The issue has grabbed the limelight with many questioning the relevance of the query asked by the reporter to her. Bhaker, who has a unique feat of winning two medals in the Olympics, was speaking on the sidelines of an event where she was asked about the future of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's rapid emergence in cricket. She came up with an encouraging response for the Indian cricketer, saying, "With the right mentorship, Vaibhav can be the next big star of Indian cricket." "I would say that if the mentorship is good, the company around him is good, and the people around are good, then age is just a number.

And there is no age for talent," she said. "Great things happen at 60, they happen at six. So if the people around him mentor him well and guide him properly, then I am sure he will be the next big star."

Sooryavanshi has been phenomenal in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, showcasing fearless batting at a young age. He has already smashed three 15-ball fifties in the season.

Wh Manu Bhaker's praise has triggered a controversy? The question was asked to Bhaker didn't go down well with many, and they posted their reactions on social media. Senior sports commentator Joy Bhattacharjya cooter. He highlighted



ed that the question was unfair on the achieveManitised the media for asking such a quMany social media users also shared similar views on the issue. Some even claimed that asking Bhaker about a cricketer takes focus away from her

own sport. Others mentioned that such questions show India's strong obsession with cricket. Some of the comers to an Olympic shooter. He highlighted that the question was unfair on the shooter's achievements and her

sport. Many social media users also shared similar views on the issue. Some even claimed that asking Bhaker about a cricketer takes focus away from her own sport. Others mentioned that such questions show India's strong

obsession with cricket. Some of the comments also urged the media to ask Bhaker about her own journey of winning Olympic medals and her journey at the global stage, instead of asking her questions about cricket.

Agentic AI begins replacing corporate departments: Xebia CEO



Artificial intelligence systems capable of planning and executing complex tasks are beginning to replace entire corporate departments, as companies move beyond experimentation and deploy "agentic AI" in real operations, Anand Sahay, global CEO at Xebia, told TNIE. Unlike earlier AI tools that mainly helped employees work faster, agentic systems can autonomously perform complex operational tasks that previously required teams of people. Sahay cited the example of a large global apparel retailer that has automated a major part of its supply-chain ordering process. The company sources clothing components such as fabric, buttons and zippers from multiple countries, including China, India and Bangladesh, and must decide which factories to use, how much to order, and whether suppliers meet regulatory rules. Previously, teams of employees handled these decisions by analysing supplier reliability, compliance restrictions and delivery timelines. That function has now been largely automated. "Our AI is able to make a better determination and calculation of which factory is the best

for this, how much from where, equaling the total quantity you need," he said. Human involvement has been reduced to minimal oversight. "You can imagine its departments, a very small number of people who are now just brought as a human in the loop to say this is what is getting ordered, any questions, one button." The impact on staffing has been significant. "So productivity is It's two months with 100 people, now similar gains because they apply AI to existing processes instead of redesigning them." Tech has become much simpler. Tech is very clear now," he said. "It is the businesses which have to rethink how they want to run their business." As a result, many companies remain stuck in proof-of-concept projects rather than large-scale deployment. Financial services firms are among the sectors moving quickly, particularly insurance companies, which he said are using AI to automate processes that were previously manual. But the technology also raises regulatory and legal risks. Banks in particular are concerned that automated lending decisions could introduce unintended bias.

Jannik Sinner beats Tomas Machac to reach Monte Carlo quarterfinals



World No.2 Jannik Sinner battled past Tomas Machac in a three-set contest to reach the quarterfi-

nals of the Monte-Carlo Masters at Court Rainier III on Thursday. The second seed secured a 6-1, 6-

7(3), 6-3 victory in just over two hours, though not without facing a strong challenge from the Czech player. Sinner began the match dominantly, taking the opening set 6-1 with controlled and aggressive play. However, the momentum shifted in the second set, where he struggled with consistency and fell behind 2-5. Despite recovering to push

the set into a tie-break, Sinner lost it 3-7 as Machac forced a decider. Reflecting on the match, Sinner admitted it was not his best performance. "I think I can be happy. Not every day is the same. I was struggling a little bit. I was a bit tired. The most important thing today was to try and get through somehow," he said on the court after winning. In the final set, Sinner raised his level, showing better control and precision

to close out the match 6-3 and book his place in the last eight. He emphasised the importance of finding ways to win even when not at his best. "In the second set, I struggled a bit to find the right energy, but this can happen. I tried to push myself through, which I have done. Even when you don't feel your best, you try to find ways," Sinner said. Sinner struck five aces and won 72 per cent of points on his first serve. He also converted seven of 11

break points, while Machac managed two out of four. Overall, Sinner won 92 points compared to Machac's 72. Sinner added that recovery will be key ahead of his next match. "The main priority is to recover. I hope that I can be ready and play great tennis tomorrow," he said. With this win, Sinner moves into the quarterfinals, where he will face Felix Auger-Aliassime as he continues his strong run in the tournament.

Some Stories Ask For Patience': Yash's Toxic Postponed Again For Global Release Plans



Fans have to wait a little longer for Yash's much-awaited film *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-ups*. The film, which was scheduled to hit theatres on June 4, has now been postponed once again. KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, the makers of the film, on Wednesday announced that the release of *Toxic* had been rescheduled and will now arrive in theatres worldwide on a new date to be announced soon. The decision follows the film's presentation at CinemaCon, where it received a strong and encouraging response from global distributors and industry stakeholders. Sources close to the unit claimed that the reception had opened up opportunities for a significantly wider international release, prompting the team to revisit and

realign its release strategy. In a statement, actor Yash, who plays the lead in the film, said, "There are films we make, and then there are films that remind us why we fell in love with cinema. *Toxic* has been one such journey. Presenting our film at CinemaCon and witnessing the overwhelming global response reaffirmed what we have always believed that this film deserves to reach its fullest potential worldwide." The makers confirmed that while the film is complete, they are currently working on aligning global distribution and partnerships. "While we will not be releasing on June 4 as announced earlier, we will be releasing at a later, globally aligned date," the statement read, adding, "Toxic will come to theatres across the world soon."

This is not the first time the film's release has been pushed. Earlier, *Toxic* was slated for a March 19 release but had to be postponed to June 4, 2026. At that time, the makers cited rising tensions in the Middle East as the reason behind the delay. Reflecting on CinemaCon and witnessing the overwhelming response reaffirmed what we have always believed that this film deserves to reach its fullest potential worldwide. "The makers confirmed that while the film is complete, they are currently working on aligning global distribution and partnerships. "While we will not be releasing on June 4 as announced earlier, we will be releasing at a

later, globally aligned date," the statement read, adding, "Toxic will come to theatres across the world soon." In the current delay, Yash said he sees this as a responsibility. "At a time when Indian cinema is stepping onto the global stage, each of us has a responsibility to raise the bar," he shared. He also thanked fans for their continued support, adding, "Some stories ask for patience. Some journeys demand it." *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-ups* features Yash in the lead role, along with Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth, and Tara Sutaria. Directed by Geetu Mohandas and co-written by Yash, the film has been shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in multiple Indian languages.

From Atlee To Sandeep Reddy Vanga: South Directors Who Took Over Bollywood With Blockbuster Hits



South Indian filmmakers have played a crucial role in reshaping Bollywood over the years. By bringing fresh storytelling styles, technical scale and mass appeal, many directors from the South have successfully bridged regional cinema with Hindi films. Filmmakers like Mani Ratnam, Atlee, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, A. R. Murugadoss, Ram Gopal Varma and Priyadarshan have all delivered notable Hindi hits, leaving a lasting impact on Bollywood's commercial and creative landscape. Mani Ratnam Few filmmakers command the respect that Mani Ratnam enjoys across industries. Known for his layered narratives and strong characters, the director made a successful

crossover into Hindi cinema with films that blended artistic depth with mainstream appeal. His film *Dil Se* (1998), starring Shah Rukh Khan and Manisha Koirala, offered a poetic love story set against a political backdrop. He followed it with *Yuva* (2004), a multi-narrative drama that explored youth and politics, and *Guru* (2007), loosely inspired by business tycoon Dhirubhai Ambani. These films showcased Ratnam's ability to bring nuance to Bollywood storytelling. Even though *Raavan* failed at the box office, his influence on Hindi cinema remains strong, particularly in terms of visual storytelling and character-driven narratives. Atlee, a relatively recent entrant into

Bollywood, Atlee quickly made his mark with *Jawan* (2023), starring Shah Rukh Khan. Known for his massy storytelling and high-energy filmmaking, Atlee blended social commentary with commercial elements in the film. *Jawan* went on to become one of the biggest hits of Indian cinema, proving that South Indian sensibilities could seamlessly merge with Bollywood's scale. The massive blockbuster also earned Shah Rukh Khan his first National Award. Before his Hindi debut, Atlee had already delivered major Tamil hits like *Theri*, *Mersal* and *Bigil*. His success in Bollywood demonstrated the growing acceptance of larger-than-life narratives and emotion-

ally charged mass entertainers. Sandeep Reddy Vanga carved his space in Bollywood with intense and polarising storytelling. After gaining attention with his Telugu film *Arjun Reddy*, he directed its Hindi remake *Kabir Singh* (2019), starring Shahid Kapoor. Despite controversy over its themes, the film turned out to be a huge box-office success. Vanga strengthened his position further with *Animal* (2023), starring Ranbir Kapoor. His films often feature flawed protagonists and raw emotional arcs, making them stand out from conventional Bollywood narratives. His bold style has sparked debate, but there is no denying his strong commercial pull.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu shares her "power morning" routine for a healthier start to the day

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has opened up about the importance of starting the day right, revealing a simple yet effective "power morning" routine that she says has brought about a significant transformation in her life. Samantha took to Instagram, where she shared a video, where she emphasised that mornings set the tone for the rest of the day and that even issues like stubborn belly fat, skin concerns, or waking up feeling puffy could be linked to how one begins the day. The actress said: "Today let's talk about how you start your day. I've always believed that if you get your morning right, it just sets the tone for everything that follows. I have tried many many different morning routines and have finally arrived at a simple formula that works for me and I call this my power morning." "If you've been doing everything right and the belly fat does not go and the skin is acting up, maybe you wake up puffy, maybe it's time to look at your morning routine."



Highlighting the role of stress, Samantha explained that cortisol levels are naturally high upon waking, and immediately reaching for phones, emails, or news can amplify that stress. "So when you wake up, your stress hormone is naturally high, this is normal but what you do next is really important and you end up reaching for your phone, news, work, emails, you double that stress." According to her, this early spike can lead to poor focus and an increased craving for instant gratification throughout the day. Sharing her routine, the actress suggested avoiding phone usage for the first hour after waking, followed by a few minutes of deep, intentional breathing to calm the nervous system.

"I want to share with you some simple clear actions that have helped me tremendously. Try it for 21 days and see if it calms your nervous system and helps you reduce inflammation. Rule number one, no phone for the first hour. Two, five minutes of deep intentional breathing in "Slow breathing activates your vagus nerve telling your brain you're safe and a safe brain burns fat and repairs better than a stressed one." She also recommended getting early sunlight exposure, consuming a simple morning elixir, and having a balanced breakfast to maintain stable blood sugar levels. Get sunlight on your face within 10 minutes of waking. Have this easy but supthe day.

Move your body before 11 a.m. Her effective morning elixir. Have a balanced breakfast that keeps your blood sugar stable so you don't reach out for those sugary snacks for the rest of the day. Move your body before 11 a.m. Have your coffee or tea after breakfast. Samantha also advised setting a clear intention for the day by deciding on a task to accomplish, noting that writing it down can help the mind stay focused and avoid distractions. "And one last thing, decide what you will conquer that day. Even if it's something small, think about it with intention. Write it down because if your brain is working hard for that dopamine hit, it's not looking to chase instant gratification through the

day." The actress concluded the video by saying that these are her "eight steps" that have helped her create a power morning routine. "I'm sharing this with you if any of you feel stuck or looking for a reset." In the caption section, she encouraged her followers to try it consistently for 21 days and push through initial resistance, adding that doing so can help people realise how much control they have over shaping their own lives. She wrote: "It took me years to build a routine I could actually stick to. And it's changed my life in ways I can't even fully explain. Give it 21 days. Push through the resistance. And you will realise how much of your life is actually yours to shape."

Is Aditya Dhar Planning His Next Big Film With Ranveer

Filmmaker Aditya Dhar, after delivering blockbuster movies like *URI: The Surgical Strike* and *Dhurandhar*, is already moving ahead with his next big project. The director, known for creating high-energy, patriotic, and larger-than-life stories, has reportedly locked in a fresh idea and has begun developing it into a full film. According to a report by a newswire, Aditya Dhar is planning to take his next film on floors by March 2027. While the project is still in the early stages, work is progressing actively. A source close to the newswire revealed that the filmmaker is quite excited about the concept and is currently focused on shaping the story into a full script before moving ahead with production. What further adds interest to the project is the involvement of Ranveer Singh in it. Reportedly, he has emerged as the frontrunner for the role of the male lead in the movie. An accomplished



and versatile actor, Ranveer is said to be just the right choice for the part envisioned by Dhar. Nonetheless, it must be clarified here that talks are still on at the moment, and no official agreement has been signed yet. If things fall into place, this collaboration between Aditya Dhar and Ranveer Singh could turn out to be one of the most exciting pairings in the coming years. Both are known

for pushing boundaries in their work, and a film backed by Dhar's storytelling and Ranveer's screen presence is expected to create strong buzz. The yet-to-be-titled project is expected to be mounted on a grand scale, much like Dhar's previous films. The filmmaker has shown expected to create strong interest in telling high-concept stories with strong emotional and visual impact, and

this new film is likely to follow the same path. However, apart from all the above-mentioned, Dhar has also tasted success in his late-expected to create strong he *Revenge*, where the film is doing wonders at the box office and has already been reported to cross the mark of Rs 1800 crores globally, thereby becoming one of the biggest hits in recent times.