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Shivadhar Reddy Appointed Telangana State Security Advisor



Hyderabad: The State government has appointed Director-General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy, on superannuation, as the State Security Advisor (SSA), to advise the government on the issues concerning police, law and order, internal security, crime control, narcotics control and road safety for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge. Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao issued an order to this effect. Shivadhar Reddy shall have the status and rank of Chief Secretary to Government. He shall be paid a fixed remuneration of Rs.2.25 lakh per month and is entitled to office accommodation.

Ensure Uninterrupted Power Supply in Summer: Bhatti

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said that the government's primary objective is to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the public without causing any inconvenience, despite the rising electricity demand due to intense summer heat in the state. In view of the increasing power demand across the country, the Deputy Chief Minister conducted a review meeting with senior officials of the Energy department at Praja Bhavan on the state's power supply situation. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025



Officials informed the minister that along with soaring temperatures, the usage of air conditioners and coolers in homes and offices has increased significantly. This, combined with agricultural requirements, has put additional pressure on the power grid. Despite the nationwide stress on the electricity market, the Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to procure additional power through power exchanges to ensure there is no shortage for the state's needs. Also Read - L&T Divests 100% Stake in Hyderabad Metro Rail He emphasized that there should be no interruption in power supply to hospitals, drinking water supply schemes, and other essential services, and called for continuous monitoring. He also instructed that all available power generation units in the state be utilized to their full capacity and that hydropower generation be managed efficiently.

With temperatures expected to rise further in the coming days, he advised all power utilities to work in coordination and prepare advance plans. Officials assured the minister that the state's power system remains stable and that adequate arrangements are in place to meet any challenges. The Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to closely monitor the situation and take all necessary steps to ensure a reliable and quality power supply to all categories of consumers. Reiterating that providing quality power is the government's top priority, he also instructed field-level staff to remain constantly alert.

K Kavitha Secures TRS Party Name Approval from Election Commission



Hyderabad: The Central Election Commission has officially approved the name TRS (Telanga Na Rakshana Sena) for a new political party floated by K. Kavitha. The approval has been formally communicated, confirming the party's registration under the proposed name. Kavitha had earlier announced the party name on April 25 during a meeting held at Advaya Convention in Medchal, near Hyderabad. At the event, she introduced the party name on the proposed name on the proposed name. Kavitha had earlier announced the party name on April 25 during a meeting held at Advaya Convention in Medchal, near Hyderabad. At the event, she introduced the party name on the proposed name on the proposed name.

AP Cabinet Clears Key Decisions on Jobs, Infrastructure and Investments

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has taken several key decisions focusing on employment, infrastructure, agriculture, urban development, and investments. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat, lasted nearly three-and-a-half hours and approved more than 20 agenda items. Among the major decisions, the Cabinet gave the green signal for revising lease renewal and rent policies for municipal assets. It also approved proposed legislative amendments to implement uniform mutation charges



across urban local bodies in the state. Also Read - AP Dwera Groups Lead Others In Country With Rs 15,917 cr Savings In administrative reforms, the Cabinet cleared the proposal to upgrade the Office Manager post to Section Officer in the Advocates-on-Record office at AP Bhavan in New Delhi. The government sanctioned administrative approval of ₹354 crore for the construction works of the greenfield port project at Ramayapatnam. Additionally, it approved a government guarantee to

enable AP Markfed to secure a loan of ₹1,800 crore. Also Read - Infosys To Set Up 7K-seater Office On 20-acre Campus In Vizag For Amaravati, the Cabinet granted administrative sanction of ₹1,208 crore for multiple development works. It also approved the promotion of 385 constables from the 2000 batch of the Special Protection Force to Head Constables. Further, the Cabinet agreed to the creation of 21 new posts in the High Court and district courts, strengthening the judicial infrastructure in the state.

AP SSC Results 2026 Out



DIRECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS ANDHRA PRADESH
Popularly Known as SSC Board

SSC Results-2026

The SSC Public Examinations March 2026 Andhra Pradesh results have been officially released, with Nara Lokesh announcing a significant improvement in overall performance. The pass percentage has risen to 85.25%, up from 81.14% last year. Girls outperformed boys with a pass rate of 87.90% compared to 82.68%, while government-managed schools also showed notable progress, improving to 78.39% from 72.8%. Also Read - AP Cabinet Clears Key Decisions on Jobs, Infrastructure and Investments Students can access their results through the official portal, DigiLocker, LEAP mobile application, and the Mana Mitra WhatsApp service, as well as via their respective school headmaster logins. The results for AP Open School SSC and Intermediate examinations have also been released. Highlighting the achievement, Lokesh said the steady improvement in SSC outcomes gives him immense satisfaction, even as Andhra Pradesh continues to attract major investments and development projects. He congratulated successful students and encouraged those who did not pass to remain determined and come back stronger with support from teachers and families.

Tamil Nadu Political Leaders Extend May Day Greetings

Chennai : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palani swami and other political leaders extended their May Day greetings, emphasising the pivotal role the labourers play in the state's progress. In his message on Thursday, Stalin said, "Labour is a driving force that serves as a fundamental factor not only for the growth of the human race but also for its political and social evolution." Also Read - Tamil Nadu Exit Polls: Will Thalopathy Vijay Be A King or Kin gmaker? The DMK chief recalled that a welfare board was constituted to safeguard the interests of workers, and a new scheme was introduced to provide subsidies for the purchase of new e-scooters, with an aim of enhancing the livelihoods of workers registered with the board. Stalin assured that the DMK will



forever stand as a truly ally to the working class. In his greeting message, Palani swami said, "Only hard work can elevate us and it would give satisfaction." Also Read - Investment Demand Drives Gold Purchase former chief minister and late JayaK leader Anbumani Ramadoss said the world continues to advance, and organisations continue to expand. "Yet, the plight of the workers, who are the very architects of this growth, remains unchanged. They continue to be exploited. We will pledge on this day to build a bright future for the working class," he added. Also Read - Approve Maternity Leave For

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Italian Counterpart Guido Crosetto Hold Wide Ranging Talks

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday met with his Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto and held extensive talks on defence cooperation and the current situation in West Asia. Speaking about his meeting, Rajnath Singh posted, "Happy to have welcomed my Italian counterpart Mr Guido Crosetto and held extensive talks with him in Delhi today. We discussed a wide range of regional and global issues including the current situation in West Asia. We also discussed the avenues to further develop mutually beneficial defence industrial cooperation under India's Atmanirbhar Bharat programme and Italy's defence cooperation initiative. A Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan (MCP) 2026-27 was also exchanged regarding military engagements between the Armed forces of both countries." Also Read - UAE Exit From OPEC May Reshape Crude



Prices, Supply Dynamics Earlier, the Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto laid a wreath at the National War Memorial of Honour. Italian Defence Minister Crosetto's existing cooperation and explore new areas of collaboration particularly under the industrial partnership domain. The signing of India-EU Defence & Strategic Partnership in January 2026 signals increasing strategic convergence and has provided further impetus to defence industrial cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The defence relationship between India and Italy has expanded to dialogue, service-to-service interactions, training, export of defence equipment, sharing information, port calls, naval exercises, maritime security, etc. An agreement on Defence Cooperation was signed after the Defence Minister travelled to Italy in 2023 to have bilateral talks with his counterpart Crosetto. Earlier this year, India and the European Union signed a landmark Security and Defence Partnership, marking the first overarching defence and security framework between the two sides, as leaders from both blocs agreed to significantly deepen cooperation across strategic, regional and global security domains.

High-rises transform Hyderabad's Old City skyline as flat demand surges

Hyderabad: High-rises are fast dotting the skyline in the older parts of the city. Thanks to the growing preference for flats from middle-class groups, the apartment builders and real estate developers, seeing it as an opportunity to capitalise on the need, are raising tall buildings.

In the last few years, while the real estate activity paused elsewhere in the city, in the southern areas, primarily the older parts of the city, tall concrete structures came up.

Areas falling alongside the inner ring road, such as Attapur, Rajendranagar, Chintalmet, Aramgarh, Bandlaguda, and Chandrayangutta, to its credit, have many big apartment buildings where a 2BHK flat of 1,000 to 1,200 sqft area demands a price of Rs 50 lakh to Rs 60 lakh.

In localities such as Falaknuma, Shah Ali Banda, Hafiz Babanagar, Khilwat, Bahadurpura, Edi Bazaar, Moghalpura, Hussainialam, the prices of flats are a bit less owing to congested roads and chaotic layouts. In the core city areas of Bazaar Guard, Aghapura, Mallepally,



Asifnagar, Malakpet, the prices are on par with the properties in the prime areas such as Mehdiapatnam, Masab Tank. "A 2 BHK on 1,200 sqft is available for a price anywhere between Rs 60 lakh and Rs 70 lakh," said MASifnagar, Malakpet, the prices are on par with the properties in the prime areas such as Mehdiapatnam, Masab Tank. "A 2 BHK on 1,200 sqft is available for a price anywhere between Rs 60 lakh and Rs 70 lakh," said Mohd Aslam, a real estate developer. "If you are renting out a 2 BHK flat,

a monthly rent between Rs 13,000 to Rs 15,000 is guaranteed in areas of Moghalpura, Asifnagar, Malakpet, the prices are on par with the properties in the prime areas such as Mehdiapatnam, Masab Tank. "A 2 BHK on 1,200 sqft is available for a price anywhere between Rs 60 lakh and Rs 70 lakh," said Mohd Aslam, a real estate developer. "If you are renting out a 2 BHK flat,

a monthly rent between Rs 13,000 to Rs 15,000 is guaranteed in areas of Moghalpura, Chandrayangutta, Falaknuma, while the rent is a bit higher in Asifnagar, Mallepally. A 3 BHK flat ensures a rent of around Rs 18,000 to Rs 22,000 in the Old City, excluding maintenance charges and power bills," informed Mohd Riyaz, who runs a rental agency. One of the reasons for people to prefer flats over independent houses is the rise in land values. "A square yard of land at least a kilometre away from the inner ring road commands a

Telangana HC Grants Bail in Hyderabad Toddy Adulteration Case

Hyderabad

: Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday held a comprehensive review meeting with officials of the Agriculture Department, Seed Development Corporation, and representatives of seed companies at the Secretariat here. As part of preparations for the Kharif 2026 season, the Minister reviewed seed availability crop-wise and company-wise. He directed officials to ensure that only high-quality, high-yielding seeds are made available to farmers. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud

Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The Minister emphasized strict action against spurious seeds and instructed officials to coordinate with the police department to curb their production, transportation, and sale. He called for a zero-tolerance policy in dealing with substandard seeds. For Kharif 2026, cultivation is expected in approximately 134.66 lakh acres, requiring an estimated 19.42 lakh quintals of seeds. Currently, 38.21 lakh quintals of seeds are available in the state, nearly double the requirement. Also Read - L&T Divests 100% Stake in Hyderabad Metro Rail In cotton cultivation, with a target of around 52 lakh acres, officials informed that against a requirement of 104 lakh packets, 212.11



lakh packets are available. The Minister stated that the higher availability compared to last year would boost farmer confidence. Special focus was laid on hybrid seed availability. The Minister directed companies to prioritize supply based on farmers' demand and ensure strict quality monitoring through seed testing laboratories. Also Read - Ensure Uninterrupted Power Supply in Summer: Bhatti He warned of stringent legal action against the production and sale of substandard seeds, recalling that licenses were cancelled in the past for violations. Companies were instructed to submit monthly stock details to the government and bear losses arising from self-certified seeds. The Minister also stressed that paddy varieties should be selected based on inputs from farmers, millers, and consumers,

aligning with international export standards. He directed companies to make seeds available to farmers from May 15. Also Read - Gundala Forest Beat Officer in ACB Net To curb illegal seed activities, he ordered the officials of special task force teams from district to mandal levels. Strict vigilance was mandated at state borders to prevent the entry of illegal HT cotton seeds and the movement of loose cotton seeds. Highlighting the need for transparency, the Minister called for strengthening the licensing system. He directed that GOT-failed cotton seeds be declared unfit for use and prevented from reaching farmers. On co-marketing practices, he noted irregularities where seed identity and branding lack clarity. He stated that the government would not tolerate misuse of legal loopholes to mislead

farmers and instructed officials to frame clear regulations, including examining the possibility of banning co-marketing if necessary. Officials also informed that special measures are being taken to promote green manure seeds to improve soil fertility. For Kharif 2026, 1.95 lakh quintals are planned for distribution at an estimated cost of Rs.134 crore. The Minister reiterated that all seeds must be made available to farmers well before the sowing season, with strict adherence to quality standards and continuous awareness programs for farmers. He affirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the agriculture sector, ensuring quality seed supply, and eliminating fake seeds from the system.

Daikin Plans Two R&D Centres

Daikin Airconditioning India is expanding its footprint with two new R&D centres—one at Sri City in Andhra Pradesh and another in the Delhi-NCR region—backed by an investment of ₹1,000 crore. The company is scaling up its existing Sri City facility from 100 acres to 200 acres, said Sanjay Goyal, senior vice president.

Daikin Airconditioning India. "We are optimistic about achieving 20 per cent growth in the current financial year, with South India continuing to be a strong market, contributing over 25 per cent to our overall revenue," he said. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Speaking at the silver jubilee celebrations of Hyderabad-based Sri Comfort Air Products and Services, South India's largest authorised dealer partner of Daikin, Goyal added,



"Over the years, we have achieved several key milestones together. We are confident of reaching a combined milestone of ₹500 crore in turnover in the near future." Founded in 2001, Sri Comfort has built a strong presence across South India, executing large-scale HVAC projects for manufacturing plants, hospitals, government institutions, educational campuses, and premium residential developments. As part of

its celebrations, the company unveiled an experience centre in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Also Read - Telangana Govt. Appoints VHR as BC Welfare Advisor Sri Comfort currently operates in Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Tirupati, Khammam, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Rajahmundry. It plans to expand into Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Anantapur, Madurai,

and Mangalore, said CEO B. Kalyanaraman. "We are currently a ₹110 crore company, with an immediate goal of scaling up to ₹350 crore. We aim to strengthen our workforce, expanding our employee base from 250 to 1,000," he said at the event last week. Also Read - Telangana Police among Most Tech-Savvy, Efficient: B Shivadhar Reddy Kanwaljeet Jawa, CMD of Daikin Airconditioning India, said the company achieved a turnover of ₹12,000 crore last fiscal and is on track to surpass ₹20,000 crore by 2030. Others present at the event included P. Vasundara, partner, Sri Comfort; N. Kutumba Rao, regional vice president (south), Daikin Airconditioning India; and K. Ganesh Rao, GM - branch operations head, Daikin Airconditioning India.

SRM University-AP Launches AI-Integrated PG Courses

Vijayawada: SRM University-AP, Amaravati, has launched AI-integrated M.Sc. Economics and M.Sc. Psychology programmes, marking the first such postgraduate courses introduced by the institution. SRMU-AP vice-chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar said the Easwari School of Liberal Arts (ESLA) had redesigned the programmes for the AI era with emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, research, hands-on training and technology-based applications. Also Read - AP SSC Results 2026 Out He said scholarships and fee concessions of up to 100 per cent would be offered to eligible students. Dr Boddu Srujana said the M.Sc. Economics pro-



gramme combines economic theory with AI, data science and computational methods, offering specialisations in Finance and Data Science or Development and Policy. Dr Ayesha Parveen Haroon said the

Psychology programme focuses on AI-based applications in mental health, organisational and educational sectors. Flexible one-year and two-year tracks would be available for graduates from diverse aca-

demic streams, including engineering. Dean Prof. Vishupad said AI had been deeply embedded into the curriculum rather than being treated as an additional subject. He termed the launch a milestone for ESLA.

Registration Cost May Increase by May 1 Week

Hyderabad: The state government has decided to revise the market value of land, residential and commercial buildings — the official government value used for property registrations — with the enhanced rates, which are likely to come into force from the first week of May. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on revenue mobilisation held at the Secretariat on Friday. This marks the first revision of land market values since the Congress government assumed office in December 2023, while the previous revision was carried out during the BRS regime in 2021. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 While the quantum of the hike is yet to be officially announced, it is learnt that the government has decided to slightly increase the market value of apart-



ments while marginally reducing the value of commercial buildings. Official sources indicated that the market value of agricultural land will be increased by two to three times, depending on location. In many cases, land currently valued at Rs 6 lakh per acre could rise to between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 18 lakh. Also Read - Telangana HC Grants Bail in Hyderabad Toddy Adulteration Case In the core urban fringe areas, where government values are significantly lower than open market

rates — sometimes ₹20 lakh per acre in official records compared to Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore in the open market — the government is considering hikes of over 300 per cent to bridge the disparity. Special focus is being placed on areas abutting the Outer Ring Road (ORR), where land values are also expected to rise by up to three times due to increasing demand driven by projects such as the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and the proposed Bharat Future City. Open plots and residen-

tial layouts in these regions are likely to see a two- to three-fold increase. Also Read - Telangana Delegation Attends Khelo India Chintan Shivir in Srinagar Apartment prices may see a modest revision, with rates expected to rise from around Rs 2,200 per sq ft to about Rs 2,800 per sq ft. Officials believe that although registration costs may increase, the move will reduce black money transactions and improve transparency. In contrast, the government is considering a slight reduction in commercial property values in certain areas where current rates are higher than prevailing market prices. Values may be brought down from Rs 7,000 per sq ft to Rs 6,500 per sq. ft to encourage new companies and industries to invest in the state, thereby boosting employment opportunities.

Power Employees Seek Retirement Age Extension To 62

Vijayawada: Members of the state government electricity employees forum on Wednesday submitted a representation to special chief secretary (energy department) K. Vijayanand, urging the government to extend the retirement age of electricity department employees from 60 to 62 years on par with other state government staff. Led by forum state president G. Ramakrishnu, the delegation met the senior official at



Amaravati and sought inclusion of Schedule 9 and 10 employees of the power sector in the enhanced retirement age

policy. Also Read - AP SSC Results 2026 Out The forum recalled that when the state government raised the retire-

ment age from 58 to 60 years in 2017, the benefit had been extended to both government employees and Schedule 9 and 10 staff, including those in the electricity sector. They said power sector employees play a crucial role in the state's development and urged the government to ensure equal treatment by extending the two-year service benefit to electricity employees.

Telangana R&B Dept races to complete delayed IDOC projects by June

Hyderabad: After having delayed the construction of Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) works at Karimnagar, Warangal, Adilabad, Narayanpet and Mulugu districts, the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department is now racing against time to complete the works by June. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government came up with the idea of constructing IDOC in all the districts. All the department offices were housed at the IDOCs. They were conceptualized to facilitate people meeting officials comfortably and make things convenient for officials to expedite work and clear files fast. Accordingly, the construction of IDOCs in 30 districts was proposed with an outlay of Rs.1581.62 crore. The first IDOC was inaugurated at



Siddipet in June 2021.

Interestingly, while construction of 25 IDOCs were completed, works in Karimnagar, Warangal, Adilabad, Narayanpet and Mulugu districts, have been delayed since the last

two and half years.

The R&B department had set a target to complete the works in 2025-26 but failed to achieve. In the current financial year, the department has laid plans to complete the works at

the earliest. "The works in Karimnagar, Warangal, Mulugu, Narayanpet IDOCs are in an advanced stage of completion. The idea is to IDOCs are in an advanced stage to make them ready for inauguration by

June," said an official from R&B department.

Another significant initiative taken up by the previous BRS government was construction of residence cum office for Legislators in the respective constituencies with an estimated cost of Rs139 crore. IDOCs are in an advanced

Out of the 119 units planned, construction of 100 units has been completed and works pertaining to four units were under progress, the official informed. While legislators in other constituencies continue to function from the residence cum offices constructed exclusively, those in Hyderabad do not have such a facility. Construction of 15 Legislators residence cum offices continues to get delayed as suitable sites are yet to be finalized.

Telangana Forest Department transfers dozen officials in reshuffle



Mancherial: In a

reshuffle of IFS officers, a dozen forest officers were transferred on administrative grounds. An order to this effect was issued by Telangana Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao on Wednesday evening. A 2004 batch IFS officer, S Ramesh, Chief Conservator of Forests and Additional Director at the Telangana Forest Academy was transferred and posted as Conservator of Forests, Research and Development Circle, Hyderabad. B Praveen, joint director of the academy, was transferred and posted as the dean of Forest College Research Institute, Mulugu. Shiv Aasheesh Singh, District Forest Officer (DFO) of Mancherial and his

counterpart from ifabad district, Neeraj Kumar Tebriwal were also transferred. The department ordered a major reshuffle, transferring multiple IFS officers across districts including Mancheri and Kumram Bheem Asifabad. The administrative move aims to streamline forest governance, with new postings assigned across Telangana's forest circles and divisions. Singh was replaced by Rahul Kishan Jadhav to streamline forest governance, with new postings assigned across Telangana's forest av, Ch Balamani was posted as DFO of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. Neeraj was posted as DFO of

Kamareddy, while Aasheesh was posted as DFO of Mahabubnagar. Other IFS officers who were transferred included Vikas Meena, Nizamabad DFO, Siddharth Vikram Singh, Khammam DFO, Ch Balamani, Rajanna Sircilla DFO. While Vikas was posted as DFO of Mulugu, Siddharth was posted as DFO, Nizamabad district. Anuj Agarwal, and S Satyanarayana were posted as DFOs of Khammam and Rajanna Sircilla districts, respectively. In the meantime, G Gyaneshwar, Assistant Conservator of Forests was transferred and was directed to report before Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana.

PM Modi has Every Intention of Delaying Caste Census: Congress

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday said one full year has passed since the government announced a caste census but the details of how this enumeration will be done are still awaited, as it alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has every intention of delaying the exercise. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said today exactly a year ago, the Modi government had announced that caste enumeration of the entire population will be included in the upcoming Census. Also Read - Great Nicobar project one of biggest scams : Rahul Gandhi "The recent chronology relating to this dramatic U turn by the Prime Minister is this: On July 21 2021, the Home Minister had answered a question in the Lok Sabha asked by a BJP MP Smt Raksha Nikhil Khadse (now a Minister herself) and said that the Government of India had decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-



wise population," Ramesh said on X. On September

21 2021, the Modi government filed an affidavit in

the Supreme Court stating that any directive by the court to enumerate caste-wise population would be tantamount to interfering with a policy decision already taken by the Modi government, he said. Also Read - Vijay Leads over Stalin as Preferred CM in Tamil Nadu: Survey On April 16, 2023, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to the PM demanding an up-to-date caste census as part of the regular census, Ramesh pointed out. "On April 28 2024, in a television interview to News18 Network, the prime minister attacked the Congress saying that its demand for a caste census was indicative of 'urban naxal' thought," he said. The prime minister owes the leadership of the Congress an apology for his accusation, Ramesh said, adding that more importantly, he owes the people of India an explanation of why he allowed his

mind to be contaminated by "urban naxal" thought when he announced a caste census on April 30, 2025. Also Read - Exit Poll 2026 Live Updates: Pollsters predict big BJP win in Bengal & Assam, DMK win in TN, UDF edge in Kerala "A full year has passed. The details of how this caste enumeration will be done are still awaited. There has been no dialogue with Opposition parties and state governments, let alone with experts in this subject," Ramesh said. "The President of the Indian National Congress had written to the PM again on May 5, 2025 on the issue of the caste census. That letter was not even acknowledged. The issues raised in that letter remain very valid even now," he said. In fact, they are more relevant after the recently-concluded special session of Parliament where it was evident that the PM has every intention of delaying the caste census, Ramesh claimed.

SC asks Centre to consider amending law on terminating pregnancy of rape survivors



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday took strong exception to a plea by AIIMS seeking to set aside its order allowing a 15-year-old girl to medically terminate her 30-week pregnancy, and asked the Centre to consider amending the law to permit rape survivors to terminate unwanted pregnancies even beyond 20 weeks. The top court said when there is pregnancy due to rape, there should not be a time limit. Law needs to be organic and in sync with evolving time, it stressed. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said this is a case of child rape and the survivor will have a lifelong scar and trauma if termination is not allowed. The top court said if the

mother does not have permanent disability then it should be carried out. It asked AIIMS to counsel parents of the survivor over the issue and said the decision has to be of the person concerned. "There are children for adoption. In this country we have lot of sympathies... There are deserted, abandoned children on the streets and even mafias on it. We have to look at them. This is an unwanted pregnancy of a 15-year-old child. "This is a curative petition. Unwanted pregnancy cannot be thrust on a person. Imagine she is a child. She should be studying now. But we want to make her a mother. Imagine the pain, the humiliation the child has suffered in this," the bench said. Additional Solicitor

General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for AIIMS, mentioned the curative plea, and said the termination of pregnancy is not possible. "It will be a live baby with severe deformities. Minor mother will have lifelong health issues and cannot reproduce. Minor mother will have lifelong health issues. This child can be given for adoption. It has been 30 weeks now. It is a viable life now," she said. The top court said the decision on termination has to be of choice of the survivor and her parents and AIIMS may help them take an informed decision. On April 24, a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan had allowed the girl to medically terminate her pregnancy of 30 weeks.

Bhubaneswar Crime Branch Nabs Man From Delhi In Rs 2.6 Crore Cyber Fraud Case

Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar crime branch arrested a person from the Janakpuri area of New Delhi for his alleged involvement in a cyber-crime fraud worth Rs 2.6 crore, police said on Saturday. Mobile, SIM card and other digital devices have been seized from the accused, identified as Binay Kumar Sharma (56), police added. Following his arrest, Sharma was produced before the Judicial Magistrate of the Second Class (JMFC-II) in Dwarka District Court for transit remand, which was granted.



The crime branch has informed that after he is brought to Bhubaneswar, Sharma will be produced in the Sub-Divisional

Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court. The arrest followed the complaint by a Bhubaneswar resident, who was duped by cyber

fraudsters with the lure of more profit in share trading. The cyber fraud gang contacted him on December 23, 2024, through WhatsApp with the promise of huge profits by investing money in the share market. Convinced, the complainant agreed to invest Rs 2.6 crore between December 23 and March 24, 2025. As per the instructions of the gang, he transferred money from his three different accounts in 54 transactions at different

stages, the cybercrime branch said in a statement to the press. When the victim wanted to withdraw the money from the trading account, the risk control team refused to release the money on various pretexts. Subsequently, he realised and filed a complaint with the crime branch. A case (No. 11/2025) was registered on March 28, 2025, in this regard, and an investigation was initiated. During the investigation, the police traced the involvement of Sharma in the crime. Efforts to arrest other accused involved in this case are being made.

PM Modi Has Every Intention of Delaying Caste Census: Congress



New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday said one full year has passed since the government announced a caste census, but the details of how this enumeration will be done are still awaited, as it alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has every intention of delaying the exercise. Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said today that exactly a year ago, the Modi government had announced that caste enumeration of the entire population would be included in the upcoming Census. "The recent chronology relating to this dramatic U-turn by the Prime Minister is this: On July

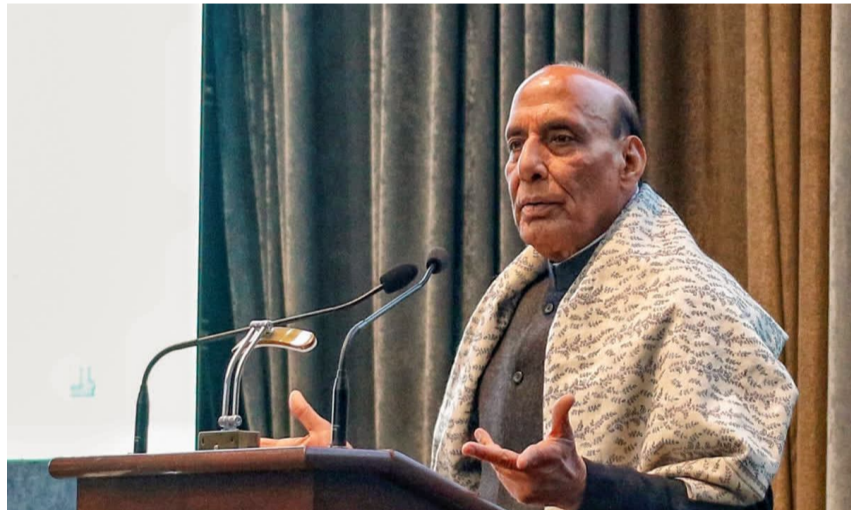
21 2021, the Home Minister had answered a question in the Lok Sabha asked by a BJP MP, Smt Raksha Nikhil Khadse (now a Minister herself) and said that the Government of India had decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise population," Ramesh said on X. On September 21 2021, the Modi government filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that any directive by the court to enumerate caste-wise population would be tantamount to interfering with a policy decision already taken by the Modi government, he said. On April 16, 2023, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to the PM

demanding an up-to-date caste census as part of the regular census, Ramesh pointed out. "On April 28 2024, in a television interview with News18 Network, the prime minister attacked the Congress, saying that its demand for a caste census was indicative of 'urban naxal' thought," he said. The prime minister owes the leadership of the Congress an apology for his accusation, Ramesh said, adding that would be tantamount to more importantly, he owes the people of India an explanation of why he allowed his mind to be contaminated by "urban naxal" thought when he announced a caste census on April 30, 2025. "A full year has passed.

The details of how this caste enumeration will be done are still awaited. There has been no dialogue with Opposition parties and state governments, let alone with experts in this subject," Ramesh said. "The President of the Indian National Congress had written to the PM again on May 5, 2025, on the issue of the caste census. That letter was not even acknowledged. The issues raised in that letter remain very valid even now," he said. In fact, they are more relevant after the recently-concluded special session of Parliament, where it was evident that the PM has every intention of delaying the caste , Ramesh claimed.

Rajnath Singh Terms Pakistan "Epicentre Of International Terrorism," Says Stopped Op Sindoor Voluntarily

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday affirmed that India voluntarily put a halt to Operation Sindoor on its own terms and was ready for a long war against Pakistan. Addressing the ANI National Security Summit 2.0, Rajnath Singh called Pakistan the epicentre of International Terrorism and called for uprooting the ideological and political roots of terrorism. Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Defence Minister lauded the "zero tolerance policy." He also noted that India did not fall for the "bluff" of a nuclear attack. Recalling Operation Sindoor, which came as India's response to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack last year, the Union Minister said, "It's been almost a year since Operation Sindoor, and our Operation Sindoor is also a symbol of this new world order. It was a turning point that sent a message to the entire world that India is no longer the one that adheres to the old way of thinking, where terrorist attacks occur on our soil, we merely issue diplomatic statements. And under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, our government has maintained that no terrorist activity will be tolerated under any circumstances." He added that the Indian armed forces have expanded their capabilities since then and are robust in times of sudden need. "During Operation Sindoor, we precisely targeted those who had attacked us. And I want to clarify



here again that we didn't stop this operation because our capabilities had diminished. We stopped it voluntarily, on our own terms, and if necessary, we were fully prepared for a long war. And we also had surge capacity, the ability to expand our capabilities in times of sudden need. Not only did we have it, and it's even more robust than before. Therefore, I don't think there's any need to say anything more," he said. Slamming Pakistan, Defence Minister Singh noted three dimensions of terrorism: operational, ideological, and political. He called for destroying the political patronage of terrorism in the neighbouring country. He said, "Terrorism is not just an anti-national act, it has multiple dimensions, and terrorism can only be dealt with if we tackle it in all its three dimensions--operational, ideological, and political. The true IP address of terrorism is its ideological and political roots, where it thrives. The ideological

nourishment and political patronage of terrorism is the nectar in Ravana's navel, which, after cutting off one head, regenerates another. I believe it is essential to dry up this navel that gives life to terrorism." "We have always seen that countries like Pakistan have consistently supported terrorism, and this is why both India and Pakistan gained independence at the same time, but today, India is known worldwide for its Information Technology, while Pakistan is considered the epicentre of other IT, i.e., International Terrorism. Our military industrial complex has proven that it is not only for the period of peace, but it is also prepared for rapid supply during wartime. We were even threatened with a nuclear attack, but we did not fall for that bluff," the Defence Minister added. As India mourned the 26 lives lost in the Pahalgam attack, what followed was decisive action by the Indian armed forces in the form

of Operation Sindoor. Indian armed forces struck terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). In Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, India successfully destroyed nine major terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), targeting Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen facilities. Indian armed forces killed over 100 terrorists in action. Pakistan responded with drone attacks and shelling, which led to a four-day conflict between the two neighbouring countries. India showed formidable defence and conducted retaliatory strikes, destroying Radar installations in Lahore and Radar facilities near Gurjanwala. Inflicted by heavy damage, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called the Indian DGMO and a ceasefire was agreed on May 10.

SC Asks Centre To Consider Amending Law On Terminating Pregnancy Of Rape Survivors

New Delhi:

The Supreme Court on Thursday took strong exception to a plea by AIIMS seeking to set aside its order allowing a 15-year-old girl to medically terminate her 30-week pregnancy, and asked the Centre to consider amending the law to permit rape survivors to terminate unwanted pregnancies even beyond 20 weeks. The top court said that when there is a pregnancy due to rape, there should not be a time limit. Law needs to be organic and in sync with evolving time, it stressed. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said this is a case of child rape and the survivor will have a lifelong scar and trauma if termination is not allowed. The top court said that if the mother does not have permanent disability, then it should be carried out. It asked AIIMS to counsel the survivor's parents on the issue and said the



decision has to be made by the person concerned. "There are children for adoption. In this country we have lot of sympathies... There are deserted, abandoned children on the streets and even mafias on it. We have to look at them. This is an unwanted pregnancy of a 15-year-old child. "This is a curative petition. Unwanted pregnancy cannot be thrust on a person. Imagine she is a child. She should be studying now. But we

want to make her a mother. Imagine the pain, the humiliation the child has suffered in this," the bench said. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for AIIMS, mentioned the curative plea, and said the termination of pregnancy is not possible. "It will be a live baby with severe deformities. Minor mother will have lifelong health issues and cannot reproduce. Minor mother will have

lifelong health issues. This child can be given for adoption. It has been 30 weeks now. It is a viable life now," she said. The top court said the decision on termination has to be choice of the survivor and her parents and AIIMS may help them take an informed decision. On April 24, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan had allowed the girl to medically terminate her pregnancy of 30 weeks.

'Rarest Of The Rare' Case: Man Sentenced To Death For Triple Murder In Chhattisgarh

Durg: An Additional Sessions Court in Chhattisgarh has awarded death sentence to a man after convicting him of killing his second wife, their infant daughter, and another person in Bhilai nearly six years ago. Pronouncing the verdict, judge Yashwant Kumar Sarathi described the crime as "rarest of the rare" and awarded death penalty to the accused, Ravi Sharma. According to sources, on the morning of January 21, 2020, police had recovered the half-burnt body of Manju Sharma at her house in Parijat



Colony in Talpuri, Bhilai. Her hands, feet and mouth were found tied with tape. The body of her one-and-a-half-month-old infant daughter was also found nearby. A third body was also found, initially presumed to be that of the husband Ravi; however, subsequent investigation

revealed that it belonged to a different person. During the course of the probe, it was revealed that accused Ravi Sharma was already married, and his first wife and children resided in Rourkela, Odisha. He had entered into a second marriage with Manju in Bhilai. Following the birth of their daughter, disputes arose between the couple, prompting Ravi to hatch a conspiracy. Ravi drugged a mentally

challenged man by mixing sleeping pills into his alcohol and then killed him in an attempt to fake his own death. Subsequently, he strangled his wife Manju, and their infant daughter to death. To destroy evidence, he set the house on fire and devised a plan to trigger a gas cylinder explosion. However, the second attempt failed. Police arrested the accused based on CCTV footage, call records and statement of witnesses. During interrogation, the accused confessed to his crime, officials said.

Thursday Morning Road Rage Perpetrator Shoots Victim Dead; One Accused Nabbed, Admitted To Hospital

Siwan: Acting swiftly, the Bihar Police on Thursday morning nabbed an accused involved in a road rage incident that had left a man dead and another injured on Wednesday evening. The accused was injured and hospitalised. A minor road rage dispute in Bihar's Siwan district had escalated into a bloody confrontation on Wednesday evening. Harsh Kumar Singh, a 28-year-old nephew of former Siwan MLC (Member of Legislative Council) and BJP leader Manoj Singh, was shot dead while his brother-in-law suffered critical injuries. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Town Police Station near the Laxmipur-Andar Dhala overbridge. Harsh was travelling with his father Chandan Singh to attend a tilak ceremony. They had parked their car along the roadside and were waiting for other family members to join them. During this wait, a speeding car grazed their vehicle, triggering an argument between the two parties. The argument quickly escalated,



and within moments, individuals from the opposing side suddenly opened fire. According to eyewitnesses, the assailants travelling in the other car opened fire indiscriminately during the altercation. Harsh suffered multiple gunshot wounds and collapsed at the scene, bleeding profusely. Doctors pronounced him dead upon his arrival in hospital. His father too suffered a gunshot wound. His condition was reported to be critical, and was currently undergoing treatment. The police identified the prime accused within a few hours of the incident. The accused was

identified as Chhotu Kumar Yadav, a resident of Hathaura village within the Hussainganj police station area. When the police attempted to apprehend him around 3 am on Thursday, he attempted to flee. In the ensuing retaliatory fire by the police, Chhotu suffered gunshot wounds to both his legs. He collapsed in an injured state and was admitted to a government hospital from where he was referred to Patna for advanced medical treatment. His condition was reported to be stable. No police personnel were injured during this encounter. The police said while

Chhotu was the prime accused, a search was underway to apprehend the other individuals involved in the incident. SP Puran Kumar Jha, SDPO Ajay Kumar, and Town Police Station in-charge Avinash Kumar inspected the scene and intensified the investigation. Additional police the area to prevent any unrest from spreading. Police station in-charge Avinash Kumar said, "Raids are being conducted to identify the other accused individuals. Currently, the entire case is being investigated with utmost seriousness, and police deployment in the area has been increased."

Pentagon Chief Spars With Democratic Lawmakers On Iran

Washington: US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth repeatedly clashed with Democratic lawmakers over the Iran war on Wednesday, in his first testimony to Congress since President Donald Trump launched the conflict two months ago. Appearing before the House Armed Services Committee, Hegseth quickly struck a combative tone, saying in his opening remarks that the main challenge at this point is the "defeatist words of congressional Democrats and some Republicans." Representative Adam Smith -- the committee's top Democrat -- took aim at the regional fallout from the war and its toll on both US troops as well as civilians, saying he wanted answers on where the conflict is going and "the plan to achieve our objectives." He later asked Hegseth how the "lethal, kinetic action" of the war could be translated into degrading Iran's nuclear program, which Washington is seeking to eliminate. Hegseth responded by taking aim at the "very bad" Iran nuclear agreement that Trump scrapped during his first term in office. Representative John



Garamendi, another Democrat, accused Hegseth of "lying to the American public about this war from day one," describing events in the Middle East as a "geopolitical calamity, a strategic blunder, resulting in worldwide economic crisis." "During the 60 days of Trump's Iran war, critical munitions have been expended at an alarming rate, depleting magazine levels below what is thought necessary to hold China at bay," said Garamendi, also describing the conflict as a "quagmire." Hegseth pushed back, asking Garamendi "who are you cheering for here?" and saying that calling the war a quagmire was "handing propaganda to our enemies." \$25 billion cost Democratic Representative Seth Moulton asked Hegseth if he advised Trump to attack Iran -- a question Hegseth declined to answer, though he later said he thought doing so was "a good idea." Asked by Moulton if he had considered the risk of Iran closing the vital Strait of Hormuz if it were attacked, Hegseth said the Pentagon "looked at all aspects of this risk." But the Defense Department failed to prevent the closure of the strait, which has sent oil prices spiking and caused economic fallout around the globe. Washington has hit back with a blockade of Iran's ports, and now has three aircraft carriers deployed in the Middle East for the first time in more than 20 years. Hegseth was asked about the cost of the conflict, which he said was estimated at less than \$25 billion so far. The Pentagon chief then asked the committee: "What is it worth to ensure that Iran never gets a nuclear weapon?"

Trump has indefinitely extended what was initially a two-week ceasefire with Iran, but negotiations have yet to yield a breakthrough on either ending the conflict or Tehran's nuclear program. Hegseth also faced questions about an Iranian attack in Kuwait that killed six US troops on March 1, the second day of the war. There were "no counter-drone capabilities, no counter-rocket systems, no counter-mortar or counter-artillery" to protect those troops, Democratic Representative Patrick Ryan said. Hegseth insisted that "before the commencement of the conflict, we put in (the) maximum defensive posture we could," continuing to speak as Ryan directed him to "stop." "Just because you yell doesn't make you right," Hegseth told the lawmaker. Ryan was one of more than a dozen Democrats who signed a letter to Hegseth last week demanding a "formal, immediate investigation" into the attack in Kuwait, saying the Pentagon chief failed to protect American forces and then "misled the public about the circumstances of the attack."

'All Or None': Trump Threatens Strait Of Hormuz Blockade After Iran Peace Talks End Without Breakthrough

President Donald Trump on Sunday said the US Navy would "immediately" begin a blockade to stop ships from entering or leaving the Strait of Hormuz, after US-Iran peace talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement. Trump sought to exert strategic control over the waterway responsible for the transportation of 20% of global oil supplies before the war, hoping to take away Iran's key source of economic leverage in the fighting. Earlier, Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who was part of peace talks with the United States in Pakistan this weekend, said on Sunday that Washington was "unable" to win Tehran's trust during the discussions. "My colleagues in the Iranian delegation... put forward constructive initiatives but ultimately the other side was unable to gain the trust of the Iranian delegation in this round of negotiations," Ghalibaf said in a post on X. His comments came hours after negotiations between the United States and Iran ended early Sunday without a deal after the Iranians refused to accept US terms not to develop a nuclear weapon, according to US Vice President JD Vance. High-stakes talks in Pakistan ended after 21 hours, Vance said before he left Islamabad, asserting that he was in constant communication with US President Donald Trump and others in the administration. "But the simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon, and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," Vance told reporters. The US delegation, led by Vance and the Iranian delegation, led by Ghalibaf, had discussed how to advance a ceasefire already threatened by deep disagreements and Israel's continued attacks against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. The war that entered its 44th day on Sunday has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 2,020 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and caused lasting damage to infrastructure in half a dozen



Middle Eastern countries. Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz has largely cut off the Persian Gulf and its oil and gas exports from the global economy, sending energy prices soaring. 11:48 PM, 12 US-Israel-Iran War LIVE | Lebanon PM Says His Govt Committed To Ending The War Through Negotiations Nawaf Salam made his remarks on the eve of the 51st anniversary of the start of Lebanon's 15-year civil war. Lebanon and Israel will hold direct talks in Washington starting Tuesday in a bid to end Israel's conflict with Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon. Hezbollah supporters and critics of the decision to negotiate have protested in Beirut, saying the government is too weak. The Lebanese government came to power just over a year ago promising to disarm all non-state groups. "I feel the pain of the mother who lost her child who did not choose this war and only wanted to live," said Salam. (AP) 11:34 PM, 12 Apr 2026 (IST) US-Israel-Iran War LIVE | Experts Say Blockade Could Lead To Higher Oil Prices But More Details Needed On Implementation Kevin Book, the managing director of research at research firm ClearView Energy Partners, said Sunday that leaner volumes generally mean tighter markets and higher prices, but "much depends on the scope and implementation of the blockade." "How Tehran responds matters, too. Iranian and/or Houthi reprisals against Gulf producers' alternative routes could drive prices still higher," Book said. Jonathan Elkind, senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University said Trump's statement on Fox News that implementing the blockade will take some time also adds uncertainty. "Is this a climb down because of concerns about how sharply oil markets were set to rise in tomorrow's trading? No one knows," he said. (AP)

but have also decried Hezbollah for launching rockets on March 2nd in solidarity with Iran, sparking the latest escalation. The Lebanese government came to power just over a year ago promising to disarm all non-state groups. "I feel the pain of the mother who lost her son combatting on the frontlines as I feel the pain of the mother who lost her child who did not choose this war and only wanted to live," said Salam. (AP) 11:34 PM, 12 Apr 2026 (IST) US-Israel-Iran War LIVE | Experts Say Blockade Could Lead To Higher Oil Prices But More Details Needed On Implementation Kevin Book, the managing director of research at research firm ClearView Energy Partners, said Sunday that leaner volumes generally mean tighter markets and higher prices, but "much depends on the scope and implementation of the blockade." "How Tehran responds matters, too. Iranian and/or Houthi reprisals against Gulf producers' alternative routes could drive prices still higher," Book said. Jonathan Elkind, senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University said Trump's statement on Fox News that implementing the blockade will take some time also adds uncertainty. "Is this a climb down because of concerns about how sharply oil markets were set to rise in tomorrow's trading? No one knows," he said. (AP)

European Leaders Celebrate Peter Magyar's Victory In A Stunning Hungarian Election

Budapest: European leaders heaped praise on Péter Magyar after his stunning election victory in Hungary, not just for what the vibrant campaigner and the country's next premier might do but who he is not -- long-serving Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who many saw as a direct threat to the continent's peace and prosperity. The outpouring reflected a deep frustration with Orbán across the 27-nation European Union and its institutions. "Today Europe wins and European values win," said Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez in a post on X on Sunday night. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk exclaimed on social media: "Back together! Glorious victory, dear friends!" Orbán's 16-year grip on power has tested the EU system of governance meant to ensure peace through economic and political integration after the ravages of the world wars. Claiming he sought to advance Hungary's national interests over strategy forged in Brussels, Orbán time and again vetoed collective action such as support for Ukraine following Russia's all-out invasion. Recently, the far-right leader's government outraged EU leaders and officials when it admitted to providing a backchannel to Russia during summits. In a recent interview, Magyar told The Associated Press that if elected, he would repair Hungary's relationship with the EU. However, he has carefully avoided taking firm positions on a number of divisive issues during the election campaign -- including Orbán's anti-LGBTQ+ policies and whether Hungary should extend more support to



Ukraine. "All Hungarians know that this is a shared victory. Our homeland made up its mind. It wants to live again. It wants to be a European country," Magyar said during his victory speech from the banks of the Danube River in Budapest, the country's capital. After Orbán concedes, congratulations for Magyar pour in fast -- before he received calls on Sunday night -- from French President Emmanuel Macron, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Online, congratulations also flowed in from British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and European Parliament Speaker Roberta Metsola. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Romanian President Nicușor Dan and European Council President António Costa also posted their well-wishes for Magyar. "This is an historic moment, not only for Hungary, but for European democracy," Starmer said. "France

welcomes the victory of democratic participation, the Hungarian people's commitment to the values of the European Union, and Hungary's commitment to Europe," Macron said. Merz said, "Let's join forces for a strong, secure and, above all, united Europe." Kristersson referenced both the EU and NATO in his congratulatory note to Magyar: "I look forward to working closely with you -- as Allies and EU Members. Tying his "victory over right-wing populism is also a great a more united and more effective EU will be able to respond to the extremely serious challenges of the times ahead," Golob said. Israeli opposition figure Yair Lapid, himself a descendant of Hungarian Jews who survived the Holocaust, also congratulated Magyar. And from some, kind words for Orbán. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni congratulated Magyar but also thanked Orbán for "intense collaboration for these years." Far-right French politician Jordan Bardella, seen as a nationally competitive politician in the upcoming 2027 French elections, praised Orbán's record on populist causes in a post on X. He made no mention of

Magyar. Von der Leyen, who had like many EU officials avoided any public position on the Hungarian election, posted on X that "Hungary has chosen Europe. Europe has always chosen Hungary. Together, we are stronger. A country returns to its European path. The Union grows stronger." Orbán had vilified the Brussels-based EU executive and frequently stymied her agenda. European People's Party President Manfred Weber, also a frequent Orbán target, said on social media that "Hungary is back at the heart of Europe." German lawmaker Daniel Freund said that "Hungarians are sending a signal to the world" -- and warned that Orbán's election loss will reverberate among populist leaders world over. "The icon of illiberal anti-European forces has now failed - brought down by a disastrous economy, corruption, and his own unfair electoral system," Freund said. Ukraine's posted congratulations to Magyar on its X account, referencing two historic rivers of Ukraine and Hungary. "The Dnipro and the Tisza flow through a shared home -- Europe," it said.

Sri Lanka's Ex President To Face Court Indictment



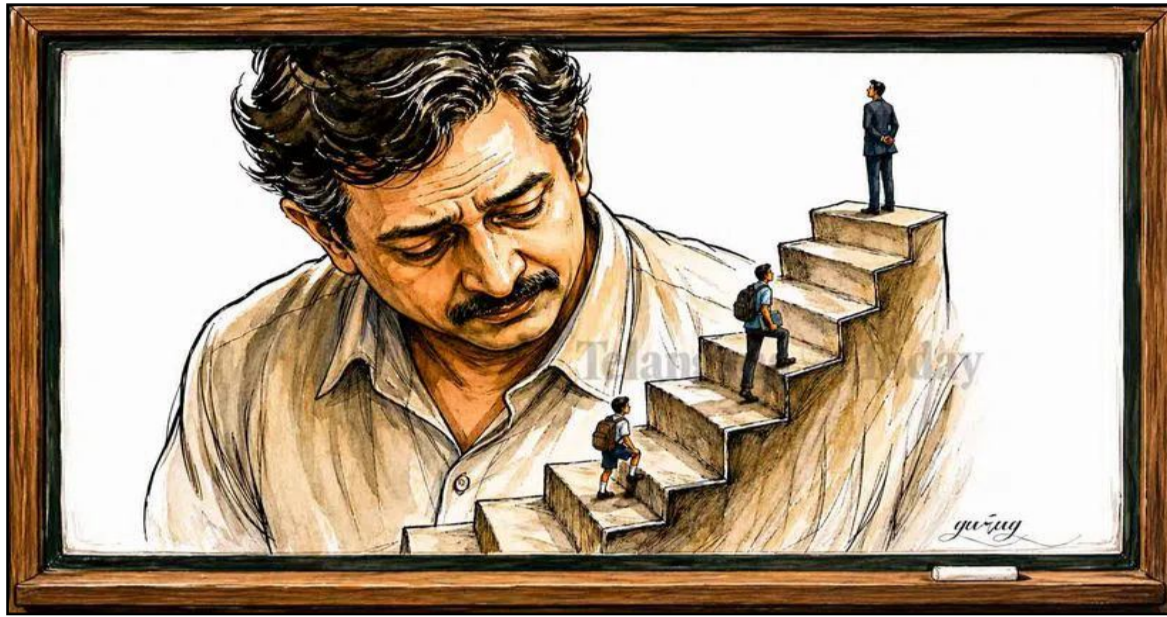
Colombo: Sri Lanka's former president Ranil Wickremesinghe and his secretary Saman Ekanayake will face indictments for misappropriation of state funds worth 16.6 million Lankan Rupees (USD 52,000), a local court was told on Wednesday. They are accused of using state funds for Wickremesinghe's travel to a British university in 2023 for his wife's

graduation. Wickremesinghe, who served as president from 2022 to 2024, argued it was an official invitation from the University of Wolverhampton, and he attended it while on transit during his return to Sri Lanka following official engagements in other countries. The Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court on Wednesday ordered the Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) to submit a progress report on the investigation into the case. The court also instructed the CID to present the relevant progress report on July 8. The state prosecutor told the court that indictments would be filed on July 8. In August last year, Wickremesinghe's report on July mesinghe became the first head of state to be arrested. Four days later, he was granted

ed bail owing to his health condition. Wickremesinghe, who last month had heart surgery in Singapore, was not present in the court due to health reasons. Wickremesinghe, who had replaced Gotabaya Rajapaksa as President to serve the balance term until the end of 2024, was credited with steering Sri Lanka out of the economic crisis of 2022.

Fixation on teachers' holidays distracts from real issues



India's school teaching workforce has crossed 10 million, with government schools employing the majority and private schools steadily expanding, according to UDISE+ (2024-25). AISHE (2024-25) reported about 1.5 million faculty members in higher education, split almost evenly between public and private institutions, and equal pay to Model School teachers. Yet every summer, as schools close, a familiar refrain echoes: "Teachers have it easy—they get so many holidays." This dismissal trivialises their role. Vacations are not indulgences but part of a system designed for students, while teachers use the time to prepare, update lessons, and recalibrate methods. As Emile Durkheim reminded us, education is how society reproduces itself—teachers are agents of social continuity. Gurukul to Global Educator

The story of Indian teachers is as old as civilisation itself. In the Gurukul system, teachers were revered as acharyas, custodians of knowledge and morality. The dictum *matru devo bhava, pitru devo bhava, acharya devo bhava* placed teachers next only to parents and gods. Their role was not merely to impart literacy but to shape character, instil discipline, and transmit traditions.

Over centuries, this role evolved. From the Brahmin monopoly over education to the democratisation of learning through social reform movements, teaching shifted from privilege to right, from being restricted to the *dwija* castes to embracing Bahujan communities. Payment too transformed—from kind and cash offered by kings and elites to structured salaries under modern governments. Today, teachers straddle two worlds: the idealistic legacy of moral guardianship and the pragmatic demands of democratic equality.

Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* reminds us that teachers must be both facilitators of critical consciousness and challengers of oppressive structures—a dual role deeply resonant in India's journey from Gurukul traditions to globalisation. Teaching is not only an art and a science but also a passion and a profession. As S Radhakrishnan once observed, "The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves." This passion for shaping minds has been the enduring

thread across centuries. Debating Salaries and Status in Telangana

The Telangana Education Commission's 2026 report sparked heated debates by highlighting the "high salaries" of government school teachers. Instead of addressing the chronic underpayment of private school teachers, the report indirectly questioned whether government teachers deserved their pay scales. This narrative is dangerous. It shifts the spotlight away from exploitation in private institutions and creates resentment against government teachers who, in reality, shoulder immense responsibilities. Market structures often determine private school salaries, with demand and supply dictating pay. But education is not a commodity to be traded like grain or steel. The irony is stark: society worships teachers in rhetoric but undermines them in reality. We call them "nation builders" yet deny them financial security. We expect them to embody democratic ideals and still subject them to undemocratic working conditions. As APJ Abdul Kalam reminded us, "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual." If society ignores this nobility, it risks compromising its own future.

Empowering India's Architects

Whether in a village school or a metropolitan university, teachers are architects of India's future. They treat every child as their own, nurturing minds with patience and affection. The occasional negative incidents within educational institutions—often amplified by media sensationalism or attributed to "westernisation"—are exceptions, not the rule. The overwhelming majority of teachers remain committed to their vocation, despite systemic neglect. Basil Bernstein, the British sociologist, warned that when education is reduced to market logic, its symbolic and cultural functions are eroded. When private school teachers are denied decent wages, it is not just an economic injustice—it is a social betrayal. By targeting government teachers rather than supporting private ones, policymakers risk discouraging talented youth from entering the profession altogether. The long-term consequence is clear: a decline in quality education, where nurturing the 21st century skills in the next generation becomes secondary to cost-cut-

ting. The Missing Merit in Teaching

Empirical studies confirm what anecdotal evidence has long suggested: bright, meritorious students rarely choose teaching as a career. The reasons are manifold—low salaries, lack of social prestige, bureaucratic hurdles, and the perception that teaching is a "soft option." Yet teaching is anything but easy. It requires patience, empathy, and the ability to balance tradition with modernity. A teacher must be idealistic in values—honesty, integrity, discipline—while pragmatic in practice, ensuring equality, inclusivity, and the dismantling of outdated social hierarchies.

Telangana Education Commission's 2026 report questions government teachers' pay, ignores private school underpayment, and risks fuelling resentment against overburdened educators.

Pierre Bourdieu's theory of cultural capital is instructive here. Students from privileged backgrounds often avoid teaching because the profession does not confer the symbolic capital associated with high-status careers. Unless teaching is revalorised socially and economically, it will continue to repel those with the highest academic merit. The irony is stark: society worships teachers in rhetoric but undermines them in reality. We call them "nation builders" yet deny them financial security. Whether in a village school or a metropolitan university, teachers are architects of India's future. They treat every child as their own, nurturing minds with patience and affection. The occasional negative incidents within educational institutions—often amplified by media sensationalism or attributed to "westernisation"—are exceptions, not the rule. The overwhelming majority of teachers remain committed to their vocation, despite systemic neglect. Individual.

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ted to their vocation, despite systemic neglect. To safeguard this commitment, India needs rigorous, updated, and holistic tests for teacher recruitment. But equally, it needs to ensure that once recruited, teachers are empowered—financially, psychologically, and socially. Missionary institutions that provide meals to staff after exam results are published exemplify how small gestures of dignity can make a big difference. Teachers are human beings, not machines. Treating them with respect is not charity; it is a necessity. As Ivan Illich cautioned in *Deschooling Society*, education is dehumanised when institutions reduce teachers to bureaucratic cogs instead of recognising them as living guides. Krishna Kumar has argued that teachers are central to democratising education in India, bridging the gap between elite knowledge and everyday learners. A Call to Think Beyond Vacations

The fixation on teachers' holidays distracts from the urgent question of how society supports them. Beyond the classroom calendar, teachers shoulder invisible work—preparing syllabi, evaluating results, and planning for the year ahead. They take pride in their students' growth, second only to parents, though society rarely acknowledges this devotion. What deserves debate is not the length of vacations but whether teachers return to classrooms motivated, respected, and adequately compensated. Without this support, holiday discussions become a diversion from the reforms India's education system urgently needs. India stands at a crossroads. Globalisation demands competitive skills, technological literacy, and critical thinking—none of which can flourish without motivated teachers. Yet meritorious students increasingly shun the profession, deterred by poor pay and lack of dignity. The solution lies not in cutting government salaries but in raising private school pay, ensuring parity, and restoring respect. Policymakers and civil society must shift the narrative: stop framing teachers as holiday takers, start recognising them as nation builders. Teachers' vacations are not indulgences; they are the monsoon pause before the harvest of learning. If India fails to protect and empower its teachers, the harvest itself will wither. To honour teachers is to

Telangana Senior Secondary education reforms need a rethink, not a rush

Education is more than instruction; it is a social institution that shapes aspirations, reproduces inequalities, and reflects collective values. Telangana's decision to merge intermediate education with school education is a bold step aligned with the 5+3+3+4 structure of NEP 2020. The current 10+2 (intermediate) model separates grades 11–12 under a different board, creating stress for students, financial strain for parents, and administrative burdens. Telangana Education Commission wants separate Class X and inter exams scrapped.

Opinion: Little merit in NEP

However, this reform must be examined sociologically, considering equity, commercialisation, human resource management, and lived experiences. As Durkheim noted, education sustains cohesion, while Bourdieu showed it reproduces inequalities—rushed change risks undermining both stability and fairness. Site of Inequality

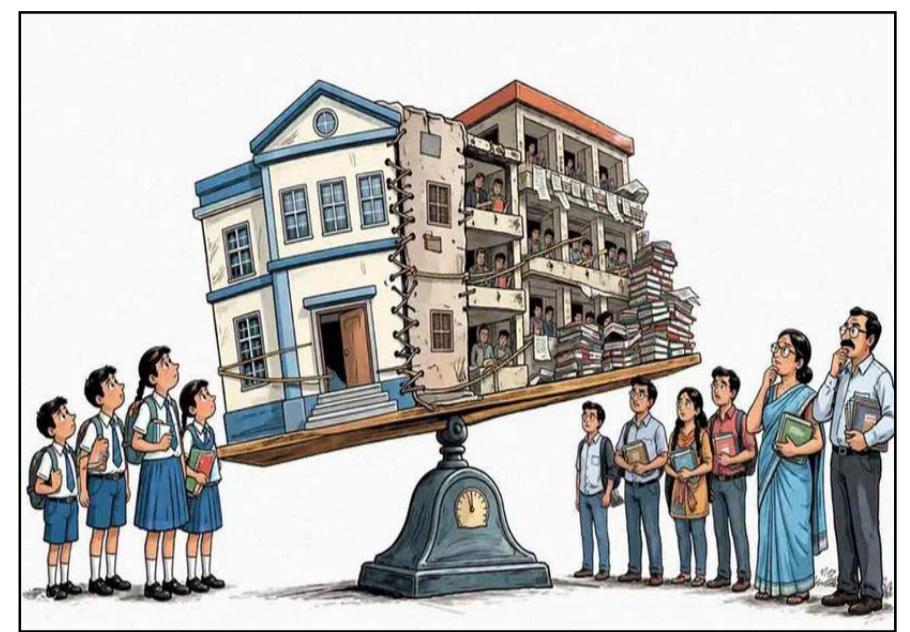
Intermediate education in Telangana is heavily privatised. Data from 2022–23 show 66% of the 10.96 lakh junior college students are in private institutions, while only 34% are government-run or aided colleges. Nearly 95% are concentrated in MPC, BIPC, and CEC streams, narrowing aspirations to engineering, medicine, and commerce, while other courses remain marginalised. This reflects Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital, where certain streams are seen as prestigious and others devalued. Corporate colleges reinforce this hierarchy by charging exorbitant fees for IIT-JEE and NEET coaching, excluding rural and marginalised students. Smaller town colleges face declining enrolment, deepening stratification. Thus, intermediate education has become a site of commercialisation, inequality, and cultural reproduction, privileging elite pathways while limiting broader opportunities.

Continuity, Equity, and Belonging

The integration of Intermediate education with school education offers continuity and stability by allowing students to remain in familiar environments with known teachers, reducing stress and dropout risks while fostering belonging. It provides financial relief for parents by sparing them the burden of costly private colleges, making education more accessible. Schools can ensure holistic development by integrating sports, counselling, and extracurricular activities into senior secondary levels, countering the hyper-competitive coaching culture. Expanding government schools to Classes 11 and 12 democratises opportunities, curbing private dominance and promoting equity. At the same time, efficient use of teachers and infrastructure across Classes 9–12 maximises resources. These advantages align with NEP 2020's vision of a unified schooling system and Durkheim's view of education as a force for social integration and equality.

Teacher Roles, Hierarchies

The reform raises complex chal-



lenges around qualifications, promotions, and service rules. Government school teachers, including school assistants, language pandits, physical education staff, and junior lecturers, must adapt to revised pay structures, which should also apply to private institutions to ensure uniformity. Many high school teachers lack postgraduate degrees, while junior lecturers often lack BED and TET qualifications. Giving them 4–5 years to qualify is pragmatic but leaves transitional gaps, exposing the tension between professionalisation and accessibility. Education is a social institution whose pace must be respected. Without strict provisions to curb commercialisation, it risks being commodified, undermining equity and quality. Junior lecturers may see teaching lower classes as a demotion, while school assistants teaching senior classes may treat it as a promotion. This inversion unsettles hierarchies and status, making careful management essential to balance quality with fairness. Pay disparities further complicate matters: equalising salaries without reducing junior lecturers pay implies raising school assistants' salaries, with fiscal implications. Ensuring justice is vital, as perceptions of devaluation could harm morale, echoing Weber's emphasis on legitimacy and Marx's concern with equitable recognition of labour. Institutional Gaps, Fiscal Challenges

Telangana's Unified Service Rules, introduced after State reorganisation, sought to integrate cadres across management types, but integrating intermediate with school education exposes gaps that must be addressed. Recruitment, transfers, promotions, and benefits require harmonisation to prevent resentment among teachers. Expanding government schools to senior secondary levels also means extending mid-day meals to Classes 11 and 12 and upgrading laboratories, libraries, and sports facilities—investments that reflect the State's redistributive role in supporting marginalised students. A key safeguard is regulating permissions for senior secondary schools based on population density, ensuring expansion is need-driven rather than profit-driven. Functionalist sociology reminds us that institutions must grow in proportion to social needs, not market pressures. Private schools and jun-

ior colleges may adapt by upgrading or expanding, but they too face challenges in staffing and fee regulation. Without strict provisions to curb commercialisation, education risks being commodified, undermining equity and quality. Students at the Heart of Reform

While institutional challenges are significant, the reform's greatest promise lies in its impact on students. If implemented thoughtfully, it can transform student experiences by introducing a uniform curriculum that better prepares them for national exams, reducing stress through fewer board assessments, and offering counselling to broaden career horizons beyond engineering and medicine. With commercialisation curbed, students gain space for sports, arts, and social engagement—realising Paulo Freire's vision of education as liberation. Immediate implementation risks chaos: parents have already paid (Intermediate) first year fees, and institutions are unprepared. Education reforms need careful, phased planning—not abrupt execution. A phased timeline is more realistic: 2026–27 AY: Continue existing system; draft merger guidelines; invite Phase I applications. quality with fairness. Pay disparities further complicate matters: equalising salaries without reducing junior lecturers pay implies raising school assistants' salaries, with fiscal implications. Ensuring justice is vital, as perceptions of devaluation could harm morale, echoing Weber's emphasis on legitimacy and Marx's concern with equitable recognition of labour. Institutional Gaps, Fiscal Challenges

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Head, Klaasen power-hitting propels

Travis Head (76) and Heinrich Klaasen (65 not out) outmuscled Ryan Rickelton's record 123 not out for Mumbai Indians as Sunrisers Hyderabad romped home to a six-wicket in their Indian Premier League contest, here on Wednesday. After Rickelton's highest individual score for MI and also their fastest-ever ton in IPL history took the hosts to a formidable 243/5, SRH rode on a combined batting show to win with eight balls to spare.

Mumbai Indians had also registered their highest score batting first, but SRH recorded the fourth-highest successful run chase in IPL history on a docile wicket which provided absolutely no competition between the bat and the ball. Chasing 244, SRH made 249/4 in 18.4 overs. While Head provided early fireworks racing to 30-ball 76 with eight sixes and four fours, Klaasen produced an equally brutal knock to finish with 65 not out off 30 balls with seven fours and four sixes. For MI, a string of missed opportunities early on proved costly in their sixth defeat in eight matches. While he was in his usual element, Head's knock was also littered with lifelines provided by MI. The first ball of the third over from Trent Boult (1/41) swung away from Head and he threw his hands at it, slicing in the air towards deep point. Naman Dhir did well to get to the ball but it burst through his hands to land beyond the ropes. In the fifth over, Head went deep in the crease to cut one in the air and despite timing his jump



right, the ball brushed Dhir's fingers. Dhir was in action again at the boundary ropes over point when he collected the ball in his hands but ended up on the ropes with it, as Head completed a 20-ball half-century. A pivotal moment had, meanwhile, arrived in the third over's second ball when one that shaped away from Head off Boult, was collected by Rickelton and none in the MI camp realised there was an edge off the bat. Head and Abhishek went about their job nonchalantly while smacking almost every bowler around the park. Wicketless once again, Jasprit Bumrah (0/54) was hit for 14 in his first over, Boult for 18 after 11 in his first, and Will Jacks was clobbered for 19 runs in his first as SRH raced to 62 in four overs. The onslaught continued beyond the powerplay when MI brought in Ashwani Kumar (2-0-41-0), as SRH openers collected 23 runs off the left-arm seamer to continue with the carnage. SRH responded to MI's 93-run opening stand which took seven overs with 129 runs in only

8.4, with Head being the more dominant than Abhishek. The India opener had no qualms in reading a slower one from Bumrah which he launched over mid-on for a six in the second over and freed up his arms at will on a benign track before he mishit the off only to slice it in the air for a comfortable catch at backward point. MI enjoyed a second breakthrough soon after when Ghazanfar, having pulled out of his run-up twice, got Ishan Kishan (0) chopping one on to his stumps. A third wicket came when Head hit a full toss straight to Jacks at extra cover and MI felt they were back in the game. But Klaasen was quick enough to crush any such hopes when he launched a counter-attack with 16 runs off Ghazanfar in the 11th over and 18 off Ashwani – including three fours in a row – off the 12th. The bat versus bat contest ended in the penultimate over when Salil Arora blazed his way to a 10-ball 30 not out, striking three sixes and

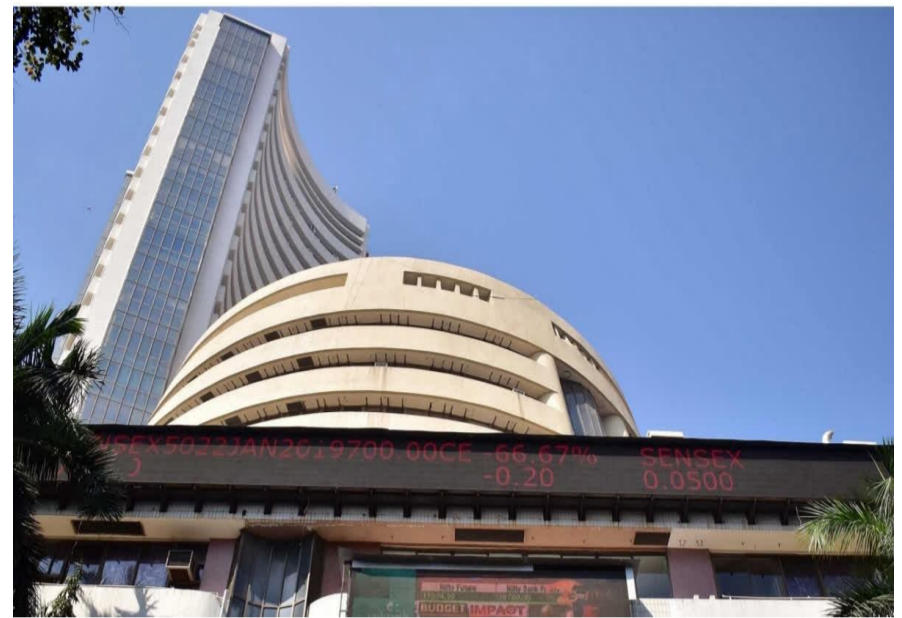
two fours. Earlier, Rickelton's 123 not out took his team to massive 243 for five. Rickelton batted through the innings for an unbeaten 123 off a mere 55 balls with 10 fours and eight sixes, anchoring MI's charge to an at-par total on a batting friendly track here at the Wankhede Stadium. The 29-year-old Rickelton brought up a third century for his franchise as MI made a desperate attempt to revive their fortunes with their high-wicket total of the season so far. Using the long handle to maximum effect, not for once did Rickelton take African wicketkeeper-batter Rickelton provided MI with the spunk they have missed most of this season hitherto.

The pair put on 78 in the powerplay and 93 for the first wicket in seven overs to set the tone in a fearless approach with the bat. But more importantly, Rickelton hung around for a long haul as his innings proved to be the glue which held MI together as well as kept driving them towards a strong total.

Stock Markets Dive As Failure Of US-Iran Negotiations Fuels Concerns Of Prolonged Conflict

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Monday as the failure of US-Iran negotiations heightened concerns of a prolonged conflict, driving crude oil prices sharply higher. The US and Iran failed to reach a peace deal at their historic 21-hour talks in Pakistan, leaving the fate of a tenuous two-week ceasefire in doubt, with both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the collapse of the negotiations. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,613.09 points to 75,937.16 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty plunged 495 points to 23,555.60.

All the 30-Sensex firms were trading lower during the initial trade. Titan, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Bharat Electronics, Power Grid and Bharti Airtel were the biggest laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 7.33 per cent to USD 102.2 per barrel. "With the failure of US-Iran peace talks and Trump's declaration of



US naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, uncertainty and along with it crude price have spiked. Brent at USD 103 is emerging as yet another threat to the economy and markets," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index

and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were trading lower. US markets ended on a mixed note on Friday. "The failure of US-Iran negotiations over the weekend has heightened concerns of a prolonged conflict, further intensified by reports of a US naval blockade on Iranian ports," Hari Prasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. This development has

triggered a clear risk-off sentiment across global markets, he added. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Friday as they bought stocks worth Rs 672.09 crore, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex jumped 918.60 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 77,550.25. The Nifty climbed 275.50 points or 1.16 per cent to end at 24,050.60.

India received highest number of regressive tax recommendations from IMF: Oxfam

New Delhi: India received the highest number of regressive tax recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) between 2022 and 2024, according to an analysis by Oxfam. The analysis, released ahead of the IMF and World Bank spring meetings in Washington, has flagged that the global body is applying "double standard" by giving largely progressive advice to wealthy countries while suggesting regressive measures for others that are "likely to exacerbate inequality". The report said 59 per cent of the IMF's tax advice to low- and lower-middle-income countries was regressive, while 52 per cent of its recommendations to high-income countries were progressive. A regressive tax refers to a uniform taxation system which burdens those in lower income groups more than high earners. In contrast, a tax levied in proportion to one's income is termed progressive. Oxfam examined 1,049 tax recommendations made by the IMF to 125 countries between 2022 and 2024 and found that only 30 recommendations, or around three per cent, focused on net wealth taxes and the taxation of income from wealth, namely capital gains. The report said that despite the rapid growth of extreme wealth, billionaire wealth has surged by 81 per cent since 2020. The analysis found that the United States and Brazil received the most progressive IMF tax advice. Canada, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway also received more progressive recommendations, along with China, Kazakhstan, Angola and Botswana. "While high-income countries generally receive IMF recommendations that are tilted towards progressive measures, amounting to 52 per cent of the overall total classifiable advice to these countries, poorer countries don't seem to get the same treatment," the report said.



On the other hand, India received the highest number of regressive recommendations, followed by several other countries in the Global South. "This regressive aspect of tax advice for Global South countries means that most measures advised by the IMF are likely to exacerbate inequality in these countries, by placing the bulk of the tax burden on middle- and low-income people while leaving the wealthiest unscathed." The report said that the IMF's tax advice to South Asia was "by far the most regressive", followed by those suggested for Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis cited Chile, Nigeria and Hungary as examples of countries where the IMF recommended measures that could disproportionately burden low- and middle-income groups. In Chile, with one of the highest levels of income inequality, the IMF advised raising tax rates for low- and middle-income groups while leaving rates on top income brackets untouched. In Nigeria, where nearly one-third of the population lives in poverty (the highest rate in Africa), it suggested increasing value-added tax, while in Hungary, it advised against a windfall profit tax on energy companies. "A progressive tax system ensures those who have higher income and more wealth pay proportionally more taxes than those who have less. Progressive tax measures like net

wealth and capital gains taxes were rarely recommended, and when they were, advice was concentrated in high-income contexts," the report said. The report also highlighted several country cases reflecting concerning tax policy advice. In New Zealand, the IMF expressed concern that the corporate income tax in the country is "relatively high compared to peer advanced economies" and advised the government to lower it. In Sweden, it recommended "lowering taxes on deferred capital gains" to address distortions in the housing market. In the Philippines, the IMF called for broadening the value-added tax base by rationalising exemptions, while in Cote d'Ivoire, or the Ivory Coast, it recommended eliminating VAT exemptions and applying statutory VAT rates. Oxfam said the IMF publicly acknowledges that tax policy is a critical tool for addressing inequality, but it links its tax advice to inequality far more often for high-income countries (34 per cent) than low- and lower-middle-income countries (8 per cent). Nearly 90 per cent of low- and lower-middle-income countries have medium or high inequality. Kate Donald, Head of Oxfam International's Washington office, said the IMF was applying a "double standard" by giving largely progressive advice to wealthy countries while continuing to recommend regressive measures elsewhere.

Actor Venkatesh unveils TG20 League logo



Former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu and the well-known film star Daggubati Venkatesh unveiled the logo of the TG20 League to be organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association here on Wednesday. The inaugural season is scheduled for June-July 2026, with detailed fixtures and team announcements on the occasion, Rayudu said it was long due and would be a great opportunity for the young talent to showcase its skills and dream bigger. "I am sure given the fact that Telangana has abundance of talent, many

more cricketers would go on to play in the IPL soon," he said. For his part, Venkatesh hoped the sport in the State would have a new direction with the launch of TG20 League and Apex Council member Amarnath said the whole objective of the League was to promote talent across the State. He also felt that the number of teams could be increased from eight to 10 to give more youngsters a chance to show their potential. Mr C.V. Anand, newly-appointed DGP of Telangana and former cricketer himself, said it was long

due. "But, again, it should be clean and transparent in its organisation. The fact that 26 of the 29 States in India have their T-20 league organised by the respective State Cricket Associations, it is a welcome move by the HCA to finally have its own league," he said. Chamundeswaranath, IPL Governing Council member, hoped that the TG20 League would usher in a new chapter for the cricketers from the State. "Over the years, cricketers from Telangana never really got their due. But, now thanks to this TG20

League, I am sure there will be at least 10 cricketers from the State who should play in the IPL in the future," he said. Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, congratulated the HCA and the stakeholders for finally coming up with the T-20 League. "From the Government side, we would like to extend whatever best possible help is possible," he assured. Justice (Retd) P. Naveen Rao, Single Committee member of HCA, Mr. M. Jeevan Reddy, HCA Secretary, also spoke.

Aamir Khan Gets Candid On Love With Gauri Spratt: 'Ab Jaake Main Mukammal Hua Hu'



Actor Aamir Khan opened up about a new phase in his personal life, sharing how his relationship with girlfriend Gauri Spratt has brought him a deep sense of peace and fulfillment. In a recent interview to a newswire, the actor spoke candidly about love, past relationships, and the lessons he has learned over the years. "I am very fortunate that I met Gauri," Aamir said, adding, "She

is great, I feel at peace with her... Mujhe lagta hai ab jaake main mukammal hua hu (I feel complete today)." His words reflect a contentment, something the actor admits he has found after a long journey of personal growth. Aamir Khan with his girlfriend Gauri Spratt (Photo: IANS) Aamir also acknowledged his past relation-

ships with ex-wives Reena Dutta and Kiran Rao. He described both bonds as deep and meaningful, even though they eventually did not work out. Rather than viewing them with regret, he sees them as important chapters that shaped out. Rather than viewing who he is today. The actor stressed that he does not believe in perfection. According to him, mistakes are a natural part of life.

"Everyone makes mistakes. What matters is that you recognise and accept them," he shared, adding that this mindset has helped him evolve both as a person and as an artist. Aamir Khan with his girlfriend Gauri Spratt (Photo: ANI) One of Aamir's biggest regrets, he admitted, is not spending enough time with his family. For decades, he was completely immersed in his work. "I was only addicted to work, filmmaking and acting for 30-35 years," he said. It was during the Covid-19 pandemic, when work came to a halt, that he had time to reflect. "I realised that I had lost many things, and this time would not come again," Aamir said. Since then, he has been trying to correct that mistake by prioritising relationships and spending more time with loved ones. Aamir introduced Gauri Spratt to the media on his 60th birthday last year, and the two have since been seen together at several events. On the professional side, Aamir was last seen in Sitaare Zameen Par following the setback of Laal Singh Chaddha. He also made a cameo in Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasoos. He is now awaiting the release of his production Ek Din, starring his son Junaid Khan and Sai Pallavi, which is set to hit theatres on May 1.

Meet Samreen Kaur: Actor Rumoured To Be Cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Girlfriend



Indian cricketer Arshdeep Singh, known for his consistent performances for the national team and in the Indian Premier League with Punjab Kings, is making headlines off the field. The left-arm fast bowler has sparked dating rumours after being spotted with actor and model Samreen Kaur. The buzz began on April 22, 2026, when the Punjab Kings arrived in Delhi for their IPL match. Arshdeep was seen walking hand-in-hand with a young woman at the airport. This has drawn attention from fans and paparazzi. Soon after, social media users began speculating about the identity of the mystery woman, who has now been identified as Samreen Kaur.

According to available information, Samreen Kaur is a 26-year-old actor and model, originally from Jammu and Kashmir and currently based in Mumbai. She started her career in the glamour industry as a model, walking the ramp, appearing in television advertisements, and participating in beauty pageants. In 2018, she represented Jammu and Kashmir in a contest, which helped her gain recognition. She later moved into acting and has appeared in several web shows and music videos. One of the notable highlights of her career was her role in the film 83, where she played Simran, the fiancée of Ammy Virk's character. The film was headlined by Ranveer

Singh. She has also worked in Punjabi cinema and shared screen space with actors like Diljit Dosanjh, Sonam Bajwa, and Monica Gill. Apart from films, Samreen has featured in multiple music videos with popular artists such as Badshah and Guru Randhawa. She also has a strong presence on social media, with millions of followers on Instagram. Recent sightings have further fueled dating rumours. Samreen was seen at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium during a Punjab Kings vs Mumbai Indians match, where she shared pictures online. She was also spotted waiting outside the stadium and has reportedly travelled with Arshdeep to different

cities during the IPL season. The two have also been seen together at Chandigarh airport and during a visit to a Gurudwara. While neither Arshdeep Singh nor Samreen Kaur has officially confirmed their relationship, their public appearances together have certainly caught the attention of fans, making them one of the most talked-about pairs this IPL season.

International Dance Day 2026 | From Dola Re Dola To Naatu Naatu: Bollywood's Most Iconic Duets Revisited



Dance in Bollywood has always been more than just steps, it's a language of emotion, storytelling, and connection. Over the years, we have seen unforgettable duets like Dola Re Dola, Pinga, Naatu Naatu, and Jai Jai Shivshankar, where two powerhouse performers came together to create pure magic on screen. These performances stay with us not just for their choreography, but for their energy and chemistry. On International Dance Day 2026, it is the perfect moment to revisit some of Bollywood's most iconic dance duets, performances that continue to live in the hearts of audiences. These duets are not just about perfect steps. They are about chemistry, individuality, and the ability to shine together while still standing out. Madhuri Dixit & Vidya Balan - Ami Je Tomar 3.0 (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, 2024) One of the most recent additions to this list is Ami Je Tomar 3.0 from Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. Featuring Madhuri Dixit and Vidya Balan, the performance feels less like a competition and more like a meeting of two artistic energies. Madhuri brings her timeless grace, while Vidya adds depth and intensity. The song, sung by Shreya Ghoshal and reprised by Amaal Mallik, is choreographed by Chinni Prakash. The blend of classical styles gives the performance an elegant feel, making it emotion-

ally powerful. Deepika Padukone & Priyanka Chopra - Pinga (Bajirao Mastani, 2015) Pinga from Bajirao Mastani is a celebration of tradition and rhythm. Choreographed by Remo D'Souza, the song features Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra in a Lavani-inspired dance. Shot over 12 days with around 50 dancers, the sequence is rich in detail. From fast footwork to synchronised spins, both actors match each other step for step. Yet, their individual styles remain distinct, making the duet feel balanced and Rai Bachchan & Madhuri Dixit - Dola Re Dola (Devdas, 2002) Few dance duets in Bollywood can match the legacy of Dola Re Dola from Devdas. Choreographed by the legendary Saroj Khan, the song blends Kathak and Bharatnatyam elements. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Madhuri Dixit delivered a performance that combined technical brilliance with expressive storytelling. Set against the backdrop of Durga Puja, the song became iconic and even earned Saroj Khan a National Film Award for Best Choreography. Madhuri Dixit & Karisma Kapoor - Dance of Envy (Dil To Pagal Hai, 1997)

buzz. Hrithik's smooth style meets Jr NTR's explosive energy, creating a face-off that fans couldn't take their eyes off. Jr NTR & Ram Charan - Naatu Naatu (RRR, 2022) Complete without Naatu Naatu from RRR. Choreographed by Prem Rakshith, the song features Jr NTR and Ram Charan in perfect sync. Shot in Ukraine over nearly two weeks, the high-energy routine required intense rehearsals. The sequence became a global sensation and even won the Oscar for Best Original Song in 2023, making it one of the most memorable dance sequences. Madhuri Dixit & Manisha Koirala - Badi Mushkil (Lajja, 2001) Badi Mushkil from Lajja is a vibrant and celebratory number featuring Madhuri Dixit and Manisha Koirala. Choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, the song captures the spirit of classic Bollywood dance. Set within a story about women's empowerment, the performance is energetic and expressive, showcasing the chemistry between the two actors. Hrithik Roshan & Tiger Shroff - Jai Jai Shivshankar (War, 2019) Jai Jai Shivshankar from War is a visual spectacle. Featuring Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff, the song is choreographed by Bosco Caesar. Set during Holi celebrations, the track includes over 500 dancers. Both actors rehearsed for weeks to

Telangana HC hears Ashu Reddy plea to quash Rs 9.35 crore fraud case

Justice J. Srinivas Rao of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday heard a petition filed by Telugu Bigg Boss fame Ashu Reddy (Venkata Ashwini Reddy Koyya) seeking to quash criminal proceedings initiated against her by the Central Crime Station (CCS) police. The case arises from a complaint lodged by the father of one Dharmendra, a software engineer based in London, alleging that the petitioner had misappropriated an amount of Rs. 9.35 crore on the false promise of marriage. Based on the said complaint, the CCS police registered a case against the petitioner and her family members. The petitioner contended that the allegations in the complaint, even if taken at face value, do not discriminate her for such expenses. She denied the commission of any cognizable offence. It was specifically argued that the amounts allegedly paid by the complainant were not obtained through any fraudulent inducement, but were voluntarily given as an inducement to secure her consent for marriage. She maintained that neither she nor her family members could be held criminally liable for such expenses. Upon a request made by the Assistant Public Prosecutor, Mr. Jitender Rao, seeking time to gather necessary details, the Court, while taking note of the submissions, directed the APP to obtain complete instructions and place the relevant material on record. The Court adjourned the matter to the 4th of next month for further consideration.

