

BRS a dead snake, cannot revive: BJP leader K Laxman

KARIMNAGAR: Describing the BRS as a "dead snake", senior BJP leader K Laxman on Thursday alleged "match-fixing" between the Congress government and the pink party "for political convenience". Laxman said people in Telangana were observing what he described as attempts to prevent BJP from emerging as a strong force. Addressing the media here, he said BRS had failed as an opposition, alleging its leaders were not attending the Assembly regularly, raising public issues or supporting people's concerns. "The less we talk about BRS, the



better," he said, comparing the party to a "dead snake that cannot revive". Laxman said people in Telangana were observing what he described as attempts to prevent BJP from emerging as a strong force. He reiterated that the BJP contests elections independently

and will continue to do so. He also announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Telangana on May 10 to attend a "Jana Aagraha Sabha" at Parade Ground, where foundation stones for railway and other Union government projects will be laid.

CV Anand Takes Charge as Telangana DGP

Hyderabad: Senior IPS officer CV Anand took charge as Director-General of Police (DGP) at the State police headquarters in Lakdi-ka-Pul here on Friday. He assumed charge after incumbent DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy demitted office on April 30 on attaining superannuation. "In my entire career, I have faced many professional challenges and learned invaluable lessons along the way. Today, I take on a greater responsibility with humility and resolve. I assumed charge as Director General of Police, Telangana and committed to upholding law, ensuring public safe-



ty, and serving the people of Telangana with integrity and dedication," he said. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops

Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The state government finalised the appointment of Anand, a 1991 batch IPS officer, strictly in

accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court in the 'Prakash Singh' case. Anand did his schooling in

Hyderabad Public School and graduated from Nizam College and did his MA in economics from Osmania University. After clearing civils in his first attempt, Anand joined the service with his first posting as ASP in Warangal and served as district superintendent of police for the first time in Nizamabad. His first nine years of service was in Naxal-affected districts, where he personally led the forces and participated in exchange of fire and encounters, according to a police official.

Security Forces Maintain Strict Vigil In And Around Counting Centres



Kolkata : Security forces were keeping a strict vigil in and around counting centres in Kolkata and other districts where EVM machines used in the West Bengal assembly elections have been stored, an official said here on Friday. Sakhawat Memorial Schstrong room, alleging ool in south Kolkata's Bhananipur, which saw high drama till the early hours of Friday with Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee spending nearly four hours at the counting centre, wore a peaceful look in the morning with security personnel guarding the area. Also Read - Didi: Exit Poll BJP-spostro ng room, alleging nsored, Rigged The TMC supremo warned against any attempt to tamper with the counting process, hours after visiting an EVM strong room, alleging possible malpractice. She stressed the need

for transparency in the counting process. "It is essential to maintain transparency. People's votes must be protected. I rushed here after receiving complaints," she told reporters outside the counting centre. Sounding a stern note ahead of the May 4 counting of the two-phase elections held in the state, she warned that any plan to tamper with the counting process "will not be tolerated".

AP Disbursing Rs 33,000 Cr Pensions Every Year

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu asserted that the coalition government would reconstruct and bring back the lost glory to the state. He said that they have been striving for the development of the state on all fronts. Speaking at the 'Pedala Seva' programme held at Pamidimukkala in Krishna district, he said they were putting in all efforts to fulfil all the promises during the hustings. Also Read - Andhra Student Dies in US Naidu said that Rs 33,000 crore was being spent on pensions every year. We are not consider-



ing it as a burden but as a responsibility, he said, adding that no other state in the country was disbursing pensions in such a huge amount. Labour addas are being built for

the workers. These places should transform into skill development centres. If there is any task, workers would attend the work. Else, they can upgrade their skills at the labour

adda. If the concept proves to be successful in the first phase, more labour addas would be built in other places in the state, he said. Also Read - Rs.63,000 Cr Spent on Pensions in 22 Months: Naidu On the Polavaram project, he accused the previous government of neglecting the works which led to the damage of the accused the previous gov diaphragm wall. The wall is being constructed again at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore and it would be completed before Godavari Pushkarams in 2027. Then the project would be aligned with River

Krishna. The Bandar Port would be completed by December. Hyderabad-Machilipatnam Highway is being developed as Express Road. At the same time, Naidu assured the people that the power charges would not be increased. The true-up charges imposed by the previous government have been cancelled. The previous government had increased the power charges nine times, he reminded. ESI hospitals would be built at Achyutapuram, Guntur, Kurnool, Sri City, Tirupati and Amaravati.

Rahul Slams Govt on Commercial LPG Price Hike

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday attacked the Modi government over the hike in price of commercial LPG cylinder, with Rahul Gandhi saying this is an "election bill" and the next "strike" will be on petrol and diesel. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said he had warned that the heat of inflation would strike after the elections. "Today, commercial gas cylinders have become Rs 993 more expensive. This marks the single largest hike in a single day. This is an election bill," Gandhi said in Hindi on X. Also Read - Anticipatory Bail to Pawan Khera in Alleged Defamation Case Linked to Assam CM's Wife "Since February: A hike of Rs 1,380, an 81% increase in just three months. Tea stalls, 'dhabas', hote t shops - the burden on every kitchen has increased. And this will inevitably impact your plate as well," Gandhi said. The first strike was on gas; the next will be on petrol



and diesel, he added. The Congress also said the ruling party's regard for the common Indians' suffering is limited to election gimmicks, after which they are left to their own devices. Also Read - Didi: Exit Poll BJP-sponsored, Rigged In a post on X, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said, "Just as the election cycle concluded, the Modi government wasted no time to increase prices of LPG cylinders." "A whopping increase of nearly Rs 1000 on commercial cylinders will affect crores of Indians who rely on food from small eateries for sustenance. Similarly, crores of small food businesses will have to bear the burden of this hike," he said. Also Read - West Bengal Assembly:

Will Mamata Banerjee Win a Fourth Term? The BJP's regard for the common Indians' suffering is limited to election gimmicks, after which they are 1 government for allegedly profiteering said it will now put burden on the public as the prices are rising. "Election relief over, inflation's heat is on its way! After April 29th, watch out - petrol, diesel, everything will get expensive. "When (crude) oil was cheap, the Modi government pocketed the profits. Now that it's expensive, it'll dump the burden on you," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. "A government that loots when it's cheap - leaving the public to bear the brunt of inflation," he had alleged.

Telangana HC on large-scale encroachments by influential entities being unchecked

HYDERABAD: Making it clear that it expects a detailed compliance report by July 3, the Telangana High Court on Thursday expressed displeasure over what it described as "discriminatory enforcement" by authorities, questioning why action is taken swiftly against poor and middle-class households while large-scale encroachments by influential entities remain unchecked. Hearing a writ petition on the alleged encroachment of Salakam Cheruvu, Justice NV Shrivani expressed strong displeasure over the failure of counsel for the Education department, and those representing the Campus and Salar-e-Millat Educational Trust, to provide clear details



on requisite permissions. The court also ordered a comprehensive inquiry against all officials who held posts from the start of construction to the present, stating that action against erring officials alone would ensure accountability. Chief Secre tariebegan and why no preventive or punitive action followed. Expressing dissatisfaction, the court questioned whether officials had "turned a blind eye" to the alleged illegalities over the years, allowing the institution to function. Raising doubts over the structural integrity of the alleged illegal construction within the lake area, the court directed Revenue and Irrigation officials to conduct a joint surbuffervey to determine the FTL and buffbufferer zone limits of Salakam Cheruvu. Authorities were instructed to identify all illegal constructions within the buffer zone after survey and submit a report.

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TVK Candidate's Office Set Afire Near Trichy



Ahead of the counting of votes, unidentified miscreants reportedly set on fire the election office of Vijay-led Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) near Trichy in Srirangam Assembly constituency. TVK candidate Ramesh Chandra's office was attacked by the miscre-

ants. A complaint has been filed at the local police station and the party sought action against the guilty. Actor-politician Vijay's TVK had contested the elections held for the 234-seat Assembly on April 23. Counting of votes will take place on May 4.

HC Not Inclined on Harish Plea

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Thursday was not inclined to entertain a writ petition filed by former minister and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao, complaining that the crop loan waiver scheme of the state government had not been extended to all eligible farmers in his constituency. Justice Surepalli Nanda clarified that relief of a broad and general nature, particularly involving issues affecting a large section of the public, could not be sought through an individual writ petition. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The court advised that such grievances must be pursued through a public interest litigation (PIL). Harish Rao, in his petition, contended that farmers across the mandals of



Siddipet Urban, Siddipet Rural, Chinna Kodur, Nangunuru, and Narvanaraopet were denied the benefit, as the waiver amounts were not credited to their bank accounts. He sought directions from the court to ensure that the pending loan waiver amounts be released to farmers within a specified timeframe. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Extends Buddha Purnima Wishes Government counsel objected to the maintainability of the petition, stating that relief intended for a large group, such as all farmers in a

constituency, cannot be sought in an individual capacity through a writ petition. Counsel for Harish Rao sought permission to convert the petition into filing a PIL separately. Following that the petitioner's counsel sought permission to withdraw the petition, which was allowed. The court accordingly disposed of the case, granting liberty to the petitioner to pursue appropriate legal remedies. Also Read - TIMS Sanathnagar Set for Trial Run; OP Services Begin Today HC Seeks Report on

Owaisi College Taking serious note of the inaction of public authorities over the alleged large scale illegal constructions by the Barrister Fatima Owaisi Educational Campus KG- PG, and the Salar-e-Millat Educational Trust in the lake bed area including the full tank level and buffer zone of Salkam Cheruvu at Badangpet, the Telangana High Court has directed principal secretary, revenue, the civic body and the irrigation and school education departments to conduct a detailed enquiry to identify officers who did not take action during the course of construction of the college from 2015. The court directed the authorities to furnish a detailed report to the court by July 3, after completion of the inquiry and the not be disturbed.

Techie Loses Rs 77 Lakh to Online Trading Scam

Hyderabad: A 48-year-old software employee from Pragathinagar was allegedly cheated of over Rs 77 lakh in a cyber fraud between February 15 and April 13, involving a WhatsApp-based trading and investment scheme. The victim came across online trading content promising high returns, Cyberabad cybercrime police, quoting her complaint, said. On responding, the victim was redirected to join a WhatsApp group. Also Read - 'Godman' Kharat Held in 8th Abuse Case, Sent to Jail as Remand Denied The fraudsters, posing as representatives of a reputed securities firm, used its branding and regulatory details to gain her trust. She was shown fabricated profit screenshots and was repeatedly persuaded to transfer money under various pretexts, including trading investments, large channel fees, and transaction or tax certificates. Despite making multiple payments, the victim was continuously pressured to deposit more funds, with assurances that her returns

would be released only after completing pending payments. The fraudsters also used multiple identities, including individuals posing as fellow investors and even a purported police official, to create credibility. They shared unverifiable transaction details and documents to further mislead her. Also Read - Interstate Offender Nabbed in ATM Fraud Cases Fake Stocks: Man Duped of Rs 49.85 L Hyderabad: A 35-year-old KPHB resident fell victim to a sophisticated online investment fraud, losing Rs 49.85 lakh after being lured through a social media advertisement promising lucrative stock market returns, he told the Cyberabad cybercrime police. According to the complaint, the victim clicked on an online advertisement related to stock market investments, which redirected him to join a discussion group posing as a professional trading and training forum. The group members, claiming to be market experts, shared stock tips, trading strategies,



and screenshots of high profits to build credibility. Also Read - IPL Betting Racket Busted In Odisha's Puri; Four Arrested, Rs 25 Lakh Seized The victim was persuaded to invest money through links and platforms provided by the fraudsters. Initially, small returns or fabricated profit updates were shown to gain his confidence. The accused then encouraged larger investments, citing exclusive opportunities and time-sensitive trades. The fraudsters used tactics, including peer pressuring the vic-

tim within the group and constant assurances of guaranteed profits to keep the victim engaged. They also imposed additional charges under various pretexts such as premium membership, trading fees, and withdrawal processing charges. When the victim attempted to withdraw his earnings, he was asked to deposit more money to "unlock" funds or clear pending charges. Despite repeated payments, no returns were credited, and communication from the group gradually ceased.

Uncleared demolition debris sparks outrage, RWAs demand swift debris removal

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) is facing criticism from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and environmentalists over tonnes of uncleared demolition debris that is getting piled up at various locations in the city over the past several months. The debris has been languishing at sites where Hydraa demolished apartments, multi-storied buildings, temporary shelters and other infrastructure that encroached on park land, as well as on land approved in layouts, government land, private land and endowment land. After carrying out the demolitions, Hydraa puts up fencing at the retained land properties. However, heaps of debris generated during the demolition were left at the sites over several months, posing a



health risk to locals and surrounding colonies. For instance, near Madhura Nagar metro at Yellareddyguda, in June, 2025, Hydraa demolished several encroachments on 1,533 square yards designated as park land and retained it. Since then, the debris was not cleared and it got piled up. Locals while appreciative of Hydraa initiative in removal of encroachments and freeing park land from the encroachers however expressed dismay at the dumps of

debris left at the site. "Hydraa teams demolished and left without the debris being cleared which is causing inconvenience to us," a resident said. In another incident, Hydraa recently demolished encroachments, including five buildings under construction and two small room structures, at Shastripuram Colony in Mailardevpally on 6,500 square yards designated as playground land. Tonnes of demolition waste was not cleared and remain piled up at

the site. Meanwhile, the RWAs suggest Hydraa should start using lung spaces after reclaiming them from encroachers, either for building new parks or for some other government institutions. City-based environmentalists raise alarm over massive piles of demolition debris accumulating at the sites, saying it caused significant environmental issues and health risks. They demanded that Hydraa authorities clear the debris on a war footing.

Farooq Reviews Haj Arrangements For AP Pilgrims Via Hyderabad, Bengaluru

VIJAYAWADA

: Minority welfare and law minister N. MD Farooq on Thursday directed officials to ensure foolproof arrangements for Haj pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh departing through Hyderabad and Bengaluru embarkation centres for Haj-2026. At a review meeting at the Secretariat in Velagapudi, Amaravati, the minister stressed close coordination with authorities in Telangana and Karnataka to ensure seamless facilities. The meeting was attended by Minority Affairs Advisor M.A. Shariff, Minority Welfare Secretary Ch. Sridhar, Haj Committee chairman Hasan Basha, CEO Ghouse Peer and officials. Also Read - Naidu Greets Workers, Farmers on International Labour Day Farooq said around 2,000 pilgrims from the state will undertake the pilgrimage this year. Of them, 333 pilgrims have already departed in two batches on April 18 and 19 from Vijayawada, while the



rest opted for Hyderabad and Bengaluru. He said 1,202 pilgrims will depart from Hyderabad and 447 from Bengaluru in phases between May 4 and May 21. Officials were directed to ensure quality food, safe drinking water and reliable services at embarkation points. He also called for first aid and emergency medical services at airports, streamlined check-in and boarding, help desks, adequate ground staff, and clear communication on flight

schedules, baggage rules and documentation. Ensure proper accommodation, medical care and logistical support under state supervision, with nodal officers appointed and special assistance provided for elderly and differently-abled pilgrims. Also Read - Konaseema People Lose Hope of KN Railway Line by 2027 Pushkaralu The minister emphasised hygienic accommodation, quality food, safe drinking water and reliable services at

embarkation points. He also called for first aid and emergency medical services at airports, streamlined check-in and boarding, help desks, adequate ground staff, and clear communication on flight schedules, baggage rules and documentation. Security, identity verification and crowd management measures were also reviewed, with directions for daily monitoring. The minister wished the pilgrims a safe and successful journey.

Divers find body of woman clutching child inside sunken cruise boat

Jabalpur: In a heart-wrenching discovery that moved seasoned rescuers, a diving team of a paramilitary force found the body of a woman who was onboard the ill-fated cruise boat that capsized in Madhya Pradesh's Bargi Dam still clutching her child in a final, tight embrace. The Agra-based diving team described the challenging conditions inside the submerged vessel, where limited space and jagged iron rods forced rescuers to use hammers to create narrow openings, with one diver almost getting trapped. As many as nine people have died, and 22 have been rescued after a cruise boat overturned and sank in Bargi Dam



in Jabalpur district following a sudden storm on Thursday evening, officials said. "We initially encountered difficulty retrieving the body of a woman from the wreckage. We then discovered that she was holding her child tightly, and it was difficult to separate them. Our team was deeply moved by

the scene," one of the divers told PTI Videos. He said that the conditions were extremely challenging, with the limited space, broken structures, and low visibility hampering the rescue operation. Another member of the rescue team from Agra said that the visibility inside was extremely

poor, and the team kept encountering broken structures and iron rods that snagged their equipment. In some places, the team had to squeeze through narrow openings to conduct the search, he said, adding that at one point, a diver got trapped and had to be rescued. According to the rescuers, the operation had become perilous, as the boat's structure had completely collapsed on both sides, with internal grilles making the pathways dangerously narrow. Despite these hurdles, the paramilitary team has so far recovered five bodies from the murky depths of the reservoir, including one child and four adults.

Telangana govt employees flag pay, promotion issues amid growing unrest

Hyderabad: Employees from different key departments are unhappy with the government and have expressed their concerns and reservations over a few issues, including pay scales and promotions. Government employees had staged lunch hour demonstration on April 17, demanding second PRC implementation from June 2 and others. TGSRTC employees conducted their strike from April 22 to 24 in support of their demands like merger of RTC with the government. And now, Panchayat Secretaries and Energy departments have submitted representations to the government demanding to address their issues. Amidst the Energy department's intensified efforts to get clearances for establishing the TGRPDCL, the Telangana State Power Employees Joint Action Committee (TGPEJAC) demanded the department to share the modalities of the proposed new



Discom. It also wanted a committee to be constituted on pros and cons of establishing the new Discom. Employees should not be influenced by assuring promotions, the TGPEJAC stressed. Similarly, the Panchayat Secretaries Association submitted a memorandum to the Panchayat Commissioner and wanted their issues to be addressed at the earliest. The Association wanted the services of outsourcing Panchayat Secretaries to be regularised as Junior Panchayat Secretaries. Cadre strength should be identified and accordingly

promotions should be provided to the employees. "The practice of making employees work on government holidays and Sundays, should be withdrawn," the office bearers of Panchayat Secretaries Association said in the memorandum. These apart there are few others demands, including implementation of said in the memorandum. Old Pension Scheme. Likewise, the Singareni Collieries Employees union staged a demonstration at Vidyut Soudha on Tuesday demanding the government to clear the pending arrears of

Rs.46,000 crore payable to Singareni. The SCCL employees said the GENCO and Power Coordination Committees owe payments for supply of coal and power. e delay in clearing the arrears, SCCL said in the memoranda struggling to pay salaries to employees and meet the regular expenses, they charged. Despite the Congress government's claims, employees of different departments are raising issues and exposing the challenges they are facing due to lack of support from the government.

Madurai Chithirai Festival: Lord Kallazhagar Enters Vaigai River

Madurai (Tamil Nadu) : Amid thundering chants of Lord Govinda and a sea of humanity, Lord Kallazhagar, the presiding deity of Alagar Kovil, entered the Vaigai river here on Friday morning, marking the celestial peak of the annual Chithirai festival. Adorned in green silk, a traditional symbol indicating prosperity and a good harvest for the year, the deity entered the river on a golden horse "vahanam" as lakhs of devotees from across the state and beyond witnessed the spectacle. Also Read - Tamil Nadu Political Leaders Extend May Day Greetings The event is held every year to commemorate the legend of Lord Sundararaja Perumal, in the guise of Kallazhagar, providing salvation to Mandooka Maharishi from his curse. The festival proceedings had commenced on April 27 at the Alagar hills, with the deity departing in a golden palanquin. Following a grand reception known as Ethir Seva

at Three Mawadi upon entering the city, the procession moved through various neighbourhoods, including Pudur and Tallakulam. Also Read - Tamil Nadu Exit Polls: Will Thalopathy Vijay Be A King or Kingmaker? At the Prasanna Venkatachalapathi temple in Tallakulam, the deity wore the garland sent from the Srivilliputhur Andal temple and later appeared on the thousand-pillar vahanam. As the procession moved toward the riverbanks, devotees dressed as Kallazhagar and Karuppanasamy sprayed scented water from leather bags while women offered prayers by lighting lamps made of jaggery in their hands. Upon reaching the Vaigai, Kallazhagar was received by Lord Veeraraghava Perumal mounted on a silver horse. The deity then entered the river area, which had been specially decorated with two tonnes of flowers and lotus leaves. Also Read - Investment Demand



Drives Gold Purchases to 151 Tonnes in Q1 After circling the area three times to bless the gathered crowd, special prayers and deeparadhana were performed at the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department and Veeraraghava Perumal mandagapadis. Madurai

city police commissioner Abhishek Dixit supervised a massive security operation, with iron barricades installed to manage the crowd flow and heavy deployment of personnel from Tallakulam to the river. Fire and rescue services were stationed around the riverbanks while med-

ical teams were kept on standby for emergencies. Following the river entry, the deity proceeded to the Ramaraya mandapam for the 'theerthavari' ritual, while thousands of devotees fulfilled their vows by tonsuring their heads along the riverbanks.

Anticipatory Bail to Pawan Khera in Alleged Defamation Case Linked to Assam CM's Wife

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted an anticipatory bail to Congress leader Pawan Khera in matter linked to alleged forgery and defamation case linked to the allegedly making false allegations against the wife of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma. This comes after earlier on Thursday, Supreme Court had reserved its verdict on a plea filed by Congress leader Pawan Khera challenging a Gauhati High Court order denying him anticipatory bail in a defamation and forgery case linked to allegations against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Also Read - Didi: Exit Poll BJP-sponsored, Rigged A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar heard submissions by Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi for Khera and counter-arguments by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the Assam government before reserving judgment. Singhvi strongly criticised statements attributed to the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and argued that he is acting like a constitutional cowboy. "Dr



BR Ambedkar would turn over in his grave if he had imagined a constitutional functionary behaving like a 'constitutional cowboy' or a 'constitutional Rambo'," the senior lawyer said. He argued that the custodial arrest of Khera was unnecessary in a defamation case when his client is not a flight risk. "Interrogation is available; there is no flight risk. The question is the necessity of arrest. Why is it necessary to humiliate by custodial arrest?" he said. Also Read - West Bengal Assembly: Will Mamata Banerjee Win a Fourth Term? Singhvi argued that the charges invoked against Pawan Khera are bailable, including Section 339 (forgery under BNS), which he claims was wrongly added later and does not even form part of the original FIR. He stated that arrest should be a

last resort, particularly in such offences. He said the Gauhati High Court order states that he (Khera) doesn't deserve the 'privilege' of an anticipatory bail, when the liberty is a matter of right and not privilege. Also Read - LDF, UDF Claim Victory Post Exit Poll Results Singhvi added that it's a case where "venom" and "malice" are spewing out of the prosecutious police had invoked and that the investigation hBail He stressed the need for a thorough such as passport seals, QR codes and other official markers. Mehta submitted that the investigation must uncover who forged the documents, whether Khera acted with accomplices and whether the alleged acts have wider implications, including possible foreign links during an election period.

Sai Moves Resolution In Assembly On Women's Quota

Raipur: Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday moved a resolution in the House seeking 33 percent reservation for women in the parliament and state Assemblies after completion of delimitation process. A one-day special session of the state Assembly was convened on Thursday to discuss the issue of women empowerment and reservation for them in the legislative bodies in the wake of the defeat of the women's quota bill in the Lok Sabha recently. Also Read - Anticipatory Bail to Pawan Khera in Alleged Defamation Case Linked to Assam CM's Wife A marathon debate on the House till the last reports came. Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Charan Das Mahant



sought to move a private resolution seeking immediate implementation of 33 percent reservation issue was going on the n for

women, as per the bill passed in the parliament in 2023. Speaker Dr Raman Singh however rejected his plea to place the pri-

issue was going on the after the ongoing census. Also Read - Madurai Chithirai Festival: Lord Kallazhagar Enters Vaigai

River The debate witnessed heated exchanges between the treasury and Opposition benches. Deputy chief minister Arun Sao hit out at the Congress saying that the grand old party was never interested to empower women and took a potshot at the party for not being able to implement its promise of providing an incentive of Rs 500 per month each to the women when Congress was in the power in Chhattisgarh in 2018-2023. Participating in the debate, Congress MLA Anil Bhedra called the women's quota issue raised by the BJP as 'election stunt' and questioned why the Centre has not implemented the Women Reservation Act passed in the parliament in 2023, so far.

Commercial LPG Cylinder Price Hiked By Rs 993; No Change In Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG Rates In India

New Delhi: Amid global energy supply crisis in the wake of ongoing hostilities between US, Israel and Iran, the price of 19 kg commercial cylinders has been increased by Rs 993 across the country effective from May 1 (Friday). However, petrol, diesel and domestic LPG rates have remained unchanged, offering some relief to consumers. Citing sources, ANI reported that prices of 19 KG Commercial cylinder has been increased by Rs 993 from today. "A 19 Kg cylinder will cost Rs 3071.50 in Delhi from today. No change in domestic cylinder prices," it said. This is for the third time that the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has been increased since the conflict erupted on February 28. On March 1, the prices were increased by Rs 144, while again on April 1, there was a hike of nearly Rs 200 for 19-kg cylinders. In an official statement, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) stated that the retail prices of petrol, diesel, and domestic LPG (14.2 kg cylinders) have remained unchanged, fully insulating domestic consumers from the recent increase in international fuel prices. IOC said that overall, about 80 percent of petroleum products have seen no change in prices, ensuring stability for most consumers. "No change in prices of domestic LPG (14.2 kg) for 33 crore



domestic LPG consumers. Overall, approximately 80 percent of petroleum products have witnessed no change in prices, ensuring stability for the majority of consumers. Prices of Bulk and commercial LPG cylinders (less than 1 percent of total consumption) have been revised," the Corporation said. "At the same time, around four percent of petroleum products have seen a downward revision, reflecting the dynamic nature of global price movements. The measures reflect the calibrated and balanced approach adopted by OMCs, under the guidance of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas - Nil). Further, the rate of duty on exports of ATF will be Rs 33 per litre (SAED only). The rate of duty on exports of Petrol continues to remain nil. Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) is a flexible tax imposed by the government on select products, mainly domestic crude oil and exported petroleum fuels such as petrol, diesel, and ATF. Finance Ministry also said there

is no change in the existing excise duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption. Notably, in April, the Centre had increased export duties on petroleum products, raising the levy on high-speed diesel to Rs 55.5 per litre and on ATF to Rs 42 per litre. ATF For International Airlines Hiked By 5 Percent In another major update, the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, for international airlines was increased by five percent on Friday, marking the second straight monthly rise since war began. However, there is no change in the have been kept unchanged as state-owned oil companies decided to absorb the rise in global fuel prices to protect airlines and consumers. As per the norms, ATF prices are revised on the 1st of every month based on input cost. "No change in ATF prices for domestic airlines (scheduled operations). Prices of Bulk Diesel and ATF for international airline operations have been adjusted upward." IOC said in its statement.

High Drama After TMC Alleges EVM Tampering, Mamata Inspects Strongroom Security Ahead Of Vote Counting In Bengal

Kolkata: Tension ran high outside the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Thursday reportedly after a scuffle broke out between workers of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), following allegations by TMC leaders of "suspicious movements" inside a strong room. Sharing a video on X, TMC alleged "gross electoral fraud" by BJP and the Election Commission, and claimed that ballot boxes were opened in the strongroom without the presence of any relevant party stakeholders. TMC candidates Kunal Ghosh and Shashi Panja staged a sit-in outside the gate of the counting centre, alleging irregularities linked to the strong room at the adjacent Khudiram Anushilan Kendra here. Workers of both parties raised slogans against each other, leading to a brief confrontation. Over fears of EVM tampering, West Bengal Chief Minister and Bhabanipur candidate Mamata



Banerjee later visited the strongroom at Sakhawat Memorial School in south Kolkata and remained there for hours. Braving heavy rain, the TMC supremo reached the venue on Lord Sinha Road, where the EVMs of the 159-Bhabanipur constituency were secured. The school is being used as the DC & RC centre for the constituency. Sources said the Chief Minister arrived around 9 PM and contin-

ued to remain inside the premises, supervising the situation, until 10:30 PM. Earlier in the evening, CM Banerjee released a video message raising concerns over possible tampering in the strong room and instructed party workers to guard the premises in shifts. However, by late evening, it was not just party workers, but the CM was also seen at the site. Visuals from the area showed relentless rain lashing the city, while sen-

ior Police officers remained deployed with umbrellas under tight security arrangements to prevent any untoward incident. Alongside state police, central forces personnel were also stationed in large numbers. Security around the premises was intensified. Journalists were also not allowed anywhere near the strong room area. Iron barricades have been placed well outside the main gate,

and the entire zone has effectively been wrapped in a security blanket. Issuing a detailed statement, the Election Commission said that a total of seven assembly constituency strong rooms have been set inside Khudiram Anushilan Kendra, which are duly closed and sealed. It ensured that the closure was also done in the presence of election agents after the completion of polls on Thursday. In its statement, the election authority said, "With reference to the video being circulated on social media handles, there are 7 AC strong rooms inside Khudiram Anushilan Kendra. They all have been duly closed and sealed in the presence of the candidates/election agents and general observer after the completion of polls yesterday. Last Strong room was closed in the morning around 5.15 AM. All strong rooms polled EVMs are safely secured and sealed."

Police Find Skeletal Remains Of Woman 'Killed' 34 Years Ago In Ahmedabad, Send Them For Forensic Test

Ahmedabad: Acting on a tip-off, the Crime Branch on Thursday recovered the skeletal remains of a woman who was suspected to have been murdered in Ahmedabad's Vatva area 34 years ago. The police exhumed the remains from a 20-foot-deep house pit and sent them for forensic examination. ACP (Crime Branch) Bharat Patel said that although this case is very old, important evidence has been found based on technical and scientific investigation. After DNA testing of the human remains, the correct identification and further legal action will be taken. Strict action will be taken against all the accused involved in this matter. Case background According to sources,



the victim, Farzana, was married in Surat, but got divorced after a year. Later, she returned to her father's house at Dholka and then started living in Ahmedabad. She was rumoured to have been involved in prostitution and had relationships with many men. In Ahmedabad, she met Samsuddin and fell in

love with him. Later, the two got married. Sources said even after marriage, when Farzana's behaviour did not change, Samsuddin hatched a conspiracy to kill her and discussed the plan with his brother Iqbal and friend Abdul Karim. Karim's acquaintance Sadia Bibi too was included in this plan.

Since Bibi lived alone, the plan was made to kill her at her house. Farzana and Samsuddin stayed there at night. At midnight, sources said, all four accused allegedly strangled Farzana to death. Before the murder, a pit was dug outside Sadia Bibi's house. After the murder, the body was hidden in the pit and covered with brick-work. During this entire incident, a relative of Sadia Bibi witnessed this scene, whom the accused threatened to kill. ACP Patel said the woman's husband and his brother have been detained for questioning while other suspects are no longer alive. Since the brother of Farzana is alive, the identity will be confirmed through DNA test, the police said.

SC Grants Anticipatory Bail To Congress Leader Pawan Khera In High-Profile Passport Case

New Delhi: In a major relief for the Congress leader, the Supreme Court on Friday granted anticipatory bail to Pawan Khera in a case registered against him related to allegations that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife possessed multiple passports and undisclosed properties abroad. The apex court had on Thursday reserved its order on a plea of Congress leader Pawan Khera seeking anticipatory bail. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and AS Chandurkar reserved its decision on the plea after the Congress leader submitted that if he doesn't get anticipatory bail in a registered case against



him, then the very purpose of pre-arrest bail is gone. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Khera, said the allegations against him are a matter of trial, and it was not necessary to humiliate him by arrest. He submitted that out of the total sections invoked against him, some are bailable while others don't require his arrest.

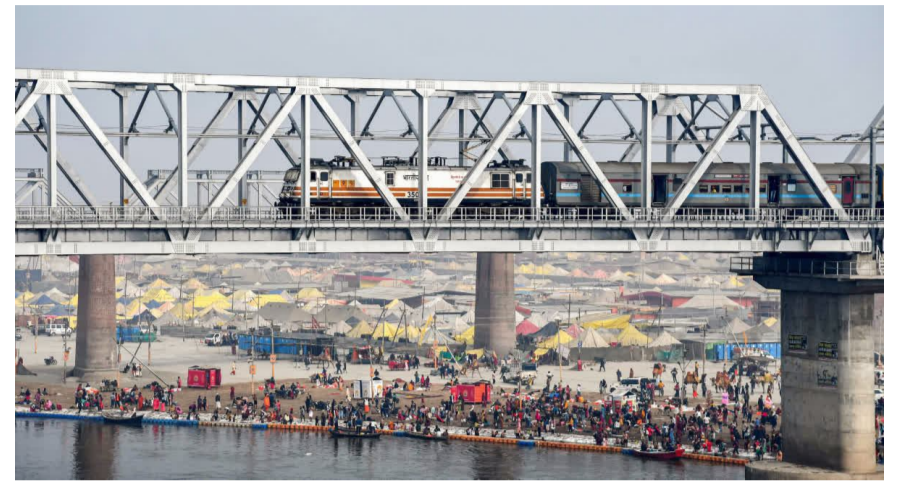
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Assam government, opposed the plea and said Khera showed fake and doctored copies of passports of the chief minister's wife. He said Khera has been absconding and releasing videos, and all the allegations about the chief minister's wife holding multiple citizenships are false. Khera has chal-

lenged the April 24 order of the Gauhati High Court refusing to grant him anticipatory bail. Following the allegations, the CM's wife, Riniki Bhuyana Sharma, filed criminal cases against Khera and others at the Guwahati Crime Branch police station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The Telangana High Court had earlier granted Khera a seven-day transit anticipatory bail, but Assam Police moved the Supreme Court against it. The apex court passed an interim order to stay the grant of anticipatory transit bail and asked Khera to approach the Gauhati High Court. (With PTI inputs).

Over 350 Train Trips Affected, Disruptions To Continue Till June Due To Ongoing Maintenance Work Near Prayagraj

New Delhi: Over 350 train trips, including several express and passenger services, have been affected since April, and the same will continue till June, because of ongoing traffic block due to repair and maintenance works on Churu-Sadulpur railway section in North Western and North Central Railway near Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. Passengers travelling during the peak summer season are facing significant inconvenience, as the sudden increase in travel demand, along with the cancellation, diversion, and rescheduling of numerous trains, has compounded their difficulties. This sudden development has created confusion and uncertainty among travellers, many of whom are struggling to find alternative options or secure confirmed tickets.

Passengers Face Uncertainty, Demand Better Planning Commuters are particularly worried that these disruptions may continue for an extended period from April to June, impacting pre-planned journeys, family visits, and essential travel. The alleged lack of clear, timely communication has further intensified passenger concerns.



Over 350 train trips hit by disruptions. Over 350 train trips hit by disruptions (ETV Bharat) Travellers have urged Railways to provide better updates, minimise cancellations during peak season, and arrange additional services or alternate routes to ease the burden on passengers. Expressing concern over the large-scale disruption to train services, Rishi Kumar, a passenger in Delhi, shared his mixed reaction. While he acknowledged the importance of ongoing modernisation efforts, he said the disruption had caused significant inconvenience. "It is good that some modern development work is being carried out for passengers, but at the same time, I

am quite annoyed that Railways especially those from lower-middle and economically weaker sections who cannot afford alternatives like air travel," Sharma added. Why Disruption In Train Services Every summer, a surge in passenger demand puts immense pressure on railway networks, prompting authorities to introduce special trains to ease congestion. These additional services are strategically deployed to accommodate the growing number of travellers. However, to ensure smoother operations and avoid overburdening already busy routes, regular and special trains are often scheduled on different sections of the network, allowing for more effi-

cient management of traffic and resources. Amit Sudarshan, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of North Western Railway, said Indian Railways is under taking an Autom atic resources, include will be obtained from the officers concerned compliance. The railways ETA limits while maintaining rigorous safety standards. Emphasis has been placed on strict adherence to established protocols, with no room for deviation during execution. At the same time, authorities have turned their focus to service reliability. Train punctuality in the section will now be under close watch as officials work to arrest delays and prevent further declines in performance.

Israeli Forces Intercept Gaza Aid Flotilla And Plans To Drop Off Activists In Greece

Athens: Israeli forces near the southern Greek island of Crete intercepted more than 20 boats from a flotilla of several dozen seeking to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza and planned to transport about 175 detained activists to Greece on Thursday, Israeli authorities said. Activists aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla said Israeli forces stormed their vessels overnight, smashing engines and detaining some of those onboard while they were sailing in international waters near Greece, hundreds of miles (kilometers) from Gaza and Israel. Israeli officials said they needed to take early action against the flotilla before it reached Israeli waters because of the high number of boats. The flotilla set sail earlier this month from Barcelona, Spain. Organizers have said more than 70 boats and 1,000 people from around the world would be participating, with more vessels joining the original boats as the flotilla sailed east across the Mediterranean. Flotilla organizers condemned Israel's interception as "a dangerous and unprecedented escalation," describing it in a news release as "the abduction of civilians in the of the Mediterranean, over 600 miles from Gaza, in full view of the In a separate statement late Thursday, organizers said 31 Colosseum importing arms, while critics say it of the 53 vessels had reached safe waters and would continue their attempts to "break the illegal siege of Gaza." Israel's Foreign Ministry originally said in a post



on X that it was taking about 175 activists from more than 20 boats participating in the flotilla to Israel. Foreign Minister Gideon Saar later wrote on X that the activists would be transferred to Greece in coordination with Greek. The Greek foreign ministry issued a statement saying it had asked Israel to withdraw its ships from the area and has offered its "good services" for the activists to disembark in Greece and be. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated the Israeli Navy in a statement saying the mission to keep the flotilla away had been a success. "They will continue to watch Gaza on YouTube," he s Prot ests, condemnation in support of detained flotilla activists. Protests in solidarity with the flotilla were called across several capitals. In Rome, crowds gathered outside the Colosseum holding Palestinian flags. In Athens supporters chanted in support of the flotilla outside the Greek foreign ministry. Turkey's Foreign Mini-

stry condemned the seizure as "an act of piracy." Spain summoned the Israeli charge d'affaires in Madrid "to convey its strongest condemnation of the detention of the flotilla," which included Spanish citizens, the ministry said in a statement. Italy and Germany said they were following developments with "great." In a post on Telegram, Hamas also condemned the interception, accusing Israel of committing a crime without accountability and calling for the release of those. Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of a blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent Colosseum importing arms, while critics say itn Colosseum importing arms, while critics say itn Hamas frothered outside the Colossehered outside the amounts to collehered outside the Colossective punishment of Gaza's Pa than a year after Israeli authorities foiled a previous effort by the group to reach Gaza. That

attempt involved about 50 vessels and around 500 activists, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, and several European lawmakers. Israel arrested, detained and later deported the participants, who claimed Israeli authorities abused them while in detention. Israeli authorities denied the accusations. The Israeli action had boat Mavi Marmara, which had been participating in an aid flotilla attempting to reach Gaza. Nine Turkish citizens and one Turkish-American on board were killed. The last time an activist boat succeeded in reac broken vessels hered outside the Colhered outside the ColosseIsraeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman Oren Marmorstein said that "early action was required in accordance with international law" due to the large number of vessels in the flotilla. "The operation was carried out in international waters peacefully and without any casualties," he said.

Madhya Pradesh Sets Up High-Level Panel To Study Uniform Civil Code Implementation

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government has constituted a high-level committee to study various family and personal laws prevailing in the state, in what is considered as the first steps towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. Headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prasad Desai, the five-member committee will deliberate on various issues pertaining to a Uniform Civil Code. The committee also comprises retired IAS officer Shatrughna Singh, legal expert Anoop Nair, educationist Gopal Sharma, social worker Budhpal Singh, and Ajay Katesaria—an IAS officer serving as Additional Secretary in the General Administration Department. As per the government order, a need is being felt to review the laws pertaining to divorce, maintenance, succession, adoption, and live-in relationships in order to ensure equality, justice, social harmony, and legal clarity among citizens. The committee has been asked to work on the fol-



lowing key points: 1. Conduct a detailed study of the various personal and family laws prevalent in the state—including provisions related to marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption, and 'live-in' relationships. 2. Examine relevant points by studying the models and processes adopted in other states, particularly Uttarakhand and Gujarat. 3. Propose a balanced, practical and legal framework for a Uniform Civil Code, while keeping in mind the social, cultural, and economic context of the state. 4. Invite suggestions and objections from various stakeholders—such as the general public, socio-religious

organizations, legal experts and educational institutions—regarding this matter, and to duly examine them. 5. Ensure broad public participation by organizing public hearings and consultative meetings whenever deemed necessary. 6. Submit recommendations regarding the procedures for 'live-in' relationships within the state, their registration, and the rights and obligations arising therefrom. 7. Examine all legal, administrative, and implementation-related aspects of the proposed Bill, so as to prevent the emergence of any legal impediments in the future. n January 27, 2025, Uttarakhand became the

first state in the country to implement a Uniform Civil Code. It mandates registration of marriages -- and even live-in relationships -- within 30 days, with penalties including imprisonment or fines for non-compliance. In March 2026, Gujarat emerged as the second state to introduce similar provisions, including equal property rights for sons and daughters, while explicitly exempting Scheduled Tribes. In both Uttarakhand and Gujarat, the high-level committees that recommended the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code were headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prasad Desai.

Trump Says He's Lifting Certain Tariffs On Scotch Whisky After Royal Visit

Washington: President Donald Trump said Thursday he is removing certain tariffs on Scotch whisky after this week's White House visit by King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom. "The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking!" Trump posted on social media.

Trump said people had wanted this change, especially with regard to the wooden barrels in which the spirits of Scotch and bourbon can be aged. His post left unclear if the tariffs were being lifted on bottles of Scotch or on the materials used to produce alcohol in both countries. "I will be removing the Tariffs and Restrictions on Whiskey having to do with Scotland's ability to work with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on Whiskey and Bourbon," Trump said. The White House did not respond to emails seeking clarification about the details of what Trump announced, though the post was interpreted in Scotland and by industry lobbyists as removing the tariffs on Scotch. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer later said in a Thursday statement that the U.S. would give "preferential duty access for whiskey produced in the United



Kingdom." The administration did not immediately respond to questions about whether that meant eliminating the tariffs or lowering them. The Trump administration in 2025 reached a trade framework that put a 10% tax on most goods imported from Britain. The Scotch Whisky Association said its export volume to the U.S. fell 15% after the tariffs were announced in April of last year. The president, answering questions from reporters in the Oval Office, said the tariffs were lifted to specifically enhance the trade of barrels between Scotland and Kentucky, which produces almost all of the world's bourbon. The barrels are used to age the alcohol. Just took all the restrictions off so Scotland and Kentucky can start deal-

ing again," said Trump, who added that he's "not a big drinker." Still, John Swinney, Scotland's first minister, interpreted the president's statement as a removal of tariffs on Scotch itself, calling it a "tremendous success" for his country. "People's jobs were at stake. Millions of pounds were being lost every month from the Scottish economy," said Swinney, expressing gratitude to both Trump and King Charles III. Trump has used alcohol as a pressure point in his tariff threats. Last year, he threatened a 200% tariff on European wine — a major potential blow to French and Italian vineyards that never came to fruition. Foreign countries have responded in turn with threats on bourbon and other American products. In the end, the

Trump administration exempted cork from tariffs, a huge relief to Portugal, the leading supplier of the material used to cap wine bottles. Chris Swonger, president and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council in the U.S., also interpreted Trump's post as a removal of the 10% tariff on whisky from the United Kingdom. "We applaud President Trump for working to restore a proven zero-for-zero model of fair, reciprocal trade between our two nations," Swonger said in a statement. "This action strengthens transatlantic ties, brings much-needed certainty to our industry and allows spirits producers on both sides of the Atlantic to grow, invest and support jobs at a critical time."

Trump Gives Go-Ahead To Major New Canada-US Oil Pipeline

Fort Collins: President Donald Trump granted a key approval Thursday for a major new oil pipeline from Canada into the U.S. that's been dubbed "Keystone Light" over its similarities to a contentious project blocked by the Biden administration. The three-foot-wide (1 meter) Bridger Pipeline Expansion would carry up to 550,000 barrels (87,400 cubic meters) of oil a day from Canada through Montana and Wyoming, where it would link with another pipeline. The pipeline needs additional state and federal environmental approvals before construction, which company officials expect to start next year. Environmentalists hope to stop the project over worries that the pipeline could break and spill. At peak volume, the 650-mile (1,050-kilometer) pipeline would move two-thirds as much oil as the better-known Keystone XL pipeline that got partially built before President Joe Biden, citing climate change, canceled its permit on the day he took office in 2021. "Slightly different from the last administration. They wouldn't sign a pipeline deal. And we have pipelines going up," Trump said after signing his approval for it to cross the border between Saskatchewan and northeastern Montana. Trump in his first term approved the Keystone XL project in 2020 despite concerns from Native American tribes about possible spills and environmental groups about fossil fuels' contribution to climate change. Its cancellation by Biden frustrated Canadian officials, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, after Alberta invested more than \$1 billion in the project. Sometimes called "Keystone Light," the Bridger Pipeline Expansion would not cross any Native American reservations. More than 70% would be built within existing



pipeline corridors and 80% on private land, Bridger Pipeline LLC said in a statement. The line would carry various grades of crude, including from Canada's oil sands region, to be exported or refined in the U.S., company spokesperson Bill Salvin said. The permit from Trump also authorizes other petroleum products including gasoline, kerosene, diesel and liquified petroleum gas. Salvin said including those fuels keeps the company's options open, but it remains focused for now on crude oil. Bridger Pipeline could avoid a reversal by a future administration if it's able to complete its project before Trump leaves office. It hopes to start construction in the fall of 2027 and finish it by late 2028 or early 2029, Bridger spokesperson Bill Salvin said. Trump's term ends Jan. 20, 2029. Bridger Pipeline and other subsidiaries of True Company have been responsible for several major pipeline accidents including more than 50,000 gallons (240,000 liters) of crude that spilled into the Yellowstone River and fouled a Montana city's drinking water supply in 2015, a 45,000-gallon diesel spill in Wyoming in 2022 and a 2016 spill that released more than 600,000 gallons (2.7 million liters) of crude in North Dakota, contaminating the Little Missouri River

and a tributary. Subsidiaries of True agreed to pay a \$12.5 million civil penalty to settle a federal lawsuit over the North Dakota and Montana spills. Salvin said Bridger Pipeline in the years since the Yellowstone spill developed an AI-based leak detection system that allows it to be notified more quickly when there are problems. It also plans to bore 30 to 40 feet (9 to 12 meters) beneath major rivers including the Yellowstone and Missouri to reduce the chances of an accident. The 2015 accident occurred on a line that was constructed in a shallow trench at the bottom of the river. "We designed the pipeline with integrity and safety in mind. We have emergency response plans should something happen where oil happens to get out of the said. The Casper, Wyoming-based company operates more than 3,700 miles (5,950 kilometers) of gathering and transmission pipelines in the Williston Basin of North Dakota. Ament groups opposed to the project include the Guardians. "The biggest concern we see right now is the concern inherent in all pipeline projects which is the risk of spills," said attorney Jenny Harbine with the environmental law firm Earthjustice. "Pipelines rupture and leak. It's just a fact of pipelines."

UN Votes To Cut The Peacekeeping Force In South Sudan From 17,000 To 12,000

United Nations: The U.N. Security Council voted Thursday to reduce the ceiling for the peacekeeping force in conflict-torn South Sudan from 17,000 to 12,000 troops with a mandate to prevent a return to civil war in the world's newest nation. The vote on the U.S.-drafted resolution was 13-0 with Russia and China abstaining. It extends the mandate of the force until April 30, 2027. U.S. Ambassador Mike Waltz told the council the resolution seeks to get the force "back to basics" — keeping the peace, protecting civilians and supporting access to humanitarian aid. There were high hopes when oil-rich South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011 after a long conflict. But the country slid into a civil war in December 2013, largely based on ethnic divisions, when forces loyal to Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, battled those loyal to Riek



Machar, an ethnic Nuer. More than 400,000 people were killed in the war, which ended with a peace agreement in 2018 and a national unity government with Kiir as president and Machar as vice president. But Kiir's government put Machar under house arrest in March 2025, accusing him of subversive activities, and he now faces treason charges. Machar's removal coincided with a sharp increase in violence and a breakdown of the 2018 peace deal, though a long-delayed

presidential election is still scheduled for December. Waltz said the U.S. is concerned that Kiir's government is "exploiting international support and obstructing those that are genuinely trying to help." For example, Waltz said, between October and March the U.N. force recorded more than 480 incidents where peacekeepers were blocked, humanitarian access was denied, repatriation flights were obstructed, bases were forced to close "and millions of dollars were lost and

wasted." He said the United States is serious when it says the U.N.'s far-flung peacekeeping missions are meant to be temporary to help that Kiir's government is that Kiir's government is governments "navigate peace and security crises." Russia's deputy ambassador Anna Evstigneeva argued for maintaining the mission's ceiling. "mission must be ready for any scenario and security challenges," she said. "It should have a sufficient level of resources for that."

Despite New Proposal From Iran, Ceasefire Negotiations With US Are In Flux

Dubai: Diplomatic efforts to end the Iran war stalled again over the weekend as both sides dug in on their demands, even as they face mounting pressure to reach a compromise. Iran said it won't reopen the Strait of Hormuz unless the United States lifts its blockade and ends the war. U.S. President Donald Trump wants a broader deal that would end Iran's nuclear program and address other issues like its missile program and support for regional proxies. For both sides, the clock is ticking. The continued closure of the strait has sent gas prices soaring and could cause further damage to the world economy ahead of U.S. midterm elections. The blockade is strangling Iran's economy. Each side is waiting for the other to blink. Here is what to know. Iran has a new offer. Iran's latest proposal would put off negotiations on its nuclear program to a future date. Instead, the deal would only see Tehran end its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for Washington lifting its



blockade on Iranian ports and a long-term or permanent truce, according to two regional officials with knowledge of the proposal who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. That offer will likely be rejected by Trump. For one, it doesn't address the core issue he cited when he began bombing on Feb. 28: finding a way to ensure that Iran cannot build an atomic weapon. It also appears to be silent on other major questions, like Iran's missile program and its support of proxies in the region. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio appeared to rule out any deal that excludes Iran's nuclear program, telling Fox News in an interview

Monday, "We can't let them get away with it." "We have to ensure that any deal that is made, any agreement that is made, is one that definitively prevents them from sprinting towards a nuclear weapon at any point," Rubio said. This weekend, Trump held back sending envoys to Pakistan, which has been playing a crucial mediating role. By saying the Iranians could call Washington with any proposal, Trump appears to be signaling he's content to try to continue to squeeze Iran via a blockade. The Strait of Hormuz remains shut. The U.S. blockade both squeezes Iran's oil sales — a key source of hard currency for its theocracy — and threatens to force Tehran

to eventually shut down its production if it can't get its crude to market. Already, Iran has faced troubles at home over its economy, and it could worsen as time goes on. The global economy also is suffering: With few ships able to cross the strait, through which about 20% of all traded oil and natural gas passes, oil and gasoline prices are skyrocketing and jet fuel, cooking gas and other energy products are starting to become scarce in parts of the world. A ceasefire without a deadline. The current truce began April 8 after multiple deadlines posed by Trump that threatened Iran's very "civilization" at one point. A separate ceasefire between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon also has taken effect. Trump has now extended the ceasefire with Iran indefinitely after whipsawing between various timelines for the conflict. But negotiations for ending the war have stalled. U.S. Vice President JD Vance took part in an earlier round of talks days after the

Trump Takes A Dig At Macron, Saying Wife Treats Him 'Badly'

Washington: US President Donald Trump made fun of the French president and his wife during a private lunch Wednesday, as he lambasted NATO allies for not joining the war against Iran that has roiled the Middle East. "We didn't need them, but I asked anyway," Trump told a private lunch in a video posted briefly on the White House YouTube channel before access was blocked. "I call up France, Macron --

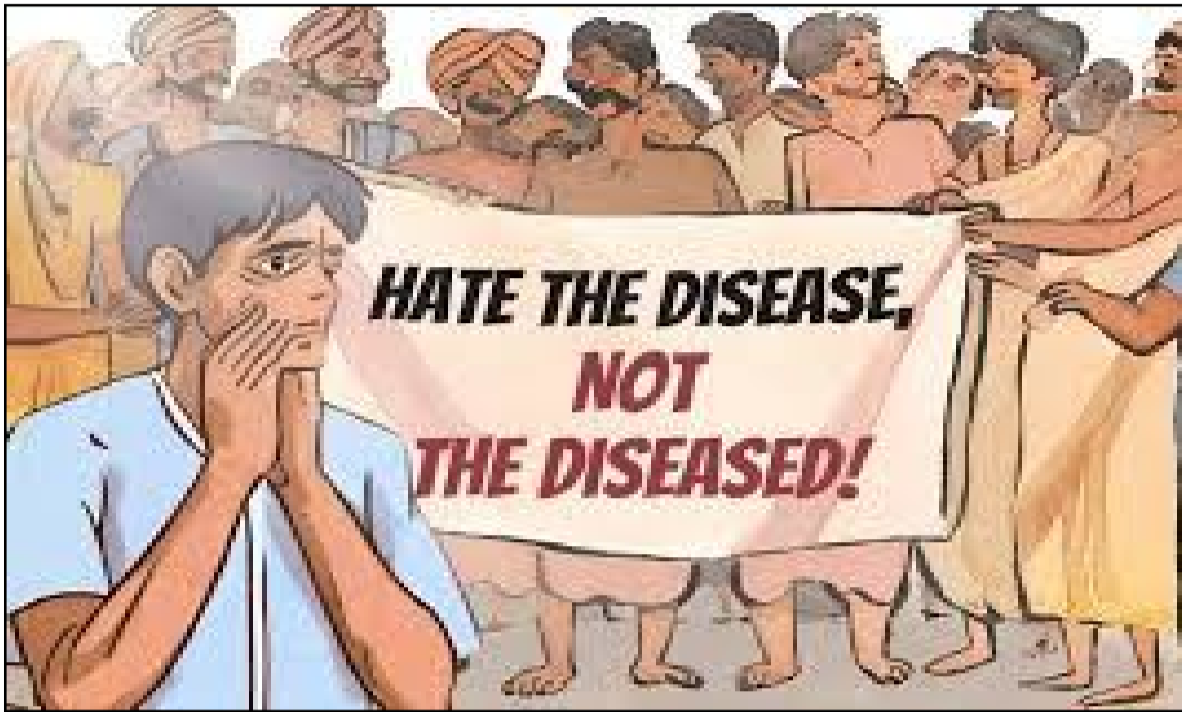


whose wife treats him extremely badly. Still recovering from the right to the jaw," Trump said. He was referring to a May 2025 news video that appeared to show Brigitte Macron shoving

the French president's face on a trip to Vietnam, which Macron later rejected as part of a disinformation campaign. "And I said, 'Emmanuel, we'd love to have some help in the

Gulf even though we're setting records on knocking out bad people and knocking out ballistic missiles. We'd love to have some help. If you could, could you please send ships immediately," Trump continued. He then mimics a French accent to give Macron's alleged answer: "No no no, we cannot do that, Donald. We can do that after the war is won," he said. "I said, 'No no, I don't need after the war is won Emmanuel,'" Trump said.

Hard reality — living with HIV, dying in stigma



Living with HIV in India often unfolds very differently from the optimistic narratives that accompany the country's progress against the disease. National programmes led by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) have made significant strides in treatment and medical management, yet the lived realities of many patients remain shaped by silence, stigma, and social abandonment. A husband and wife rented a room in a private lodge far from their hometown so that the woman, who was in the terminal stages of HIV/AIDS, could spend her final months away from the scrutiny of their community. They lived there in isolation for nearly six months. She eventually died alone, and even her husband disappeared, leaving no one to witness her final moments. As a result, the police registered the case as an unnatural death, and the state assumed responsibility for her unclaimed body. This case is just the tip of the iceberg of what people living with HIV face in our society. Working closely with individuals living with HIV, both during their care and after death, has exposed us to difficult realities within the healthcare system. We have witnessed instances where seropositive individuals face subtle or overt disdain from some healthcare providers, despite the professional obligation to provide compassionate and unbiased care. They also encounter serious challenges in securing employment, and even healthcare workers living with HIV may struggle to find or retain jobs due to fear surrounding the virus. Although India enacted the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act in 2017, which explicitly prohibits discrimination in healthcare, employment, education, and housing, the reality on the ground often falls short of the protections envisioned by the law. The gap between legal protections and everyday experiences reveals the persistent stigma that continues to influence how people living with HIV are treated and the opportunities available to them.

Substantial Progress

India has made substan-

stantial progress in controlling HIV/AIDS. According to the National AIDS Control Organisation and UNAIDS (2023), about 2.47 million people are living with HIV in India. Since 2010, new infections have declined by nearly 48%, while AIDS-related deaths have dropped by about 82% from their 2004 peak. These reflect the impact of national prevention programmes, expansion of antiretroviral therapy (ART), targeted interventions for high-risk groups, and strong community-based outreach. Regardless of the declining infection rate, the total number of people living with HIV continues to rise slowly because treatment allows individuals to live longer, healthier. ART coverage has reached roughly 76%, with improved viral suppression due to modern regimens such as Dolutegravir-based therapy, which has helped transform HIV into a manageable chronic condition. Healthcare systems in India still lack integrated care models capable of addressing both the physical and mental health complications associated with chronic HIV. Significant progress has also been achieved in preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV through routine antenatal screening and the use of Nevirapine prophylaxis during pregnancy. Modern ATP not only prolongs life but also suppresses viral replication to undetectable levels. Scientific evidence now confirms the principle of "Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U)", meaning individuals with sustained viral suppression do not transmit HIV sexually. However, as treatment improves and life expectancy increases, many People Living with HIV (PLHIV) now develop non-AIDS-defining conditions such as Diabetes Mellitus, Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Kidney Disease, and certain cancers. These conditions may appear earlier or progress more rapidly due to chronic inflammation, long-term antiretroviral therapy, and underlying socioeconomic vulnerabilities like financial and emotional strain. At the same time, mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety and sub-

stance abuse, are highly prevalent among PLHIV. Social Rejection Notwithstanding these evolving needs, healthcare systems in India still lack integrated care models capable of addressing both physical and mental health complications associated with chronic HIV. Employment discrimination remains another persistent barrier. Although the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, formally bans workplace discrimination, cases of job loss, forced disclosure, and hiring refusal continue to be reported. Healthcare workers living with HIV often face additional stigma, including unnecessary reassignment away from clinical duties, in spite of clear scientific evidence that standard precautions make occupational HIV transmission in healthcare settings extremely unlikely. Stigma remains one of the most powerful forces shaping the experience of HIV/AIDS in India. Much of this stems from a deeply rooted cultural association between HIV and sexual immorality, where the disease is often perceived as a consequence of promiscuity, infidelity, or moral wrongdoing. This moral framing has overshadowed scientific understanding of HIV transmission. Unlike other serious illnesses like TB, which causes over a thousand deaths daily in India, HIV attracts intense social judgment. As a result, many people living with HIV face rejection not only from society but also within their own families. Support Systems People living with HIV often experience isolation, which contributes to higher risks of depression, suicide, and self-harm. Women are particularly vulnerable; widows who test positive are frequently blamed for their husband's illness, expelled from marital homes, or denied custody of their children. Despite these challenges, support systems have emerged in the form of community networks, PLHIV collectives, support groups, and even HIV-positive matrimony platforms. These initiatives foster belonging, enmodels capable of addressing both the physical and mental health complications associated with chronic HIV. Significant progress has also been

achieved in preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV through routine antenatal screening and the use of Nevirapine prophylaxis during pregnancy. Modern ATP not only prolongs life but also suppresses viral replication to undetectable levels. Scientific evidence now confirms the principle of "Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U)", meaning individuals with sustained viral suppression do not transmit HIV sexually. However, as treatment improves and life expectancy increases, many People Living with HIV (PLHIV) now develop non-AIDS-defining conditions such as Diabetes Mellitus, Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Kidney Disease, and certain cancers. These conditions may appear earlier or progress more rapidly due to chronic inflammation, long-term antiretroviral therapy, and underlying socioeconomic vulnerabilities like financial and emotional strain. At the same time, mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety and sub-couragement treatment adherence, and help individuals navigate relationships, parenting, and employment—though they cannot fully offset the broader social exclusion many continue to face.

India's response to HIV must now move beyond simply controlling infection to rebuilding social inclusion. While legal protections exist, meaningful change must occur at three interconnected levels—within families, communities, and society at large. Addressing this requires comprehensive sex education, supportive community initiatives, holistic healthcare that links HIV care with other specialties, and workplace environments that actively show empathy, along with preventing discrimination. At the same time, HIV should no longer be seen only through the lens of viral suppression or terminal care. Families, communities, and institutions must learn to view HIV as a manageable chronic condition much like diabetes or hypertension, ensuring that no individual is made to feel alienated, and that dignity, belonging, and social acceptance remain as central to care as the medicines themselves.

When the job guarantee disappears — how VB-GRAMG weakens women's work rights



For many rural women, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is more than just a government scheme. It is often the only reliable source of income they can access locally, predictably, and without having to negotiate with contractors, landlords, or male intermediaries. In our field engagements, women repeatedly described MGNREGA as their sole means of survival, given their limited social and economic privilege, weak bargaining power in labour markets, and constrained agency within families and communities. It is against this lived reality that the Union government's proposal to replace MGNREGA with a new law, the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB-GRAMG, must be examined. While official communication highlights an increase in guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125, media reports reveal that this numerical expansion is accompanied by a deeper restructuring of funding, governance, and entitlement. Together, these changes alter the very character of the programme. What is being presented as reform increasingly resembles a shift from a rights-based employment guarantee to a centrally managed village programme. MGNREGA and Women: A structural relationship Women have consistently formed the backbone of MGNREGA. They account for nearly 60% of total person-days generated nationally, with States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu recording women's participation levels as high as 85% to 90%. This was not incidental. MGNREGA worked for women precisely because it recognised structural constraints such as limited mobility, unpaid care responsibilities, caste-based exclusion, and weak negotiating power in informal labour markets. By guaranteeing wage employment close to home and on demand, MGNREGA functioned as both a social protection measure and a labour market correction. For Dalit and Adivasi women in particular, it offered rare recognition of their labour as paid work rather than invisible service. Crucially, this recognition was backed by law. If work was demanded and not pro-

vided, workers were entitled to an unemployment allowance. The guarantee was enforceable, not discretionary. Policy Expansion on Paper, Erosion in Practice VB-GRAMG replaces MGNREGA's demand-driven architecture with pre-fixed, normative allocations determined annually by the Centre, alongside expenditure ceilings. Once these allocations are exhausted, the guarantee effectively ends. This shift has far-reaching gendered consequences. Under MGNREGA, demand itself created a legal obligation on the State. Under VB-GRAMG, employment becomes conditional on budgets, ceilings, and administrative discretion. When funds run out, rights run out. For women workers who already face barriers in accessing local power structures, this dilution of justiciability disproportionately weakens their ability to claim work. One Policy, Uneven Consequences Another significant departure lies in work availability. The proposed framework mandates a suspension of public works for up to 60 days during peak agricultural seasons. This is justified as a measure to prevent labour shortages in farming. However, it rests on the assumption that rural workers are uniformly cultivators who can absorb income shocks during these periods. For most women workers, this assumption does not hold. The majority do not own land. Agricultural seasons do not reduce their workload; they intensify unpaid care, subsistence, and household labour. MGNREGA's year-round availability mattered precisely because it allowed women to smooth incomes when other work was unavailable or exploitative. A uniform seasonal pause does not operate neutrally. It redistributes risk onto women whose labour remains undervalued or entirely unrecognised during so-called peak seasons. Fiscal Federalism and Shrinking of Guarantees The fiscal restructuring is equally significant. The shift from 100% central funding of unskilled wages under MGNREGA to a 60:40 Centre-State cost-sharing model for most States under VB-GRAMG is framed as cooperative federalism. In practice, it transfers fiscal stress downward

to State governments. States with constrained finances may be compelled to ration workdays, delay wage payments, or quietly scale back implementation. Employment guarantees that primarily benefit women, especially poor, Dalit, and Adivasi women, are often the first to be compromised under such pressures. What was once a nationally backed right becomes contingent on State budgets and shifting political priorities. Centralised Dashboards, Weakened Local Voice VB-GRAMG also marks a governance shift. While MGNREGA entrusted Gram Sabhas and Panchayats with identifying works based on local needs, VB-GRAMG institutionalises centralised digital stacks, GIS mapping, dashboards, and automated audits. Local priorities are increasingly filtered through national templates. For women workers, this transition is not merely technical. Digital exclusion, biometric failures, and weak grievance redress mechanisms have already been documented under existing welfare architectures. Making such systems statutory risks exclusion without appeal, reducing workers to data points rather than rights-bearing citizens. Decentralisation gives way to central control, even as implementation risks are devolved to states. Social Audits without Enforceable Rights? The new law promises stronger monitoring and transparency mechanisms. Yet the effectiveness of social audits, one of MGNREGA's most significant democratic innovations, depends on the presence of enforceable rights. Under MGNREGA, social audits created collective forums where workers, many of them women, could publicly question denial of work, and Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu through field engagements, worker interactions, and local-level observation-delayed wages, and administrative lapses. These spaces mattered because the law recognised employment as an entitlement. Once employment itself becomes conditional and capped, social audits risk being reduced to procedural exercises, closer to financial audits than democratic accountability. Field Realities Over the past year, we have been studying MGNREGA's impact on the ground across

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu through field engagements, worker interactions, and local-level observations. These regions, often cited as relatively better-performing States in terms of MGNREGA implementation and women's participation, offer critical insight into what is at stake when the nature of the programme itself is altered. Women we engaged with in Andhra Pradesh were unequivocal. MGNREGA is often the only form of work they can access without migration, indebtedness, or dependence on male intermediaries. Their limited negotiating power within households, labour markets, and village institutions means alternatives are either unavailable or deeply exploitative. For these women, MGNREGA wages are not supplementary income. They are subsistence. Any dilution of the guarantee, therefore, has immediate consequences, pushing women back into economic dependence, unpaid labour, and informal work arrangements that offer neither security nor dignity. What is Truly at Stake Critics argue that VB-GRAMG removes the soul of a rights-based employment guarantee, replacing it with a centrally controlled, conditional scheme that shifts costs to States but allows the Centre to gain political recognition. From a gender perspective, this loss is particularly stark. MGNREGA was not merely an asset-creation programme. It was an acknowledgement that employment itself is social protection, and that women's labour deserves public remuneration backed by law. The move towards VB-GRAMG is, therefore, not just a policy redesign, but a reframing of rural labour, from a right to be claimed to a resource to be managed. In this transition, women risk disappearing from policy imagination, from accountability mechanisms, and eventually from guaranteed paid work. Reclaiming MGNREGA's original intent is not only a question of administrative design. It is a gender justice imperative. As MGNREGA is recast from a legal right into a conditional programme, the question that remains is simple: who absorbs the risk when the guarantee disappears, and why is it almost always rural women?

Struggling Delhi Capitals take on confident Rajasthan Royals

Delhi Capitals have little time to dwell on what has been a bruising stretch of results as they gear up to face a confident Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League match here on Friday. It has been a difficult run for the Axar Patel-led side this season. They have swung between extremes in the last two games, from posting a 250-plus total only to concede a world-record chase to being bowled out for 75 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Add to that a one-run defeat against Gujarat



Titans earlier this month, and Delhi have had their share of emotionally damaging results. With three wins and four losses, they are seventh on the table and need a turnaround soon.

Delhi's biggest concern has been their inconsistent batting. While the likes of KL Rahul, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi have all contributed in patches, the unit has failed to click collectively. In the last match, Abhishek Porel's knock as an Impact Player was one of the few positives, helping the team avoid a record-low total, and the team management will be tempted to give him a go in the playing XI.

There is some good news on the bowling front. Pace ace Mitchell Starc is set to return after getting clearance from Cricket Australia to play

from May 1. With Lungi Ngidi still unavailable, Starc's inclusion comes as a timely boost. He is likely to replace either Kyle Jamieson or Dushmantha Chameera. Rajasthan bowlers could not do much while defending 75 in the previous game, but they will need to be sharper against a strong Rajasthan batting lineup. Their top order has been aggressive, with fearless Vaibhav Sooryavanshi taking on world-class bowlers like Jasprit Bumrah, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins from the outset, and Yashasvi Jaiswal showing good touch.

The fourth-placed Royals, in contrast, come into this match with confidence. They recently handed Punjab Kings their first defeat of the season, which was their sixth win in nine games. Another positive

for Rajasthan is the middle order finding form after a slow start. That gives them more balance and makes them harder to contain across the innings.

The release further said that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is also exploring other options to initiate proceedings for stringent action against the erring team, its officials and player/s to ensure that the reputation of IPL remains intact.

The Indian government had banned e-cigarettes back in 2019, prohibiting their production, sale and distribution. As per the law, the offender faces imprisonment up to one year and/or a Rs one lakh fine for a first-time offence.

"Article 2.21 of IPL Code of Conduct is intended to cover all types of conduct that bring the game into disrepute and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in this Code of Conduct, including Article 2.20," the IPL Code of Conduct states. "By way of example, Article 2.21 may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) prohibit,

without limitation, the following: (a) public acts of misconduct; (b) unruly public behaviour; and (c) inappropriate comments which are detrimental to the interests of the game.

"When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the context of the particular situation, and whether it was deliberate, reckless, negligent, avoidable and/or accidental, shall be considered." Further, the person lodging the Report shall determine where on the range of severity the conduct lies (with the range of severity starting at conduct of a minor nature (and hence a Level 1 Offence) up to conduct of an extremely serious nature (and hence a Level 4 Offence)." Rajasthan Royals will take on Delhi Capitals in Jaipur on Friday night.

Against a Delhi attack that has been under pressure, Rajasthan will back themselves to continue their momentum. For Delhi, the focus is clear. The batters need to put together a complete performance instead of relying on individual efforts. The bowlers, with Starc back, must find ways to control the scoring.

FDI Easing Under FEMA For Foreign Companies With Up To 10

The decision to ease foreign direct investment norms for overseas companies with up to 10 per cent stake in Chinese companies will be notified soon under the FEMA law, a senior government official said on Thursday. After that, the changes will come into effect. In March, the Union Cabinet approved amendments in the press note (PN) 3 of 2020 under which foreign companies having a Chinese shareholding of up to 10 per cent will be eligible to invest in India under the automatic route across sectors. However, the relaxed FDI rules will not apply to entities registered in China/Hong Kong or other countries sharing land borders with India. The government has also decided that FDI proposals in specified sectors/activities of manufacturing in capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer or any other sector/activity added by the committee of secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary will be processed within 60 days. Though the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified these changes, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has not yet noti-



fied them." The DEA will have to issue the notification under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act). It will be notified very soon. It requires a lot of fine-tuning." DPIIT Joint Secretary, Jai Prakash Shivahare told reporters here. He added that the department is working to identify sub-sectors whose applications will be processed within 60 days. Shivahare also informed that total FDI, which includes reinvested earnings, has touched USD 88.29 billion during April-February 2025-26. It was USD 80.61 billion in 2024-25. The net FDI into the country has increased to USD 6.26 billion during April-February 2025-26 against USD 959 million in the full fiscal year of

2024-25. The media, DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the total foreign direct investment (FDI) is likely to reach USD 90 billion in the full 2025-26 fiscal. He said that reform measures, free trade agreements and fast-growing economic growth are helping the country to attract healthy investments. The department also informed that Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, has facilitated the grounding of 60 projects worth over USD 6.1 billion during 2025-26. These investments span 14 states and are estimated to generate more than 31,000 potential jobs. About 42 per cent of the total grounded investment value origi-

nates from European nations. Continued participation from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other key source markets affirms broad-based international confidence in India's regulatory environment and manufacturing capabilities. Emerging source nations such as Brazil, New Zealand, and Canada indicate diversification in the country's investment base. "India's investment momentum is a direct outcome of policy clarity, institutional commitment, and the trust global investors place in our systems," Bhatia said. Invest India MD and CEO Nivruti Rai said chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and food processing sectors account for about 65 per

AEL Post Q4 Loss On Depreciation, FY26 Net Zooms 31



Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship firm of billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate, slipped into a loss in the fourth quarter, hurt by depreciation of its recently commissioned assets, including Navi Mumbai airport. Loss of Rs 221 crore in January-March - the fourth quarter of 2025-26 fiscal year - compared with a profit of Rs 3,845 crore, according to a company statement. The earnings, the company said, "were affected by depreciation on recently commissioned assets of Navi Mumbai and Copper Plant". For the full fiscal (FY26), the company posted a handsome 31 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 9,339 crore. Total income grew 20 per cent in Q4 to Rs 33,187 crore and by 3 per cent in full FY26 to Rs 1.03 lakh crore. In the year-ago quarter, the firm's earnings got a one-time boost of Rs 3,946 crore from the sale of its stake in Adani Wilmar. Core infra incubating businesses and mining services contribute 80 per cent of FY26 of Rs 16,464 crore EBITDA.

"With the close of fiscal 2026, AEL has transitioned to a core infrastructure-led model, with 80 per cent of its EBITDA coming from mature, long-term and contracted businesses, which significantly enhances earnings visibility," the statement said. AE's incubation journey has now firmly crossed milestones of initial capex-heavy and stabilisation phases, with EBITDA-mix shifting towards stability, thus positioning the company for sustained cash generation and future value unlock. "Adani Enterprises has delivered yet another year of disciplined execution, stable EBITDA and continued momentum across our core infrastructure and incubation platforms," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group. "What is particularly encouraging is that the majority of the EBITDA is now led by our core infrastructure incubating businesses and stable mining services, reflecting the maturity and scale of our operating portfolio."

FY26 has also been a year of decisive progress in building and making ready some of the large infra-assets of the Navi Mumbai International Airport, Guwahati Airport and the Ganga Expressway, he said. "As India's growth accelerates, we continue to focus on building and scaling globally competitive infrastructure businesses with our robust project pipeline," he added. For the full fiscal, AEL has transitioned to a core infrastructure-led model, with 80 per cent of its EBITDA coming from mature, long-term and contracted businesses, which significantly enhances earnings visibility, "from mature, long-term and contracted business the statement said. Arom mature, long-term and contracted business E's incubation journey has now firmly crossed milestones of initial capex-heavy and stabilisation phases, with EBITDA-mix shifting towards stability, thus positioning the company for sustained cash generation and future value unlock.

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Telangana has huge sports potential, says Jayesh Ranjan



Telangana has immense potential for the development of sports and the Young India Physical Education and Sports University will play a significant role in this, said Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to the Telangana Government. Speaking at the Young India Sports Summit at Gachibowli here on Thursday, Jayesh Ranjan said it was good to see so many stakeholders in the promotion of sports participate in the first-ever programme of the

university. "The whole objective of the Young India University is to establish a strong ecosystem for sports and also ensure high-quality education and mould young sporting talent," he said. A P Jitender Reddy, Advisor to the State Government (Sports), hoped that the university would earn worldwide fame with its novel initiatives in the promotion of sports. Sports Authority of Telangana Chairman Shiv Sena Reddy said these programmes were

being conducted as part of the vision of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to give a new direction to sports. SATG VC and MD Soni Bala Devi said that over the last two years, the State Government had initiated many sports development programmes and also conducted several international events. Young India Sports University Vice-Chancellor Dr Kishore Gopinath said they would make conscious efforts to ensure that the best sports poli-

cies are integrated to ensure the best courses are taught in the university for a better future for athletes. Internationals P Gopichand, JJ Shobha, Dronacharya awardee Ismail Baig (rowing), N Ramesh (athletics), Olympian Neha Agarwal, Prof Dr Chinnappa Reddy, former Technical Advisor to the State Government (Sports), Mangipudi Prasad and Karthik Yanamandra of 360D Sports were among those who also spoke.

Anna Konidala Shares Update On Pawan Kalyan's Health: 'Some People Need More Time And Space To Recover'

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor Pawan Kalyan is steadily recovering after undergoing surgery earlier this month, following a sudden health scare. His wife, Anna Konidala, recently shared a heartfelt update, reassuring well-wishers while also asking for privacy during his recovery phase.

Taking to social media, Anna addressed concerns about Pawan Kalyan with a heartfelt message. Thanking everyone for their concern, she shared that he is "well taken care of" and recovering steadily. She also gently urged people to respect their privacy, adding that sometimes one simply needs time and space to heal. Anna also added that the family will share more updates at the right time. The health issue dates back to April 18, when Pawan Kalyan experienced severe discomfort during an official meeting. Following medical advice, he was admitted to a hospital where doctors conducted several tests, including an MRI. Based on the reports, a surgical procedure was recommended and successfully carried out. According to a statement from the Jana Sena Party, the actor-politician had been dealing with health-related concerns for a few months prior to the incident. Post-surgery, safe, stable, and recovering well." He also mentioned that doctors expect him to gradually return to his routine within a week to ten days, along with long-term precautions to ensure full recovery. Reassuring fans, his brother and megastar



about 7 to 10 days, safe, stable, and recovering well." He also mentioned that doctors expect him to gradually return to his routine within a week to ten days, along with long-term precautions to ensure full recovery. Reassuring fans, his brother and megastar

Chiranjeevi confirmed that Pawan Kalyan is "safe, stable, and recovering well." He also mentioned that doctors expect him to gradually return to his routine within a week to ten days. The news of his hospitalisation had prompted messages of support from across

political and film circles. Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally reached out to enquire about his health and wished him a speedy recovery. On the professional front, Pawan Kalyan was last seen in the Telugu action-comedy Ustaad Bhagat Singh, directed by Harish Shankar.

Odisha's Transgender Dancer Chinmayee Tripathy

At 43, Chinmayee Tripathy has dedicated more than half her life to Odissi. For the transgender artiste from Odisha, dance is not about performance, it is a lifelong pursuit that doubles up as a means of survival. Her bond with the classical art form is so deep that she wishes to breathe her last with ghungroos tied around her ankles. Speaking exclusively to ETV Bharat, on World Dance Day (April 29), Chinmayee narrates about her initiation into the art form which later became her purpose of life. "Perseverance, passion and self-belief are of utmost importance," says the dancer who has so far dedicated 27 years of her life to the art form. "I feel, I am living through dance. Odissi is not just an artistic expression but also a path to dignity, acceptance and self-discovery for me," she adds. Transgender Odissi Dancer Chinmayee Tripathy Devotes 27 Years to Dance And Lord Jagannath Chinmayee Tripathy (ETV Bharat) Today, she is admired as one of the best Odissi dancers, performing on stages across Odisha and getting appreciation for both her artistry and dedication. "I am always moved when I perform in front of Lord Jagannath. I love the dance form because it celebrates the rich Jagannath culture that remains central to her life and devotion," explains she. On how Odissi dance has changed her life,

childhood fascination and that gradually became her life's calling. With time, she could feel a different identity of hers which she accepted as naturally as possible. "That actually amplified my love for Odissi," she quickly adds.

The road, from Gaurishankar to Chinmayee however, was far from easy. She had to tolerate ridicule, social ostracism and even estrangement from her family after her father's death. But Chinmayee refused to surrender. She rather chose to concentrate only on art to tide over despair, she lived with grace and avoided bitterness.

Transgender Odissi Dancer Chinmayee Tripathy Devotes 27 Years to Dance And Lord Jagannath Chinmayee Tripathy (ETV Bharat)

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Chinmayee says, "Odissi is my life and my spiritual practice. Living without it is impossible. I am proud that God blessed me with this divine art. It has given me a new identity and a reason to live," Chinmayee says, being emotional but grounded. Transgender Odissi Dancer

Chinmayee Tripathy Devotes 27 Years to Dance And Lord Jagannath Stage performance of Chinmayee Tripathy (ETV Bharat) What sets Chinmayee apart is not just her talent, but her resolve to make a place of her own when there are thousands of dancers emerg-

What Are Netizens Saying After Watching Dhanush's Heist Action Thriller?

: After months of anticipation, Kara, starring Dhanush, finally hit theatres on April 30, 2026, and early reactions suggest the wait may have been worth it. Despite releasing on a working day, the film opened to strong occupancy in Tamil Nadu and performed well in several overseas markets. As the first shows wrapped up, social media, especially X was flooded with audience reactions, ranging from glowing praise to balanced criticism. Many viewers are calling the film a strong comeback for Dhanush. A popular sentiment online is that the actor has "lifted the film all by himself." One user wrote, "Amazing first half with a thrilling interval block. Second half is a pacy, thrilling experience overall - what a performance!" Another echoed similar thoughts, praising the suspense elements while noting that emotional scenes could have been stronger. Still, the consensus remains that Dhanush's performance holds the narrative together.

Film critic Ramesh Bala shared an encouraging early review, calling the first half "fantastic." He described the film as an "emotional slow burn heist thriller" and highlighted Dhanush's acting as one of its biggest strengths. He also praised veteran actor K. S. Ravikumar for his performance and noted that the film "starts with a bang" and ends its first half on a thrilling note. His review added that the second half sets up



an engaging police-versus-burglar chase, raising expectations further. Filmmaker Mari Selvaraj was equally impressed after watching the film. In a heartfelt note, he described Kara as a "truly confident movie" that delivered "screen thrill, emotion, and excitement." He also expressed admiration for how Dhanush brought depth to his character, saying the performance stirred his emotions deeply. His appreciation extended to the entire team for creating such an impactful cinematic experience. Directed by Vignesh Raja, Kara blends emo-

tional storytelling with a tense action backdrop set during the 1991 Gulf War period. The director had earlier urged audiences to watch the film in theatres and spread the word without spoilers. Based on early reactions, it seems that request is already being fulfilled, as word-of-mouth continues to grow. Apart from the performances, the film's technical aspects are also receiving praise. Music composer G. V. Prakash Kumar is being widely appreciated for his background score, which many viewers say elevates both emotional and action sequences.

Several social media users have even called the music one of the film's biggest highlights.

The supporting cast, including Mamitha Baiju, Jayaram, Karunaas, Suraj Venjaramoodu, and M. S. Bhaskar, has also earned appreciation for adding depth to the story. While a few viewers pointed out pacing issues in the beginning, many agreed that the film builds momentum as it progresses, especially leading into a strong interval block and a gripping second half

Alia Bhatt Gets Emotional As Sister Shaheen Bhatt Announces Engagement: 'Currently Weeping'



Alia Bhatt had the sweetest reaction after her sister Shaheen Bhatt announced her engagement to longtime partner Ishaan Mehra. Shortly after the announcement, Alia reshared Shaheen's post on Instagram Stories and wrote, "currently weeping," expressing her feelings over the big news. Shaheen revealed her engagement on April 17 with a dreamy set of sunlit photos. The pictures captured intimate moments from the proposal, including a cheerful selfie showing off her engagement ring, a romantic walk through a lush garden, and a picture from behind of the couple sitting on the grass. Sharing the images, she added a playful caption: "We may have overdone this

whole liking each other thing." Alia Bhatt reacts to sister Shaheen Bhatt's engagement Alia Bhatt reacts to sister Shaheen Bhatt's engagement (Photo: Instagram) The announcement quickly drew attention, with friends, family and industry colleagues flooding the comments section with congratulatory messages. Ananya Panday wrote, "Shaheeeen! Soooo happy for you... all the love and joy in the world," while Zoya Akhtar commented, "Congos and bongos." Arjun Kapoor, Shanaya Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor also sent their wishes. Shaheen and Ishaan have reportedly been dating for some time. She had first made their relationship public last

year on his birthday, sharing cosy pictures and writing, "Happy Birthday, Sunshine." Even earlier, fans had spotted Ishaan in glimpses from a family holiday, though his identity wasn't confirmed then. Ishaan, who appeared alongside Shaheen in the engagement pictures, is a former international swimmer turned fitness professional. He has represented India at the Youth Asian Games and currently works as a certified coach in Mumbai. Interestingly, both Shaheen and Alia have often trained at the same gym, where Ishaan is associated. Shaheen, a writer and mental health advocate, is the elder daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actor Soni Razdan.