

Visakhapatnam Traffic Police Issue 2,568 Challans In One Day



Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam City Traffic Police issued 2,568 challans during a special enforcement drive on May 3 to curb violations and improve road safety. Officials said the rise in vehicles has led to frequent violations and accidents. Personnel were deployed at key junctions to monitor and penalise offenders under the Motor Vehicles Act. Of the total cases, 1,268 were booked against riders not wearing helmets, while pillion riders accounted for 211 cases and 109 cases involved triple riding. Over-speeding detected through interceptor vehicles led to 300 cases, and 29 motorists were booked for using mobile phones while driving. Also Read - Girls Outperform Boys in AP Polycet Exam Seven cases were registered for driving

without valid licences and six against minors operating vehicles. Wrong parking led to 73 cases, with 55 vehicles towed. Thirty-six motorists were caught driving under the influence of alcohol, and 486 cases were filed for other violations. In all, 61 vehicles were seized. In coordination with the Regional Transport Office, police inspected 10 privates, and 29 motorists were booked for using mobile phones while driving. Also Read - Girls Outperform Boys in AP Polycet Exam Seven cases were registered for driving without valid licences and six against minors operating vehicles. Wrong parking led to 73 cases, with 55 vehicles towed. Thirty-six motorists were caught driving under the influence of alcohol, and 486 cases were filed for other violations. In all, 61 vehicles were seized. In coordination with the Regional Transport Office, police inspected 10 privates, and 29 motorists were booked for using mobile phones while driving. Also Read - Girls Outperform Boys in AP Polycet Exam Seven cases were registered for driving

Hydraa demolishes stone crushing and ready mix concrete plants at Kothwalguda

Hyderabad:

Following intense pressure from the BRS and concerns over environmental impact due to indiscriminate stone crushing on city outskirts, the Hydraa on Tuesday raided six of these units including the controversial operations of Raghava Stone Crusher in Kothwalguda. Accompanied by heavy police force, Hydraa teams raided these six locations with earth movers and demolished illegal stone crushing units. One of the crushers is reportedly owned by a company run by a powerful minister in Telangana

Accompanied by heavy police force, DRF teams of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) on Tuesday raided six locations with earth movers and demolished illegal stone crushing

units. Hydraa demolishes illegal stone crushing and ready mix concrete plants at Kothwalguda. In a press release, Hydraa said it carried out a major operation in Vattinagulapally in Gandipet mandal, Gowlidoddi village in Serilingampally mandal, and Kothwalguda village in Shamshabad mandal in Ranga Reddy district. It took action against those operating mining, stone crushing, and the 'Ready Mix Concrete' (RMC) plants without permits, following complaints from the Pollution Control Board, mining, and revenue departments, which sought Hydraa's cooperation. Based on the Ranga Reddy district collector's request, Hydraa dismantled illegal mining units. Great India Mining in



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Gowlidoddi 12 RMC plants. The , Parmesh Singh Stone Crusher Constructions, Prithvi Stone Crusher at three locations in Vattinagulapally, and Raghava Stone Crusher in Kothwalguda were involved in illegal mining. Additi

onally, Makta Bhagat Singh undertook large-scale stone crushing, according to the press statement. Hydraa demolishes illegal stone crushing and ready mix concrete plants at The illegal units were reported to be caus-

ing a loss of hundreds of crores to the govt exchequer. Electricity bills worth crores were pending, and the units were said to be running on diesel when the electricity was cut, causing severe pollution, said a Hydraa official.

HC for Timeline on Fee Dues Under G.O.7



Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the state government to submit its explanation with regard to Clause XIV of GO Ms No. 7, dated 29.04.2026, which lacked the specific timeline to clear all admitted dues payable to educational institutions in respect fee reimbursement for the academic years up to and including 2025-26. The clause mentioned that all admitted dues, including amounts for which tokens had been generated, shall continue to be settled by the welfare department concerned under the existing institution-routed reimbursement mechanism, and the migration to direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode under the GO shall not affect, prejudice or extinguish such pre-existing liability of the government. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 However, educational Institutions raised objections before the High Court that the government was trying to circumvent the pending dues owed to the colleges and had taken the new stand to transfer the fee amount under DBT mode to the students' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the High Court directed the state government to file detailed counters on this regard by June 24, particularly in view of the commencement of the academic year 2026-27 in July. The judge made it clear that in case of any delay in filing the affidavits, the court would take a call on the interim applications filed by the educational Institutions. Also Read - HYDRAA Raids 6 Sites, Demolishes Illegal Stone Crushing Units The judge was

dealing with a petition filed by several engineering educational institutions which complained against the government for failing to release the admitted amounts payable to the institutions under the scheme of reimbursement of tuition fee, and the prohibition imposed on the educational Institutions from directly collecting tuition fee and special fee. During the hearing on Monday, special government counsel S. Rahul Reddy sought additional time to obtain instructions and file detailed counter-affidavits, particularly concerning Clause XIV of GO Ms No. 7. Also Read - Sridhar Babu Lays Foundation for Rs.453 Cr ITP Aero Facility Counsels for the petitioners brought to the notice of the court that the government had not submitted an explanation its stand on Clause XII of the same GO, despite court orders for explanation dated April 30. The said clause prohibited the colleges from insisting on the payment of fees from the students at the time of admission. Counsels urged the court to continue the interim suspension of Clause XII. The court granted Media from Linking Her to Financial Fraud Hyderabad: In a relief to the Telugu folk singer and television presenter Satyavathi Mudavath, known as Mangli, the City Civil Court here on Monday issued interim injunction orders — 'John Doe' orders, also known as 'Ashok Kumar orders' in India — restraining several media platforms and certain individuals from telecasting or posting defamatory statements against her by linking her to a large-scale micro finance and investment fraud scheme.

Telangana Govt Sets Up ICC to Address Women Employees' Grievances

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has constituted an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) for redressal of complaints or grievances made by women employees in Revenue department at the Secretariat here. The committee is headed by L.L.V. Subbamma, Additional Secretary Presiding Officer to Government, J.V. Vijayalakshmi, Joint Secretary, A. Uma Reddy, a Section Officer and K. Nivedita, Assistant Section Officer as members. Nivedita is also Telangana Secretariat Women Association Representative. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud



Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The committee would receive complaints regarding sexual

harassment of women employees in workplace and enquire in the matter and prepare a detailed

enquiry report. It will furnish the detailed reports on sexual harassment of working women in the

department to the Secretary. The committee was constituted women in the try to Government for ini-

tiating necessary disciplinary action as per rules in force. The committee would follow the instructions and guidelines issued by the government from time to time in the matter, according to D S Lokesh Kumar, Secretary to Government. The committee was constituted after the Women's Welfare Department was constituted. Child, Disabled and Senior citizens in the department had requested all the departments of Secretariat to constitute ICCs for redressal of complaints and grievances made by women at the workplace.

Bike linked to PMJ jewellery dacoity found in Dharmapuri



Jagtial: One of the bikes reportedly used by burglars to escape after the PMJ jewellery dacoity was found in Dharmapuri temple town on Tuesday. Besides the black-coloured Pulsar bike, a helmet and a water bottle were found near the Mahalakshmi Pushkar Ghat on the banks of the Godavari river. Police suspected that the thieves could have crossed the river on foot after leaving the bike at the Pushkar Ghat. It is suspected that they might have fled to Maharashtra. After learning about the abandoned bike, police rushed to the spot and began an investigation from different angles. Officials are investigating whether the

vehicle has any connection with the dacoity. The movements of the two bikes used in the jewellery shop theft were recorded on a CCTV camera fixed in front of a house in Rudraram of Ramadugu mandal. The suspects were reportedly reached Dharmapuri after passing through Jagtial. Instead of

travelling on the national highway, they reached Dharmapuri through the Beerpur forest area. Police are now examining CCTV footage from rural areas. The suspense in the case continues since only one vehicle was found though two bikes were reportedly used in the robbery. Police are verifying

the details of the bike, including the owner and address, based on the number plate. On the other hand, police are also searching for hand, police are also the whereabouts of the other bike in the Beerpur forest area. It is learnt that the dacoits reportedly chose rural routes after the theft to

avoid CCTV cameras and police checking while travelling to their destination. Except in Rudraram, their movements were not captured anywhere. Briefing the media on Tuesday, DCP A Bhaskar said Ashish Srinivas, a private employee, and Reddimalla Akash, a mining engineering student, both residents of Chandrapur, were nabbed for their involvement in the theft at the house of Mudam hand, police are also Nagaiah on April 22. They were detained while moving suspiciously at the Mancheril bus stand. During interrogation, Srinivas and Akash confessed to getting accustomed to

a luxurious lifestyle. They admitted to pledging gold ornaments for Rs 6.76 lakh. They spent the money lavishly and on online betting. They also confessed to targeting locked houses in different towns of Telangana. Police said the two were found to be involved in 12 offences reported in Nagpur and Chandrapur in Maharashtra. A special team managed to nab them using technology, footage recorded on CCTV cameras and clues gathered from the crime scene. Bhaskar commended Mancheril ACP R Prakesh and Inspector S Pramod Rao for cracking the mystery behind the sensational burglary.

'Jana Nayagan' Vijay Writes To Governor To Form Next Govt After TVK's Blockbuster Debut In Tamil Nadu Elections

Chennai: Following a blockbuster debut in the Tamil Nadu assembly election 2026, actor-turned-politician Vijay, whose Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) emerged as the single largest party by winning 108 of the 234 seats, has written to the Governor seeking time for government formation. The TVK secured 34.92 percent of the votes in the assembly polls while the incumbent MK Stalin-led DMK, secured 24.19 percent of the votes winning 59 seats. The AIADMK, which contested the assembly elections as the opposition, secured 21.21 percent of the votes and won 47 seats. Among the parties that contested as part of the DMK alliance, the Congress party won 5 seats; the Indian Union Muslim League (IUMML), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of



India (Marxist) [CPIM], and the VCK each won 2 constituencies, and the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DM DK) won 1 constituency. In the AIADMK-led alliance, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) won 4 seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK)

each won 1 seat. With the TVK emerging as the single largest party, Vijay Vishwanath Ar lekar, write Vishwanath Arlekar, n a letter to Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, requesting that the party be invited to form the government. Furthe rmore, he has stated in the letter that he would

prove his majority with in two weeks. Consequently, it remains to be seen whether the Governor will request letters of support from a majority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly or grant the requested two week time frame. Vijay's TVK is short of the 118 majority mark to form the next government.

Centre notifies South Coast Railway Zone with Vizag as headquarters

Amaravati: The Centre has issued a gazette notification establishing the South Coast Railway Zone, with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters. The new railway zone, which will come into effect from June 1, 2026, comprises Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam divisions. The Ministry of Railways included some of the existing area under South Central Railway and East Coast Railway into the new zone. Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada are existing divisions of South Central Railway and they have been re-organised and made part of the new railway zone. The truncated Waltair division of East Coast Railway has been renamed as Visakhapatnam division and re-organised. The new railway zone for Andhra Pradesh was promised at the time of the state's bifurcation in 2014. The creation of South Coast Railway Zone headquartered in Visakhapatnam was originally announced by the Centre in 2019.



However, work on the administrative aspects of the new zone was expedited after the N Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government assumed office in the state in 2024. In January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the construction of the South Coast Railway zonal headquarters in Visakhapatnam. As per the notification, East Coast Railway, which has its headquarters at Bhubaneswar, will comprise existing Sambalpur division, re-organised Khurda Road division and the new division of Rayagada. Existing Hyderabad and Nanded divisions and re-

organised Secunderabad division will come under the jurisdiction of South Central Railway. Itchpuram-Palasa railway line which until recently fell under the Khurda Road division has been transferred temporarily established at to the Visakhapatnam division. Similarly, the Raichur-Wadi section has been transferred from the Guntakal Division to the Secunderabad Division. The Chief Minister had appealed to the railway minister to implement certain administrative changes, specifically by integrating additional sections into the newly-established South Coast Railway Zone.

Road-Vizianagaram section has been designated as the new boundary between the Raya gada and Visakhapatnam divisions. While participating in ground-breaking ceremony for the Google AI Data Centre in Visakhapatnam on the April 28, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced that the new railway zone will be notified with effect from June 1. The same day, Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, reviewed the operations of the South Coast Railway Zone. They visited the South Coast Railway Zone office, which has been temporarily established at the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) office. The Chief Minister had appealed to the railway minister to implement certain administrative changes, specifically by integrating additional sections into the newly-established South Coast Railway Zone.

Paddy Procurement For Rabi To Begin Today

Kakinada: The state government will commence procurement of paddy for the rabi season from Saturday, targeting 23 lakh metric tonnes. Civil supplies minister Nadendla Manohar, who visited Nidadavolu on Friday along with Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, said arrangements have been completed for procurement. He said 1,917 paddy procurement centres have been set up, 17,200 vehicles arranged for transportation, and 1,264 rice mills have completed bank guarantee formalities to receive paddy from farmers. Also Read - 3 Youths Killed As Bus Rams Bike Near Anakapalli The minister said the government has



taken steps to avoid issues faced during the previous rabi season and ensure smooth procurement. Rice mills have been instructed to submit self-declarations and supply adequate gunny bags. He said payments to farmers. Officials will verify the

declarations and certify availability of gunny bags. He said payments will be credited directly to farmers' accounts within eight hours of uploading the paddy track sheet. He said payments also said that steam rice will be supplied for mid-day

meals from this year. Criticising former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over the proposed name 'MAVIGUN', he termed it inappropriate and alleged attempts to create unrest. He reiterated that avati would remain the permanent capital.

BRS ridicules Congress govt for turning education system into musical chairs

Hyderabad: BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan accused the Congress government of playing musical chairs with frequent transfers of officers heading Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWEIS). He said the government was neglecting the State's education administration through excessive centralisation. In a statement, Sravan said for the first time since 1974, a non-IAS and non-Group-1 officer had been appointed as Secretary (FAC) of the TGSWEIS through a



recent government order, bypassing established norms. He pointed out that six officers had been changed in the post since December

2023. The BRS leader stated that the frequent reshuffling was a deliberate attempt to prevent senior IAS officers from discovering irregulari-

ties in the department. He alleged that the government was centralising procurement processes, bringing large tenders under direct control of the Chief Minister's Office and raising curtains for irregularities. Citing earlier allegations of irregularities in procurement, Sravan demanded immediate intervention by vigilance authorities and the Anti-Corruption Bureau. He warned that those involved in misuse of public funds meant for students' welfare will be held accountable.

Assembly Election 2026: BJP Retains Seat As Singhal Defeats Congress

Ashok Singhal of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a decisive victory from Assam's Dhekiajuli constituency, defeating Congress candidate Batash Orang by a margin of 48,169 votes. Singhal polled 1,11,880 votes, comfortably outpacing Orang and reinforcing the BJP's stronghold in the constituency. During the counting process, Singhal maintained a consistent lead, securing 24,869 votes after nine rounds, with the Congress candidate trailing throughout. Dhekiajuli, located in Sonitpur district, is a rural-urban Assembly constituency under the Tezpur Lok Sabha seat. The region is known for its tea gardens, agricultural economy and his-



torical significance in north Assam. The constituency has witnessed a clear political shift over the past decade. The BJP captured the seat in 2016, ending the Congress' earlier dominance, and retained it in 2021 with Singhal securing 93,768 votes and a 57 per cent vote share. In 2016, he had won with 71,425 votes, reflecting steady

electoral growth. With an electorate of around 2.24 lakh voters, Dhekiajuli is both demographically and politically significant in Upper Assam. The constituency recorded a voter turnout of approximately 83.29 per cent, indicating consistent participation and a politically aware electorate. The seat has a diverse population comprising

tea garden workers, Assamese communities and various tribal groups. Spread across tea estates, forest areas and rural settlements, the constituency reflects varied socio-economic conditions. The constituency had also drawn attention during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, highlighting its active political engagement.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, AAP MLAs Arrive In Delhi To Meet President Murmu Over Rajya Sabha Defections

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on May 5 (Tuesday), is scheduled to hold an important meeting with the President Droupadi Murmu, over the recent defection of seven Rajya Sabha MPs to the BJP, for which he has reached Delhi on Tuesday along with his party MLAs. Before meeting the President, CM Mann said, "I think the President will listen to us. The President is the custodian of the Constitution; she is the constitutional head of the country." "We're 95 Soldiers Who Will Never Leave AAP" The MLAs and ministers who have reached Delhi with CM Mann have also made full preparations. Before leaving, they announced in unison that all 95 of are united. Cabinet ministers Ravojat Singh, Hardeep Singh Mundian, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Lalchand Katarachak and AAP MLA Charanjit Singh said, "Today we are going to meet the President in Delhi from the CM's residence. A petition for Right to Recall against those six Rajya Sabha members of our party, who have defected and joined BJP, has to be submitted to the President Droupadi Murmu. The AAP is going to attack the BJP and [PM] Modi for trying to break us with ED and SIR. We won't allow this sabotage in Punjab.



Those who have joined BJP will either be demanded to return, or their membership has to be cancelled." Minister Mundian also said, "We can also remove those, whom Punjab has send as Rajya Sabha members. We'll submit this demand for the Right to Recall to the President. We, the entire AAP leadership, are together. We are soldiers of the AAP. We are 95 soldiers who will never leave the AAP, and stand with Arvind Kejriwal." Kejriwal May Get Another Surprise: Congress "I had already warned that Bhagwant Mann could quietly field MLAs in Delhi to serve the interests of the BJP. Now, with Raghav Chadha meeting the President just 90 minutes ago on the same day, this sequence raises more questions than answers. At this rate, Arvind Kejriwal will get the next 'surprise' a little

sooner — for him too, and we should not forget — Sunil Kumar Jakhar had yesterday given a hint that the AAP and the BJP are two sides of the same coin," said Congress MLA Partap Singh Bajwa, the Leader of Opposition in Punjab. Earlier, CM Mann wrote on X: "Today, we have set out in the company of all AAP MLAs to discuss Punjab's burning issues and present the state's resounding voice before the esteemed President... Our government remains fully committed to Punjab's prosperity and the safeguarding of the rights of every section of society," he added. Seven AAP Rajya Sabha members — Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, cricketer Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Swati Maliwal and Vikramjit Sahney — last month announced their decision to quit the AAP and join the BJP.

Except for Maliwal, six other MPs represent Punjab in the Upper House. After the defection of Rajya Sabha MPs, CM Mann announced that he will meet President Droupadi Murmu on May 5 to raise the issue, which he described as "illegal" and "unlawful defection" by seven Rajya Sabha MPs, while asserting that such "actions amount to a betrayal of the people's mandate". Last week, the Chief Minister won the confidence motion in a special one-day Assembly session, sending a clear message that attempts to destabilise the government have failed. Declaring the mandate in the 117-member House as a reflection of enduring public trust, CM Mann had said that the AAP's support base remains intact and will translate into an even bigger mandate in 2027.

2 Men From Minority Hindu Community In Pakistan Set To Join Federal Civil Service



Islamabad: Two men from the minority Hindu community have qualified to join the federal civil service of Pakistan, where representation of such groups in government jobs is historically low. Jeevan Rebari and Khem Chand Jandora, both from Sindh province, were among the 170 candidates qualified to join the Central Superior Services (CSS) following the declaration of results by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) on Thursday. With a total population of 3.8 million, Hindus are the largest minority community in Pakistan, mostly residing in Sindh province, according to the 2023 population census. Minority representation in Pakistan's CSS is historically low, prompting the government to launch initiatives like the special training programme in

2025 to increase inclusion. According to the FPSC, 12,792 people across the country appeared in the written examinations, out of which 355 passed, and the total number of selected candidates stood at 170 after further rounds. According to the official data, 123 seats reserved for minorities are vacant, which further highlights the importance of these men making it to the top list. Khem Chand's parents had to take loans at high interest rates and sell jewellery for their son's education, while Jeevan, due to a lack of resources, took shelter in a gurdwara and fulfilled his needs from langar, according to a BBC report. Khem Chand belongs to the 'Jandora community', it added.

Jandora, the Sindhi community derives their name from "Jand",

which refers to the heavy stone mill. The community used to run this mill to grind wheat and sell the flour they made. Khem Chand's father was the first "revolutionary" of this community because pursuing education was considered rebellion and betrayal of the ancestral work. He said that to meet the expenses of his education, his mother sold her jewellery, and his father took loans from private banks at high interest rates. Jeevan Rebari's success is also special because he did not resort to the minority quota, but achieved success on general merit for higher studies, a community which historically was meant to raise livestock and wander from village to village for fodder and water, he received his education up to university from government institutions. He did his

LLB from the Law Department of Sindh University in 2021 and then went to Lahore to prepare for the competitive exam. Jeevan gave his first shot in 2023 CSS has 12 groups from the Foreign Service to the Postal Service, and Rajendra Menghwar d wander from village to village for fodder and water, he received his education up to university from government institutions. He became the first PSP officer after the 2022 results. The success of Rajendra, who became the first PSP officer in 2021, further encouraged him to join this field and be an example for others. While the constitution guarantees equal rights and a 5 per cent quota exists for minorities in federal jobs, their actual representation remains under the quota limit.

14 IRGC Members Killed In Explosion During Ordnance Clearance In Iran's Zanzan Province: Iranian Media



Tehran: 14 members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) were killed and two others injured in an explosion while carrying out ordnance clearance operations in northwestern Iran, according to Iranian media. The state-linked Fars News Agency reported that the incident occurred in Zanzan province when unexploded ordnance detonated during a specialised clearance mission. The personnel were part of a unit assigned to remove and neutralise leftover munitions in the area, which local authorities say has posed a continuing safety threat to civilians and farmland. Fars News Agency said the region has approximately 1,200 hectares of agricultural land at risk due to the

presence of unexploded ordnance. Earlier on Thursday, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that the Trump administration shifted from the strategy of "managing the world's energy" to "disruption", and Iran has now become the centre of the "coalition against disruption." The IRGC said that the disruption project was launched by the US ongoing conflict, while to contain China, Russia and Europe. In a post on X, the IRGC said, "The Trump administration shifted from the strategy of "managing the world's energy" to "disruption," and a maritime blockade began as part of the grand disruption project to contain China, Russia, and Europe; but after 20 days, this assessment is

deepening in the White House that the project has failed and Tehran has become the center of the 'coalition against disruption'." "Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) expressed dissatisfaction with Iran's latest proposal aimed at ending the ongoing conflict, while also casting doubt on whether a final agreement can be reached. Speaking to reporters on the ongoing conflict, while at the White House, Trump said, "They want to make a deal, but I'm not satisfied with it, so we'll see what happens." He did not elaborate on the specific aspects of the proposal he found unacceptable but indicated uncertainty over Tehran's willingness to ultimately agree to a settlement. "They've made strides, but I'm not sure

if they ever get there," Trump added, while speaking on the White House's South Lawn. The US President also pointed to internal divisions within Iran's leadership, suggesting that disunity could be affecting the negotiation process. "The leadership is very disjointed. It's got two to three groups, maybe four, and it's a very disjointed leadership. And with that being said, they all want to make a deal, but they're all messed up," the US President said. His remarks come after Iran submitted its latest proposal aimed at advancing negotiations to end the ongoing West Asia conflict with the US, in response to recent amendments introduced by Washington to a draft plan aimed at ending the conflict.

Iran Will Be Blown Off If It Attacks US Vessels Escorting Ships Through Hormuz, Warns Trump

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump on Monday warned that Iran would be "blown off the face of the Earth" if it attacks US vessels escorting stranded ships through the Strait of Hormuz. Trump made the remarks while speaking to Fox News, amid reports that Iran had targeted some ships being guided through the Strait under 'Project Freedom', an operation launched by the US Central Command after the President's orders. Taking to his social media platform Truth Social, Trump claimed Iran had attacked some ships, including a South Korean cargo ship, that was being guided through the Strait, which has largely remained closed since the conflict with Iran began on February 28. "Iran has taken some shots at unrelated Nations with respect to the Ship Movement, PROJECT FREEDOM, including a South Korean Cargo Ship. Perhaps it's time for South Korea to come and join the mission," Trump said. The US President further said US forces have shot down seven small boats



and urged South Korea to join the mission in the Hormuz Strait. "We have shot down seven small Boats or, as they like to call them, 'fast' Boats. It's all they have left. Other than the South Korean Ship, there has been, at this moment, no damage going through the Strait. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Dan Caine, will have a News Conference tomorrow (Tuesday) morning," the President added. The President told Fox News that the US military buildup in the region is continuing.

"We have more weapons and ammunition at a much higher grade than we had before," Trump said. "We have the best equipment. We have stuff all over the world. We have these bases all over the world. They are all stocked up with equipment. We can use all of that stuff, and we will, if we need it," Trump said. Earlier, addressing a presser at the White House, President Trump reiterated that under no circumstances Iran should be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. He said, "Iran has no navy, air force, anti-aircraft

equipment, or leaders. We can't let them have a nuclear weapon or you're going to have problems like nobody would believe." "We had tolerated that under no circumstances Iran should be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. He said, "Iran has no navy do this little excursion in Iran. It was worth it to get rid of lunatics that would have nuclear weapons that can wipe out countries with the push of a button. It should've been done a long time ago, but I'm very proud to be doing it," the US President added.

Musk Agrees To Pay \$1.5 Mn Over Twitter Share Buying

Washington: Elon Musk on Monday agreed to pay a small amount to end a government lawsuit that accused him of breaking stock market rules when he was secretly buying up shares of Twitter before his \$44 billion takeover of the social media platform in 2022. Musk's trust will pay a \$1.5 million fine under the deal, which was filed in a Washington federal court and still needs a judge's approval. The case involves Musk's missing a statutory deadline for notifying regulators as he bought more and more Twitter shares ahead of the takeover. Musk's attorney Alex Spiro cast the outcome as a vindication, saying his client "has now been cleared of all issues related to the late filing of forms in the Twitter acquisition, as we said from the outset he would be." "A trust vehicle has agreed to a small fine for being late on one filing," Spiro said. In an email to AFP, Spiro added that the deal with the US government was not a

settlement "because he did nothing wrong." "The case against him was dismissed," Spiro said. The case centered on a simple rule: when an investor buys more than five percent of a publicly traded company, they are required by law to disclose that stake within 10 days. The Securities and Exchange Commission, the federal agency that polices financial markets, in January 2025 said Musk blew past that deadline by 11 days when he was building up his position in Twitter in early 2022. The SEC said Musk's delay allowed him to keep buying at bargain prices, saving himself an estimated \$150 million at the expense of other shareholders who sold without knowing what was happening. Despite those allegations, the deal with the SEC does not require Musk to pay back any of those savings. His trust agreed only to the \$1.5 million penalty and a promise not to violate the same rule again -- without admitting he did



anything wrong. The SEC said it amended its complaint to add Musk's trust as a defendant and filed the proposed settlement at the same time. If the judge signs off, the agency said it will drop Musk personally from the case, ending it entirely. The lawsuit was first filed just days before then-president Joe Biden left office. Musk, a close ally of President Donald Trump at the time, tried to get it thrown out, but a federal judge rejected that effort in February. The fine comes on the heels of a separate trial in California, where a jury in March found that

Musk had misled Twitter investors with misleading posts during the chaotic 2022 takeover. Damages in that case could reach roughly \$2 billion, although Musk's laws of a separate trial in California, where a jury in March found that years have said they plan to appeal. It is the second time Musk has settled with the SEC. In 2018, he paid \$20 million and gave up his role as Tesla's chairman after claiming on social media that he had the funding to take the electric car maker private -- a deal that never materialized.

Pakistan, China Sign An Agreement And Two MoUs To Promote Bilateral Cooperation

Islamabad: Pakistan and China on Friday signed two MoUs and a joint venture agreement covering construction machinery, animal health and medical technology. President Asif Ali Zardari attended the signing ceremony, where a documentary highlighting 75 years of Pakistan-China friendship was also screened, according to a statement by his office. In a statement, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said that a joint venture



agreement was signed between the Sindh Livestock & Fisheries Department and China's Luoyang Modern Biology Group. It said the agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in the livestock

and fisheries sector, with a focus on improving animal health services and modern biological solutions. An MoU was signed between Al-Hassan Trade Establishment, Sany International Development, and Henan Jialong International Technology. The agreement is expected to promote the supply of construction machinery and equipment linked to CPEC projects.

Under the MoU, the three sides will also explore investment opportunities for establishing manufacturing facilities in Pakistan. Another MoU was signed in the medical technology sector between Ziauddin Hospital and Shenzhen Weibang Technology, aiming to promote the use of advanced artificial intelligence-based medical robots in clinical medicine. Zardari was on a week-long visit to China's Hunan and

Telangana's fee reimbursement crisis threatens social progress

For the past 18 years, the 'Fee Reimbursement' scheme (Post-Metric Scholarship – RTF) has served as the silent engine driving social progress in Telangana. By dismantling the formidable barrier of tuition fees for the underprivileged, the State government has transformed the dreams of first-generation students into reality. Withdraw GO 7 or face wrath of students: KTR demands release of fee reimbursement dues

However, by 2026, this landmark welfare initiative faces two existential threats: a massive accumulation of fiscal arrears and a controversial shift in the disbursement mechanism. These hurdles now threaten to undo decades of hard-won progress.

Instrument of Social Equality Over the past two decades, fee reimbursement has had an extraordinary impact on the economic landscape of Telangana's marginalised communities. By providing a financial safety net for SC, ST, BC, Minority, and EWS (Economically Weaker Section) students, the scheme made professional courses accessible to the poor. According to the 2024 Telangana Socio-Economic Survey, this initiative plays a pivotal role in human resource development and the rise of the State's per capita income. For families earning between Rs 1.50 lakh and Rs 2 lakh annually, pursuing engineering or medicine remains an impossible dream without state intervention. Currently, the scheme supports approximately 1.4 million students. It is the policy alone that allows a student from a remote corner of Adilabad or Mahabubnagar to sit as an equal alongside affluent peers in prestigious private colleges in Hyderabad.

Multplier Effect Research across rural and urban Telangana highlights a profound reality: a single professional degree can catapult a family from the fringes of poverty into the middle class and above. Before graduation, many EWS, BC, SC, and ST families face dire conditions, with annual incomes stagnating between Rs 60,000 and Rs 1,50,000. Families often depend on seasonal agricultural labour or small-scale handicrafts for their livelihood. In such circumstances, a single health crisis or crop failure can push a family into a multi-generational debt trap. It is within these cycles of hardship that suicides frequently occur. In this context, an engineering degree completed through fee reimbursement becomes a weapon against poverty. When a student secures a job in a multinational corporation (MNC) or the public sector, the family's economic status changes overnight. An entry-level salary of Rs 70,000 to Rs 1,00,000 means the student earns in two months what the



entire family previously earned in a year. The shift to the Direct Benefit Transfer system, slated for full implementation by mid-2026, may leave students liable if government payments are delayed.

This newfound wealth ignites a powerful economic cycle that begins with a profound rural transformation, in which permanent housing replaces traditional homes, and the burden of high-interest debt is finally eliminated. This financial stability paves the way for a second-generation revolution, enabling families to enrol younger siblings in superior schools and ensuring long-term educational continuity. Ultimately, families achieve urban integration by becoming active consumers of technology, healthcare, and retail goods, effectively reinjecting wealth back into the broader economy and sustaining upward mobility. Fee reimbursement is not merely a welfare handout. It is a 'great economic multiplier' that integrates marginalised citizens into the formal economy. Wealth generated in tech hubs like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, or even abroad, eventually trickles back to strengthen rural grassroots.

Arrears and Instability Despite its noble intent, the scheme is currently in financial peril. Reports from the Telangana Education Commission in early 2026 indicate that arrears for the past four academic years have ballooned to between Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 12,000 crore. As of April 2026, RTI data reveal that Rs 557 crore is owed to minority students alone, with nearly 1.8 lakh applications pending. Furthermore, the state must enact stringent legal protections preventing institutions from withholding academic certificates due to government arrears, thereby acting as the ultimate guarantor of a student's professional future. For high-fee courses (above Rs 35,000), a differential DBT model should be introduced to 00 to Rs 1,00,000 means the student earns in two months what the entire family previously earned in a year.

The shift to the Direct Benefit Transfer system, slated for full implementation by mid-2026, may leave students liable if government payments are delayed. This newfound wealth ignites a powerful economic cycle that begins with a profound rural transformation, in which permanent housing replaces

slated for full implementation by mid-2026, represents a double-edged sword for educational equity. While the model is designed to enhance fiscal transparency by bypassing intermediaries and depositing funds directly into student accounts, it introduces a precarious layer of vulnerability. This systemic change shifts the financial burden of administrative delays onto the individual. If the government fails to disburse payments on schedule, students find themselves personally liable. This fiscal gap leaves them exposed to institutional penalties. Furthermore, an interim order by the Telangana High Court in April allowed some private colleges to collect fees upfront. The long-standing "No Fee Payment" protection for SC, ST, and BC categories has been temporarily suspended until the government clears its dues. This leaves the most vulnerable students at risk of being excluded from higher education.

Strategic Interventions To ensure the long-term viability of professional education and prevent a potential mass exodus of talent, the government must adopt a proactive and protective stance rather than abdicating its responsibilities. A robust strategic framework should begin with the introduction of interest-free "bridge loans" in partnerships with public sector banks, providing a vital cushion for students facing immediate fee demands. Furthermore, the state must enact stringent legal protections preventing institutions from withholding academic certificates due to government arrears, thereby acting as the ultimate guarantor of a student's professional future. For high-fee courses (above Rs 35,000), a differential DBT model should be introduced to 00 to Rs 1,00,000 means the student earns in two months what the entire family previously earned in a year.

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DBT Dilemma, Legal Hurdles The shift toward the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system,

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What 16th Finance Commission misses



Indian cities are urbanising faster than ever. As cities continue to grow, so does the need for adequate infrastructure, including water supply and waste management, housing, and transport. The World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 highlights that India is one of the major drivers of global urbanisation. This underscores the need for robust urban infrastructure. In this context, the discussion should not focus solely on rapid urbanisation but also on how cities will address the infrastructure needs of the current and future urban population. Opinion: Vishwa Guru vision must begin at home

Opinion: Plans don't make cities work. Managers do The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has made several recommendations on the finances of urban local bodies, making this an important point of discussion among academia and urban professionals.

The Commission has recommended a total allocation of Rs 7,91,493 crore to duly constituted Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31, the largest allocation ever made to the third tier of government. Of this, ULBs are expected to receive Rs 3,56,257 crore, along with a special infrastructure component of Rs 56,100 crore. At first glance, this signals a clear recognition of India's rapidly urbanising future. Importantly, the Commission has acknowledged issues related to census towns and outgrowths, where rural settlements are governed by Panchayats but counted as urban in population statistics. This creates a gap in infrastructure availability for citizens living in these peri-urban areas. To overcome this challenge, the Commission has recommended a one-time grant as an incentive for merging peri-urban villages into adjacent larger municipalities with a population of not less than one lakh. An urbanisation premium of Rs 10,000 crore will be disbursed as a one-time eligibility amount.

Flawed Design, never, this design carries the risk of excluding census towns and peri-urban areas that are not adjacent to larger municipalities. These

areas often suffer from inadequate infrastructure and a lack of urban fiscal transfers because their rural governance leaves them fiscally stranded. While the urbanisation premium may benefit a large subset of transition areas, it may bypass several fast-growing settlements. Additionally, even after more than three decades since the implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment, urban decentralisation remains incomplete. The concept of "devolution" is yet to be fully realised. The FC report outlines a structured system of grants over a five-year period, with clear annual trajectories and a defined split between basic and performance grants. However, this does not automatically translate into autonomy for ULBs. Locations into real autonomy, the panel must expand untied grants, differentiate funding, support smaller ULBs, and strengthen decentralisation

In practice, funds in Union to States and then to cities, with States release and compliance conditions. The report itself shows wide variation: a few States, like Haryana and Maharashtra, transfer significant funds, while others, including West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, lag behind. This weakens the intent of the grants. Cities are held accountable for service delivery, but do not fully control the push to mandate State Finance Commissions (SFCs), audited accounts, and transparent reporting is largely compliance-driven rather than a structural shift in the State-ULB balance. Though these measures aim to improve accountability and fiscal discipline, they reinforce a similar pattern, which is "cities being the primary implementing agency rather than autonomous fiscal units". The 16th FC has also emphasised expanding grants, allocating a record Rs 7,91,493 crore. However, there is relatively limited focus on strengthening municipal revenue structures or expanding cities' tax and non-tax bases. While the scale of grants has increased, the fiscal design remains largely unchanged, just like old wine in a new bottle. The Commission also links a portion of these funds to performance. From 2027-28 onwards,

urban local bodies must demonstrate growth in their own source revenue (OSR) to qualify for performance grants, while States must transfer at least 20% of the basic grant from their own resources. In principle, this "reward effort" approach is sound. However, the design assumes the existence of an ideal city, which is digitally enabled, adequately staffed, fiscally buoyant and institutionally compliant. As a result, it risks performance thresholds becoming exclusionary rather than enabling. Cities with better resources are more likely to meet these conditions and capture a larger share of funds, while weaker municipalities may fall further behind.

Grants to States Another critical design issue lies in how the FC distributes grants across States. The 16th FC assigns a weight of 90% to the projected urban population and 10% to an index based on its own source revenue. While this appears objective, weak State Finance Commissions mean that allocations within States are largely driven by population-based criteria. This approach treats ULBs as a homogenous group, with a one-size-fits-all model. In reality, Indian ULBs are a diverse group, from metropolitan cities to medium towns and small municipalities, with differing service costs, revenue bases, and challenges. A uniform formula in such a case is akin to comparing apples to oranges. It brings the risk of formula-based equity at the national level while reproducing inequality across cities on the ground. Late record allocations into real autonomy, there must be an expansion of untied grants, differentiated funding based on city size, performance-linked conditions supported by capacity-building, espe-

cially for smaller ULBs, and a stronger push towards, urban decentralisation remains incomplete. The concept of "devolution" is yet to be fully realised. The FC report outlines a structured system of grants over a five-year period, with clear annual trajectories and a defined split between basic and performance grants. However, this does not automatically translate into autonomy for ULBs. To translate record allocations into real autonomy, the panel must expand untied grants, differentiate funding, support smaller ULBs, and strengthen decentralisation. In practice, funds continue to flow from the Union to States and then to cities, with States controlling their timing, release and compliance conditions. The report itself shows wide variation: a few States, like Haryana and Maharashtra, transfer significant funds, while others, including West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, lag behind. This weakens the intent of the grants. Cities are held accountable for service delivery, but do not fully control the flow of money.

The push to mandate State Finance Commissions (SFCs), audited accounts, and transparent reporting is largely compliance-driven rather than a structural shift in the State-ULB balance. Though these measures aim to improve accountability and fiscal discipline, they reinforce a similar pattern, which is "cities being the primary implementing agency rather than autonomous fiscal units". The 16th FC has also emphasised expanding grants, allocating a record Rs 7,91,493 crore. However, there is relatively limited focus on strengthening municipal revenue structures or expanding cities' tax and non-tax bases. While the scale of grants has increased, the fiscal design remains largely unchanged, just like old wine in a new bottle. The Commission also links a portion of these funds to performance. From 2027-28 onwards, urban local bodies for decentralisation rather than administrative dependence. The opportunity now lies in building on FC's unprecedented scale by refining its design so that increased spending translates not just into better services, but also into stronger, more autonomous and

Anjali Shekhawat clinches gold at Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship

Hyderabad: Rajasthan's Anjali Shekhawat claimed the gold medal in the 10m air pistol women's event at the 24th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship, being held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi on Monday. Shekhawat, who had earlier qualified fourth with a score of 576-23x, stepped up impressively in the final to shoot 240.5 and finish on top of the podium. Haryana's Kanak Budhwar clinched the silver medal with a score of 238.7, while



Punjab's Agam Ranjit Kaur Grewal secured the bronze with 216. The qualification round saw Olympian Esha Singh of Madhya Pradesh's Mahima Turhi Agrawal, who had qualified seventh with 575-20x, did not start in the final.

Kanak qualified for the final in sixth place with 576-13x. In the final, Railways' Yuvika Tomar finished fourth with 196.1 (576-15x), while Muskan Chahal placed fifth with 174.8.

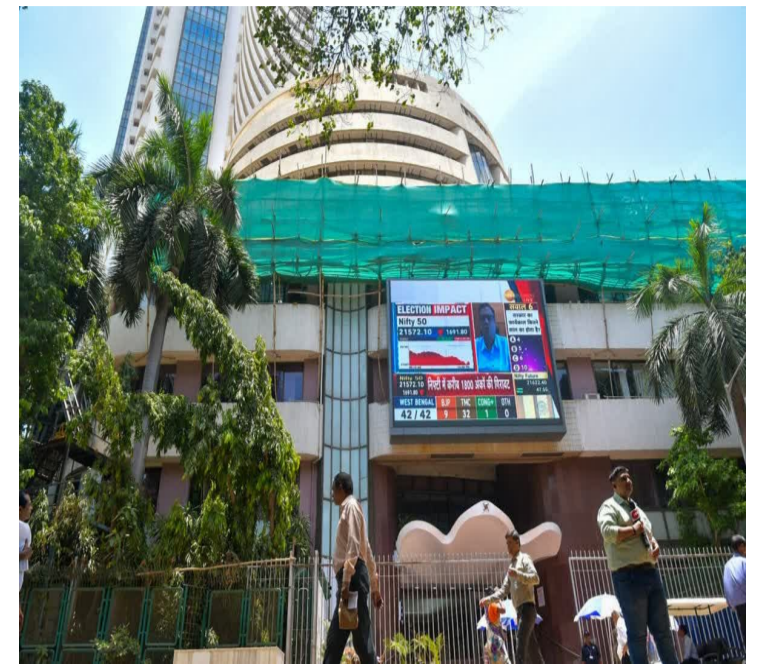
Another Haryana shooter, Muskan Chahal, finished sixth with 154.8 (575-19x). Women's event silver medallist Kanak Budhwar continued her fine form in the 10m air pistol junior

women's category, securing the gold medal with a score of 238.4. She was closely followed by Haryana's Priyanshi Purva, who claimed silver with 237.5, while Ketan, also from Haryana, completed a clean sweep for the state by taking bronze with 216.8. In the 10bronze with 216.8.

m air pistol youth women's event, Kanak once again stood out with a dominant performance, clinching gold with an impressive 244.3. Haryana's Navya secured the silver

medal with 237.7, while Army's Anjali Mahendra Bhagwat finished third with 215.3. Haryana emerged victorious in the team event, with the trio of Priyanshi Purva, Navya, and Surbhi Rao combining for a gold medal-winning total of Railways, represented by Yuvika Tomar, Sakshi Anil Suryavanshi, and Riya Shirish Thatte, claimed silver with 1710.0-40x, while Uttar Pradesh's Vanshika Chaudhary, Sanskriti Bana, and Anjali Chaudhary secured bronze with 1709.0-50x.

Stock Markets End Higher; Sensex Rallies 356 Points



New Delhi: IBenchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Monday, helped by buying in blue-chip stocks and state poll results moving towards an outcome in line with market expectations. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 355.90 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 77,269.40. During the day, it jumped 997.25 points or 1.29 per cent to 77,910.75. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 121.75 points or 0.51 per cent to end at 24,119.30. From the 30-Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro, Eternal and Maruti were among the biggest gainers. Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and ITC were among the laggards from the pack. "Investor sentiment remained supported by a favourable election outcome in West Bengal and a better-than-expected Q4 earnings, helping markets look past Middle East-related concerns.

"However, intermittent profit booking persisted amid uncertainty surrounding the US 'Project Freedom' initiative to reopen the Strait of Hormuz," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. While the resolution path may take time, optimism around gradual progress continues, he said, adding that crude prices holding below USD 110 are providing near-term comfort. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.48 per cent to USD 109.8 per barrel.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended higher. Markets in Japan were closed due to a holiday. Markets in Europe were trading mostly lower. US markets ended mostly higher on Friday. "Early trends from key state election results provided a supportive domestic trigger, while easing geopolitical concerns, like signs of progress in US-Iran discussions, helped cool crude oil prices. This, combined with strength in global markets led by a record run in US tech indices, created a favourable risk environment," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. Stock-specific momentum added to the upside, with leaders like Maruti Suzuki and Hindustan Unilever driving gains on the back of strong operational updates, he said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,047.86 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, were buyers as they bought stocks worth Rs 3,487.10 crore. Stock exchanges were closed on Friday for Maharashtra Day. On Thursday, the Sensex tumbled 582.86 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 76,913.50. The Nifty dived 180.10 points or 0.74 per cent to end at 23,997.55.

RBI grants approval to Emirates NBD Bank to acquire up to 74pc stake in RBL Bank



New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded approval to Dubai-based Emirates NBD Bank to acquire up to a 74 per cent stake in RBL Bank, paving the way for the bank to become a foreign lender. The approval from RBI came on April 1 with one year validity, RBL Bank said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. The approval follows Emirates NBD Bank, the second largest in UAE, expressing its interest in October 2025 to acquire a majority 60 per cent stake in RBL Bank for Rs 26,853 crore. As per the approval letter, the Emirates NBD (ENBD) would acquire and maintain a shareholding of at least 51 per cent of the paid-up share capital of the RBL Bank and the bank would be classified as a foreign bank in subsidiary mode, with the Investor as its parent foreign bank. "The provision. The ENBD is exempted from the investor are amalgamated with the Bank, or within one year, whichever receipt of necessary approval from Government of India for investment beyond 49 per cent in the bank under the approval route and compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI (Commercial Banks- Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights) Directions, 2025, dated November 28, 2025, provisions of the FEMA 1999, regulations issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India, and any other statutes, regulations and guidelines, as applicable. The proposed transaction remains subject to receipt of certain other regulatory approvals and customary conditions precedent as mentioned in the Investment Agreement dated October 18, 2025 entered into between the Investor and the bank, it added. NBD Bank's proposal to acquire a majority stake in private sector lender RBL Bank.

Gianni Infantino Affirms At The FIFA Congress That Iran Will Participate In The World Cup

FIFA President Gianni Infantino opened his address at Thursday's FIFA Congress by affirming that Iran will participate in the World Cup and that the team will play in the United States despite the conflict between the two nations. "And the reason for that is very simple, dear friends, is because we have to unite. We have to bring people together. It is my responsibility. It is our responsibility," Infantino said. "Football unites the world. FIFA unites the world. You unite the world. We unite the world." In an indication of how fraught the situation is with Iran's participation in the World Cup, representatives from the Iranian soccer federation were denied entry into Canada this week. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said it was her "understanding" that the Iranian officials were turned away, following a report by Tasnim, an Iranian news agency associ-

ated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The report said Iranian soccer federation president Mehdi Taj and two other officials were denied entry at Toronto's airport. Earlier in the week at the Asian soccer federation's congress in Vancouver, Iran's participation in the World Cup or whether the team's matches should be moved out of the United States was not addressed. At the roll call for the FIFA Congress where all nations were named, Iran was announced as absent. Outside the event at the Vancouver Convention Center there was a small group of protestors holding Iranian flags.

Infantino has not wavered on Iran's participation in the World Cup or in its matches in the United States. At one point, Iran asked to move its games to Mexico, but that request was rejected. The World Cup starts



on June 11 and the final is scheduled for July 19 with games in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Canada prepares to welcome the world. In contrast to concerns about an immigration crackdown in the United States ahead of the World Cup, Canadian officials speaking at the FIFA Congress stressed the nation's diversity. "Canada has always been more than just a country on a map. It is a meeting place of cultures, languages, ideas and

dreams. People from every corner of the world have come here with their stories, their traditions, their talents and their hopes together. These stories don't disappear. They become part of who we are," said Peter Augruso, the president of the Canadian Soccer Association. Concerns about ticket price. In his address to the congress, Infantino briefly addressed complaints about the costs of tickets to World Cup matches, but his comments were directed at the heads of the member

associations and not "We sold 100% of the inventory that we put on the market, which is more or less 90% of the global inventory so far. And of course, we are always putting tickets on the market," Infantino said. "There are expensive tickets, yes, and there are also affordable tickets. And what is important is that all the revenues that we generate from the world go back to you, go back to the entire world and finance football in all of your countries."

Cost concerns

Earlier this week, FIFA announced it would pay out an additional \$100 million to the nations playing in the World Cup to help cover higher-than-expected costs. The FIFA Council agreed Tuesday to increase the basic payments to each federation by \$2 million to a minimum of \$12.5 million. The governing body is expecting revenue of at least \$11 billion for the tournament. Member associations had appealed to soccer's governing body to raise prize money because of cost concerns. FIFA announced in December that the winner of this year's World Cup will receive \$50 million from a \$655 million prize pool. Argentina earned \$42 million for winning the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, an increase from the \$38 million awarded to France for winning the 2018 tournament in Russia. But it's less than half of what Chelsea

Ganemat Sekhon stays in contention at ISSF Shotgun World Cup

: India's Ganemat Sekhon shot 70 out of 75 targets to finish Day One just one point outside the top eight in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun, which got underway today at the Asanov Shooting Club in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Chandigarh shooter, who won a silver medal at the same range three years back, was the best-placed Indian to secure a spot in the top eight of the competition. The remaining 50 targets of qualification and the finals for both women and men will be held tomorrow. In the men's event, Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan started

the first series with a perfect 25 and then shot 23 in each of the next two series to finish the first day with a score of 71, placing him 27th currently. Fellow Olympian Anantjeet Singh Naruka also shot a perfect 25 in his first series but managed only 23 and 21 in the next two rounds to complete the day with a score of 69. The third Indian in the competition, national champion Gurjoat Singh Khangura, shot series of 22, 24 and 24 for a total of 70 after 75 targets. Bhavtegh Singh Gill and Abhay Singh Sekhon, who are participating for ranking points, shot 71 (24, 24, 23) and 70 (23, 24, 23), respectively.



Olympian and women's national champion Raiza Dhillon finished Day One with a score of 69 after shooting 22, 23 and 24 in her first

three series, while Parinaaz Dhaliwal shot 66 with scores of 22, 21 and 23 in her three rounds. Vanshika Tiwari and Rashmni

Rathore, competing for ranking points, shot 66 (24, 21, 21) and 62 (20, 21, 21), respectively. This is the second Shotgun World Cup of the sea-

son; the first concluded in Tangier, Morocco, in April, where the Indian athletes could not secure any medals.

Stunt Silva Reveals Challenges Behind Mohanlal's One-Legged Action In Patriot

Actor Mohanlal has impressed audiences with a striking new avatar in director Mahesh Narayanan's Patriot, which released in theatres on May 1. The film features him as a one-legged character in a performance-driven action narrative. Following the release, stunt choreographer Stunt Silva, in an interaction with ETV Bharat, opened up about designing the film's grounded and emotionally layered action sequences, calling it one of the most challenging projects of his career. Q. You have been part of many Mohanlal films in recent years. How did you come on board for Patriot? Sir is always a blessing. He recommended me for this film. But getting an opportunity in such a big project is not just about a recommendation. Director Mahesh Narayanan also had to be convinced. His films are very sensible, and I believe I got this opportunity because I could align with his vision and the script. Q. What is the magic you bring to Mohanlal's action scenes? - Mahesh sir wanted the action to have an emotional layer. When I work with Lal sir, that chemistry reflects on the screen. Like his earlier collaborations with Thiagarajan,



he is once again ready to amaze audiences with his action. Q. What makes the action in Patriot different? - This is a realistic action film. The fights appear only where the story demands them. The combination of Lal sir's physicality and the character's limitation creates suspense that works best in theatres. Stunt Silva

Stunt Silva (Photo: Special Arrangement) Q. Mohanlal's character has one leg. How did you handle that in action scenes? - That was the biggest challenge. We had to present the fights exactly as a one-legged person would perform them, without exaggeration. The director insisted on realism. Even though VFX supports later, Lal sir had to perform that way during shooting. He can transform into any character within seconds, so technically, it was manageable. Q. How is this different from mass commercial action? - You will not see over-the-top action here because the story does not demand it. Mahesh Narayanan insisted on credibility. We combined practicality and

things follow for the people of Tamil Nadu who have made their decision clear." Actor Nikhil Siddhartha also celebrated Vijay's achievement by sharing a GIF from Jana Nayagan. "Proud to see Thalapathy @actorvijay garu from our Indian Cinema Industry making a Huge Mark In Tamil Nadu Politics & emerg-

'You Made History Today': Vikram, Nani, Tiger Shroff, Others Applaud Vijay As TVK Leads Tamil Nadu Election

Tamil actor-turned-politician Vijay is making waves in Tamil Nadu politics, as his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), is leading in the ongoing state election results. In what many are already calling a historic moment, TVK is leading in 101 out of 234 seats, putting Vijay on the brink of a major political victory. As the news spread, congratulatory messages began pouring in from across the country. Celebrities from multiple film industries came together to celebrate Vijay's remarkable rise from cinema to politics. One of the first to react was Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff, who took to X to share his message. He wrote, "Congratulations to @actorvijay (raised hands emoji). The faith people have in you is amazing to see. More power to you for this next chapter! (strong emoji)." Telugu actor Nani offered a thoughtful note, drawing a comparison with Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. "Congratulations, @actorvijay sir. First doubted and then crowned. Happened at our home, and now it's happening in our neighbouring home. Underdog winning is always absolute cinema (or should I say absolute politics?) :) Hope great



ing as the Single Largest Party Historic Achievement (clapping emoji) #Jananayagan (fire emojis) #TVK." Producer SKN wrote "(fire emojis) #Jananayagan Movies may pause...momentum never (heart emojis). Hail Thalapathy (folded hands, starry-eyed emojis) Huge congratulations (clapping, fire emojis) @actorvijay."

Back home in Tamil cinema, the celebrations were just as loud. Actor Vikram shared a warm message along with a picture of Vijay. He penned, "Congrats Nanba @actorvijay!! You made history today." Archana Kalpathi, producer of the 2024 film GOAT, shared a

emojis) @actorvijay."