

## HC Issued Directions To Stop The Misappropriation Of Deposits From The Court Accounts

**HYDERABAD:** Taking serious note of the large-scale misappropriation of land acquisition compensation amounts that were deposited in the Civil Court Deposit (CCD) accounts in the District Judiciary, the Telangana High Court has directed the Registry to institute a stringent annual audit and reconciliation mechanism across district courts that handle the deposits. The court's instructions also included the yearly reconciliation of books of accounts and the comparison of the CCD account statements with registers and D-forms issued by the land acquisition officer at the time of the deposit. The Civil Court concerned must update the record every year and forward the compli-



ance report to the Principal District Judge concerned, and the High Court Registry. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 A division bench comprising Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda issued the directions while dealing with a writ petition filed by Kurva Hanumanthu, a project trustee, whose compensation amount was withheld owing to the expo-

sure of a multi-crore court deposit scam in the Court of the Principal Senior Civil Judge, Gadwal. Hanumanthu's land of about 7.12 acres was acquired in 2008 for the construction of Ryalampad balancing reservoir. The land acquisition officer did not pay him the compensation amount due to a dispute over the title of the land. The money was deposited at the Civil Court at Gadwal in 2012.

## Aap mere se hi judo': Modi's offer to Revanth Reddy raises eyebrows

**Hyderabad:** Political sparring often reflects political maturity. A well-timed repartee can reinforce a demand, convey a subtle warning and when delivered with political finesse, carry layered messaging. Such an exchange played out on Sunday at the HICC between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. While Modi seized the opportunity to deliver a killer punch, all Revanth Reddy could do was to sport an embarrassed smile. In an apparent attempt to make a light-hearted pitch for greater Central assistance, Revanth Reddy reminded Modi that the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had extended substantial financial support to Gujarat when Modi was its Chief Minister.



Drawing a parallel, the Telangana Chief Minister suggested that the Centre should now similarly support Telangana. However, Modi turned the moment to his advantage, using the exchange to counter the argument while reiterating the Centre's commitment to Telangana. "I am prepared to allocate the same quantum of funds that were given to Gujarat. But

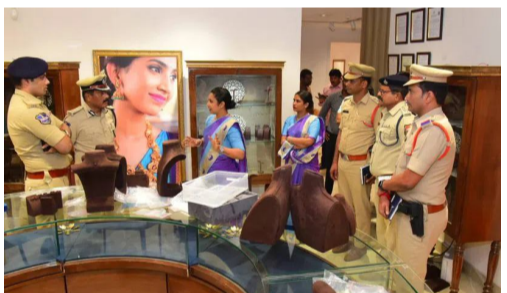
let me remind you, if that is done, Telangana will receive only half of what the Centre is allocating to the State now," Modi remarked with a smile, even as he pointedly observed that Telangana would otherwise struggle to realise its ambitious goal of becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2034. "You will not be able to achieve this," Modi

said, before delivering the final political punchline from the stage: "Aap mere se hi judo." The Prime Minister's remark elicited an embarrassed smile from Revanth Reddy. But this camaraderie was widely interpreted as a symbolic display of bonhomie between the "Bade Bhai" and the "Chote Bhai" of Indian politics. At a meeting in HICC, where the Prime Minister virtually inaugurated development works worth Rs. 9,400 crore, Modi pointed out that before 2014, the undivided Andhra Pradesh was allocated just Rs 1,000 crore in the Railway budget, whereas Telangana was

allocated Rs 5,500 crore this year. Telangana got six Vande Bharat trains and six Amrit Bharat Express trains. The Kazipet railway junction was being upgraded with significant investments. During his speech delivered in Hindi, Revanth Reddy said he called on Union Ministers and the Prime Minister multiple times seeking approvals for pending projects like Musi Rejuvenation Project, Metro Rail expansion, radial roads and the proposed 12-lane express highway connecting Hyderabad and Machilipatnam among the projects requiring Central assistance. Requesting Modi's direct intervention, the Chief Minister urged him to hold a two-hour special meeting to clear pending proposals related to Telangana.

## Two arrested in West Bengal in PMJ jewellery showroom theft case

**Karimnagar:** One of the accused involved in PMJ jewellery theft and another person are reportedly arrested by the police in West Bengal. Special police teams, which were searching for the accused in other states, arrested one of the burglars in West Bengal while they were trying to sell stolen gold ornaments. Besides the thief, another person who purchased the gold from the gang has



also been taken into custody. Some quantity of gold was also seized from them, it is learnt. Taking PMJ jewellery showroom theft as a challenge, police intensified the

search operation to nab the accused. Since the accused belong to other states, special teams were also sent to Bihar, Maharashtra and other states.

## Bandi Sanjay's presence at Modi's Hyderabad event raises eyebrows

**Hyderabad:** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar was among select invitees to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Hyderabad on Sunday afternoon. While the officials followed protocol, Sanjay's presence among select invitees to receive the Prime Minister and later, participate in official and public meetings, raised many eyebrows in the wake of a POCSO case registered against his son Bageerath.



According to the official schedule, Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay, BJP MPs and other

representatives, were among the select invitees receiving the Prime Minister at

Begumpet Airport upon his arrival from Bengaluru. On behalf of the State government, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, Minister Ponnampallabharathi and others participated. BRS demands Bandi Sanjay's removal over POCSO case. BRS demands Bandi Sanjay's removal over

grammes pertaining to the inauguration and foundation-laying ceremonies for multiple infrastructure and industrial projects in Hyderabad. He was seen seated next only to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the stage. However, only Revanth Reddy along with Kishan Reddy were allowed to felicitate the Prime Minister on the stage. Sanjay then continued alongside Modi at the BJP's public meeting at Parade Grounds in the evening.

## BRSV lays siege to DGP Office demanding arrest of Bandi Sanjay's son

**Hyderabad:** BRS student wing BRSV laid siege to the DGP's office in Hyderabad on Sunday, demanding the immediate arrest of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay's son Bhagirath in connection with a POCSO case involving a minor girl. Several leaders, including BRSV State president Gellu Srinivas and vice president Thunga Balu and others were arrested during the flash protest. The demonstration turned tense as activists raised slogans demanding Sanjay's dismissal from the Union Cabinet and raised slogans against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for delaying action against the accused. They held the state government equally responsible for the delay in action. Police detained several BRSV leaders.



her and was being treated like a criminal rather than a victim.

He accused both the BJP and Congress of attempting to shield the accused. He also questioned the silence of BJP leaders on the issue despite the party's "Beti Bachao" campaign and demanded immediate action against the accused.

Speaking on the occasion, Gellu Srinivas questioned the double standards in law enforcement. "Is there one standard of justice for common people and another for a Minister's son?" he asked. He alleged that the minor victim and her parents have been fighting for justice for last three months. Instead of protecting her, he said counter-cases were filed against

Separately, women activists also staged a protest at Pet Basheerabad Police Station on the same day, coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana. They demanded Bhagirath's immediate arrest under POCSO Act and also Bandi Sanjay's removal from the Union Cabinet to prevent him from influencing the case.

## Thalapathy' no more: Vijay steps into role of 'Muthalvan'



**Chennai:** When C Joseph Vijay repeatedly asserted that the 2026 Assembly polls were a fight between his party, the TVK, and the then ruling DMK, many did not buy that argument. On Sunday, days after winning the elections and clinching support for his party to form government, the 51-year-old was sworn in as Chief Minister (Muthalvar/Muthalvan) of Tamil Nadu after trouncing the MK Stalin-led Dravidian major. Not only on the point of the electoral battle, but on several other aspects, TVK and 'Thalapathy' Vijay differed from "mainstream" political parties and their conventional ways to seek votes. Vijay neither introduced candidates in all the constituencies nor toured all segments or vigorously campaigned in the traditional sense by addressing rallies. But his messages were forwarded again and again in social media and by word of mouth by his fans and followers. He neither met the press nor gave interviews and directly communicated to people via social media. Unusually, he focused on teens, youngsters/children to persuade their parents to vote for TVK. Also, he brilliantly combined elements of Dravidian ideolo-

gy and Tamil nationalism in formulating his party's ideology. About 25-30 years ago, it was just unthinkable that a cute, shy and mild-mannered Vijay would one day go on to launch a political party and become the chief minister in his debut election. It was all summed up in a frozen moment of history when a photo showing late DMK chief M Karunanidhi with Vijay the boy standing behind him having gone viral, with many wondering if the former Chief Minister ever wondered the lad would be his son Stalin's challenger and vanquisher.

## Telangana Congress faces backlash over post on Bandi Sanjay's son POCSO case

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana Congress faced sharp criticism from several sections over its comments on the case involving Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bandi Sai Bageerath, and its remarks on the law and order situation in the country. Sharing a photograph of the Union Minister and his son on X, the Telangana Congress questioned whether it was the "Home Department or an irresponsible department." "The Union Home Ministry is responsible for protecting law and order and ensuring national security. However, a violation has taken place at the residence of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs," the Telangana Congress posted. The party also questioned how Bandi Sanjay could continue in office on moral grounds when a POCSO case had been registered against his son. The remarks trig-



gered a strong response on social media, with many users pointing out that the Congress government in Telangana had failed to act in the case. Several users noted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy also holds the Home portfolio. "Why has the FIR been delayed for three months?" asked X user Basheeruddin. Another user, Sandeep, said social media posts alone would not ensure justice. He accused the Congress govern-

ment of focusing on public relations campaigns instead of taking action in a serious case. Another X user, E Dil, questioned the role of the State Home Department. He alleged that a honey-trap case was registered against the victim and said the accused had still not been arrested despite the POCSO case. He added that people across Telangana were closely watching the Congress government's response.

## Bathukammakunta Is a Lake: HYDRAA Commissioner A. V. Ranganath

**Hyderabad:** HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Saturday claimed that the existence of Bathukammakunta in Amberpet as a lake was backed with historical, documentary and satellite evidence. Government records, maps and satellite imagery from as early as 1975 clearly showed the lake. Addressing the media on Saturday, Ranganath showed irrigation documents, along with the municipal records from Amberpet from 1975, that Bathukammakunta as a lake. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in enue and GHMC records, the lake spreads across 9 acres and 19 guntas, existing on Survey No 563/1. The adjoining bund, record-



ed as 'Masan Katta', exists on Survey No. 563/2 over six guntas', Ranganath said. "The court has asked the other party to prove his ownership, and he has nothing but an unregistered sale agreement. Using that document, he claims ownership of that land. He does not have a sale deed, and the court has previously declared that he has no ownership rights. But they appealed

to the High Court, where the case is being heard," Ranganath explained. Also Read - Man Draggged on Car Bonnet for 2 km in Shocking Meerpet Road Rage HYDRAA has showcased Survey of India maps generated in 1971, which showed the area as a water body. It also picNational Aeronautics Administration's (Nasa) Landsat programme r Held For Murder, Body

Found Under Kitchen Platform Ranganath stressed that lakes were public assets and could not be treated as private property, regardless of ownership claims. He said limited farming may be allowed when water levels recede, but the basic nature of a lake must not be altered and no structures should be raised, even on a patta land. Speaking about the enforcement activities, Ranganath said "So far, we have reclaimed 2,093 acres of land, including 296.12 acres within lake's full tank level (FTL) limits, 24.05 acres near and over drain lines, and over 1,600 acres of government land. The total value of the recovered land is estimated at around '80,000 crores on average. Over 90 cases have been registered."

## Nampally's Open-air Furniture Market Draws Bargain Hunters

**Hyderabad:** The Nampally furniture market does not stay inside its shops. It spills out onto the road, across Nampally Station Road, Dargah Road and the lanes around, where large showrooms sit next to smaller stores and the rest of the trade spreads into the open. Sofas, beds, office chairs and cabinets line both sides, set out for anyone to stop, check and compare. Prices here drop to levels most retail stores in the city will never match. Traders place the market's beginnings at close to a hundred years, and the structure still shows that long build, old stretches feeding into newer ones, all running as one continuous space where buyers come prepared to spend time, look closely and bargain their way through. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 "This market itself is much older, easily over 100 years. Our smaller shop started in 1931, right next door, where we used to sell folding items," said Feroze, manager at

Leepakshi Furniture, a store that has operated on the stretch since 1973. It is one of the bigger stores in the market selling designer furniture along with customisation options. However the smaller stores are on the other end next to the Intermediate Board office. They call it the old furniture market and there you will find four-seater dining tables quoted at ₹5,000. The seller will lower it further if you bargain. That number says as much about this market as anything else and Sundays change that scale. Furniture moves out of shop interiors and onto pavements and road edges. Buyers walk across both sides of the road, stopping, inspecting, negotiating and the rates are extremely low. Also Read - Man Draggged on Car Bonnet for 2 km in Shocking Meerpet Road Rage Even at bigger shops like Leepakshi, Feroze notes, "Our pricing is close to wholesale, so people can expect roughly a 30 per cent difference compared to regular market rates."



His store also arranges porters and delivery. Smaller stores also offer the same as you could see numerous porter cars around the area so customers do not have to worry about moving large items. Right next to Leepakshi is a section that focuses on office setups. Office chairs and desks line the frontage of these smaller stores. "We've been here since 2000, and we focus only on office furniture, chairs, desks, and work setups," said the manager at Sri Laxmi Narayan Furniture. Also Read - Kamareddy Fire Accident: 12 Shops Gutted at Old Bus Stand Shreya Rao came to the market after moving into

a new house and said that she did not buy a single piece elsewhere. "People usually go to places like these big super markets now, but things here are much more affordable and convenient." She described how the search works here. "If you take your time and look around, you can even find furniture that fits those Pinterest-style aesthetics." She listed what she had already bought. "I got almost everything from here, a sofa set, beds, cabinets, and smaller items all within about ₹50,000 to ₹60,000. And these weren't even the cheapest options."

## 6K Perform Bhujangasana, Set Asia Record

**Hyderabad:** A mass yoga demonstration of more than 6,000 participants performing Bhujangasana in unison at Kanha Shanti Vanam entered the Asia Book of Records on Saturday, kicking off the 50-day countdown to International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026. Organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga under the ministry of Ayush, the event drew participants from more than 20 countries — including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Kazakhstan and Namibia — underscoring yoga's growing global reach. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Union minister for coal and mines G Kishan Reddy said yoga offers "a practical and cost-effective solution to



modern-day challenges such as stress, unhealthy lifestyles and pollution", adding that a healthy, disciplined society is essential to achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said Hyderabad should grow as a global hub for yoga and well-

ness alongside its technology ecosystem. Minister of state for Ayush and health Prataprao Jadhav said yoga has become a global movement for holistic well-being and strengthens India's position as a centre for wellness and

healthcare. He highlighted the Yoga 365 campaign, under which a 100-day free training programme runs until 21 June, aiming to reach more than 100,000 participants and offer Yog Mitra certification.

## Himanta Biswa Sarma to Take Oath as Assam CM on May 12

**ARX** Assam BJP legislature party on Sunday unanimously re-elected Himanta Biswa Sarma as its leader and chief minister of Assam for a second consecutive term during a meeting held at party headquarters here. Soon after his election, Mr Sarma led a six member delegation top Lok Bhawan and staked claim to form the new government on May 12. The Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya invited Mr Sarma to form the government. Mr Sarma also submitted a letter of support signed by 102 NDA MLAs to the Governor. Also Read - 55 AAP MLAs Meet Sunita, Say Jailed Kejriwal Should Not Resign The BJP legislature party meeting took place in the presence of central observers JP Nadda and Nayab Singh Saini. In the recently concluded elections, the BJP won 82 seats, leading the National Democratic Alliance to a whopping 102-seat victory with Bodoland



People's Front (BPF) and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) winning 10 constituting-in ceremony on May DA's third ing-in ceremony on May ing-in ceremony on May consecutive win in Assam, with ing-in ceremony on May the BJP clocking its highest-ever tally in the state. Tn ceremony on May consecutive win in Assam, with

ing-in ceremony on May the BJP clocking its highest-ever tally in the state. The NDA parties also elected Mr Sarma as its leader and chief minister. Also Read - UP: Hearing in 2018 Defamationn ceremony on May consecutive win in Assam, with ing-in ceremony on May the BJP clocking its highest-ever tally in the state.

The NDA parties also ceremony on May consecutive win in Assam, with ing-in ceremony on May the BJP clocking its highest-ever tally in the state. The NDA parties also Case Against Rahul Gandhi Postponed to April 12 The oath-taking ceremony on May n May take-oath-as-assam-cm-on-

## HC Directs Removal Of MP Shashi Tharoor's Deepfake

opriation of the Thiruvananthapuram MP's name, ima e, distinct voice, "signature oratorical cadence and manner of speaking", "highly refined vocabulary" and other facets of his persona to create and publish any deepfakes, voic phed videos, etc. for any commercial, political, or malicious purpose across any physical or virtual medium. Also Read - Haryana to Bengal: BJP Secures First-Time CMs in 9 States Since Modi Became PM The court =Instagram, which it made inaccessible, continue to remain so. Tharoor earlier moved the court against the repeated publication of deepfake videos purportedly showing him making "politically sensitive" statements. His senior counsel asserted that such content not only tarnished his reputation but also affected India's international standing. Also Read - BJP Kept Up Its Tradition Of Giving Power To Corrupt, Sanjay Raut On WB CM Justice Push arna, in the interim order, said Tharoor is a "respected and recognised public figure", who has "exclusive control" over the utilisation of his personality, and misappropriation of any attribute of his personality without his express permission and any consequent harm to his reputation is liable to be restrained. "It is no more res intergra that personality rights/publicity rights are protectable und er Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India, 1950. The plaintiff's reputation, goodwill, name, p h y s i c a l appearance/image/likeness, voice, mannerisms, styles, signature oratorical style, and other attributes are uniquely identifiable and associated with the plaintiff. The same form the plaintiff's 'personality', over which the plaintiff enjoys sole and exclusive control," the court stated. Also Read - Modi Touches Feet Of 98-year-old BJP



Veteran At Swearin g-in Of Party's First Govt In Bengal "Defendant no. 1 (Ashok Kumar /John Doe) are restrained from reproducing, misappropriating, or imitating any facet of the plaintiff's persona, including, but not limited to his (i) name, (ii) visual likeness and image, (iii) distinct voice, (iv) signature oratorical cadence and manner of speaking, and (v) highly refined vocabulary, to create, publish, or disseminate any synthetic media, deepfakes, voice-cloned audio, or morphed videos, through the use of AI, Generative AI, Machine Learning, or any other technology, for any commercial, political, or malicious purpose, across any physical or virtual medium. Defendant no. 2 is directed to forthwith take down and block access to the following link as available on its platform 'X'," it ordered. Also Read - Work Will Start After Obeis ance At Jorasanko: Suwendu Adhikari After Taking Oath As First BJP Bengal CM The court clarified that in case of further "false, fake and infringing videos", Tharoor shall be at liberty to approach the social media platforms for taking them down. It also asked tior advocate Amit Sibal and law firm Trilegal. The lawsuit contended that the unauthorised cloning and

exploitaior advocate Amit Sibal and law firm Trilegal. The lawsuit contended that the unauthorised cloning and infringers have weaponised artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to generate hyper-realistic audio-visual deepfakes by cloning the plaintiff's face, voice, vocabulary, and mannerisms. These fabricated videos maliciously depict the plaintiff making politically sensitive statements that he never made," the plea said. "Crucially, as the plaintiff was actively campaigning for the Kerala Legislative Assembly elections 2026 in March and early April -- the disinformation campaign was especially damaging. It was a deliberate attempt to tarnish his patriotic credentials, manipulate public perception, and unlawfully interfere with the democratic electoral process," it added. Several public figures like actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchar imitating any facet of the plaintiff's persona, including, but not limited to his (i) name, (ii) visual likeness and image, (iii) distinct voice, (iv) signature oratorical cadence and manner of speaking, and (v) highly refined vocabulary, to create, publish, or disseminate any synthetic media, deepfakes, voice-cloned audio, or morphed videos, through the use of AI,

Generative AI, Machine Learning, or any other technology, for any commercial, political, or malicious purpose, across any physical or virtual medium. Defendant no. 2 is directed to forthwith take down and block access to the following link as available on its platform 'X'," it ordered. Also Read - Work Will Start After Obeis ance At Jorasanko: Suwendu Adhikari After Taking Oath As First BJP Bengal CM The court clarified that in case of further "false, fake and infringing videos", Tharoor shall be at liberty to approach the social media platforms for taking them down. It also asked tior advocate Amit Abhishek Bachchan and Salman Khan, Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, journalist Sudhir Chaudhary, podcaster Raj Shamani and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan have previously approached the high court seeking protection of their personality and publicity rights. The high court granted them interim relief. Recently, the high court also protected the personality rights of cricketer Gautam Gambhir and actors Sonakshi Sinha, Vivek Oberoi and Allu Arjun by granting interim relief.



## 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 brickwork. 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.

## Telangana Congress faces backlash over post on Bandi Sanjay's son POCSO case

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana Congress faced sharp criticism from several sections over its comments on the case involving Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bandi Sai Bageerath, and its remarks on the law and order situation in the country. Sharing a photograph of the Union Minister and his son on X, the Telangana Congress questioned whether it was the "Home Department or an irresponsible department." "The Union Home Ministry is responsible for protecting law and order and ensuring national security. However, a violation has taken place at the resi-



dence of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs," the Telangana Congress posted. The party also questioned how Bandi Sanjay could continue in office on moral grounds when a POCSO case had been registered against his son. The remarks triggered a strong

response on social media, with many users pointing out that the Congress government in Telangana had failed to act in the case. Several users noted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy also holds the Home portfolio. "Why has the FIR been delayed for three

months?" asked X user Basheeruddin. Another user, Sandeep, said social media posts alone would not ensure justice. He accused the Congress government of focusing on public relations campaigns instead of taking action in a serious case. Another X user, E Dil, questioned the role of the State Home Department. He alleged that a honey-trap case was registered against the victim and said the accused had still not been arrested despite the POCSO case. He added that people across Telangana were closely watching the Congress government's response.

## Kolanur becomes first Telangana village to opt for total liquor prohibition

**RAJANNA-SIRCILLA:** The gram panchayat of Kolanur village in Konaraopeta mandal has unanimously resolved to impose a total ban on belt shops within the village limits from May 10, citing the impact of alcoholism on families, particularly women and children. As the village does not have any licensed liquor shop, the resolution effectively amounts to a complete prohibition on the sale and consumption of liquor in the village.



Sarpanch Jalagam Aravind Rao said the decision was taken after the newly elected gram panchayat executive body observed the social and financial problems caused by alcohol addiction. "We closely observed how families were suffering due to addiction to liquor. We felt it was our responsibility to do something good for the village and society," he said. Villagers said the move was aimed at restoring peace in households and encouraging a better future for the younger generation.

To enforce the resolution, the gram panchayat announced a fine of 20,000 against anyone found selling liquor through belt shops or

other unauthorised means. Informants providing information on illegal liquor sale in the village will be rewarded with Rs 5,000. It's protecting our future: Sarpanch Kolanur panchayat also plans to organise awareness programmes on the harmful effects of liquor consumption. Residents expressed hope that the initiative would bring social change and help families rebuild their lives. Youth leader Satish said Kolanur had earlier become the first village in Rajanna-Sircilla district to begin the daily singing of the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, and described the liquor ban as another progressive initiative by

the village. Explaining the decision, village sarpanch Aravind Rao said other unauthorised means. Informants providing information on illegal liquor sale in the village will be rewarded with Rs 5,000. It's protecting our future: Sarpanch Kolanur panchayat also plans to organise awareness programmes on the harmful effects of liquor consumption. Residents expressed hope that the initiative would bring social change and help families rebuild their lives. Youth leader Satish said Kolanur had earlier become the first village in Rajanna-Sircilla district to begin the daily

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## Bengal Elections: ECI Orders Repoll In All 285 Polling Booths In Falta Constituency On May 21

**Kolkata:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered a fresh election in all polling stations of the Falta Assembly constituency in South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal. The repoll was ordered due to "severe electoral offences and subversion of the democratic process" on April 29, when voting in Falta was held in the second phase of the assembly elections. The Commission said repoll across all the booths, including auxiliary polling stations, will be held between 7 am and 6 pm on May 21, under "stringent security arrangements to ensure a free, fair and transparent" exercise. Counting of votes for the constituency will take place on May 24, an EC official said. The two-phase assembly polls were held on April 23 and April 29, with counting of votes scheduled for May 4. Falta drew attention before the second election Officer, Returning Officer and other field functionaries, along with inputs from observers and available material on record before arriving at the decision. Reports from observers "flagged allegations of voter intimidation, unauthorised presence inside booths and possible tam-



pering", it said. The Commission hereby declares the poll held on April 29 in Falta phase of polling due to a stand-off between EC-appointed Special Police Observer Ajay Pal Sharma and Trinamool Congress candidate Jahangir Khan. On polling day, EVM tampering allegations led to petitions for a re-poll and subsequent Commission scrutiny. Falta was among the key constituencies in South 24 Parganas with the most complaints seeking a re-poll. In its order, said it had carefully examined reports submitted by the Chief Electoral Officer, District Election Officer,

Returning Officer and other field functionaries, along with inputs from observers and available material on record before arriving at the decision. Reports from observers "flagged allegations of voter intimidation, unauthorised presence inside booths and possible tampering", it said. The Commission hereby declares the poll held on April 29 in Falta Assembly Constituency as void and orders a fresh poll in all polling stations," the order stated. The poll panel has directed authorities to make all necessary arrangements, including deployment of adequate central forces, micro-

observers and webcasting facilities, wherever required, to prevent "any recurrence of malpractice". It also directed that the entire poll process be videographed and closely monitored. Sukanta Majumdar welcomed the decision and stated that the repoll was a "victory of the women of Falta" over the "atrocities" of local TMC leader Jahangir Khan.

In Falta, Khan is pitted against BJP's Debangshu Panda and Abdur Razzak Molla of the Congress. CPI(M)'s Sambhu Nath Kurmi is also in the fray. Commenting on the development, BJP leader Amit Malviya wrote on X, "The Diamond Harbour model crumbles."

## Trump Says US Not Likely To Accept New Iran Peace Proposal

**West Palm Beach:** US President Donald Trump said Saturday he was going to review a new Iranian peace proposal but cast doubt over its prospects, as a senior military officer in Tehran indicated renewed fighting was "The dour outlook came after Iran's Tasnim and Fars news agencies said Tehran had submitted a 14-point proposal to mediator Pakistan. Details included ending the conflict on all fronts and enacting a new framework for the crucial Strait of Hormuz. "I will soon be reviewing the plan that Iran has just sent to us, but can't imagine that it would be acceptable in that they have not yet paid a big enough price for what they have done to Humanity and the World, over the last 47 years," Trump said on his Truth Social plat In a brief interview with reporters in West Palm Beach, Florida, he declined to specify what could trigger new military action against the Islamic republic. "If they misbehave, if they do something bad, but right now, we'll see," he said. "But it's a possibility that could happen. The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has been on hold since April 8, with one failed round of peace talks having taken place in Pakistan on Saturday, Mohammad Jafar Asadi, a senior figure in the Iranian military's central command, said "a renewed conflict between Iran and the United States is likely." "Evidence has shown that the United States is not committed to any promises or agreements," he added, according to Fars news.



Deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi told diplomats in Tehran "the ball is in the United States' court to choose the path of diplomacy or the continuation of a confrontational Iran, he said, was "prepared for both paths." US news site Axios reported earlier in the week that Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff had asked for Tehran's nuclear program to be put back on the negotiating table. Iran's mission to the UN pointed to the massive US nuclear arsenal, accusing Washington on Saturday of "hypocritical behaviour" towards Iran's own ato following evacuation wmic ambThe re was no legal "restriction on the level of uranium enrichment, so long as it is conducted under the IAEA's supervision, as was the case with Iran," it said, using the abbreviation for the UN nuclear watchdog. Iran has maintained a stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz since the war began, choking off major flows of oil, gas and fertilizer to the world economy, while the United States has imposed a counter-blockade on Iranian

Oil prices are about 50 percent above pre-war. The vice speaker of Iran's parliament, Ali Nikzad, said that under draft legislation being considered for managing the waterway, 30 percent of tolls collected would go towards military infrastructure, with the rest earmarked for "economic development." "Managing the Strait of Hormuz is more important than acquiring nuclear weapons," he said. Fighting meanwhile continued Saturday in Lebanon, where Israel has carried out deadly strikes despite a separate truce with the Iran-backed armed group The Israeli military said it had struck dozens of Hezbollah targets across southern Lebanon following evacuation warnings for nine villages following evacuation w e s . Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported three deaths in thezbollah, for its part, claimed several attacks targeting Israeli troops. The Israeli strikes included one in the village of Yaroun on what its military called a "religious building," which

The French Catholic charity L'Oeuvre d'Orient said the troops had "destroyed" a convent belonging to the Salvatorian Sisters, a Greek-Catholic religious order with which the charity is affiliated. Iran's economic toll in Washington, lawmakers were wrestling over whether Trump had breached a deadline to seek congressional approval for the war. Administration officials argue the ceasefire paused a 60-day clock, after which congressional authorisation would be required -- a claim disputed by opposition Democrats. In Iran, the war's economic toll is deepening, with oil exports crimped and inflation surging past 50 percent following evacuation wnt. "Everyone is trying to endure it, but... they are falling apart," 40-year-old Amir, a Tehran resident, told an AFP reporter based outside. "We still have not seen much of the economic effects because everyone had a bit of savings. They had some gold and dollars for a rainy day. When they run out, things will change."

## US Warns Shipping Firms They Could Face Sanctions Over Paying Iranian Tolls In The Strait Of Hormuz

**Dubai:** The United States is warning shipping companies that they could face sanctions for making payments to Iran to safely pass through the Strait of Hormuz. The alert posted Friday by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control adds another layer of pressure in the standoff between the U.S. and Iran over control of the Strait of Hormuz.

About a fifth of the world's trade in oil and natural gas typically passes through the strait at the mouth of the Persian Gulf in peacetime. Iran effectively closed the strait to normal traffic by attacking and threatening to attack ships after the U.S. and Israel launched a war on Feb. 28. It later began offering some ships safe passage by detouring them through alternate routes closer to its shoreline, charging fees at times for the service. That "tollbooth" effort is the focus of the U.S. sanctions warning. The payment demands could include transfers not only in cash but also "digital assets, offsets, informal swaps, or other in-kind payments," including charitable donations and payments at Iranian embassies, OFAC said. "OFAC is issuing this alert to warn U.S. and non-U.S. persons about the sanctions risks of making these payments



to, or soliciting guarantees from, the Iranian regime for safe passage. These risks exist regardless of payment method," it said. The U.S. responded to Iran's closure of the strait with a naval blockade of its own on April 13, preventing any Iranian tankers from leaving and depriving Iran of oil revenue it needs to shore up its ailing economy. The U.S. Central Command said 45 commercial ships have been told to turn around since the blockade began. Trump rejects Iranian proposal. The warning came as U.S. President Donald Trump swiftly rejected Iran's latest proposal to end the war between the countries. "They want to make a deal, I'm not satisfied with it, so we'll see what happens," Trump said Friday at the White House. He didn't elaborate on what he saw as its shortcomings but expressed frustration with the Iranian leader-

ship. "It's a very disjointed leadership," Trump said. "They all want to make a deal, but they're all messed up." Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Iran handed over its plan to mediators in Pakistan on Thursday night. The shaky three-week ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran appears to be holding, though both countries have traded accusations of violations. The standoff is increasingly put formation to an officer between the U.S. and Iran appears to be holding, though both countries have traded accusations of violations. The stand-off in Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, while Bekrzhadeh was alleged to have sent details about government and religious leaders as well as information about Natanz. The central Iranian city is home to a nuclear enrichment facility bombed by Israel and the U.S. last year. Iran

has hanged more than a dozen people over alleged espionage and terrorist activities in recent weeks. China's U.N. envoy urges Iran to lift restrictions. Fu Cong, the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, said Friday that maintaining the ceasefire is "the most urgent issue," as well as bringing together the sides to resume good faith negotiations "to make sure that the ground is laid for reopening of Hormuz." Minister Wang Yi "has been on the phone almost constantly" with representatives from all sides, Fu said, adding that China supports Pakistan's efforts to mediate between the parties. Fu stressed the root cause of the tremendous suffering in Iran and neighboring countries and the growing turmoil in the global economy, especially in developing countries, "is the illegitimate war by the U.S. and Israel."

## Maritime Diplomacy In Action: Why Indian Navy Chief's Myanmar Trip Matters For The Indian Ocean

**New Delhi:** As Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi begins his four-day visit to Myanmar on Saturday, the timing of the engagement is as significant as the itinerary. Coming soon after a new government assumed office in Naypyidaw, the Indian Navy chief's outreach underscores New Delhi's intent to anchor bilateral ties in maritime cooperation, even as Myanmar navigates political transition. For India, this is less a ceremonial visit and more a strategic signal from the eastern edge of the Indian Ocean. "During the visit, the CNS will engage in bilateral discussions with General Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Armed Forces, General U Htun Aung, the Defence Minister of Myanmar, and Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Navy, along with other senior officials of Myanmar Armed Forces," a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence reads. "These interactions will provide an opportunity to review ongoing bilateral maritime cooperation, enhance operational-level linkages, and explore new avenues for collaboration between the two navies." According to the statement, the visit includes engagements at the Myanmar Navy's Central Naval Command, Naval Training Command and No. 1 Fleet, and laying of a wreath at the Myanmar Armed Forces Fallen Heroes' War Memorial. "These engagements will cover a wide range of defence cooperation matters, with particular focus on maritime security, capacity building, capability enhancement and training," the statement further reads. "The Indian Navy regularly interacts with the Myanmar Navy through defence cooperation meetings, staff talks, training exchanges and operational interactions, including India-Myanmar Naval Exercise (IMNEX), Indo-Myanmar



Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR), port visits and hydrography surveys. In addition, both navies regularly progress training exchanges, engage in multilateral forums and collaborate towards capability enhancement. Myanmar has participated in all recent events conducted by the Indian Navy, such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, MILAN, International Fleet Review, Goa Maritime Conclave/Symposium, IOS SAGAR and the Admiral's Cup. Myanmar's long coastline along the Bay of Bengal and its proximity to India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands make it central to India's maritime security calculus. By prioritising naval engagement at this juncture, New Delhi is reinforcing the idea that continuity in maritime partnerships can provide stability amid political change. Myanmar occupies a pivotal position between the Bay of Bengal and the approaches to the Andaman Sea, sitting astride sea lanes that connect the eastern Indian Ocean with Southeast Asia. For India, Myanmar forms the maritime bridge between the Indian mainland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Its coastline overlooks critical shipping routes used for energy flows and trade. Stability along Myanmar's coast directly affects India's eastern

seaboard security architecture.

Naval cooperation with Myanmar, therefore, is not peripheral diplomacy – it is core to India's layered maritime defence posture in the eastern Indian Ocean. With a new political dispensation emerging in Myanmar, India's decision to send its Navy chief early is strategically calibrated. Rather than foregrounding political or diplomatic engagement, New Delhi has chosen a military-to-military channel to establish continuity of relations irrespective of regime change, signal that maritime cooperation is a non-political stabilising pillar of bilateral ties, and build trust with the new leadership through professional naval engagement. This approach mirrors India's broader neighbourhood strategy by insulating security cooperation from domestic political transitions. By meeting General Ye Win Oo, General U Htun Aung, and Admiral Htein Win, Admiral Tripathi will be engaging directly with the power centres that shape Myanmar's security policy.

Since the military coup in February 2021, Myanmar has been governed not by a fully civilian administration but by the Tatmadaw (military) under the State Administration Council

## 15 Security Officials Killed In Militant Attack In Northwest Pakistan

**Peshawar:** At least 15 security officials were killed, and several were injured in a suicide attack and ambush at a police post in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the police said.

The incident took place in the northwest district of Bannu, where an explosive-laden vehicle approaching a police post was fired at by security personnel, leading to a blast, the police said. The impact of the explosion led to the collapse of the roofs of several houses in the vicinity. The police post building was also razed to the ground, and several security personnel were buried under the rubble. After the explosion, the police said, a large group of militants launched an attack on the police post, triggering heavy exchange of fire. A spokesperson of Bannu police told PTI that 15 security officials were killed in the attack and several were injured.



There is no clarity yet on the number of militants killed in the incident or whether any of them were held. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi condemned the "terrorist attack" and expressed sorrow over the loss of lives. His office said he has directed the authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured. He termed the attack on the police post as "highly tragic and a cowardly act," adding that such attacks could not undermine the

morale of the police and the public. In a similar incident last week, Pakistani security forces gunned down a suspected militant who was approaching a check post in an explosive-laden vehicle in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan region. The vehicle hit a nearby building, causing an explosion that injured seven persons, but no casualties were reported. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has faced recurring unrest over the years

driven by militant violence, cross-border movement of fighters from Afghanistan and repeated military operations. Its mountainous terrain and porous frontier add to the challenges for security forces. No particular group has claimed responsibility for the recent incident. But, in the past, the Pakistan government has accused the banned terrorist outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan of carrying out violence in the region, especially after a ceasefire deal between the two ended in 2022.

## Israel Deports 2 Activists Detained For Leading An Aid Flotilla To Gaza

Tel Aviv: Israel deported two activists on Sunday after being detained for slightly over a week for leading an aid flotilla attempting to break the Israeli naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. The two, Spanish-Swedish citizen of Palestinian origin Saif Abukeshk and Brazilian citizen Thiago Avila, were among dozens of activists intercepted by the Israeli navy off the coast of Crete. Both are members of the Global Sumud Flotilla's steering committee, whose mission is to break Israel's naval blockade and bring some humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory. The Israeli Foreign Ministry called the two activists in a post on X on Sunday "professional provocateurs," saying "Israel will not allow any breach of the lawful naval blockade on Gaza." At the time of the arrest, Israeli authorities said the two had been detained for questioning, and that Abukeshk was "suspected of affiliation with a terrorist organization" and Avila was "suspected of illegal activity," without providing evidence. No formal charges against them have been publicized. Spain and Brazil have condemned "the



kidnapping of two of their citizens in international waters by the Government of Israel" in a joint statement at the time. Their detention sparked solidarity protests in several countries. 22 boats and 175 activists were intercepted by the Israeli navy. Activists said Israel arrested and detained some of those onboard. The incident occurred hundreds of miles (kilometers) from Gaza and Israel overnight from Wednesday to Thursday. Israeli officials said they needed to take early action against the flotilla before it reached Israeli waters because of the high number of boats involved.

The flotilla's latest

attempt to reach Gaza comes less than a year after Israeli authorities foiled a previous effort by the group. That attempt involved about 50 vessels and around 500 activists, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, and several lawmakers. Israel arrested, detained and later deported the participants, including Avila, who claimed Israeli authorities abused them while in detention. Israeli authorities denied the accusations.

Israeli strike kills two in Gaza

In Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a vehicle, killing at least two people, including a Hamas police officer, according to the

Nasser hospital, which received the casualties. The vehicle was struck late Sunday morning in Al-Amal neighborhood in the southern city of Khan Younis, said the civil defense, a first responders' agency operating under the Hamas-run Interior Ministry. The two killed included Col. Wessam Abdel-Hadi, who heads the police investigation department in Khan Younis, the hospital said. The Israeli military said it was reviewing the strike. The fatalities were the latest among Palestinians in the coastal enclave since an October fragile ceasefire deal attempted to halt a more than two-year war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

## 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-

tial 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 specialities, 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, dAndhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu through field engagements, worker interactions, and local-level observation-selayed 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?

## Gautam Gambhir Visits Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Seeks Blessings



Indian cricket team's head coach Gautam Gambhir arrived in Katra with his family to pay obeisance and seek blessings at the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. He reached the town and flew to the cave shrine for special prayers. Gambhir is currently away from his official assignment as head of senior men's team as the players are busy in playing Indian Premier League (IPL). After reaching Katra, Gambhir

was received by the staff of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and was taken to the helipad from where he flew to Sanjichat. He then walked up to the cave shrine and offered prayers. The shrine is a revered Hindu site situated on Trikuta Hills of Katra where every year around one crore pilgrims pay their obeisance and offer prayers. Gambhir coached the Indian cricket team to victory in the

2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The Men in Blue defended their title and made it two back-to-back T20 World Cup titles. The T20 World Cup 2026 win made India the first team to successfully defend the trophy and win it at assignment as head coach will be an all-format home series against Afghanistan in June, where they will host the Asian counterparts for a one-off Test and three ODIs. They will then play two T20Is against

Ireland in Belfast before beginning the highly anticipated England tour in July. India will face the Three Lions for a five-match T20I series and then play a three-match ODI series against them. After the England tour, India will tour Zimbabwe for three T20Is before hosting West Indies for a multi-format series in September-October. They will face the West Indies in three ODIs and five T20Is.

## Yashasvi Jaiswal And Shafali Verma Recieve Notices From National Ant Doping Agency - Here's Why

Amidst the ongoing Indian Premier League, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has issued notices to two Indian cricketers, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma, alleging that they were not available for dope tests scheduled last year. Both players are currently part of NADA's Registered Testing Pool (RTP). They are subject to regular testing and are required to provide their whereabouts so they can be traced for unannounced testing. As they were unable to provide their where-



abouts, NADA has issued notices. "Notices have been issued to the concerned athletes, and the same has been intimated to the national federation (the BCCI) and the ICC," a well-placed source told PTI. The report also added that a

BCCI source confirmed the development. "Yes, we have received notification from NADA on missed tests. We will check with them as to how it happened, and will take necessary steps so that such things do not happen in future. missed tests are considered a doping violation, and it can lead to suspensions. Currently, a total of 13 cricketers are part of the NADA's RTP pool. The list included 348 athletes in total. Members of the T20 World Cup-winning team, Abhishek Sharma and Axar Patel, were recent additions to the pool. Apart from them, Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Arshdeep Singh and Tilak Verma are also included in the RTP list

## Italian Open: Novak Djokovic Suffers First-Round Exit With Shock Defeat Against Dino Prizmic

Novak Djokovic suffered a shock defeat in the first round of the Italian Open to a Croatian qualifier 18 years younger than him on Friday. Notably, he was returning to the action after staying on the sidelines for two months due to a right shoulder injury. "The 20-year-old Dino Prizmic outplayed the 24-time Grand Slam champion 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. Notably, he signed off the match with an ace on the match point. Notably, this is the first instance where Djokovic has exited from the Italian Open in the first round. The 38-year-old Djokovic has been out of action since March after losing to Jack Draper in the fourth round of the Indian Wells, California. The Serbian star had a tape on his right shoulder that was revealed when he changed shirts during the mid-game interval. Djokovic hopes to be fit for the French Open. Djokovic admitted that he is not in his best shape to compete at the highest level. "I see what



I'm missing. Late half a step. I'm not definitely where I want to be for the highest level and to compete at the highest level and to be able to get far," he stated. "Eventually, you have to play. You have to start somewhere. I wanted to start earlier, but I couldn't. The situation is as it is. You make the most out of it. I train hard. I train as much as the body allows me to. Then

how it turns out on the court, that's really unpredictable." Responding to a query around where he is in good shape to compete at the Roland Garros, Djokovic said that he hopes so. "I don't know, I hope so," he added. Djokovic reached the final of the Australian Open earlier this year but lost to Jannik Sinner in the Championship match.

The last meeting between the two players was in the 2024 Australian Open, where Djokovic won a four-setter. The Serbian told Prizmic after the recent loss that his forehand has improved and he can go very far if he stays healthy. Notably, Prizmic defeated No. 6 Ben Shelton at the Madrid Open in April.

## Sebi Mulls Overhaul Of Buyback Framework; Seeks Comments

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed a series of changes to the buyback framework, including the reintroduction of open market share buybacks through stock exchanges and shortening execution timelines. In a consultation paper, the regulator proposed that open market buybacks through stock exchanges should be completed within 66 working days from the date of opening of the offer, instead of the earlier framework that allowed a duration of as long as six months. Sebi said a six-month timeline, recommended by the Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC), appeared "relatively long" and may make buybacks less relevant due to changing market conditions. The regulator also proposed retaining the existing requirement that companies should utilise at least 40 per cent of the earmarked buyback amount during the first half of the offer period. To improve shareholder communication, Sebi suggested that companies should mandatorily send intimation regarding buyback offers through electronic mode to all shareholders as on the date of the public announcement within one working day of such announcement.



The regulator proposed doing away with the separate trading window mechanism that was earlier mandated for open market buybacks through stock exchanges. Sebi said buyback transactions could instead be executed through the normal trading mechanism, as the tax distinction between buyback investors and regular market investors is an explicit provision to ensure that companies do not announce buybacks that may lead to breach of minimum two

and their associates during the buyback period. However, such freezing would not apply for the limited purpose of tendering shares in buybacks undertaken through the tender offer route. The regulator also proposed inserting an explicit provision to ensure that companies do not announce buybacks that may lead to breach of minimum two

buyback offers with the provisions under the Companies Act, 2013, instead of maintaining a separate timeline under buyback regulations. To promote ease-of-doing-business, Sebi suggested dispensing with the mandatory appointment of merchant bankers for buybacks. Several responsibilities of merchant bankers, including filing of offer and escrow-related operations, may instead be assigned to companies, stock exchanges, compliance officers and secretarial auditors. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has invited public comments on the proposals till May 29.

## Gold Surges 1.83 Pc This Week Amid Persistent Tensions In Strait Of Hormuz



: Gold prices rose 1.83 per cent during the week over persistent geopolitical uncertainty and volatile crude prices. On Friday, MCX gold June futures gained 0.04 per cent while MCX silver May futures surged 1.34 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,52,589, while silver futures stand at Rs 2,61,999 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,51,078 on Friday, up from Rs 1,48,357 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Precious metals continued to rise for four consecutive sessions as optimism over a potential US-Iran peace agreement and a softer US

dollar outweighed a stronger-than-expected US jobs report. US jobs data showed that employment rose more than forecast in April while the unemployment rate held at 4.3 per cent, underscoring resilience in the labour market and reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates higher for longer. Central banks maintaining interest rates higher for longer could pressure non-yielding assets like gold. In international markets, Comex gold climbed about \$50 to a session high of \$4,760 per troy ounce, posting a weekly gain of nearly 1.5 per cent. Market participants said the prospect of eas-

ing regional tensions and a weaker dollar supported demand for non-yielding bullion. Gold and silver have fallen nearly 10 per cent since the US-Iran conflict began on February 28. The broader safe-haven structure remains intact, though the pace of the rally has moderated as the dollar steadies and broader risk sentiment shows tentative signs of improvement, market participants said. Despite the commodities flow disruption in the Strait of Hormuz dominating the macro narrative, markets are also entering a phase of technical consolidation following the sharp swings witnessed in recent weeks, analysts said.

Precious metals are witnessing mixed price action, with gold and silver attempting to stabilise after recent corrective pressure. West Asian tensions were rekindled on Thursday after US and Iranian forces exchanged attacks near the strait, though US officials said the ceasefire remained in place. Immediate resistance for MCX Gold is placed at Rs 1,54,000-Rs 1,55,500, and immediate support is seen near Rs 1,50,000-Rs 1,48,000, analysts said. For MCX Silver, the Rs 2,65,000 zone acts as immediate resistance, and the Rs 2,60,000-Rs 2,58,000 zone now serves as immediate support, they added.

## Sobhita Dhulipala's viral comment on authenticity and self-trust wins praise online

Actress Sobhita Dhulipala's recent comment on trusting one's instincts, honouring oneself and living life with authenticity in response to a heartfelt appreciation post by Dubai-based Telugu influencer Srilata Adepalli has now gone viral. In her video, Dubai influencer Srilata spoke about powerful women with Telugu roots who are creating their own space across the world. From actress Sobhita Dhulipala to Chanel model Bhavitha Mandava, rapper Raja Kumari and beauty entrepreneur Deepica Mutyala, the post celebrated women who were confidently embracing their identity on a global stage and inspiring others along the way. But what truly caught everyone's attention was Sobhita Dhulipala's beautiful response in the comments section. Instead of a simple thank you, the actress shared a deeply personal note about trusting instincts, honouring oneself and living life with authenticity. "Lean in to your essence, no matter what. My most meaningful moments have come when I did what my instinct told me to, even when it's totally illogical or unproductive. And every single time I did something otherwise, only I know how it backfired. Honour yourself. This life is a short sail across the river, cherish the breeze and the current," Sobhita Dhulipala had commented. Her words instantly struck a chord online. Thousands praised the honesty,



warmth and calm wisdom in her message, while many called the exchange refreshing in a world filled with surface-level social media. On the work front, Sobhita Dhulipala next has director Pa Ranjith's upcoming gangster drama, 'Vettuvam', waiting for release. The film, which is being produced by Ranjith's production house Neelam Productions, has actor

Dinesh playing the lead. Apart from Dinesh, the film will also feature Arya, Kalaiyaran, Mime Gopi, Guru Somasundaram and Shabeer Kallarakkal in pivotal roles. The film has also triggered interest because of it being actress Sobhita Dhulipala's first Tamil film after her wedding. 'Vettuvam', which will talk about the sharing of power, has music by G V

Prakash. The film was in the spotlight in July last year after a stuntman died while performing a car stunt for the film. The news left the unit Well known Tamil film director Pa Ranjith's production house Neelam Productions, which is producing the film, had then said that the death of the dearly loved stunt man had sent them all into shock and heart break.

## Lesser-Known Facts About The South Diva

As Sai Pallavi celebrates her 34th birthday on May 9, fans across the country are once again showering love on one of South cinema's most admired stars. Known for her natural acting, graceful dance moves, and simple personality, Sai Pallavi has created a unique place for herself in the film industry without following the usual glamour path. From being a medical student to becoming one of the most loved actresses in Indian cinema, her journey has been truly inspiring. Born on May 9, 1992, in Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, Sai Pallavi completed her schooling before pursuing medicine. She earned her MBBS degree from Tbilisi State Medical University in 2016. Even after finishing her studies and clearing the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) in 2020, she decided to follow her passion for acting instead of practising medicine. Apart from Tamil, she is also fluent in Telugu, Malayalam, English, and Georgian. Before entering films, Sai Pallavi was already familiar to television audiences through dance reality shows. As a young participant, she appeared in shows like Ungalil Yaar Adutha Prabhu Deva and Dhee. Her dancing talent later became one of her biggest strengths on screen. Sai Pallavi's life changed completely with Premam in 2015. Her role as Malar, a simple college teacher, won millions of hearts instantly. Audiences



loved her expressive acting and natural beauty, while critics praised her refreshing screen presence. The film became a massive success and earned her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut - South. She later made a strong mark in Telugu cinema with Fidaa opposite Varun Tej. Her performance as Bhanumathi was widely appreciated and won her another Filmfare Award. Over the years, she continued to impress audiences

with films like Love Story, Virata Parvam, Gargi, Shyam Singha Roy, and Kali. One of the biggest reasons behind Sai Pallavi's popularity is her authenticity. In an industry often driven by glamour and heavy makeup, she became known for embracing her natural look both on and off the set. Now, the actress is preparing for a major new chapter in her career. Sai Pallavi is all set to make a big

Bollywood impact with Ramayana, directed by Nitesh Tiwari. She will reportedly play Sita alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Yash. She is also making headlines for Ek Din with Junaid Khan. Over the years, Sai Pallavi has won six Filmfare South awards and earned a place in Forbes India's 30 Under 30 list in 2020. But beyond the awards and success, what truly makes her special is the way she has stayed true to herself.

## Can India Now Secure Two Nominations In Best International Feature?

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has rolled out a fresh set of rules for the 99th Oscars, scheduled to take place on March 14, 2027, and this time, there's a major update that could change the game for Indian cinema. A big boost for Indian films. For years, the Oscars followed a strict rule in the Best International Feature category, and that is, each country could send only one official entry, selected by a local committee. This often led to debates in India, where multiple deserving films competed for that single spot. Now, the Academy has opened a new path. Under the updated rules, a film can still enter through its country's official submission. But here's the big change: films that win top awards at major international festivals will also qualify independently for the category. These festivals include: Cannes Film Festival (Palme d'Or), Berlin International Film Festival (Golden Bear), Venice Film Festival (Golden Lion), Toronto International Film Festival (Platform Award), Sundance Film Festival (World Cinema Grand Jury Prize), Busan International Film Festival (Best Film Award). This means India could now have more than one film competing



for the Best International Feature Oscar - one through the official entry and another via a major festival win. It's a significant shift that gives Indian filmmakers a wider global platform and a better chance at recognition. Another key change: Who gets the Oscar? The Academy has also updated how the award is given in this category. Earlier, the Oscar technically went to the country. For example, when a film won, it was recorded as a win for that nation. Now, the award will be given directly to the film's director. The director's name will appear on the Oscar trophy and in official records. New rules in acting categories. There's also a notable change in the acting cat-

egories. Actors can now receive multiple nominations in the same category if they have more than one strong performance in a year. For instance, if Leonardo DiCaprio delivers two top performances in different films, both could be nominated in Best Actor, something that wasn't allowed before. However, the Academy has clarified that only performances by real actors, credited officially and performed with consent will be eligible. This comes alickeness in upcoming projects. AI rules tightened. With technology evolving quickly, the Academy has also addressed the use of artificial intelligence in filmmaking. It has made it clear that screenplays

must be written by humans to qualify in writing categories. While AI can still be used as a tool, the Academy may ask for details about how it was used and how much of the work was created by humans. The focus remains firmly on human creativity. Other category updates. Several technical categories have also seen small but important tweaks. The casting award will now have up to three winners instead of two. The cinematography category will have a fixed shortlist of 20 films. Voting rules in areas like makeup, hair-styling, and visual effects have been tightened to ensure members actively watch and engage with nominated work.

## Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar 2 To Stream On Netflix Overseas, But Not In India; Extended Cut Details Out



After a historic run at the box office, Dhurandhar: The Revenge is finally gearing up for its OTT debut. However, the film's digital release has created confusion among fans because the Ranveer Singh starrer will stream on Netflix internationally, but not in India. According to details visible on Netflix's official platform, the spy action thriller is set to premiere overseas on May 14, 2026, though viewers in some regions may get access on May 15 because of time zone differences. Interestingly, the film will arrive with a new title extension, Dhurandhar: The Revenge (Raw & Unseen), hinting at additional footage and a slightly longer runtime than the theatrical version. The streaming version is reportedly 3 hours and 52 minutes long, which is around three minutes longer than the theatrical cut. The extended version is also expected to include uncensored dialogues, a few extra scenes, and extended credits. A viral screengrab from

Netflix has further increased excitement among fans. The description visible in the screengrab reads, "Driven by personal tragedy, Hamza dives deeper into his deep-cover mission to ruin Pakistan's criminal underworld in this unseen sequel to Dhurandhar." While Netflix will handle the international streaming rights, Indian audiences are unlikely to get the film on the platform. Reports suggest that the Indian OTT rights have gone to JioHotstar instead. Though the makers have not officially confirmed the India streaming date yet, several reports claim the film could arrive on JioHotstar on May 14 after completing its eight-week theatrical window. The confusion around the OTT release became even bigger after a legal controversy linked to the film surfaced recently. The issue is connected to the climax track Rang De Laal, which is reportedly a remixed version of the iconic song Tichhi

Topiwale from Tridev. As per reports, filmmaker Rajiv Rai, who directed and produced Tridev, allegedly approached the court claiming that the original song had been used without proper permission. During the hearing, the producers reportedly informed the court that the movie was not expected to be released on OTT before mid-May. This indirectly hinted at the film's digital release timeline. Directed by Aditya Dhar, the action thriller stars Ranveer Singh in the lead role of Hamza Ali Mazari. The film also features Sara Arjun, R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt and Rakesh Bedi in key roles. Apart from creating buzz online, the film has also shattered several box office records worldwide. According to Sacnilk, Dhurandhar 2 has collected an impressive Rs 1,791.55 crore globally so far. Out of this, Rs 1,365.20 crore came from India, while the overseas market contributed Rs 426.35 crore.