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AP CM Meets Australian High Commissioner, Discusses Cooperation Across Key Sectors

Chennai: Newly elected Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C Joseph Vijay on Wednesday sailed through the floor test in the Legislative Assembly with 144 votes in favour. With its allies, the TVK held a strength of 120 MLAs in the House. 22 MLAs voted against the TVK, and five MLAs abstained. However, the DMK staged a walkout, reducing the total strength of the House during the voting. The number of MLAs supporting Vijay shows that a block of AIADMK rebels disobeyed the party whip and voted against it. The TVK won the floor test as Congress, CPI, CPI(M), and VCK MLAs extended support to the party. Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), which has two MLAs, has also extended support to the TVK government. Expelled Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam (AMMK) MLA Kamaraj has also supported TVK in the Assembly. He said, "I supported the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government yesterday, I support it



today, and I will continue to support it for the next five years. CM Vijay is protecting the entire state. I believe he will not leave me either. I am sure our Vijay will protect and save me too." Also Read - EPS Slams Shanmugam Faction for Defying Party Directives While AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K - MLAs will vote against the TVK, the Assembly witnessed an ADMK versus ADMK showdown. Former minister and party MLA SP Velumani also spoke during the Assembly proceedings, and was objected to by supporters of Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

NEET-UG: Telangana CM Assures Support to Students, Demands Credible Investigation

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy strongly reacted to the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination, expressing deep concern over the distress caused to lakhs of students and parents across the country following allegations of paper leaks and large-scale irregularities in the examination process. Sharply criticising the ruling BJP and opposition BRS, CM Revanth Reddy said paper leaks have "demonetised" students' future, adding that the similarities between the two parties in failures, betrayal, and organised corruption are glaring. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The controversy has triggered widespread anxiety among



aspirants who spent years preparing for one of the country's most competitive entrance examinations. Nearly 22.79 lakh students appeared for the examination across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad on May 3, 2026, now face renewed anxiety because of the paper leaks

and serious irregularities in the examination process. He stated that the integrity and credibility of national-level examinations must be protected at all costs. Any individuals or networks involved in paper leaks or corruption must face the strictest punishment, irrespective of

their influence or position. Also Read - Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates VD Satheesan On Becoming Kerala CM The Government of Telangana stands firmly with the students and parents affected by this crisis. We urge the Union Government and

the National Testing Agency to conduct a transparent, time-bound, and credible investigation, while also ensuring that innocent students are not forced to suffer repeatedly because of systemic failures, Revanth said. Students prepare for NEET with immense sacrifice, emotional pressure and financial burden. Competitive examinations should become instruments of opportunity and merit, not anxiety and uncertainty. Telangana will continue to support its students in every possible manner, and we demand stronger safeguards, technological protections, and institutional accountability so that such incidents are never repeated, the Chief Minister stated.

Exchanges Views on Ukraine, West Asia

New Delhi: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and they exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Ukraine and West Asia. During the meeting, the prime minister reiterated India's consistent stand in favour of dialogue and diplomacy as the best way forward. In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said Lavrov briefed Modi on the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation since his meeting with Russian President Vladimir



Putin in December 2025 at the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. "Foreign Minister Lavrov and the Prime Minister exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the situa-

tion in Ukraine and West Asia," the statement said. Modi various regional and requested Lavrov to convey his warm greetings to Putin, it said. Lavrov is here to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting

New Delhi : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday voiced concerns over the continuing conflict in West Asia, stressing the need for a two-state solution to the Palestine issue, in his national statement at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Speaking on the Israel-Palestine issue, Jaishankar said, "India supports a two-state solution where the Palestine issue is concerned." Jaishankar said the tensions in the Gulf region, including threats to maritime traffic and energy infrastructure, underline the fragile security environment. Also Read - BCI Asks Bengal Bar Council to Verify Mamata Banerjee's Enrolment,



Practice Status "The conflict in West Asia merits particular attention. Continuing tensions, risks to maritime traffic, and disruptions to energy infrastructure highlight the fragility of the situation," he said. The External Affairs Minister also highlighted instability in other parts of the region, including Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Libya. "Lebanon and Syria face

continuing challenges. The conflict in Sudan imposes a heavy human cost. Yemen presents humanitarian concerns and maritime risks, while stability in Libya remains important," he said. Also Read - EC To Conduct SIR Phase-III Of Electoral Rolls In 16 States, 3 UTs Jaishankar stressed that these crises required sustained international cooperation and diplomatic engagement. "Taken together, they underline a clear reality: stability cannot be selective, and peace cannot be piecemeal," he said. "It is essential to uphold international law, protect civilians, and avoid targeting

public infrastructure. India stands ready to contribute constructively to de-escalation efforts and to support initiatives aimed at restoring stability," the minister added. Also Read - My Govt Is Committed To Ensure Security And Development Of Assam : Assam CM Sarma Earlier on May 10, the Israeli government decided not to advance a proposed bill aimed at repealing the Oslo Accords following instructions from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to a report by The Times of Israel. The news report said the Ministerial Committee for Legislation declined to support the bill, which had been introduced by Knesset member

Limor Son Har-Melech. An Israeli official quoted by The Times of Israel said Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fuchs told ministers that "this bill requires coordination and cooperation with the Americans." Also Read - Bengaluru: NIA Likely To Investigate Seizure Of Gelatin Sticks Near To PM's Event "The Government of Israel decided on Sunday not to move forward with the bill proposed by Knesset Member Limor Son Har-Melech, which sought to during the 1990s between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), established the Palestinian Authority and granted it administrative control over parts of the West

Bihar Gang Scouted Karimnagar PMJ Jewellers for 2 Months before Heist



Hyderabad: The Karimnagar police on Thursday said a gang from Bihar committed an offence at PMJ jewellers after scouting the premises for two months. Addressing a press conference, Karimnagar Police Commissioner Goush Alam said that three accused have been arrested in the jewelry store robbery case. In all, 13 accused participated in the robbery at the store. As many as 161 tolas of gold and 112 carats of diamond ornaments were stolen. Before the robbery, the accused took shelter in Dharmapuri and after the incident, they split into three groups and fled, abandoning

their vehicles at Dharmapuri. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 "We have so far seized Rs.51,000 and two cellphones from the accused. We have arrested them accused along with the businessman who purchased the gold. Our teams are searching for the absconding accused. Subodh Singh is the main accused in the case," he explained. Two months ago, they conducted reconnaissance in four areas and finally committed a robbery in Karimnagar. Subodh Singh's gang committed robberies in Bihar, Bengal and Jharkhand, the police said.

We Will Restore Singareni's Past Glory: Vivek

Hyderabad: Labour, Employment, Mines and Geology Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy stated that the Praja Palana government was committed to restoring the past glory of Singareni by bringing in new mines and creating new employment opportunities. The Minister descended into the underground section of the KK-V mine in Mandamarri Singareni Area along with the workers on Thursday. He inspected the working conditions inside the mine and interacted directly with the workers to understand their issues and concerns. s requested the Minister to resolve the Income Tax issues related to PRC arrears and also appealed for support in fulfilling their dream of owning houses. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the previous BRS government had completed gareni. He said the corporation was financially exploited, but not a single new mine was started during their tenure. Also



Read - Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates VD Satheesan On Becoming Kerala CM He called upon Singareni workers to focus on achieving quality coal production while ensuring complete safety standards for workers. Later, the Minister attended as the chief guest at the felicitation programme organized for Shram Shakti Award recipient Yedukola Pawan Kumar at the KK-V mine in Mandamarri Singareni Area. Addressing the gathering swamy said the Kaka family shares an inseparable bond with Singareni workers. He urged both workers and officials to work collectively and responsibly for the development of

the Singareni organization. Also Read - Hyderabad: Fire Breaks Out At Furniture Shop In Asif nagar Recalling the contributions of former Uo the notice of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He added that MP G Vamsi Krishna is making efforts in Parliament to ensure a pension of Rs. 10,000 for retired Singareni workers. UG: Telangana CM Astigation would create fresh employment opportunities and that nearly 5,500 people would get jobs through the RKP Opencast Phase-2 project. The mine would be started immediately after receiving forest clearances, he added.

BCI Asks Bengal Bar Council to Verify Mamata Banerjee's Enrolment, Practice Status

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India on Thursday asked the West Bengal Bar Council to furnish a detailed report within 48 hours regarding the enrolment and professional practice status of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Earlier in the day, Banerjee, in a lawyer's gown, appeared before the Calcutta High Court to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence and attacks on party offices. Also Read - EC To Conduct SIR Phase-III Of Electoral Rolls In 16 States, 3 UTs As per prevalent practice, a person, who was holding a constitutional post or gainfully employed, has to get the bar licence suspended during the service and for practising law again, the same has to be revived. In a letter, the Bar Council of India (BCI) directed the secretary of the West Bengal Bar



Council to furnish within two days complete records relating to Banerjee's enrolment as an advocate, if any, and her practice status during and after her tenure as chief minister from 2011 to 2026. Also Read - India Supports A Two-State Solution : EAM Jaishankar Speaks On Palestine Issue The communication, issued by BCI Principal Secretary Sriramanto Sen, stated that the Council had taken note of "various media reports" claiming that Banerjee appeared in court in legal attire, including white advocate bands. "Mamata Banerjee served as chief minister of

West Bengal from 2011 to 2026. Having regard to the constitutional public office held by her during the said period, and without expressing any opinion at this stage on the permissibility or otherwise of such appearance, then note of "various media reports" claiming that Banerjee appeared in court in legal attire, including white advocate bands. "Mamata Banerjee served as Bar Council of India requires the factual status of her enrolment, practice, suspension, if any, and resumption, if any, to be verified from your records," the communication said.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates VD Satheesan On Becoming Kerala CM

Hyderabad: Chief Minister of Telangana, A. Revanth Reddy, today extended his warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to V. D. Satheesan on being appointed as the Chief Minister of Kerala. In his message, the Chief Minister described Sri Satheesan's appointment as a well-deserved recognition of decades of dedicated public service, principled politics, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Kerala. He observed that the people of Kerala have, through the recently concluded Assembly elections, reaffirmed their faith in the values of democracy, social justice, and inclusive development by entrusting the United



Democratic Front, led by the Congress, with the mandate to govern the state. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Revanth Reddy noted that Kerala has long been a beacon for the rest of the country in matters of human development, public health, literacy, and grassroots

democracy. He expressed confidence that, under Sri Satheesan's stewardship, the state will scale even greater heights in education, healthcare, employment generation, and equitable growth, while continuing to set benchmarks that inspire sister states across the Union. Also Read - Hyderabad:

Fire Breaks Out At Furniture Shop In Asifnagar The Chief Minister affirmed that the Government of Telangana looks forward to working closely with the new Government of Kerala on matters of mutual interest, particularly in the areas of investment promotion, skill development, tourism, knowledge exchange, and cooperative federalism. "On behalf of the Government and the people of Telangana, I extend my best wishes to Sri V. D. Satheesan and the people of Kerala for a tenure marked by progress, prosperity, and the further deepening of Kerala's proud democratic traditions," the Chief Minister said.

MSMEs Key To Creating 20 Lakh Jobs In AP: Nara Lokesh

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh has emphasised the role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in helping the state achieve its ambitious goal of creating 20 lakh jobs. Lokesh attended the "SME IPO - Alternative Funding Option For Growth" awareness seminar organised jointly by the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), Andhra Pradesh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development Corporation and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Wednesday. Rajnath Singh, Naidu To Lay Foundation For AMCA Facility in Andhra Pradesh On May 15 MSMEs are essential for achieving the 20 lakh jobs target, and the government is moving ahead with the vision of Made in Andhra - Made for India - Made for the World," he said. Lokesh also said Andhra Pradesh has



emerged as a major investment destination over the last 23 months under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. Agreements have so far been signed for nearly 800 projects involving investments worth Rs 23 lakh crore with the potential to generate employment for about 24 lakh people. Companies, including Google, ArcelorMittal, TCS, Cognizant, and Royal Enfield, are establishing projects in the state, while the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fighter jet manufacturing project is also proposed to come up in Puttaparthi, he stated. xg to Carrier's

investment proposal in Sri City after Google's data centre project in Visakhapatnam, Lokesh said every major investment creates employment opportunities. "When one large investment comes, several ancillary industries and employment opportunities emerge around it. This is the multiplier effect," he said. The Minister said the government is pursuing decentralised development through a cluster-based growth model across Andhra Pradesh. He outlined the government's plans for 22 development clusters, focusing on automobiles, renewable energy, and horticulture. In Rayalaseema, aquaculture and quantum technology in Amaravati, and pharma, IT, and data centres in North Andhra. Also Read - Pawan

Kalyan Cuts Convoy Size despite Z-Category Security To further boost the sector, the government plans to establish an MSME park in every constituency and is simplifying approvals and incentives under a "Speed of Doing Business" approach. For the government, an MSME started with Rs 50 lakh is as important as Google, and a company launched with Rs 1 crore is as important as ArcelorMittal, he said. The Minister directed the MSME department to work towards ensuring that at least 100 companies Exchange of India from Andhra Pradesh get listed on the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) within the next three months. Lokesh pointed out that while 723 companies across the country have raised Rs 22,415 crore through NSE listings, only three firms from AP have so far been listed.

Anand Reviews Greyhounds Operational Preparedness, Future Readiness



Hyderabad: Director-General of Police CV Anand here on Thursday reviewed the operational preparedness and future readiness of the Greyhounds force during his visit to the headquarters. In light of the fact that Maoist activities have almost come to an end, he discussed the downsizing and restructuring of Greyhounds and how many are essential to maintain minimum strength to tackle future crisis. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The discussions also covered advanced training, capability building, modernization, infrastructure development, administrative support, and welfare initiatives aimed at further enhancing the efficiency of this elite unit. "We also deliberated on future requirements and a strategic vision for the next five years to ensure cushions also covered he force remains agile, technologically empowered,

and mission-ready at all times," he added. The Greyhounds, which is an elite special forces unit of the Telangana Police, is specialized in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare operations against terrorists. Established in 1989-90, the unit is renowned for rigorous training, guerrilla tactics

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POCSO case: Telangana High Court to hear interim bail plea of Bandi Sai Bageerath on Friday

Hyderabad: Justice T Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court has postponed the hearing of the bail petition of Bandi Sai Bageerath to Friday, after hearing arguments on the interim anticipatory bail filed in the high-profile case on Thursday. The petitioner Bandi Sai Bageerath, is the son of union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar and is an accused person in the POCSO case registered against him in Pet Basheerabad police station on May 8. The court has asked senior counsel S Niranjan Reddy who argued on behalf of Bandi Sai Bageerath, as to how this accused person was different from any other person and why the interim application should be heard immediately by the court, as the general practice of the court was that any bail petition would be posted after one week for the police to get instructions. In response, Niranjan Reddy argued



that there were Supreme Court judgements, which supported anticipatory bails and that the judges have inherent powers to grant interim protection. The Public Prosecutor Palle Nageshwar Rao informed the court that the victim were given a notice on Thursday morning. The accused person was a union minister and that the victim's family faced harassment at the police station waiting for hours to get the complaint registered. The

police had also ensured that the information was counsel for the victim also appeared before the court and sought a week's time to respond to the anticipatory bail. He also opposed hearing the interim bail application as it was same as that of anticipatory bail application. He also drew the attention of the court that the accused person was absconding and no spot notice on Thursday evening treatment was required. He contended that the father of

the accused person was a union minister and that the victim's family faced harassment at the police station waiting for hours to get the complaint registered. The police had also ensured that the information was passed and accused family had launched a counter blast case in Karimnagar. However, the court considered hearing the interim anticipatory bail application tomorrow and the main anticipatory bail next week.

Hyderabad: Fire Breaks Out At Furniture Shop In Asifnagar

Hyderabad: A major fire broke out at M.J. Classic Furniture Shop in Asif Nagar on Thursday. The shop is located on the ground floor of a 3-storied residential building in the narrow lanes of the colony, making it difficult for the fire tenders to reach the location. Furniture and mattresses stored inside the shop were gutted in the flames. However, no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime



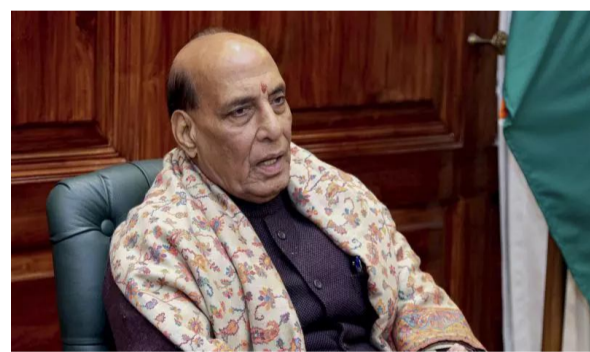
in 2025 Yugandhar Prasad, Asst. Dist. Fire Officer Amberpet informed that on receiving the call, the Fire

Team from Niloufer Outpost of Amberpet Fire Station rushed to the spot and began firefighting operations with

the help of the Gowliguda Water Bowser and contained the fire. Alert residents evacuated their flats and moved to safer places immediately after noticing the smoke and flames. Fire personnel acted swiftly and brought the blaze under control, preventing it from spreading to the upper residential floors and averting a major mishap. The exact cause of the fire is under investigation.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Naidu To Lay Foundation For AMCA Facility in Andhra Pradesh On May 15

Puttaparthi: In a major step towards strengthening India's indigenous defence and aerospace capabilities, Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh will lay foundation for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme facility at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh along with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The facility, being established by the Aeronautical Development Agency under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), will comprise the Core Integration, Development and Flight Testing Complex for India's flagship indigenous fifth-generation fighter aircraft programme. The AMCA programme is designed to advance India's self-reliance in next-generation combat aviation technologies, including stealth systems, advanced avionics and integrated combat capabilities. Also Read - TTD's Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust Gets Rs.1.51 Cr Donation Spread across nearly 650 acres in Puttaparthi with an estimated project cost



of approximately Rs 15,803 crore, the proposed complex will serve as a national hub for aircraft integration, validation, flight testing and certification activities. The project is expected to significantly strengthen India's strategic aerospace infrastructure while reducing dependence on external testing ecosystems. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has extended comprehensive support for the establishment of the facility through land allotment, infrastructure provision and expedited approvals. The project is expected to generate nearly 7,500 high-skill direct employment opportunities over its lifecycle and catalyse the growth of a wider aerospace and defence

manufacturing ecosystem in the Rayalaseema region. Also Read - MSMEs Key To Creating 20 Lakh Jobs In AP: Nara Lokesh Sri Sathya Sai District has rapidly emerged as a high-potential destination for advanced manufacturing and aerospace-linked investments. Its strategic proximity to Bengaluru aerospace ecosystem, including Kempegowda International Airport and major defence establishments, positions the region as a natural extension of India's southern aerospace corridor. The district has also witnessed growing industrial activity across aerospace, defence, electronics, automobile components, metals and allied sectors. Also Read - Pawan

Kalyan Cuts Convoy Size despite Z-Category Security Andhra Pradesh has already established a strong presence in defence manufacturing through investments by leading companies such as Bharat Electronics Limited, Bharat Dynamics Limited and Kalani Strategic Systems. Under the Aerospace and Defence Policy 2025-30, the State has identified six specialised clusters focused on naval systems, missiles and unmanned systems, aerospace and electronics, aircraft components, defence electronics, precision manufacturing, dedicated testing facilities and defence R&D, creating targeted opportunities for global OEMs, Tier-1 suppliers technology companies. In addition, nine more companies are expected to sign Memorandums of Understanding with the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the defence reinforcing the State's emergence as a leading destination for strategic manufacturing and innovation-led industrial growth

Digital Bharat Nidhi - AP Sign Pact To Accelerate Rural Broadband Connectivity

New Delhi: Digital Bharat Nidhi has signed a pact with the Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday, to roll out the amended BharatNet programme in the state with a financial support of Rs 2,432 crore from the Centre. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Shyamal Mishra (Administrator, Digital Bharat Nidhi), Anand Khare (Director General - Telecom, DoT), Geetanjali Sharma (CEO, APBIL), Papa Sudhakara Rao (Director - Enterprise Business, BSNL) and Dinesh Kumar Garg (DDG, ABP Implementation, DoT). The programme will have a total scope of 13,426 Gram Panchayats, which includes upgradation of 1,692 Phase I Gram Panchayats from linear to ring topology to enhance network resilience, cover-

(DDG, ABP Implementation, DoT). Minister Rajnath Singh, Naidu To Lay Foundation For AMCA Facility in Andhra Pradesh On May 15 The Union Cabinet had approved the amended BharatNet Programme on 4 August 2023 with the objective of upgrading, consolidating, and expanding the existing BharatNet network to ensure robust and future-ready broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and villages on a demand basis. Under the Amended BharatNet Programme in Andhra Pradesh, the project will be implemented through An d h r a P r a d e s h B h a r a t N e t I n f r a s t r u c t u r e L i m i t e d (APBIL). The Programme will have a total scope of 13,426 Gram Panchayats, which includes upgradation of 1,692 Phase I Gram Panchayats from linear to ring topology to enhance network resilience, cover-



age of 11,254 Phase II Gram Panchayats, and inclusion of 480 newly created Gram Panchayats. In addition, 3,94 480 newly created Gram 2 vil-lages will be provided connectivity on a demand

basis to strengthen last-mile connectivity. The initiative is expected to facilitate more than five lakh rural home fibre connections with financial support from the Government of India and significantly

enhance the delivery of digital services, including e-Governance, online education, telemedicine, digital payments and citizen-centric services across rural and remote areas of the State.

War Not An Option': Farooq Abdullah Welcomes RSS Leader's Call For Indo-Pak Talks

Srinagar: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that India should solve all its problems through dialogue with Pakistan, as war between the two countries is not an option. The National Conference President welcomed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale's recent comments in which he advocated for Indo-Pak dialogue and people-to-people communication. "It is a very big move that the RSS chief has said there should be talks with Pakistan, and the ex-army chief also backed his statement. I am glad that somebody is now thinking that war is not an option. It is a question of dialogue, and with dialogue we must solve our problems,"



Abdullah told reporters here. On Tuesday, Hosabale said that people-to-people contact was key to breaking the deadlock with Pakistan and there should always be a window for dialogue. The statement comes a week after the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor in the country. The RSS

leader's advocacy for Indo-Pak dialogue was welcomed by former Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army MM Naravane and another former chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti. Mufti said that dialogue between India and Pakistan brings relief

to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the opposition Congress attacked the RSS leader, claiming his dialogue advocacy was influenced by his recent visit to the US. Abdullah also welcomed the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting as a very good. I am very glad the BRICS is meeting, and we hope there is peace in the Middle East," he said. "US President Donald Trump's visit to China will also help in bringing peace, as China will play its part in the peace process." The two-day BRICS foreign ministers' meeting began today in New Delhi. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is chairing the meeting themed "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". Besides the foreign minister, heads of delegation from member and partner countries are participating in the meeting. The downsizing of caval-cades by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other chief ministers, Abdullah said that it shows there is a fuel shortage. "If we have to meet that shortage, then everybody has to reduce the cavalcade," he said.

he said. "US President Donald Trump's visit to China will also help in bringing peace, as China will play its part in the peace process." The two-day BRICS foreign ministers' meeting began today in New Delhi. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is chairing the meeting themed "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". Besides the foreign minister, heads of delegation from member and partner countries are participating in the meeting. The downsizing of caval-cades by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other chief ministers, Abdullah said that it shows there is a fuel shortage. "If we have to meet that shortage, then everybody has to reduce the cavalcade," he said.

'Explore Amicable Settlement, Otherwise It Would Be A Long Marathon': SC On Rani Kapur-Priya Kapur Dispute

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked late industrialist Sunjay Kapur's mother, Rani Kapur, and his wife, Priya Kapur—locked in a dispute over the family trust—not to take any steps that could interfere with the ongoing mediation. On May 7, the apex court had appointed former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud as mediator in the matter. The matter came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan. During the hearing, Rani's counsel argued that Raghuvanshi Investment Pvt Ltd. has a substantial holding in the parent company. The bench noted that Rani was concerned about the items on the agenda, which relate to the appointment of two independent directors and some modifications in authorised signatories for the operation of bank accounts of the company. The counsel for respondents, including Priya Kapur and Raghuvanshi Investment Pvt Ltd, said the appointment of inde-



pendent directors should not be a matter of any objection. The counsel stressed that the meeting was convened in view of some directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Advocate Kapil Sibal, representing one of the respondents, said it is a company, Raghuvanshi Investment Pvt. Ltd, which makes financial investments only and has been registered since 2014, and she is a director, and nobody is changing that. "Now, the order must have gone to the mediator. He will fix the first meeting between the parties. This agenda, you may put it on hold," observed the bench. Sibal said there is a problem that is the RBI

inspected this company in February and then passed orders to constitute these committees with independent directors, which have to be done by May 21. Justice Pardiwala said we will ask the RBI also to wait for some time, and we will take care of it. "Look at it from this angle. Here is an 80-year-old woman already shaken with all this. Must be guided by so many people. And, with this frame of mind, just handle her a little bit (care)...since we have asked you all to explore the possibility of an amicable settlement, otherwise this will be going to be a long marathon," said Justice Pardiwala. The bench said

that in the earlier days of the meeting, the parties would know whether this is going to save or crumble. Sibal said my request is to allow these resolutions to be passed, and the reason is that this company has to function through committees for risk management, and investments have to be made. Justice Pardiwala observed that let the matter proceed before the mediator for two months, and then the court will take a call. "We have no problems, we can adjudicate on merits, but she will withdraw from mediation", Justice Pardiwala told Sibal, who replied, "We do not want her to withdraw." Sibal argued that she had said in the suit that this trust is fraudulent, bogus, and in 2017, it was set up, and "now she says that I am in control of the trust, in this application." Justice Pardiwala said no one is in control of anything at present and parties are before the mediator, and let the mediator try to find out a way. The bench said it does not propose to say anything further at this

point in time and urged the opponents not to do anything which may directly affect the mediation proceedings. The bench said it would examine the progress that takes place insofar as the mediation is concerned and scheduled the matter for further hearing in the first week of August. The bench said that in the meantime, the directives of the RBI and statutory compliances need not be insisted upon by the RBI or statutory authorities. The bench said for the present, the issues relating to the appointment of two independent directors and some modification in authorised signatories may not be discussed in the meeting on May 18. The bench was hearing an application filed by Rani, who has expressed concern about the meeting of the board of directors of the company scheduled to be held on May 18. On April 27, the apex court sought a response from Priya Kapur and others on a lawsuit by Rani seeking directions to declare the family trust "null and void".

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Cuts Convoy By 60%, Announces WFH, Metro Day To Cut Fuel Consumption



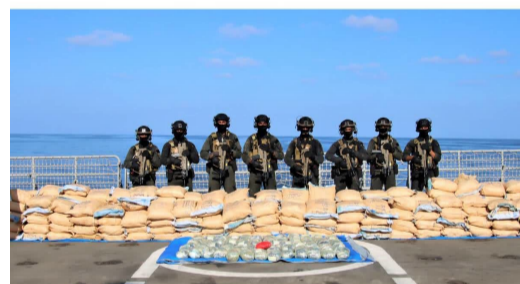
New Delhi: In a major push towards fuel conservation and pollution control, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday announced a series of measures to reduce fuel consumption and encourage public participation in sustainable practices. Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to save fuel and promote energy efficiency, the Chief Minister said the Delhi government would now focus on "public participation and austerity instead of luxury". The announcements were made after a high-level meeting held at the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday evening. Setting an example, Rekha Gupta reduced her official convoy by nearly 60 per cent, bringing it down to just four vehicles. Out of these, two are electric vehicles. "When we begin the

change ourselves, only then can we win people's trust," the Chief Minister said. She also directed ministers, MLAs and government officials to minimise the use of official vehicles and prioritise car-pooling and public transport wherever possible. "No Car Day' And Work From Home Policy To reduce traffic congestion and fuel has decided to introduce a weekly "No Car Day" along with a "Metro Day" to encourage greater use of public transport. The government will also run 58 special buses from 29 government colonies to improve last-mile connectivity and make public transport more accessible. In another key decision, office timings for Delhi government departments and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have been revised to

reduce peak-hour traffic pressure purchase any new diesel vehicles. Rekha Gupta urged universities, colleges and courts in Delhi to promote online classes and digital hearings wherever possible. People to avoid unnecessary foreign travel for the next one year and reduce participation in events that require excessive transportation. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to citizens to save petrol and diesel and make energy conservation a people's movement in view of the current global situation. The Delhi government is committed to taking this forward," she said. Chief Minister said the measures would not only help conserve fuel and reduce pollution, but also save government resources at a time when global uncertainty continues to impact energy supplies.

India Underscores Need For Stronger Regional Cooperation To Combat Narcotics Trafficking

New Delhi: Amid growing concerns over international drug cartels using maritime routes, India has underscored the need for stronger regional cooperation to combat transnational narcotics trafficking through the Indian Ocean Region



The concern was conveyed during a two-day workshop on "Transnational Drug Smuggling through Sea" for drug enforcement officers of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) held at the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) headquarters in New Delhi. Concluded on Thursday, the workshop brought together enforcement officers from Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka, reflecting a coordinated regional effort to tackle the increasing challenge of maritime narcotics trafficking. "Emerging trends in drug smuggling through sea routes, concealment techniques, operational methods adopted by trafficking syndicates, and the legal and regulatory frameworks governing maritime enforcement were elaborately discussed during the meeting," a senior NCB official said. India has repeatedly flagged its concern, saying the Indian Ocean has become an increasingly vulnerable corridor for trafficking heroin, methamphetamine and synthetic drugs originating from the Golden Crescent and

Golden Triangle regions. The meeting highlighted that criminal syndicates exploit vast coastlines, busy shipping lanes and relatively weak maritime surveillance capacities in parts of the region to move large consignments of narcotics. Officials said the message significance as India has recorded several major drug seizures in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean over the past few years. "Investigations into these cases revealed the involvement of transnational criminal networks using fishing vessels, cargo ships and dhows to transport narcotics across borders," the official said. India has also expressed concern that profits generated from narcotics trafficking are often linked to organised crime, money laundering and terror financing. The Colombo Security Conclave is a regional security grouping comprising India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Mauritius and Bangladesh as observer and member partners. It has increasingly focused on non-traditional security threats, includ-

ing narcotics trafficking, maritime safety, cybersecurity and terrorism. Seychelles also participates in several CSC-related initiatives aimed at strengthening regional maritime cooperation. The participants deliberated on intelligence-sharing mechanisms, coordinated interdiction operations and capacity-building measures to strengthen maritime domain awareness. Indian agencies have expanded cooperation with regional partners in recent years through joint operations, real-time intelligence exchange and training programmes. NCB, Indian Coast Guard and Navy have together intercepted several large consignments of narcotics in international waters, highlighting the growing operational coordination between maritime and anti-drug enforcement agencies. Officials said strengthening legal cooperation and harmonising enforcement procedures among CSC member nations would be critical for ensuring the successful prosecution of traffickers operating across jurisdictions. Security

Centre Extends CBI Chief's Tenure By One More Year

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday extended the tenure of CBI chief Praveen Sood by one more year, beyond May 24, 2026. This is his second extension in office. Sood, 61, a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre, took over as the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on May 25, 2023, for a two-year term. He was given a one-year extension last year. The decision to extend his tenure was taken in a meeting of the selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday. The appointment committee of the Cabinet (ACC), based on the recommendations of the selection committee, approved Sood's extension for a period of one year beyond May



24, 2026, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Gandhi had issued a strong dissent note on the process for selecting the CBI director and said he did not want to be part of a "biased exercise". Sood has been given an extension to ensure continuity in the top leadership of the CBI, which is probing several high-profile and politically sensitive matters, including the recent National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) or NEET UG paper leak case, officials said. Known for his hands-on approach,

Sood has been meticulously supervising investigations in these crucial cases, they said. Born in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district in 1964, he joined the IPS at the age of 22 years after completing his civil engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. His extension came under the provisions of a 2021 law, following amendments in the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, which governs the functioning of the CBI. The Parliament had, on December 14, 2021,

passed the DSPE (Amendment) Bill, 2021, to extend the tenure of the CBI director to a maximum of five years. It became the law after receiving the president's assent on December 18, 2021.

The amended DSPE law allows the government to extend the CBI director's tenure "in public interest" on the recommendation of the selection committee, "up to one year at a time". However, "no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total, including the period mentioned in the initial appointment", it says. The Supreme Court, in its 1997 verdict in the Vineet Narain versus Union of India case, had issued a specific order that the CBI director shall have a minimum tenure of two years. Former CBI director R K Raghavan was the first to have been

With Fresh Reshuffle And Cabinet Expansion Samrat Asserts Himself In Bihar

Patna: The Bihar government under Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has carried out a major reshuffle of key police and administrative departments in the past few days. Though officials said the reshuffle is part of the government's broader effort to improve operational efficiency, strengthen internal security mechanisms and enhance administrative coordination, many think that the CM is now asserting himself and carving a new space different from what was considered the sole domain of former chief minister Nitish Kumar. Several changes are happening despite Samrat regularly asserting that he would follow in the footsteps of Nitish and implement his vision of governance. Even the leaders of the Janata Dal (United) had reiterated about following the path shown by their party's national president (Nitish) in letter and spirit. Samrat took oath as chief minister on April 15 along with two deputy chief ministers - Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav - from the JD-U. The cabinet was expanded on May 7. In the previous government for med after the November 2025 Bihar polls, Nitish had handed over the home department to the BJP. It was given to Samrat, who was the deputy chief minister then. It was seen as a compromise struck between the two major partners of the National



Democratic Alliance. The saffron party with 89 seats (currently 88) emerged as the largest party, while the JD-U was a few paces behind with 85 seats, yet its leader became the chief minister. The home department was expected to return to the JD-U as the regime changed and there was an apparent role reversal between the two allies. However, it did not happen and Samrat retained it. With its own chief minister in the saddle, the BJP wrested the education department too from the JD-U, something that the party had unsuccessfully tried through the entire tenure of previous chief minister Nitish Kumar between 2005 and 2026. Even when Samrat took oath as the chief minister, the education department stayed with the JD-U, but was taken away in the cabinet expansion on May 7. "The BJP's emphasis has always been on gaining control over educational institutions. This enables capturing and converting young minds to its ideology so they would work for it in the future. It

already runs its own schools like Saraswati Shishu Mandir on a large scale," social activist and Patna University professor N K Chaudhary told ETV Bharat. "The communists were among the first to realise the importance of education for ideological propagation. They had implemented their own tactics in several states and at the Centre. Now the BJP is doing so," Chaudhary added. Educationist and former director of A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, D M Diwakar pointed out that with education in hand, the BJP could mislead people by not adopting the scientific basis while teaching history and science. "It would destroy what we have already won with Science Congress since we began by transferring 11 IAS and 16 IPS officers to various positions on May 10. More shifting is expected in the coming days, especially of district magistrates, superintendents of police, sub-divisional officers and sub-divisional police officers. "Transfers were the prerogative of Nitish in past

governments and the BJP had negligible say in it. Every chief minister cobbles up his own team based on his perception of merit, efficiency, and comfort level. Samrat is doing the same now. This will also help keep indirect control over the departments held by the JDU. Nitish had done the same thing with the BJP," a recently retired senior IAS officer told ETV Bharat. To bolster his argument, the former bureaucrat pointed out that the chief minister appointed IAS officer Lokesh Kumar Singh as his secretary due to his image and efficiency, while another IAS Sanjay Kumar Singh has been brought to the same position because he had previously worked with Samrat, indicating a certain level of comfort in their functioning. "Samrat has been imposed on Bihar by the top BJP leadership, much to the desolation of the party's old guard and hardcore leaders. Apart from governance, he also has the responsibility of implementing the core agenda of the BJP, which includes anti-Muslim overtures, focus on 'ghuspaithiya' (intruders) and maintaining the Luv-Kush (Kurmi - Koeri) and EBC (extremely backward classes) equation to keep the Opposition, especially Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) at bay," media analyst Arun Pandey told ETV Bharat.

Ladakh Ready For Showdown As Congress Files No Confidence Motion Against NC's LAHDC Chief

Srinagar: Congress on Thursday filed a no confidence motion to remove the incumbent Chairperson and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil (LAHDC-K) Mohd Jaffer Akhoun of National Conference after his refusal to step



down and hand power to the grand old party as

per the understanding between the allies. The resolution carrying the signs of the 16 councillors was submitted to Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar. Describing this as "politics", Akhoun said he will not quit but will continue with his agenda of "development".

Karnataka Gruha Lakshmi Scheme: 22 Crore Allegedly Credited To Dead Beneficiaries; Massive Verification Drive Underway

Dakshina Kannada: Allegations that funds under Karnataka's flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme were credited to the bank accounts of deceased beneficiaries have triggered a large-scale verification exercise in Dakshina Kannada district, with officials now scrutinising thousands of beneficiary records amid concerns over possible irregular payments. Congress-led government in Karnataka launched the Gruha Lakshmi scheme in 2023 which provides financial aid of ₹2,00,000 to women head of families in the state. The controversy surfaced after the district received a list from the state directorate identifying beneficiaries whose accounts allegedly continued to receive Gruha Lakshmi instalments even after their deaths. Initial estimates suggested that irregular payments in the district alone could amount to nearly ₹22 crore.



However, officials now say the figure is likely to reduce significantly after correcting duplicate entries and technical discrepancies. Speaking on Thursday, Dakshina Kannada District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee President Bharat Mundodi said the administration immediately launched a detailed verification process after doubts emerged regarding the authenticity of several records. "We informed the authorities at the beginning itself that such a huge amount of fraudulent payment in Dakshina Kannada appeared unlikely. During verification, we found several

duplicate entries and mismatches in records," Mundodi said. According to officials, the first list sent by the state government contained the names of 9,813 deceased beneficiaries whose accounts had reportedly received Gruha Lakshmi payments. However, district-level scrutiny later found that nearly 379 entries were duplicates. In another 432 cases, officials found discrepancies between death records and bank account details, and those cases are still under examination. So far, authorities have confirmed 368 cases in which payments continued even after the beneficiary's death. Officials said ₹30.86 lakh has already been recovered and returned to the government on exercise is

being carried out with the support of anganwadi workers, taluk-level officials and village committee members, who are conducting field-level checks to determine whether instalments were credited after a beneficiary's death. Mundodi said the district administration is currently trying to verify the remaining cases village by village before submitting a final report to the government. In the second phase of the exercise, the state government reportedly provided another list containing 8,884 names. However, officials said the absence of complete addresses and village details in the records has severely complicated verification efforts. "Many lists contain only names without proper addresses. We are now using ration card numbers to trace the beneficiaries," Mundodi said. He added that privacy-related rest

Trump Gets Rousing Reception In Beijing On Arrival For Talks With Xi

Beijing: US President Donald Trump was accorded a red carpet welcome on Wednesday upon his arrival in Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on a host of issues, including the Iran war and a trade deal. Trump was welcomed by Chinese Vice President Han Zheng at the airport, a rare honour that broke with usual diplomatic protocol. Officials say most of the top leaders visiting China, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, a close ally of Xi, were received by State Councillors, a high-ranking post of the ruling Communist Party of China. By deputising Vice President Han to receive Trump, China sent a message about the importance it attached to his visit, observers said. There was also a brass band playing as Chinese military personnel presented a guard of honour as Trump descended the steps of his plane. He was also greeted by 300 Chinese youth dressed in blue and white uniforms and waving Chinese and American flags in unison, chanting in Chinese, "Welcome, welcome! Warm welcome!" Trump briefly paused to listen to the flag-waving youth and moved to get into his limousine. The Big Bear, flown from Washington. The highway route leaving the airport was decorated with American and Chinese flags. Skyscrapers were lit up with Chinese characters meaning "Beijing Welcome." Trump's son Eric and his daughter-in-law Lara, as well as Tesla chief Elon Musk, disembarked from Air Force One along with Trump. Accompanying Trump on his trip to China are some of the US's top business leaders. Nvidia's Jensen Huang, Tim Cook of Apple, Musk of Tesla and SpaceX, and Larry Fink of BlackRock, are among those travelling with the US president. "I will be asking President Xi, a Leader of



extraordinary distinction, to 'open up' China so that these brilliant people can work their magic, and help bring the People's Republic to an even higher level," Trump said in a post on social media. Trump said that it will be his "very first request" when he meets the Chinese leader, BBC reported. "I have never seen or heard of any idea that would be more beneficial to our incredible Countries," he said. The last-minute addition of Nvidia's Jensen Huang to Trump's delegation was regarded as significant, as semiconductor chips are central to the US-China technology rivalry. China is bargaining for semiconductor chips for its AI tech development, while the US wants the rare-earth minerals used for manufacturing mobile phones and aircraft jets. Ahead of Trump's arrival, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and Scott Bessent completed the final round of trade negotiations in South Korea, details of which are not known. The next two days, Trump and Xi are scheduled to hold several rounds of talks to discuss both bilateral and global issues, especially the Iran war. The talks are expected to focus on trade and tariffs, Artificial Intelligence and technology, Taiwan and US' arms sales to Taipei, Iran and West Asia East security and rare earths and supply chains. Trump's schedule in Beijing

included a visit to the Temple of Heaven, a complex of imperial temples where emperors would pray for a good harvest. Ahead of his departure for Beijing, Trump told the media in Washington he would be talking with Xi about trade more than anything else. He plans to sign more deals with China to buy more American food and aircraft. The two countries also plan to set up a Board of Trade with China to address differences between the countries. From a trade point of view, China looks to reap a rich harvest as Trump is accompanied by top CEOs of US multinational giants, including Tesla chief Musk and Apple CEO Cook, who have wels on the summit, however end the US-Israeli war against Iran and end the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Ahead of Trump's visit, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made his first visit to Beijing after the war and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. The US watched his visit closely as China is the largest importer of Iranian oil and shares strategic defence ties with Tehran, and has considerable influence over Iran. After talks with Araghchi, Wang called on Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible, even as it appreciated Tehran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, a prime demand of Trump to end the

war. Commenting on Wang-Araghchi talks, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, "I hope the Chinese tell him what he needs to be told. And that is what you are doing in the Strait, which is causing you to be globally isolated. You're the bad guy in this." China's anxieties over the Iran war increased, especially after Trump imposed a blockade of Iranian ports, restricting Iran's oil exports to China. Bert Hoffman, former World Bank country director for China, said China wants the Iran war to end because it has many partners in the region, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait. "So they don't like to see wars, they like to have stability," he said. In its editorial on Trump's visit, state-run Global with him, which have helped correct the course of the bilateral relationship and steer it clear of hidden dangers at critical moments. For China-US relations to truly stabilise and improve in the future, the most fundamental step is to fully and faithfully implement the important consensus reached by wasinister Wang told Rubio, during their telephone talks, that the US should make the right choice about the self-ruled Taiwan. China claims Taiwan as part of its own and has been ramping up military pressure on the island with periodic military drills around the island.

Lebanon, Israel To Hold New Talks In US As Ceasefire Nears End

Washington: Lebanon and Israel are to hold new peace talks in Washington starting Thursday, as their latest ceasefire -- considered to still be in place despite hundreds of deaths in Israeli strikes -- nears its end. The two countries last met on April 23 at the White House, where US President Donald Trump announced a three-week ceasefire extension and voiced optimism for a historic agreement.

Trump at the time made the bold prediction that within the latest ceasefire period, he would welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to Washington for a historic first summit between the countries. The summit did not happen, with Aoun saying a security deal needed to be in place and Israeli attacks needed to end before such a landmark symbolic meeting. The ceasefire had been extended through Sunday. Since it first went into effect on April 17, Israeli strikes have killed more than 400 people, according to an AFP tally based on figures from Lebanese authorities. Israel has vowed to keep pursuing attacks against Hezbollah, the Shia armed group and political movement backed by Iran's ruling clerics, despite the ceasefire. Hezbollah began a campaign of firing into Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme



leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, at the start of the US-Israeli war on February 28. "Anyone who threatens the State of Israel will die because of his actions," Netanyahu said last week after an Israeli strike in the heart of Beirut killed a senior Hezbollah commander. A Lebanese official told AFP that the country would seek "the consolidation of the ceasefire" during the talks in Washington. "The first thing is to put an end to the death and destruction," the official told AFP on custom of anonymity. Iran has demanded a lasting ceasefire in Lebanon before any agreement to end the wider war, as it frustrates Trump by refusing his appeals for an accord on his terms. Pressure on Hezbollah More than 2,800 people have died since Israel launched the strikes in early March, including at least 200 children, according to Lebanese authorities. Hezbollah says that toll includes its

fighters. Israel has founded areas of Lebanon with large Shia populations including Beirut's southern suburbs and has invaded the border region, seizing control in an area it occupied from its 1982 Lebanon war until withdrawing in 2000. The United States has backed Lebanon's calls to maintain sovereignty over all its territory but also repeatedly pressed it to take action against Hezbollah. The United States "recognizes that comprehensive peace is contingent on the full restoration of Lebanese state authority and the complete disarmament of Hezbollah," a State Department statement said. "These talks aim to break decisively from the failed approach of the past two decades, which allowed terrorist groups to entrench and enrich themselves, undermine the authority of the Lebanese state, and endanger Israel's northern border," it said. It will be the third round of talks between the two

countries, which have no diplomatic relations. Unlike the last round, which Trump brought to the White House, or the first round, neither Secretary of State Marco Rubio nor Trump will participate as the president is on a state visit to China.

The US mediators for the two-day meeting at the State Department will include the ambassadors to Israel and Lebanon -- respectively Mike Huckabee, an evangelical pastor and staunch supporter of Israel's regional ambitions, and Michel Issa, a Lebanese-born businessman and golfing partner of Trump, as well as Mike Needham, a close aide to Rubio. Lebanon is represented by special envoy Simon Karam, a veteran lawyer and diplomat who has fiercely defended Lebanon's sovereignty, as well as its ambassador in Washington. Israel's team includes its ambassador in Washington, Yechiel Leiter, a close

Trump And Xi Set For High-Stakes Talks In Beijing

Beijing: US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are set to tackle thorny issues dividing the two superpowers when they meet in Beijing on Thursday, with Iran, trade and Taiwan on the cards. Xi will greet Trump with pomp and ceremony as they meet at 10:00 am (0200 GMT) in the opulent Great Hall of the People, a lavish welcome that belies the deep tensions between the world's biggest economies. The two leaders will also enjoy a state banquet at the hall in the evening, and Trump will visit the historic Temple of Heaven, a World Heritage site where China's emperors once prayed for good harvest. The US president arrived for the two-day summit on Air Force One late Wednesday accompanied by top CEOs, including Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Tesla's Elon Musk -- symbols of business deals Trump hopes to reach. He was given a red carpet welcome, with 300 Chinese youth in white uniforms chanting "welcome" and waving small Chinese and US flags in unison as he descended the steps of the presidential plane pumping his fist.

On Friday, Trump and Xi are set to have tea and a working lunch before the US president heads home to Washington. The trip to Beijing marks the first by a US president in nearly a decade, after Trump visited in 2017, accompanied -- unlike this time -- by his wife Melania. Following that first visit, Trump unleashed a barrage of tariffs and restrictions on Chinese goods. He did so again after returning to the White House last year, triggering a trade war before Xi and Trump agreed to a truce in October. "Big hug" Trump has said he expects a "great big hug" from Xi as he banks on what he believes is a strong personal relationship with the Chinese leader who he has admiringly said rules China with an "iron fist". Top of his wish list will be business deals on agri-



culture, aircraft and other topics, with a host of top businessmen in the US leader's delegation. board Air Force One en route to Beijing, Trump vowed on social media to push Xi to "open up" China to US firms "so that these brilliant people can work their magic". The Chinese foreign ministry said Wednesday it "welcomes" Trump's visit and that "China stands ready to work with the United States...to expand cooperation and manage differences". But Trump is dealing with a different and more emboldened China to the one he visited nine years ago, with a host of unresolved trade and geopolitical tensions between the two countries. The Iran war in particular has threatened to weaken Trump's position in talks with Xi, having already forced him to postpone it from March. The US president said he expected a "long talk" with Xi about Iran, which sells most of its US-sanctioned oil to China, but insisted that "I don't think we need any help with Iran" from Beijing. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio struck a somewhat different tone. "We hope to convince them to play a more active role in getting Iran to walk away from what they are doing now, and trying to do now in the Persian Gulf," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told broadcaster Fox News in an interview. "Tariff truce? The long-simmering trade

war between the two countries will also be top of the agenda, after Trump's sweeping tariffs last year triggered tit-for-tat levies that exceeded 100 percent. Trump and Xi are set to discuss extending a one-year tariff truce, which the two leaders reached during their last meeting in South Korea in October, although a deal is far from certain. On Taiwan, another issue that has bedevilled ties, Trump said Monday he would speak to Xi about US arms sales to the self-governing democracy claimed by China. That would be a departure from historic US insistence that it will not consult Beijing on its support for the island, and one which will be closely watched by Taipei and US allies in the region. China's controls on rare earth exports, AI rivalry and the countries' raucous trade relationship are also among the topics expected to be taken up by the two heads of state. Both sides will be looking to come out of the summit with whatever wins they can, while also stabilising an often tense relationship between Beijing and Washington that has global implications. Trump will also be hoping to leave with a firm date for a reciprocal visit by Xi to the United States later in 2026, to prove his rapport with his Chinese counterpart. For All Latest Updates

Uk, France To Host Defence Ministers Meeting On Hormuz

London: The UK and France will on Tuesday host a multinational meeting of defence ministers on military plans to restore trade flows through the Strait of Hormuz, the British government said. The announcement came hours after Iran warned London and Paris against sending warships to the region. "The Defence Secretary John Healey will co-chair a meeting of over 40 nations, alongside his French counterpart, Minister Catherine Vautrin, for the multinational mission's first Defence Minister's meeting," a British defence ministry statement said Sunday. The virtual meeting follows a two-day gathering in London in April of military planners who thrashed out the practicalities of a multinational mission led by the UK and France to protect navigation in the key waterway following a sustainable ceasefire. "We are turning diplomatic agreement into practical military plans to restore confidence for

shipping through the Strait of Hormuz," Healey said. It comes as France and Britain despatched warships to the Middle East. France has sent its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, to the region, and the UK on Saturday said it was sending a destroyer, HMS Dragon. Both countries said the deployments were a "pre-positioning" ahead of any international mission to help protect shipping - France's warning - HMS Dragon's deployment was part of "prudent planning" that would ensure the UK was ready to help secure the strait when conditions allowed, a ministry spokesperson told AFP. But Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, earlier Sunday warned Britain and France their warships -- "or those of any other country" -- would meet "a decisive and immediate response". "Only the Islamic



Republic of Iran can establish security in this strait," Gharibabadi said. Macron said later Sunday that France had had "never envisaged" a naval deployment in the Strait of Hormuz but rather a security mission that would be "coordinated with Iran". Speaking to journalists in Nairobi, he said he was sticking to his position opposing a blockade from either side, and to "reject any toll" to ensure ships are able to pass through the strategic waterway. Britain and France said last month that plans to secure the strait were

coming together. The British defence ministry said deploying HMS Dragon would strengthen the confidence of commercial shipping and support mine clearance efforts once hostilities end. Before the US-Israel war on Iran started on February 28, about a fifth of the world's oil was shipped through the strait. But that has been throttled since the war as Iran largely closed the strait, throwing global markets into turmoil and driving up oil prices. The US later imposed its own blockade of Iranian ports in response.

rump Arrives In Beijing To Meet Xi Jinping; Lebanese Death Toll Approaches 2900

US President Donald Trump said he would have a "long talk" about Iran with Chinese President Xi Jinping, but said trade would be a bigger focus. As he left for the summit, Trump again threatened Iran if its leaders don't reach an agreement on its nuclear program. "We have Iran very much under control," Trump said. "We're either going to make a deal, or they're going to be decimated. One way or the other, we win." He arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for his hotly anticipated talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the Iran war, trade and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. Kuwait said on Tuesday that Iran launched a failed attack earlier this month on an island where China is helping build a port in the Gulf Arab country. The accusation came just hours before U.S. President Donald Trump was to depart for Beijing on a high-stakes visit over the Iran war and other issues. Iranian state media quoted the country's foreign ministry as calling "baseless" the allegation by Kuwait,



which came under attack by Iran in the war and during the shaky ceasefire that is still holding. But the allegation and ongoing attacks in the region have threatened to reignite open warfare. The narrow Strait of Hormuz remains in Iran's chokehold, the U.S. is maintaining a blockade against Iran and negotiations between the two countries appear at a standstill. "True peace cannot be built with a literature of humiliation, threats, and coercive score-set-

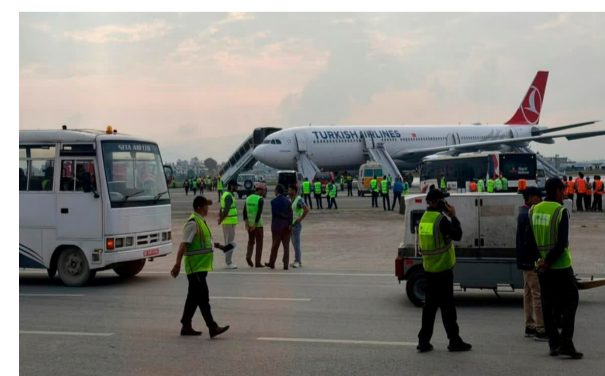
ting," Kazem Gharibabadi, an Iranian diplomat, said Tuesday on X. With the risk of the conflict breaking out again, Israel has sent Iron Dome air-defence weapons and personnel to operate them to the United Arab Emirates, the U.S. ambassador to Israel said. It was the first publicly acknowledged deployment of Israel's military to the Emirates -- home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai -- and underlined the growing relationship between Israel and the UAE. Also very

late on Tuesday night, a magnitude 4.6 earthquake shook parts of Iran, followed by several aftershocks, according to Iranian state media. Witnesses felt the tremor in the capital of Tehran, where some people sought refuge in the streets. Iranian state TV said there were no reports of casualties.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed at least 2,896 people since March 2 as attacks continue on the war-battered country.

Turkish Airlines Jet Catches Fire While Landing At Nepal's Main Airport; All Passengers Safe

Kathmandu: A Turkish Airlines jet caught fire while landing at Nepal's main airport on Monday, causing no reported injuries but forcing the airport to shut down. The flight from Istanbul landed at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport with fire and smoke on the right landing gear. Emergency crew responded and controlled the fire, and passengers were safely evacuated, according to airport officials. The airport was shut down on



Monday morning. There were 277 passengers on board the Airbus 330 jet. Several planes bound for

Kathmandu were put on hold while officials were investigating and attempting to clear the

only runway available at the airport. Nepal experiences relatively frequent plane crashes as its mountainous terrain and variable weather make flying conditions difficult.

In 2015, a Turkish Airlines jet landing in dense fog in Kathmandu skidded off a slippery runway, shutting down the airport for several days. No injuries were reported, and the plane was later towed out of the airport and converted into a museum.

Hyderabad Untreed — City's fading eco-memory



In the space of a few weeks, the route I take to the University campus has witnessed unparalleled devastation. A large number of trees were cut, uprooted and taken away for the construction of yet another flyover.

Activists protest tree cutting near KBR Park in Hyderabad

Rewind: University of Hyderabad's Arab Spring moment

Road expansion, flyovers, service lanes are all purchased at the cost of one of the last tree-lined avenues of the city.

Promises of replanting were issued by the state, but the condition of the uprooted trees withering by the roadside does not indicate any such possibility.

Accidental Archives We see on the drive to and from work, daily uprooted trees lying by the roadside awaiting their eventual obliteration — to use a term popularised by POTUS, no less.

The road and these sad trees constitute the 'accidental archives' of the city. Critic Ann Rigney describes the 'accidental archives' as the 'as yet-unarticulated traces rather than verbal records, of potential rather than as-yet-unarticulated actualised meanings'.

These objects of the 'accidental archives', 'by threatening to disintegrate, they demand to be looked after and, as multiple restoration projects show, they activate our sense of caring'.

Human time, in which Hyderabad seems to be increasingly immersed, is at odds with the time of the land on which this city rests. The trees did not transform themselves into archives for the simple reason that they lack the agency to do so. They are accidental because they have been absorbed, temporarily until all signs of them will be, literally, levelled into the new road so that nothing much remains except memories of motorists who may recall that this was once a tree-lined green avenue.

The trees by the side of the road, awaiting the next round of JCBs, are disintegrating, despite statements that they will be relocated and planted elsewhere. They silently demand to be taken care of, as the Earth does. But does anyone care?

Multidirectional Eco-memory Memories of these roads are not of automobiles alone. For

users over time, these roads that took people to the Financial District, the major software companies, BHEL, the University of Hyderabad, were disruptions in the sense after the barren flyovers, the treed sector provided a sudden and cool cover. The bright sunshine was suddenly in abeyance, as the trees served as a canopy. The accidental archives of the devastated trees constitute what the critic Rosanne Kennedy called 'multidirectional eco-memory'.

Such a memory 'links human and nonhuman animals and their histories of harm, suffering and vulnerability in an expanded multispecies frame of remembrance'. That summarises the route now. The trees share vulnerability with the other denizens of the terrain, including the numerous dogs that ran up and rested on the service lane outside business houses, between parked cars and so on, lending the road a fascinating visual variety beyond humans and their automobiles.

Untreeing Hyderabad means we measure the 'now' in terms of how much faster we get from Point A to Point B. But this 'now' is a fraction of the time taken for a tree to reach its full growth.

Just as the dogs were evicted, once upon a time, as 'nuisances', the trees are now being uprooted. The road to the glitzy corporate offices, educational institutions and industrial houses, marked by multidirectional eco-memory that included the nonhuman such as trees and dogs, is now reduced to a mono-memory site: all we can see is humanity and its Memories.

The fuel we consume is a part, of course, of planetary memory. The trees from Deep Time that collapsed and decayed become, through nonhuman, geochemical processes, the subsurface oil. These are pre-human and nonhuman materialities over which humanity has asserted control. What we use up is the product of millions of years of planetary memory embodied in these materials.

Understandably, this kind of argument smacks of a certain romantic view of the planet. But feeling sorry for the wilful destruction of lifetimes that have

taken decades to reach their present status — like trees — is romanticism merged with the desire for a redemptive or restorative nostalgia: of a road, a site repopulated with trees. But, like most nostalgias, these are at the level of the fantasy, given the state-corporate desire to annihilate (another POTUS favourite!) the multinational, multispecies world in favour of the human alone. Eco-destruction is the new normal. Every generation's idea of what is the acceptable normal in our world, which we share with trees and animals, is shaped by their own experience, as a result of which, we forget what we have lost and have no sense of the magnitude of environmental degradation. Therefore, in less than five years, this same road will only be known as a road devoid of trees — which was emphatically not the case. The refusal to acknowledge planetary memory is accompanied by the creation of such accidental and purely temporary archives such as the uprooted trees. The sooner these signs of callous destruction are removed, the easier it becomes to normalise a tree-less road. On par with Heritage Walks or visual archives of times, past acts of mnemonic (memory) responsibility are necessarily multispecies. Recording the destruction of the trees is one such act of responsible memory.

We are witnessing here the seductive construction of brand-new memories for the future. Like history textbooks that get rewritten in order to erase specific communities and their role, the landscape is being rewritten so that there was never any tree, any street dog.

It remains, therefore, in the realm of the fantastic and the literary — or the literary-fantastic — to exercise mnemonic responsibility towards the accidental archives. On par with Heritage Walks or visual archives of times past, yet different from them, acts of mnemonic responsibility are necessarily multispecies. Recording the destruction of the trees or eviction of street dogs and community animals, as in this piece, is one such mnemonic act.

Human time, in which alone Hyderabad seems to be increasingly immersed, is at odds

with the time of the land and biome that hosts this city. Aboriginal poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal in 'The Past', writes: 'Now is so small a part of time'. Because time is not merely human time but earth time.

In Hyderabad, we are notoriously lax about time. Untreeing Hyderabad means we measure the 'now' in terms of flyovers and expressways and how much faster we get from Point A to Point B. But this 'now' is a fraction of the time taken for a tree to reach its full growth, and that tree is a part of earth time, over which humanity now seeks to impose a temporality measured exclusively as speed of human transport. Indigenous poet Linda Hogan in 'I Live in the Time of Breaking Trees' describes falling trees, and the debris of trees being removed by bulldozers. Unable to bear the sight of this denudation, and admitting that she loves trees, the speaker rushes away into a forest on a hill.

The Australian poet John Kinsella writes in his Divine Comedy: 'The last blocks of bushland cleared away to placate the hunger for the Australian Dream. Our technodreams for this city do not, evidently, entail any trees, and we clear them to pave the way towards these spires of fame and fortune. In another poem, Kinsella writes: I avoid some places because the death of trees / Is overwhelming the realm of the fantastic and the literary — or the literary-fantastic — to exercise mnemonic responsibility towards the accidental archives. On par with Heritage Walks or visual archives of times past, yet different from them, acts of mnemonic responsibility are necessarily multispecies. Recording the destruction of the trees or eviction of street dogs and community animals, as in this piece, is one such mnemonic act.

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Hyderabad's lungs under threat — KBR Park must be integral to urban planning



The ongoing protests around KBR Park in Hyderabad are not merely about a patch of green space; they represent a deeper contestation over the meaning of "development." Academics, youth, environmentalists, and civil society groups are rightly questioning whether development should be equated with concrete infrastructure alone or must encompass the preservation of the ecological commons that sustain human life. Rewind: Hyderabad Untreed — City's fading eco-memory Opinion: UoH and the silence of Hyderabad's civil society

Amartya Sen's seminal work on human development reminds us that real progress lies not in GDP figures or flyovers, but in expanding people's capabilities — their health, education, and freedom to live meaningful lives. Parks and forests, as urban lungs, are integral to this vision. Eco-sensitive Zones Matter KBR Park and the Kancha Gachibowli forest land are more than recreational spaces; they are biodiversity hotspots and carbon sinks. In a city grappling with rising pollution, urban heat islands, and unchecked construction, these green zones mitigate climate stress and safeguard public health. Environmental sociologists such as Ulrich Beck have long argued that modern societies are "risk societies," in which the unintended consequences of industrial and technological growth — pollution, ecological degradation, climate change — pose existential threats. Ignoring eco-sensitive zones is not just negligence; it reproduces risk at the cost of collective well-being. Indian scholars echo this concern. Madhav Gadgil and Ramachandra Guha, in their pioneering work Ecology and Equity, highlighted how environmental degradation disproportionately affects marginalised communities. When governments overlook forests and parks, they undermine not only ecological balance but also social justice, as poorer citizens rely more directly on common resources for survival and health. Lessons from Kancha Gachibowli nearly 400 acres of Kancha Gachibowli's scrub forest — adjacent to the University of Hyderabad and rich in birdlife, peacocks, hares, and granite formations — were cleared for an IT park

project. This forest is vital for groundwater recharge, cooling the city, and offering green breathing space. The deforestation sparked a student-led movement, joined by faculty, researchers, artists, and citizens, with creative protests such as tree-hugging vigils, biodiversity walks, and art installations. Far from partisan politics, it embodied New Social Movements, prioritising ecological and cultural values over economic gains. Digital platforms amplified their voices, while Public Interest Litigations led the Supreme Court to halt further destruction and order ecological assessments. By defending Kancha Gachibowli, students advanced the Sustainable Development Goals on climate action, sustainable cities, and life on land, demonstrating how local activism can align with global frameworks and reassert India's civilisational respect for nature. Traffic Crisis and Misplaced Solutions Flyovers are often justified as "environmental interventions" because they supposedly reduce congestion and emissions. In practice, however, they funnel more cars, deepen bottlenecks, and worsen pollution. John Urry's sociology of mobility explains this as "path dependency": once infrastructure favours cars, it generates more traffic and undermines sustainable mobility. Sociologist John Urry's theory of "path dependency" shows that car-centric infrastructure ultimately increases traffic and weakens sustainable urban mobility. Manuel Castells' concept of the "space of flows" adds that privileging circulation over ecological and social spaces deepens urban crises rather than resolving them. Shrinking KBR Park accelerates heat island formation, reduces groundwater recharge, and worsens air quality — precisely the opposite of what is claimed. Global Frameworks and Local Responsibilities The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) emphasise the indivisibility of environment and development. Goal 11 calls for "sustainable cities and communities," while Goal 13 urges "climate action." These are not abstract ideals; they demand concrete policies such as protecting urban forests, expanding

green cover, and integrating ecological concerns into infrastructure planning. When governments prioritise highways over parks, or malls over wetlands, they betray the spirit of the UNSDGs and compromise intergenerational equity. Environmental sociologist John Dryzek argued that ecological democracy requires giving voice to nature and future generations in present-day decision-making. In Hyderabad, the protests around KBR Park embody this principle: citizens are speaking not only for themselves but for the health of their children and the survival of species that cannot protest. Reflexive Modernity and Human Development Development is essential — cities need infrastructure, housing, and transport. Yet, as sociologist Anthony Giddens reminds us, modernity must be reflexive, constantly examining its own consequences. Sustainable development is not about halting progress but about minimising negative impacts and maximising human well-being. In Hyderabad, this means integrating parks like KBR into urban planning and emissions. In practice, however, they funnel more cars, deepen bottlenecks, and worsen pollution. John Urry's sociology of mobility explains this as "path dependency": once infrastructure favours cars, it generates more traffic and undermines sustainable mobility. Sociologist John Urry's theory of "path dependency" shows that car-centric infrastructure ultimately increases traffic and weakens sustainable urban mobility. Manuel Castells' concept of the "space of flows" adds that privileging circulation over ecological and social spaces deepens urban crises rather than resolving them. Shrinking KBR Park accelerates heat island formation, reduces groundwater recharge, and worsens air quality — precisely the opposite of what is claimed. Global Frameworks and Local Responsibilities The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) emphasise the indivisibility of environment and development. Goal 11 calls for "sustainable cities and communities," while Goal 13 urges "climate action." These are not abstract ideals; they demand concrete policies such as protecting urban forests, expanding

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Kohli's Unbeaten 105 Guides



Virat Kohli bounced back from a lean patch in the previous two matches with a classy unbeaten century as Royal Challengers Bengaluru cruised to a six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in their IPL clash here on Wednesday. Notably, RCB have now occupied the top position in the IPL 2026 points table and are in strong contention to reach playoffs by finishing in the top two in the standings. Chasing 193 for victory, Kohli smashed an unbeaten 105 off 60 balls, studded with 11 boundaries and three sixes, and shared a match-defining 92-run partnership for the second wicket with Devdutt Padikkal (37 off 27 balls) to guide RCB to win in 19.1 overs. Kartik Tyagi was the pick of the bowlers as he took three wickets for KKR.

Following the win, RCB climbed to the top of the table with 16 points, level with Gujarat Titans but ahead on net run rate. Earlier, KKR keeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi anchored the innings with a fine 71 as his side posted a competitive 192/4. Raghuvanshi's 46-ball innings was studded with seven boundaries and three sixes. He shared a crucial 68-run partnership for the third wicket with Cameron Green (32 off 24 balls) and another key 76-run stand for the fourth wicket with Rinku Singh (49 not out off 29 balls). Brief Scores: Kolkata Knight Riders: 192 for 4 in 20 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 71, Cameron Green 32, Rinku Singh 49; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1/34). Royal Challengers Bengaluru: 194 for 4 in 19.1 overs (Virat Kohli 105 not out, Devdutt Padikkal 39; Kartik Tyagi 3/32).

Amul and Mother Dairy on Wednesday hiked milk prices by Rs 2 per litre, with the revised rates set to come into effect from May 14. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk and milk products under the Amul brand, in a statement on Wednesday, said it has "increased the prices of fresh pouch milk by Rs 2 per litre in major milk-selling variants/packs across India effective from May 14". In its statement, Mother Dairy said the revision has been made due to a sustained increase in farmer procurement prices over the past year. "Mother Dairy will revise the consumer prices of its liquid milk variants by Rs 2 per litre, effective May 14, 2026. The revision has been necessitated in view of the sustained increase in farmer procurement prices, of around 6 per cent over the past one year," the statement said. The company said the increase is only a partial pass-through of higher costs and is aimed at balancing farmer welfare and consumer interests. "This revision represents only a partial pass-through of increased costs and is aimed at

Amul, Mother Dairy Hike Milk Prices By Rs 2 Per Litre Across India, Effective May 14



maintaining a fair balance between farmer welfare and consumer interests," a Mother Dairy spokesperson said. The last price increase by Amul was effected on May 1, 2025. The increase translates to about 2.5-3.5 per cent per litre, which is lower than the average food inflation, it added. "The price hike is being done due to an increase in the overall cost of operation and production of milk. There is a substantial increase in the cost of cattle feed, milk packaging film and fuel during the year," GCMMF said. The cooperative said its member unions have also increased farmers' procurement price by Rs

30 per kg of fat, which is a 3.7 per cent increase over May 2025. According to the revised rates for Delhi-NCR and Uttar Pradesh for a 500 ml pack, slim N variant will cost Rs 27, Taaza Rs 30, cow milk Rs 31 and gold Rs 36. Buffalo milk price has been increased by Rs 4 per litre to Rs 80. Amul, as a policy, passes on almost 80 paise of every rupee paid by consumers for milk and milk products to the milk producers, GCMMF said, adding that the price revision will help sustain remunerative milk prices to milk producers and encourage them to produce more milk.

The total turnover of the Amul brand rose 11 per cent in the 2025-26 fiscal to cross the Rs 1 lakh crore milestone on higher demand for dairy products. The turnover of GCMMF climbed 11.4 per cent to Rs 73,450 crore in the last fiscal from Rs 65,911 crore in the preceding financial year. GCMMF is the world's largest farmer-owned dairy cooperative with 3.6 million farmers, responsible for marketing Amul milk and milk products across 50-plus countries. It collects 31 million litres of milk every day and distributes annually over 24 billion packs of Amul products, which include milk, butter, cheese, ghee, and ice cream, among others.

Barcelona clinches 2025-26 La Liga title with 2-0 win over Real Madrid

FC Barcelona crowned La Liga champion for the 2025-26 season after a 2-0 home win over Real Madrid. The win leaves Barcelona 14 points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table, confirming its domination over the opponent for the second consecutive year. Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe was sidelined with a hamstring problem and with Federico Valverde also sidelined after his well-published



fight with Aurelien Tchouameni, Dean Huijzen was a late scratch as he suffered a problem in warmup, reports Xinhua.

Ferran Torres was the architect of Barcelona's best moments in the first half, forcing a foul from Antonio Rudiger in the ninth minute, which allowed Marcus Rashford to open the scoring with an unstoppable delivery that left goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois helpless. Tore doubled

Barcelona's lead in the 18th minute with a sharp finish after Dani Olmo set the striker up with a smart backheel. Rashford had a great chance with a dangerous cross and the team will take to the streets of Barcelona to celebrate the 2025/26 Liga and Super Cup titles with the fans. The champions' parade will pass through several iconic parts of the city in a huge blaugrana celebration will take to the streets of Barcelona.

Stock Markets Rally As Oil Prices Decline Amid Progress In US-



Benchmark Sensex rallied by 940 points on Wednesday following a sharp decline in crude oil prices after US President Donald Trump claimed progress in negotiations with Iran towards an agreement to end the war. Helped by flag-end heavy buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 940.73 points, or 1.22 per cent, to settle at 77,958.52. During the day, it surged 1,004.99 points, or 1.30 per cent, to a day's high of 78,022.78. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 298.15 points, or 1.24 per cent, to end at 24,330.95. A positive trend in global markets aided the rally in domestic stocks. From the 30-Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Trent, Asian Paints, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Eternal were among the major winners. Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid and NTPC were among the laggards. Trump suspended "Project

Freedom," to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, claiming progress in negotiations with Iran towards an agreement to end the war. In a post on Truth Social on Tuesday, Trump said, "Great progress has been made toward a complete and final agreement with representatives of Iran. "Based on the request of Pakistan and other Countries, the tremendous Military Success that we have had during the Campaign against the Country of Iran and, additionally, the fact that Great Progress has been made toward a Complete and Final Agreement with Representatives of Iran, we have mutually agreed that, while the Blockade will remain in full force and effect, Project Freedom (The Movement of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz) will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized and signed." Trump said. Project Freedom

was launched on Monday to escort ships, stranded due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, to safety. Trump's "svFreedom," to escort statement on Truth Social came hours after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that Operation Epic Fury, launched on February 28, had concluded as its objectives had been achieved. "Operation Epic Fury is concluded. We achieved the objectives of that operation. We're not cheering for an additional situation to occur. We would prefer the path of peace. What @POTUS would prefer is a deal... that is,igger was largely global — renewed optimism around a potential US-Iran peace deal led to a sharp decline in crude oil prices, offering immediate relief to an import-heavy economy like India," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

USD 101.1 per barrel. "The trigger was largely global — renewed optimism around a potential US-Iran peace deal led to a sharp decline in crude oil prices, offering immediate relief to an import-heavy economy like India," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended higher. Kospi surged over 6 per cent. Markets in Europe were trading sharply higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,621.58 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. On Tuesday, the Sensex dropped 251.61 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 77,017.79. The Nifty edged lower by 86.50 points or 0.36 per cent to end at 24,032.80

How Sunrisers Hyderabad Can Qualify After Defeat Against Gujarat Titans?

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) suffered an 82-run defeat against the Gujarat Titans (GT) on Tuesday at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. Although SRH are in the top four in the standings, their fifth loss of the season has made the situation a little tricky for the franchise. The team now needs to stay on the safe side as eight teams are in contention to qualify for the playoffs. Heinrich Klasesen (508) and Abhishek Sharma (481) have been the leading run-getters for the team, while Eshan Malinga has picked 16 wickets for the team from 12 innings. How can SRH qualify for the playoffs? SRH still have two more matches to go against Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Victories in both games will take the team to a tally of 18 points, and they will secure their berth in the playoffs. However, a defeat in any of the games might make the chances tough for them, as other teams also have a chance to reach 16 points, and everything



will depend on the net run rate for them to advance into the playoffs. Also, the team can't afford to lose both their matches, as it will send them through the exit route. So, winning at least one of the remaining two matches is a must for them. SRH's upcoming fixtures: Vs RCB (Hyderabad) - May 22 Vs CSK (Chennai) - May 28. SRH's journey in the tournament so far has been of ups and downs. They lost against RCB and then bounced back with a win against Kolkata Knight Riders

Position	Matches	Won	Lost	Net Run Rate	NRR
1	12	8	4	0	+0.551
2	11	7	4	0	+1.033
3	12	7	5	0	+0.331
4	11	6	4	1	+0.428

(KKR). The team then lost the next two matches against Lucknow

Super Giants (LSG) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) respectively. SRH got momentum after that, winning five matches in a row before suffering a defeat against KKR. The team won the next match against PBKS by 33 runs, while the Gujarat Titans lost by 82 runs. SRH have won the title in 2016 and they are in search of their second IPL trophy. The team will be aiming to do it this time around with an explosive batting unit.

'Give Us Privacy': Mouni Roy Finally Reacts To Divorce Rumours With Husband Suraj Nambiar



Rumours around actor Mouni Roy and her husband Suraj Nambiar have been making headlines ever since reports claimed that the couple's marriage was going through trouble. Speculations about their alleged divorce grew stronger after social media users noticed that the two had unfollowed each other on Instagram. Soon after, Suraj reportedly deactivated his Instagram account. After staying silent for a while, Mouni has finally reacted to the ongoing buzz around her personal life. On Wednesday afternoon, the actor took to her Instagram Story and urged media portals to stop spreading unverified reports about her marriage. "Humbly requesting all the media

houses not to publish false narratives and give us space and privacy. Please," Mouni wrote, along with a folded hands emoji. Mouni Roy Finally Reacts To Divorce Rumours With Husband Suraj Nambiar (Photo: Mouni Roy's Instagram Story) Her statement came after several online reports claimed that the couple had decided to separate after four years of marriage reports claimed that the e. However, neither Mouni nor Suraj had spoken publicly about the rumours until now. Interestingly, there had never been any major reports about trouble in their relationship before the recent social

media activity caught everyone's attention. Fans were left shocked after noticing that the couple was no longer following each other online. Mouni and Suraj got married on January 27, 2022, in Bengali and Malayali traditions. Over the years, the two often shared glimpses of their personal life on social media. From vacations and festivals to quiet moments together, Mouni and Suraj regularly posted happy pictures that gave fans a peek into their married life. Mouni Roy Finally Reacts To Divorce Rumours With Husband Suraj Nambiar (Photo: IANS) The couple had also spoken warmly about their

relationship in earlier interviews. In an old interview with a newswire, Mouni had shared what she looked forward to most in married life. "Just being together, having fun along the way and doing great things at work," she had said. Suraj had also spoken about his simple approach towards life and relationships, saying, "Just do your best today and let tomorrow take its own shape." Mouni had previously revealed that she first met Suraj at a club. Their friendship slowly turned into love, and the relationship became stronger during the lockdown when the actor stayed with Suraj in Dubai for a long period.

India OTT Release Date, Time, Streaming Platform And Other Details

As the countdown for Karuppu enters its final days, director RJ Balaji has officially revealed the trailer launch and ticket booking timings for the much-awaited Suriya starrer. The film, which is set for a worldwide theatrical release on May 14, 2026, has already created massive excitement online, and the latest updates have only added to the hype. Taking to X, RJ Balaji shared an emotional note thanking fans for keeping the excitement alive during what he described as "tough times." Referring to the rumours surrounding a possible delay due to elections, the director assured fans that the film's release plans remain unchanged. He wrote, "Amidst all the political chaos, I think each and every fan, who kept the interest & hype alive for #Karuppu. Now that it's a happy ending, let's get ready for the trailer in the evening at 7pm. Bookings will open simultaneously. @Suriya_official sir's Peak Sambavam Loading!"

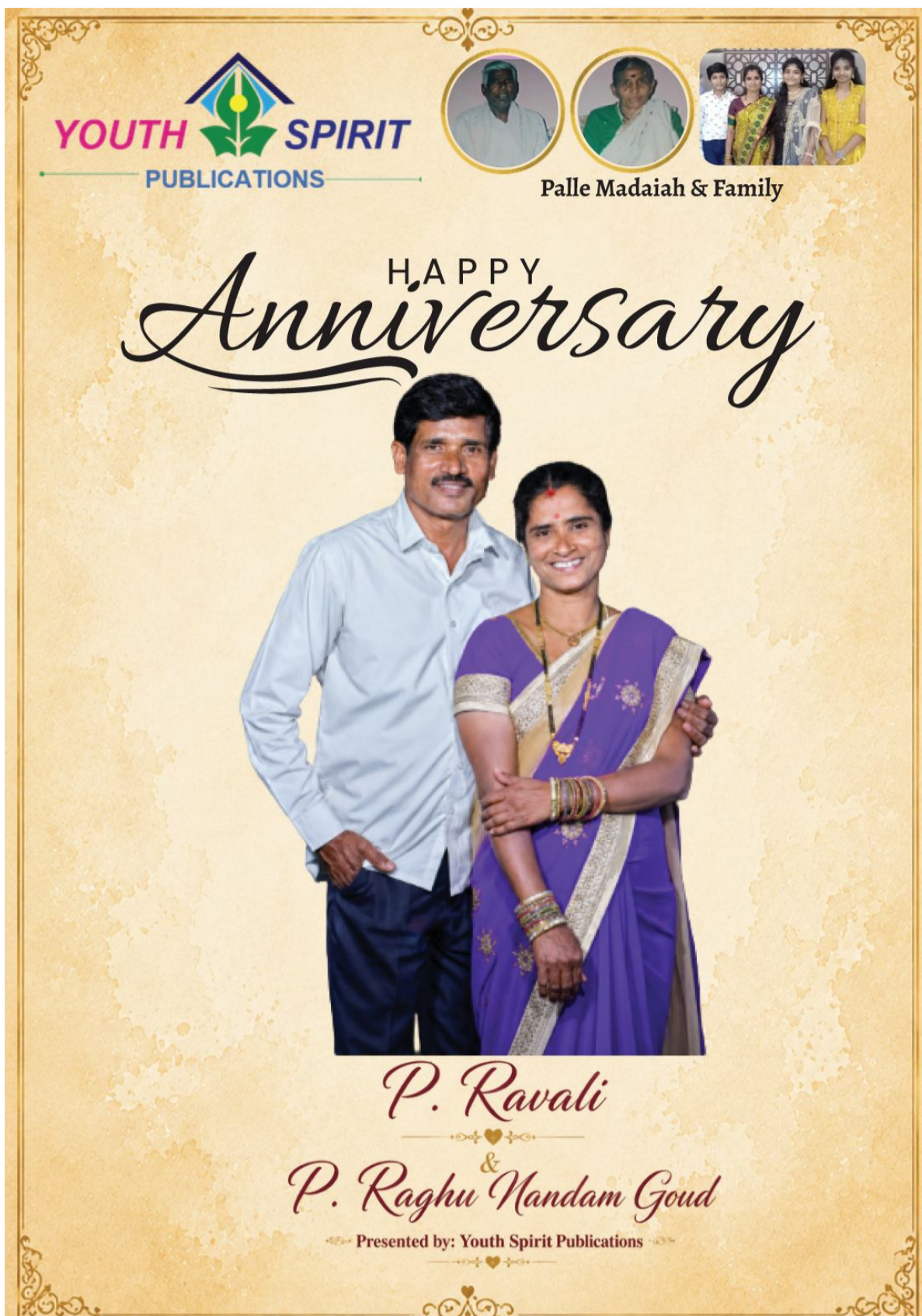
Soon after the announcement, social media was flooded with excitement posts from fans eagerly waiting for the trailer launch. According to the official update, trailer releases and advance bookings will begin today in phases across



states. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka bookings will open at 7 PM, while Kerala bookings are scheduled for 9 PM. The makers also shared a fiery promotional message online that read, "The update you'll have been waiting for... Phones ready... brightness up... Watch #KaruppuTrailer at

7:00PM & Grab your seats at 9:00PM." Meanwhile, massive hoardings and promotional banners for Karuppu have reportedly taken over several cities, adding to the buzz surrounding the film. Fans have especially been praising Suriya's intense lawyer look from the latest posters.

Earlier, the teaser showcased the actor in powerful action sequences choreographed by stunt duo Anbariv while also hinting at courtroom drama elements. Suriya appears to play a fierce lawyer who is equally dangerous in street fights, giving fans a blend of action, drama and mass moments. Adding to the excitement is Trisha Krishnan's role in the film. The actress plays a lawyer named Preethi, and her character introduction video recently received a strong response online. Directed by RJ Balaji, Karuppu is described as an action-drama-thriller and stars Suriya as Saravanan. Apart from Tamil, the film will also release in Telugu as Veerabhadru and in Kannada. The cast includes Trisha Krishnan, Indrans, Natty, Swasika, Sshivada, Anagha Maya Ravi and Supreeth Reddy. Music for the film has been composed by Sai Abhyankar



Urvashi Rautela says 'Inspector Avinash' taught her restraint over glamour



Actress Urvashi Rautela, who is all set to reprise her role as Poonam Mishra in the new season of "Inspector Avinash", has spoken about how "glamour" has often been attached to her public image, but the upcoming series demands restraint and realism. Was unlearning "performance vanity" part of Urvashi's process? The actress told IANS: "Absolutely. I think every actor who genuinely wants to grow has to unlearn a certain level of performance vanity at some point. With glamour-oriented public perception, people often expect perfection in every frame, every expression, every moment." "But projects like Inspector Avinash demand emotional hon-

esty more than visual perfection," she added. Urvashi shared that for this role, she consciously focused on "being present rather than trying to 'look performed.'" "Real people in intense situations are not thinking about how they appear they are reacting, surviving, processing emotions. That realism was very important for me to understand as an actor," said the actress. She added: "I think restraint is actually far more difficult than dramatic performance. Silence, stillness, controlled emotions — they require a different kind of confidence. Sometimes doing less truthfully is much harder than doing more dramatically." Urvashi said that as an artist, it was "definitely liberating" for her

"because it allowed me to explore vulnerability without the pressure of maintaining an image every second." Inspector Avinash, which first aired in 2023, is headlined by Randeep Hooda. The first installment featured names such as Amit Sial, Shalin Bhanot, Rahul Mittra, Zakir Hussain, Ayesha S. Aiman, Zohaeb Farooqui, Bidita Bag, Pravin Sisodia, Rajneesh Duggal, Ajay Chaudhary. The show was based on true events and the life of UP super-cop Avinash Mishra. The series revolves around the life of Avinash Mishra, who was brought in to stop the crimes in the state. Urvashi was last seen on the big screen in the film "Daaku Maharaja".