

Renovated Yadagirigutta temple transforms local economy and tourism

Hyderabad: In March 2022, the reopening of the renovated Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Vari Devasthanam marked the emergence of a new spiritual identity for Telangana. Over the past few years, the temple at Yadagirigutta has evolved into the State's spiritual capital, attracting devotees not only from Telangana but also from several southern States. Widely acclaimed for its magnificent sculptures, grand architecture and spiritual ambience, the temple has also been registering a steady rise in revenue. The shrine has now become the only temple in Telangana to record an annual gross income exceeding Rs 212 crore. Temple authorities noted that the income has increased consistently over the last three financial years, in line with the growing number of devotees visiting the shrine. On ordinary days, nearly 25,000 devotees



visit the temple, while the number rises to around 50,000 during weekends, holidays and auspicious occasions. Officials said the influx has further increased during transformation that has he summer vacation season, with devotees from neighbouring States arriving in large numbers. A senior official associated with the renovation

works observed that many visitors are captivated by the temple's artistic grandeur atop the hill, but often overlook the transformation that has taken place beneath it. According to the official, the transformation that has temple redevelopment has significantly altered the local ecosystem, benefiting small traders, hotels, restaurants, transport opera-

tors, commercial establishments and real estate activities in the region. The official added that the renovation of the Yadagirigutta temple has given a major boost to Telangana's temple tourism sector and has improved livelihood opportunities for several small and middle-class families dependent on pilgrim activity.

Why Did Congress Oppose Delimitation Bill?: Nara Lokesh to Chidambaram

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister and TDP leader Nara Lokesh on Friday defended the NDA government's position on delimitation and questioned the Congress party over its opposition to the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2026, saying southern states risk losing relative representation in the Lok Sabha once the constitutional freeze under Article 81 ends after the post-2026 Census. In a post on X, Lokesh responded to Congress leader P Chidambaram, who had argued that southern states would lose relative strength in Parliament if Article 81 is applied without constitutional changes. Also Read - UK Delegation Explains PPP, Exchange Finance Options. "Under Article 81 of the Constitution of India, the allocation of seats in the House of the People has remained frozen based on the 1971 Census. This constitu-



tional freeze is set to end after the first Census conducted post-2026. Once the freeze is lifted, reapportionment becomes inevitable. Every South Indian state - without exception - stands to lose relative representation compared to the northern states," Lokesh wrote. Also Read - Lokesh Slams Jagan, Promises Kadapa Steel Plant by 2029. He said the NDA had attempted to address the imbalance through the Delimitation Bill and a proportionate increase in parliamentary seats for all states. "That is precisely the concern we have consistently raised, and the very imbalance the NDA sought to address through the

Delimitation Bill and a proportionate increase in parliamentary seats for all states," he said. Questioning the Congress party's stand, Lokesh asked why the Opposition had resisted the legislation in Parliament. "Surely, a distinguished legal mind such as yours is fully aware of this constitutional position. Which raises an important question: why did the Congress party oppose the Delimitation Bill in Parliament? Was it political posturing at the cost of South India's long-term interests?" he asked. Also Read - BJP's Janata Varadhi Gets Strong Public Response: Madhav. "The Congress party must answer the simple questions: under Article 81, as it currently stands, what happens after the 2026 Census? Does the South not lose relative representation vis-a-vis the North? If

that is indeed the case, why oppose a constitutional mechanism intended to prevent precisely that outcome?" he further wrote. Lokesh's remarks came in response to Chidambaram's criticism of his comments in an interview with an English-language daily newspaper regarding delimitation and representation of southern States. friend, Mr Nara Lokesh, Minister in Andhra Pradesh should do his math before talking about delimitation," Chidambaram wrote on X. He said remained unchanged. "The Opposition parties opposed and defeated the Constitution Amendment Bill because the math showed that the five southern states will lose representation in the LS in terms of RELATIVE strength (if Art 81 is applied without a change)," Chidambaram said.

Mercury set to soar as heatwave likely returns in Telangana

Hyderabad: Telangana is bracing for a renewed heatwave, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad forecasts a significant temperature surge across the state starting this week. While scattered thunderstorms provided a temporary break, the IMD's Sunday evening weather forecast warns of a 'gradual rise' in maximum temperatures by 2 degree Celsius to 3 degree Celsius over the next three to four days. Isolated light to moderate rain and thunderstorms, accompanied by gusty winds of 30-40 kmph, will likely persist on Monday in districts including Adilabad, Hyderabad, Khammam, and Nalgonda. However, by Tuesday, dry weather is expected to prevail across the entire state, effectively ending the cooling effect of the recent rain. The northern



districts including Adilabad, Nirmal, and Nizamabad are expected to feel the brunt of the mercury, which is expected to range between 41 degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius. By the middle of the coming week, the high-temperature 'orange alert' zone is expected to expand southward and westward. Major centers including Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, and Mahabubnagar are projected to transition

from the present 36 to 40 degree Celsius to the higher 41 degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius range by Wednesday. Meanwhile, eastern districts like Bhadradi Kothagudem and Mulugu are forecast to stay slightly cooler, maintaining temperatures between 36 and 40. In the last 24 hours (till 8:30 am on Sunday), Adilabad recorded the state's highest temperature at 40.5 degree Celsius (1.6°C below normal), followed close-

ly by Nizamabad at 40.4 while Khammam and Nalgonda both reached the 40 degree Celsius. In the capital, the GHMC area continued to witness a relatively low 36.4 degree Celsius at Begumpet, while Dundigal recorded 37.6, and Medak witnessed 38 degree Celsius. As the dry spell takes hold on Tuesday, the maximum temperatures in Greater Hyderabad are expected to climb rapidly and range between 41 and 44 degree Celsius.

Union Minister Reviews Anti-Cyber Fraud Measures with Sajjanar

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani has held a video conferencing with Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar to deliberate on systemic measures against cyber fraud, the senior police official said on Friday. The conference was held on Thursday. "The discussions highlighted the importance of intelligence-led enforcement, inter-agency collaboration and building robust preventive mechanisms to protect citizens," Sajjanar said in a post on X. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025. The discussion focused on enhancing intelligence-sharing between telecom authorities and law enforcement agencies, and developing stronger regulatory mechanisms to prevent such misuse at the source. "The discussions highlighted the importance of intelligence-led enforcement, inter-agency collaboration and building robust preventive mechanisms to protect citizens," Sajjanar said



before enforcement intervention becomes necessary, sources said. Following the recent action taken against fraudsters engaging in cyber crimes by misusing telecom infrastructure, the minister held a review meeting with officials from the Department of Telecom and Hyderabad Police. Also Read - Sajjanar Forms SIT to Probe Crimes Linked to Nepali Gangs. "We discussed strengthening information sharing between the Telecom Department and law enforcement agencies to curb cyber

frauds, as well as developing robust regulatory systems to prevent misuse at the source itself," the Minister said in a post. "Technological systems should provide security to the people... they should not become a pathway for crimes. The government is committed to Sajjanar said before enforcement intervention becomes necessary, sources said. Following the recent action taken against fraudsters engaging in cyber crimes by misusing telecom infrastructure, the minister held a

review meeting with officials from the Department of Telecom and Hyderabad Police. Also Read - Sajjanar Forms SIT to Probe Crimes Linked to Nepali Gangs. "We discussed strengthening information shatecom infrastructure, the minister held a review meeting with officials from the Department and law enforcement agencies to curb cyber working towards further strengthening cyber security and protecting public trust," Chandra Sekhar added.

UK Delegation Explains PPP, Exchange Finance Options

Amaravati: The two sides explored cooperation in power generation and transmission, sustainable urban transport systems, green mobility initiatives, riverfront development and sports infrastructure. Emerging urban solutions, particularly district cooling systems aimed at improving energy efficiency in cities, also figured prominently in the deliberations. A focus of the talks was on financing mechanisms for large-scale infrastructure projects. The UK delegation explained different funding models, including exchange finance frameworks, and highlighted the growing importance of Public-Private Partnership models in mobilising private



investments for sustainable development projects. Also Read - Why Did Congress Oppose Delimitation Bill?: Nara Lokesh to Chidambaram. The state reiterated its commitment to building

a strong pipeline of sustainable and investment-ready projects, positioning AP as an attractive destination for international partners and investors. Tourism promotion and knowledge-

sharing partnerships were also discussed, with both sides agreeing to strengthen institutional collaboration and facilitate exchange of expertise across sectors. Principal secretary Suresh Kumar stated that AP is keen on forging outcome-oriented international partnerships that can accelerate sustainable urban growth, improve infrastructure quality and enhance public service delivery. Officials said a follow-up meeting is expected shortly to take forward specific proposals and areas of cooperation identified during the interaction.

Medak fort set for Rs 10 crore facelift to boost tourism

Medak: The historic Medak fort is all set to get a major facelift as Collector Prathima Singh assured to grant Rs 10 crore for taking up restoration and conservation works of the fort apart from providing various facilities, to attract the tourists the district. Medak fort, located close to the district headquarters, is a historically significant hill fort originally constructed during the Kakatiya period during the 12th-13th centuries and later strengthened by the Qutb Shahi rulers. The fort is known for its strategic location, ancient gateways, cannon installations, architectural remains, and panoramic view of Medak town. It is one of the important heritage monuments reflecting the rich cultural and military history of Telangana. Following the directions of Special Secretary A Vani Prasad, the Director of Heritage, Prof Arjun Rao and



other archaeology department officials met Medak Collector Prathima Singh on Thursday. They have presented a proposal on restoration and conservation works of the fort. To make it visitor friendly, the officials will provide basic amenities such as washrooms, sitting benches, drinking water and minimum information regarding the history of the fort. During the second phase of the works, the offi-

cials also wanted to build a rope way to Medak fort and site a museum or interpretation centre. Since the Heritage department had also decided to send a proposal to the union Tourism ministry seeking funds for the work, the officials said that they would take up both the phases of work simultaneously if they get a fund from Centre. Collector Prathima Singh said that they

wanted to develop a tourist circuit connecting Pocharam dam, Pocharam Wildlife Sanctuary, Medak Fort, Medak Cathedral Church, Jain Temple in Kulcharam and Sri Vanadurga Bhavani Temple. Edupayala by providing needed amenities and arranging a transportation facility between them. Heritage Department deputy directors Dr Nagaraju, N Narasiah and others were present.

Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan Elected Speaker Of 16th Assembly With Overwhelming Majority

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior Congress leader and former Home Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan was on Friday elected as the Speaker of the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly after securing a decisive majority in the Speaker election held in the House.

Contesting as the United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate, Radhakrishnan secured 101 votes in the secret ballot conducted under constitutional procedures. Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate and former minister A C Moideen received 35 votes, while National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate B B Gopakumar secured three votes. Pro-tem Speaker G Sudhakaran, who presided over the proceedings, did not cast his vote.

The election process began at 9 AM in the Assembly. Ballot papers carrying the names of all three candidates were distributed to legislators, and two polling booths were arranged on either side of the Speaker's podium to ensure secrecy during voting. Members marked

their preference and deposited their ballots in a secured ballot box placed on the Speaker's table.

Chief Minister V D Satheesan cast the first vote, followed by ministers, ruling front members and opposition legislators. Counting commenced immediately after polling under the supervision of the Legislative Assembly Secretary in the presence of polling agents representing the three political fronts. Following the official announcement of the results, CM Satheesan and Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan escorted the newly-elected Speaker to the Chair. Members from both the treasury and opposition benches congratulated Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan on assuming the post. A veteran legislator with more than three decades of parliamentary experience, Radhakrishnan has represented constituencies in Kottayam district continuously since 1991. He entered public life through student politics and later served as Kerala Students Union leader, Youth Congress state president



and KPCC general secretary. Widely regarded for his administrative experience as Home and Revenue Minister in the Oommen Chandy government, Radhakrishnan is considered a leader capable of maintaining balance and ensuring smooth functioning of the House. Congratulating him, Chief

Minister Satheesan described Radhakrishnan as a "beloved elder brother" and a leader with immense political wisdom and legislative experience. LoP Pinarayi Vijayan also expressed confidence that the new Speaker would conduct proceedings impartially and protect democratic rights within

the Assembly. With the Speaker election completed, the Assembly will reconvene after Bakrid break with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's address on May 29 and subsequent discussions on the new government's legislative and financial agenda.

Ensure Smooth Conduct of UPSC Prelims Exam in Hyderabad: Narayan Reddy

Hyderabad: In-charge District Collector C. Narayana Reddy instructed the officials concerned to conduct the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) civil services preliminary examination scheduled to be held on Sunday (May 24), peacefully and transparently.

At a meeting with officials, he instructed that the examination should be conducted transparently and peacefully and stated that as many as 44,209 candidates would be appearing for the exam in 100 centres in Hyderabad. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud

Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 He said that basic facilities had already been provided at all centres and that stringent measures would be taken to conduct the examinations in a foolproof manner. He directed that the examination should be conducted strictly in accordance with UPSC regulations. He stated that on May 24, Paper-I examination would be held from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and Paper-II examination from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. As per UPSC regulations, the gates of the examination



centres would be closed 30 minutes before the commencement of the examination. Also Read - Union Minister Reviews Anti-Cyber Fraud Measures with Sajjanar He advised the candidates to reach the examination centres before 9 am for the morning session and before 2 pm for the afternoon session. He stated that candidates arriving late would not be permitted. The Collector stated that as per UPSC regulations, candidates were not allowed to carry any electronic items into the examination centres. He instructed the police department that should be thoroughly checked by women police personnel before permitting entry into the examination centres. Also Read - Sajjanar Forms SIT to Probe Crimes Linked to Nepali Gangs Reddy stated that no person without an identity card should be allowed into the

examination centre and that unauthorized persons should not be present at the examination centres. He further stated that under no circumstances would electronic devices, calculators, cell phones, pagers, bluetooth devices, pen drives, smart watches, programmed devices, electronic gadgets, and electronic items be permitted inside the examination centres. In view of the prevailing summer conditions, the Collector directed officials to make necessary arrangements and ensure that candidates do not face any inconvenience at the examination centres. He instructed that adequate drinking water, proper ventilation, clean toilets and emergency medical support should be made available for the convenience and well-being of the students.

Delhi Riots: HC Grants 3-Day Interim Bail To Umar Khalid In UAPA Case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday granted three-day interim bail to Activist Umar Khalid in a case under the anti-terror law UAPA concerning the "larger conspiracy" behind the February 2020 riots in the city's northeastern parts. Khalid to be released on interim bail from June 1 to June 3 in view of his mother's surgery, said the high court bench. The judge further imposed conditions, asking Khalid to remain in the Delhi-NCR area, stay at his given address, not visit any place other than a hospital, and use only one mobile number.

Earlier on Thursday, Khalid had moved to HC after the trial court refused to grant him 15 days' interim bail to attend a 40-day



post-death ritual (Chehlu m) of his uncle and take care of his mother, who has to undergo surgery for lump excision at a private hospital. The trial court

opined that attending the ceremony of his deceased uncle was "not that necessary" and that other family members were available to take care of his mother.

Khalid was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being one of the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots that had left 53

people dead and more than 700 injured. The violence had erupted during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Activists Sharjeel Imam, Khalid Saifi and former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain, among others, were also booked for their alleged involvement in the larger conspiracy case, which is being investigated by the Delhi Police's Special Cell. On September 2, 2025, a bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur denied bail to Imam, Khalid, Miran Haider and other accused in the case. The Supreme Court upheld the order in January.

Gujarat Police's 'Op Milap' Traces And Reunites 701 Missing People With Families In Just Two Weeks



Gandhinagar: Hundreds of families who had lost hope of finding their loved ones are finally getting answers as Gujarat Police, under recently-launched 'Operation Milap', has managed to trace and reunite as many as 701 missing people with their families in just a span of 14 days. State Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat Police started a special campaign to trace missing people. All necessary resources were provided to the police for this mission. The success of the campaign can be seen in the fact that from May 7 to May 21, police stations across the state traced a total of 701 people and reunited them with their families." Gujarat Police's 'Op Milap' Traces And Reunites 701 Missing People With Families In Just Two Weeks Gujarat Police's 'Op Milap' Traces And Reunites 701 Missing People With Families In Just Two Weeks (ETV Bharat) The special campaign

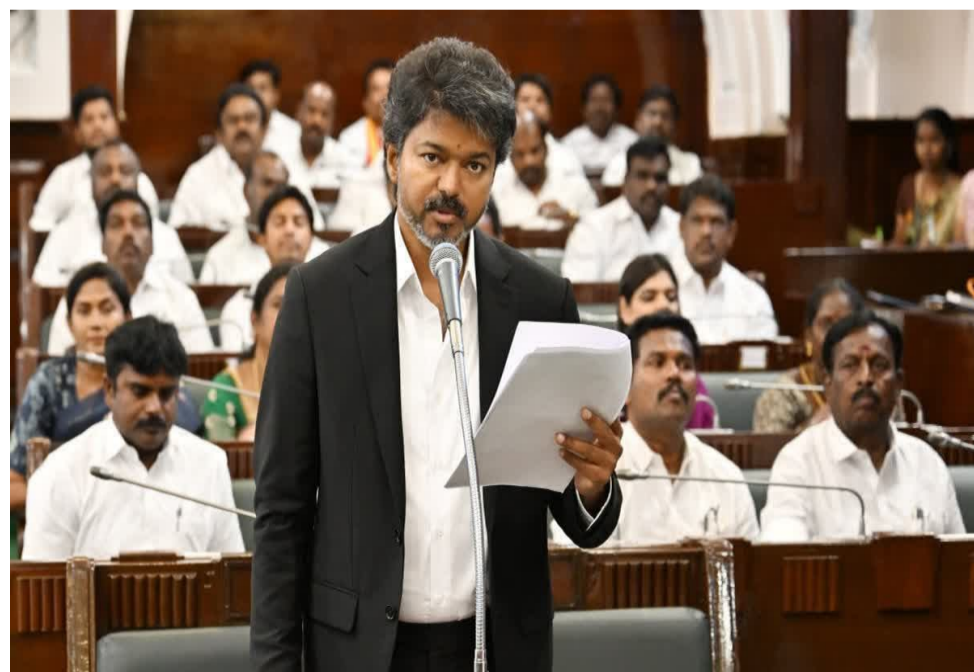
was launched in the first week of May under the leadership of Gujarat DG Police KLN Rao, and accordingly all Police Commissioners and District Superintendents of Police in Gujarat were instructed to reopen, review and investigate long-pending missing person cases. According to Gujarat Police, more than 24,767 missing person cases have been registered across the state since 2007. Additional Director General of Police (CID Crime and Railways Women Cell) Ajay Chaudhary said that under Milap, police teams are rechecking old files, analysing digital evidence and technical information, and reconnecting with families who have been searching for their relatives for years. "This operation has been started as per a planned strategy. Missing people are being traced on the basis of data, technical intelligence and human intelligence. Clear guidelines have been given to police officers. Because of these continuous efforts, we

has succeeded in tracing many people who had been missing for years." Chaudhary said. Among the 701 people traced in the last two weeks are 19 minor boys, 97 minor girls, 417 women and 168 men, he said, adding that the operation will continue. "The operation is not limited to tracing missing people alone. It is also a strong effort to break criminal networks involved in human trafficking, child trafficking and the selling of newborn babies," said another senior official. Woman Missing For 10 Years Found With Child A 23-year-old married woman from Padra taluka in Vadodara district had gone missing in 2016 along with her five-year-old son. In a complaint, her husband had mentioned that she had gone to a river ghat and never returned. Ten years later, police reopened the case and again contacted the family during the investigation. The woman's husband told police that a few months ago he had seen his wife

CM Vijay Likely To Meet Prez Murmu, PM Modi, Others During First Delhi Visit After Taking Office

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay is scheduled to visit New Delhi on Saturday (May 23) in what would be his first official trip to the national capital since assuming office earlier this month. According to sources, Vijay is expected to meet President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the visit. He is also likely to submit a memorandum seeking the release of pending central funds for Tamil Nadu and support for various developmental projects in the state.

Sources further suggest that the Chief Minister may also hold meetings with senior opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and senior leader Sonia Gandhi. Preparations are reportedly underway at the Tamil



Nadu Government Guest House in New Delhi ahead of the visit. Renovation and maintenance work is being carried out in the Chief Minister's suite, conference hall and other facilities. Government officials from Tamil Nadu

are also said to have reached Delhi to coordinate arrangements for Vijay's maiden visit as Chief Minister. Reports also suggest that special reception arrangements rooted in traditional Tamil customs are being

planned to welcome him in the national capital. However, the Tamil Nadu government has not yet issued an official confirmation regarding the proposed Delhi visit or the Chief Minister's meeting schedule. The visit comes

at a politically significant moment following the formation of the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government in Tamil Nadu. In the recently concluded Assembly elections, TVK, led by Vijay, emerged as the single largest party and subsequently formed the government with the support of alliance partners including Congress, the Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Communist Parties of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). Vijay took oath as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on May 10 along with a nine-member Cabinet. The ministry was expanded on Thursday with the induction of 23 more ministers, including two Congress MLAs and 21 TVK legislators, after which portfolio allocations were also announced.

Congress Slams Centre's 'Foreign Policy' After Rubio Announces Venezuela President's India Visit

New Delhi: The Indian National Congress on Friday lashed out at the Central government after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that the President of Venezuela would visit India next week, even before any official confirmation from India or Venezuela. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked the Centre what else does Marco Rubio have in store for India's foreign policy. In a post on X, Jairam Ramesh put out a video of Rubio's statement in Miami about his visit to India to attend the Quad meeting and also that of the Venezuelan President's. "At 5.37 PM on May 10, 2025, the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was the first to announce the halt to



Operation Sindoor. "Yesterday, Mr Rubio was again the very first to announce that the President of Venezuela would be visiting India next week. This was even before India and Venezuela had even hinted or confirmed the news," he said. Ramesh further said that the President of Venezuela

was expected to attend the launch of the International Big Cat Alliance in New Delhi next week. "However, this has since been postponed because of the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Africa," he said. "What else does the US Secretary of State have in store for Indian foreign policy?" the

Congress leader asked. Ramesh's statements came after Rubio, while speaking to media in Miami, referred to Venezuela's growing engagement with India, and said, "In fact, it's my understanding that the interim president of Venezuela will be travelling to India next week as well. So, there's opportunities. There's a lot to work on with India." The Congress has repeatedly objected to the US making announcements related to India's foreign policy before New Delhi officially communicates them, including the earlier announcement regarding the halt to Operation Sindoor.

Polls For 24 Rajya Sabha Seats Across 10 States To Be Held On June 18; Kharge, Deve Gowda Among Members Set To Retire

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced the schedule for elections to 24 Rajya Sabha seats from 10 states, including Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are among other states. The poll panel has announced the schedule for the elections to these seats in the Upper House, as the tenure of the incumbent members will expire in the next two months. EC announces Rajya Sabha polls for 24 seats



EC announces Rajya Sabha polls for 24 seats (ETV Bharat) According to the ECI schedule, out of the 24 Rajya Sabha seats, four each are from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, three each from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, two from Jharkhand and one

each from Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. In Madhya Pradesh, among the members who are scheduled to retire are former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh, as per the poll panel. In Karnataka, among the members who will retire from the Rajya Sabha are former Prime Minister and senior leader of Janata Dal (Secular), HD Deve Gowda, and Congress chief and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun

pre-fixed specification, provided by the Returning Officer, shall be used for the purpose of marking preference(s) on the ballot paper. No other pen shall be used for marking preferences in the above-mentioned elections. The ECI said adequate measures for close monitoring of the election process by appointing observers shall be taken to ensure free and fair elections. In addition to that, the ECI also shall be taken to ensure announced bye-elections to two Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The election has been necessitated following the resignation of the incumbent members-Sunetra Ajit Pawar (who is currently the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra), and CV Shanmugam from Tamil Nadu. The polling is scheduled to take place on the same along with the election to 24 Rajya Sabha seats.

Fresh Contempt Plea Filed Against Kejriwal, AAP Leaders In Delhi HC

New Delhi: A fresh criminal contempt petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court against former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other AAP leaders over alleged remarks and social media posts targeting Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. A bench headed by Justice Navin Chawla is scheduled to hear the matter on May 22. The petition has been filed by advocate Ashok Chaitanya under the Contempt of Courts Act and Article 215 of the Constitution, after obtaining the consent of ASG Sanjeev Bhandari to initiate contempt proceedings. The petitioner has alleged that Arvind Kejriwal and AAP leaders Saurabh Bhardwaj and Gopal Rai ran a "coordinated and orchestrated social media campaign" against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, which



allegedly undermined the dignity of the court and interfered with judicial proceedings. Journalist Saurav Das has also been named as an accused in the fresh plea. According to the petition, the controversy stems from a CBI revision plea challenging the discharge of accused persons in an alleged corruption case in which Kejriwal is one of the accused. The matter was being heard by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma. The plea claimed that,

after unsuccessful attempts to seek a transfer of the matter and a withdrawal of proceedings before the Supreme Court, Kejriwal moved an application seeking Justice Sharma's recusal from the case. The petitioner alleged that during this period, several posts were circulated on the social media platform X, accusing the judge of bias and conflict of interest. The plea stated that posts published on April 9 were reposted by Kejriwal,

Saurabh Bhardwaj, and Gopal Rai, questioning the judge's impartiality by referring to the empanelment of her family members as government counsel. The petitioned that Kejriwal reposted one of the posts with the comment, "Is this true? V v explosive", allegedly lending credibility to the accusations. It also referred to another post allegedly made by Kejriwal on April 27, in which he reportedly said he had lost hope of getting justice from the bench and would boycott the proceedings. Earlier, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma had initiated contempt proceedings on May 14 and observed, "If action is not taken against these accused persons, anarchy will prevail." She had further remarked that a "parallel narrative" was being run outside the courtroom and

Bhojshala Dispute Reaches SC As Hindu Groups Get Ready To Perform 'Maha Aarti' After 721 Years

Dhar: At a time when Hindu organisations are all set to perform a 'Maha Aarti' (grand prayer ceremony) at the Bhojshala on Friday (May 22) after a period of 721 years, the Supreme Court will begin hearing on a petition that challenges the recent verdict of Madhya Pradesh High Court, which ruled that the complex had been a Hindu temple. The apex court will hear the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by Quazi Moinuddin, on behalf of the Muslim side, claiming that the High Court verdict affects the religious rights of the Muslim community. The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court had recognised the Kamal Maula Mosque complex, situated within the Bhojshala premises, as a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati. The High Court has revoked the permission previously granted to the Muslim community to offer Friday prayers at the site. The Intizamia Committee of the Kamal Maula Mosque and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board were also parties in this case before the High Court. The petition challenges the High Court's findings concerning the character and usage of the disputed structure, contending that the order adversely affects the religious rights of the Muslim community. Based on a report of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the High Court accepted the claim that the disputed site was a temple. While quashing a 2003 ASI circular which allowed both Hindu worship and Muslim prayers at the site on different days, the High Court effectively held that namaz cannot be performed there. Anticipating that the Muslim side would approach the Supreme Court, the Hindu parties had already filed a caveat petition in the apex court. This petition requests the Supreme



Court not to issue any ex parte (unilateral) orders without hearing the arguments of the Hindu parties. Abdul Samad, a representative of the Muslim side, stated that senior advocate Salman Khurshid would present the matter before the Supreme Court on their behalf and seek a stay on the High Court order. Maha Aarti At Bhojshala After 721 Years Following the landmark verdict delivered by the High Court on May 15, Hindu organisations are set to perform a 'Maha Aarti' at the Bhojshala on Friday. To prevent any untoward incident, barricades have been put up at various locations to maintain law and order. Extra pickets have also been established across the city, and social media platforms are also being closely monitored, officials said. With the dual objective of instilling a sense of security among citizens and sending a strong message to anti-social elements, the police conducted a massive peace march (flag march) through the city's main roads on Thursday. During this march, police personnel were seen carrying the Tricolour, conveying a message of patriotism and communal harmony. The district administration has appealed to the public to maintain peace and strictly adhere to the court's directives. Ashok Jain, a patron of the Bhoj Utsav Samiti,

stated, "Following the historic verdict by the High Court, the Hindu community will take out a procession on Friday afternoon and perform a Maha Aarti at the Bhojshala. This particular Friday has arrived after a gap of 721 years, and the occasion is deeply intertwined with our collective self-respect. The entire Hindu community will offer prayers at the Bhojshala." Over 1,500 Security Personnel Deployed In Dhare robust security arrangements across the district, around 1,500 personnel comprising local police, two specialised companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), and contingents from other armed police units have been deployed. A state of heightened alert is being maintained at all major intersections and sensitive locations, particularly in Muslim-majority areas of the city. Security forces are also conducting continuous patrols in these zones to promptly prevent any possible incidents that may disturb peace, officials added. Worship Performed With Great Fervor at Bhojshala on Tuesday: On Tuesday, a large number of devotees gathered at Bhojshala to recite the Hanuman Chalisa and offer oblations into the 'Yagna Kund' (sacrificial fire pit). Following worship, the devotees also set off a spectacular display of fireworks outside the complex. Hindu organisations celebrated this occasion as a 'Vijay Utsav' (Festival of Victory).

Security Personnel Deployed In Dhare robust security arrangements across the district, around 1,500 personnel comprising local police, two specialised companies of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), and contingents from other armed police units have been deployed. A state of heightened alert is being maintained at all major intersections and sensitive locations, particularly in Muslim-majority areas of the city. Security forces are also conducting continuous patrols in these zones to promptly prevent any possible incidents that may disturb peace, officials added. Worship Performed With Great Fervor at Bhojshala on Tuesday: On Tuesday, a large number of devotees gathered at Bhojshala to recite the Hanuman Chalisa and offer oblations into the 'Yagna Kund' (sacrificial fire pit). Following worship, the devotees also set off a spectacular display of fireworks outside the complex. Hindu organisations celebrated this occasion as a 'Vijay Utsav' (Festival of Victory).

'India A Great Ally, We Want To Sell Them As Much Energy As They Will Buy': Rubio Ahead Of Quad Meet

New Delhi: Ahead of his visit to India, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday said the United States wants to significantly expand energy cooperation with India and deepen engagement through the Quad grouping, while describing New Delhi as a "great ally" and a "great partner". Speaking to reporters in Miami before embarking on the trip to Sweden and India, Rubio said Washington is ready to increase energy exports to India amid concerns over global supply disruptions linked to tensions in West Asia and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Responding to a question about India being affected by high energy prices due to closure of Hormuz, he said the US is ready to sell as much energy as India is willing to buy. "We want to sell them as much energy as they'll buy.

And obviously, you've seen I think we're at historic levels of US production, and US export," Rubio said. The US Secretary of State said discussions on expanding energy cooperation with India are already underway and would continue during his visit. "We want to be able to do more. We were already in talks with them to do more. We want them to be a bigger part of their portfolio," he said. Rubio also pointed to possible opportunities involving Venezuelan oil and said India is actively managing global energy pressures caused by the Strait of Hormuz situation. Rubio described India as a "great partner" and said his visit to New Delhi is important as it would also give him an opportunity to meet with ministers from the Quad nations. "They are a great ally, a great part-



ner. We do a lot of good work with them. And so it is an important trip. I'm glad we're able to do it because I think there'll be a lot for us to talk about," Rubio said. "We also think there are opportunities with Venezuelan oil," he added. He also underlined the importance of the Quad framework and recalled that his first official meeting after becoming Secretary of State was with Quad partners. "We will also meet with Quad there, which is important. I

think my first meeting as Secretary of State was with the Quad. I'm glad we're able to do it now in India, and we're going to do one later in the year as well," Rubio said. Referring to Venezuela's growing engagement with India, Rubio said it was his understanding that the acting President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, would also visit India next week. "In fact, it's my understanding that the interim president of Venezuela will be travelling to

Health Crisis Meets Geopolitics: Ebola's Impact On India-Africa Engagement

New Delhi: A deadly Ebola outbreak in Central Africa has forced the postponement of the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS IV) scheduled from May 28 to 31 in New Delhi, underlining how public health emergencies can reshape diplomatic priorities and international engagement. The outbreak, centred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) volatile Ituri Province, involves the rare Bundibugyo strain of the virus, for which no approved vaccine currently exists. The situation has heightened fears of regional spread into neighbouring countries, including Uganda and South Sudan.

Health Crisis Meets Geopolitics: Ebola's Impact On India-Africa Engagement

Medical workers perform disinfection for a demarcated Ebola treatment center at the Mubende Regional Hospital in Mubende District, Uganda, Sept. 21, 2022 (IANS)

"Recognising the importance of ensuring the full participation and engagement of African leaders and stakeholders, and mindful of the emerging public health situation on the continent, consultations were held between the Government of India, the Chairperson of the African Union, and the African Union Commission regarding the holding of the Summit and associated activities," a statement



issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday reads. "Following these consultations, the two sides agreed that it would be advisable to convene the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit at a later date. New dates for the Summit and its associated meetings will be finalised through mutual consultations and communicated in due course." Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued an advisory urging passengers with Ebola symptoms arriving in India from high-risk countries to report to the health authorities before immigration clearance. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the outbreak was first detected in early May in Ituri Province in eastern DRC, particularly in the health zones of Mongwalu, Rwampara and Bunia. The region is

a conflict-affected and highly mobile mining belt near the borders with Uganda and South Sudan, making disease containment especially difficult. The first known suspected patient — reportedly a health worker — developed symptoms around April 24 and later died in Bunia. Health Crisis Meets Geopolitics: Ebola's Impact On India-Africa Engagement

An Ebola isolation center at a hospital in the Central Region district of Mubende, Uganda, Jan. 11, 2023 (IANS)

Initial tests failed to identify Ebola because standard diagnostic kits were designed primarily to detect the more common Zaire strain of the virus. Samples later sent to Kinshasa confirmed that the outbreak involved the Bundibugyo virus species, a rare strain first identified in Uganda in 2007. The Bundibugyo strain is particularly concerning because there is

currently no licensed vaccine or approved virus-specific treatment against it. Existing Ebola vaccines were largely developed against the Zaire strain, which caused major outbreaks in West and Central Africa in the past decade. WHO officials said it could take six to nine months before experimental vaccines tailored for the Bundibugyo strain become available. According to WHO data released on May 16, 246 suspected cases had been recorded in DRC, 80 suspected deaths had been reported in Ituri Province alone, and eight laboratory-confirmed cases had tested positive for the Bundibugyo virus.

Health Crisis Meets Geopolitics: Ebola's Impact On India-Africa Engagement

This photo taken with a mobile phone on May 17, 2026 shows the border post in Goma, the Democratic Republic of

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 - ran'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.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Describes China As A 'Trusted Friend'

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday described China as a "trusted friend" and said that Beijing has supported Islamabad in an "unwavering fashion unmatched in the annals of history". He made the comments at a special ceremony held in Islamabad to mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations.

The prime minister said that Pakistan and China have always supported each other on key issues. "Beijing has supported us in unwavering fashion unmatched in the annals of history," he said. Shehbaz, who will visit China from May 23 to 26 to hold talks with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, reaffirmed that Pakistan has always supported the One-China policy, without fear or favour.

He said Pakistan was the "first Muslim country to recognise China and one of the first countries in the world to do so."

"Through our mutual efforts and endeavours, and above all, sincerity of purpose, we have built a relationship that is second to none and very unique in the world," he said.



"Earthquakes, floods, peace and difficult times - China has always supported Pakistan in an unwavering fashion," he added. He said that the C h i n a - P a k i s t a n Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a "great manifestation" of China's commitment to support Pakistan, promote its economy, provide jobs, and bring prosperity and development. Shehbaz also said that China fully supported Pakistan's peace initiative to end the Iran war. "There has been a

history of supporting each other without political swings or conditions. China has been a steadfast and trusted friend of Pakistan," he said. He also promised to provide "the highest level of security to Chinese nationals" working in Pakistan. She was rooted in mutual respect and shared aspirations, and the "journey has evolved into an all-weather, unique strategic cooperation." Zardari said that ties with China were the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign poli-

cy, which enjoys "total public, political and institutional support; thus, the relationship enjoys continuity across generations." Viceamity of our people and demonstrates the true to strengthen strategic communication, adding that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build CPEC 2.0. Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gillani, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy PM Ishq Dar and other leaders were also present on the occasion.

Republicans Call Off Vote On Iran War Resolution That Was On The Verge Of Passing

Washington: Republicans struggled Thursday to find the votes to dismiss legislation that would compel President Donald Trump to withdraw from the war with Iran, delaying planned votes on the matter into June.

The House had scheduled a vote on a war powers resolution, brought by Democrats, that would rein in Trump's military campaign. But as it became clear that Republicans would not have the numbers to defeat the bill, GOP leaders declined to hold a vote on it. It was the latest sign of the slipping support in Congress for a war that Trump launched more than two months ago without congressional approval. "We had the votes without question and they knew it, and as a result they're playing a political game," said Democratic Rep. Gregory Meeks, who sponsored the bill. Republicans in the Senate are also working to ensure they have the votes to dismiss another war powers resolution that advanced to a final vote earlier this week, when four GOP senators supported the resolution and three others were absent from the vote. The actions by congressional leaders showed Republicans are struggling to maintain political backing for Trump's handling of the war. Rank-and-file Republicans are increasingly willing to defy the president over the conflict. House Republican Leader Steve Scalise told reporters that the vote was delayed to give lawmakers who were absent a chance to vote. House Speaker Mike Johnson did not answer questions from reporters as he exited the House chamber. Frustration with Iran war grows on Capitol Hill.

On Capitol Hill, patience with the war has worn thin as the stalemate in the Strait of Hormuz disrupts global shipping and elevates gas prices in the U.S. Another House war powers resolution nearly passed last week, falling on a tie vote as three Republicans voted in favor. Meeks, the top Democrat



on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he had the votes "locked in" this time around. "People are beginning to finally listen to the American people who don't support the war in Iran, and I think there's a growing number of Republicans who see how devastating the war has been for our country," said Democratic Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state. The lone Democrat who voted against the war powers resolution last week, Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, has said he will vote in favor of the legislation next time. In a joint statement, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries and other caucus leaders said Republicans were "cowardly" to pull the vote. "Even as we prepare to recognize our nation's fallen heroes on Memorial Day, House Republicans refuse to show up and be accountable to the brave service members that have been recklessly put in harm's way," they added. Republicans have been broadly supportive of Trump's efforts to destroy Iran's nuclear capabilities, but some are now saying the president's legal timeline to wage a war without congressional approval has expired. Under the War Powers Resolution of 1973, presidents have 60 days to engage in a military conflict before Congress must either declare war or authorize the use of military force. "We're past 60 days so it's got to be brought to us to vote on. We're following the law," said

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Pennsylvania Republican, adding that he plans to vote for the war powers resolution. The dispute over war powers The White House argues that the requirements of the War Powers Resolution no longer apply because of the ceasefire with Iran. At the same time, Trump has said he was just an hour away from ordering another strike on Iran earlier this week, but held off because Gulf allies said they were engaged in negotiations to end the war. Still, Trump said on social media that military leaders should "be prepared to go forward with a full, large scale assault of Iran, on a moment's notice, in the event that an acceptable Deal is not reached." Trump has repeatedly set deadlines for Tehran and then backed off. Sen. Thom Tillis, a Republican who has so far voted against the war powers resolutions, expressed frustration with the Trump administration's stance, especially from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. "The current status quo, Pete Hegseth demonstrates how incompetent he is," Tillis told reporters, adding that he would be willing to vote for an authorization for use of military force. Earlier this week, Democratic senators rallied outside the Capitol Wednesday alongside VoteVets, a left-leaning veterans' advocacy group. They placed signs on the Capitol lawn noting that the nationwide average price of gasoline had risen to \$4.53.

Pakistan To Issue Commemorative Coin To Mark 75 Years Of Ties With China

Islamabad: Pakistan has announced the issuance of a special PKR 75 commemorative coin to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with China, as the two countries continue celebrations of their longstanding strategic partnership. Pakistan and China established formal diplomatic relations in 1951, less than two years after the founding of the People's Republic of China. Pakistan was the first Muslim nation to estab-



lish diplomatic ties with Beijing. The State Bank of Pakistan announced on Thursday that the commemorative coin would be available to the public from May 25 through its banking

counters across the country. "To mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, the Government of Pakistan has decided to issue a commemora-

tive coin of Rs 75 denomination. This coin will be available to the general public from May 25, 2026, through counters of SBP Banking," it said in a social media post. Pakistan and China are widely described as "all-weather allies", with the two countries maintaining close cooperation in defence, economy, infrastructure and diplomatic affairs over the decades. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and a major investor, particularly

Gujarat Titans' bankable top order



Gujarat Titans' bankable top order laid the groundwork for a dominating 89-run win over Chennai Super Kings here on Thursday, taking them closer to a top-two qualification for the Indian Premier League play-offs. Shubman Gill (64 off 37) and Sai Sudharsan (84 off 53) added to their remarkable consistency as an opening pair with a record seventh century partnership, fuelling Gujarat Titans to 229 for four on a true batting surface. Jos Buttler (57 not out off 27) blasted a barrage of sixes and

fours in the second half of the innings to prop up the total.

CSK, who had a slim chance of making the play-offs going into this must-win game, lost the match in the powerplay when they lost four wickets for 51 runs. The visitors' were all out for 140 in 13.4 overs after a six filled cameo from Shivam Dube (47 off 17). For the third straight season, the five-time champions failed to make the play-offs.

Mohammed Siraj took three wickets in the first six overs, including that of Sanju Samson, who

edged the very first delivery of the CSK innings. Samson fished at a wide delivery and got a faint tinkle on way to Buttler. Titans' bowling unit has arguably been the best in the tournament and they reinforced with a stellar show in the first six overs.

Complementing Siraj, Kagiso Rabada had Matthew Short at mid on off a ball that seamed back in slightly and the Australia could not connect properly. Titans capped their successful stage campaign with nine wins in 14 matches, totalling 18

points. Sunrisers Hyderabad too can reach 18 points if they win against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who are already on 18 points, tomorrow.

The top two sides out of four play-off teams get two shots at reaching the final scheduled in Ahmedabad on May 31. Earlier, Gill displayed sublime touch from ball one, toying with the left arm pacer Spencer Johnson in the powerplay. Gill got his fifty off 23 balls while Sudharsan reached the milestone off 35 balls, his fifth consecutive half-century. Gill scored the bulk of the runs in their 125-run stand off 74 balls. The range of boundaries Gill picked up off a wayward Johnson was a masterclass in batting. He mixed minimum muscle with trademark elegance to get the desired results.

His fours off Johnson included a cut off the Australian's very first ball before the Indian star used his crease

Three Trademark Applications Filed For 'Cockroach Janta Party' Name

Three separate trademark applications have been filed seeking rights over the name Cockroach Janata Party, official records showed. The filings, by lesser-known individuals, come amid growing attention around a satirical political outfit Cockroach Janata Party, that had attracted million of views and followers within days of launch for its online commentary and digital presence.

While the X account of the outfit was withheld in India, the applications filed with the Trade Marks Registry portal seek trademark registration under the category for providing political and social services. Separate applications have been filed by individuals Azim Adambhai Jam and Akhand Swaroop -- about whom not much is known -- and by a proprietorship COCKROACH JANTA PARTY. According to the Trade Marks Registry portal, the status of two applications are showing 'Formalities Check Pass', which means applications have successfully cleared the initial technical scrutiny by the trademark office. The third application status is 'Sent to Vienna Codification' means it has been sent for classification under the Vienna Classification



system. This usually happens when the trademark contains a logo/symbol/image/shape/design or graphical element. This application was filed for 'Cockroach Janta Party' (Label Mark), which means the applicant has applied to register not just the words "Cockroach Janta Party", but the complete visual/logo version of the mark. The other two have been filed for 'Cockroach Janta Party'. 'Cockroach Janta Party' is usually a word mark application, while the 'Cockroach Janta Party (Label Mark)' is a logo/design-based trademark application. While the first application was filed on May 19, the other two were filed on Thursday. In India, the process of registering a trademark starts when an

application is filed with the trademark office. First, the application is checked for proper format and then examined on its merits. This means the examiner reviews whether the mark is clear, distinctive, and not too similar to existing marks. If the examiner finds any issues, the applicant is invited to explain or fix them and once these concerns are resolved, the trademark is accepted and published in the official Trade Marks Journal, which is like a public notice. Under the Indian trademark law, a registered trademark is granted protection for 10 years from the date of filing of the application. After that, it can be renewed for additional periods of 10 years each by paying the prescribed

renewal fee. Commenting on the application, Nilanshu Shekhar, founding partner at law firm KAnalysis, said filing a trademark application is often misinterpreted as a lot of people assume that the moment you file the name belongs to you.

"That is not how it works in India. An application is only the first step. It is basically a request to the Trademark Office saying that I would like rights over this name. The office then has to examine the request, publish it so the public can see it, and give other people a chance to object. Only after all of that, and only if no serious objections come up, does a name actually get registered," he said. That whole journey usually takes somewhere between one and two years, and plenty of applications never reach the end, he said, adding that each application also openly says the name is only "proposed to be used", which means even the applicants acknowledge they have not really used it yet. "That is a real weak spot, because Indian law cares a great deal about who genuinely used a name first and who the public already connects it with. Being quick to file does not beat that, and claiming a name you

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 Huijsen 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 dangerous Rashford cross and savThe 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 fag-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 has 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 "Freedom," 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 so far, not the route that Iran has chosen," Rubio told a press conference at the White House on Tuesday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, tumbled 8 per cent to

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.

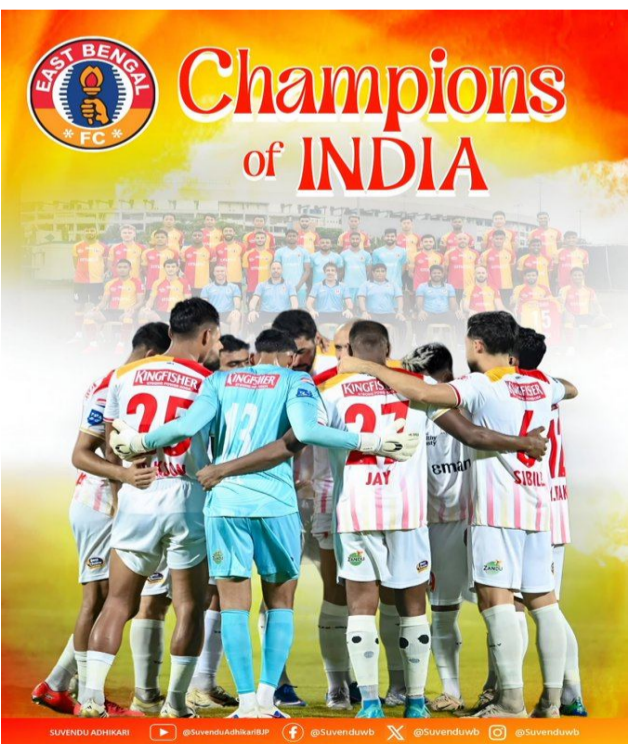
In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended higher. Kospi surged over 6 per cent. Markets in Europe were trading sharply higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded 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

East Bengal Crowned Champions Of ISL, End 22-Year Wait

Kolkata: East Bengal FC were crowned champions of the Indian Super League for the very first time here on Thursday, ending a 22-year-old title drought in the country's top-tier competition and quenching their passionate fans' yearning for silverware after a thrilling five-horse race to the top prize.

East Bengal, one of the country's most decorated football clubs alongside its arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant, emerged triumphant after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Inter Kashi at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, even as Mohun Bagan, another contender for the prize alongside Mumbai City FC, Punjab City and Bengaluru FC heading into the decisive final round of fixtures, rallied to beat Sporting Club Delhi 2-1 at Yuba Bharati Krirangan.

Mumbai FC beat Punjab FC 2-0 in their face-off, while Odisha FC and Jamshedpur FC played out a goalless draw in an inconsequential game. East Bengal, though, were made to work hard until the last minute after



Alfred's brilliant first-time finish put Inter Kashi in lead on the 15th minute. After missing multiple chances to equalise before the break, East Bengal found the much-needed equaliser in the 50th minute through striker Youssef Ezzejjari, who is also the winner of the Golden Boot after fin-

ishing as the league's highest goal-scorer with 11 strikes from 13 matches. Mohammed Rashid scored East Bengal's second goal in the 73rd minute as the Kolkata heavyweights turned the game around in stunning fashion. East Bengal last won the top-tier domestic league title during the 2003-04

season of the then National Football League under the guidance of late Subhash Bhowmick. The 33-year-old Ezzejjari, who was born in Spain and represented Morocco in the youth level, thus made up for his earlier missed chances in the game. East Bengal entered their final league game level on 23 points with Mohun Bagan at the top of the standings. However, East Bengal held a crucial advantage with a superior goal difference of +18 compared to Mohun Bagan's +13. Three other teams -- Mumbai City FC, Punjab FC and Jamshedpur FC -- were also mathematically alive in the title race heading into the final round fixtures. Because of administrative and structural changes, the ISL this season returned in a shortened, single-leg round-robin format consisting of 13 matches with no post-season playoffs, which meant

Bhagyashri Borse joins Sivakarthikeyan's 'Seyon' cast

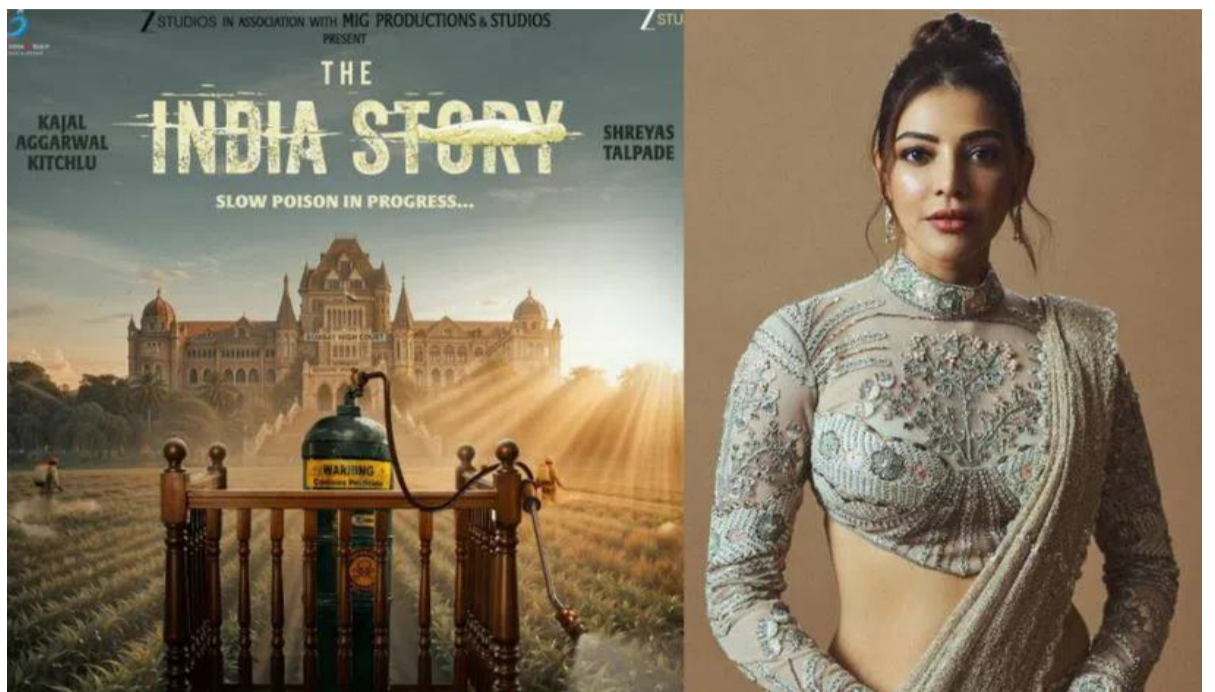
The makers of director Sivakumar Murugesan's next film, 'Seyon', featuring actor Sivakarthikeyan in the lead, on Wednesday wished actress Bhagyashri Borse a happy birthday, even as they announced that the actress had now joined the film unit. The film is being produced by Kamal Haasan's RaajKamal Films International and Turmeric Media. Taking to its X timeline to greet the actress, Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI) wrote, "A birthday to remember and a journey to look forward to! Wishing #BhagyashriBorse A very Happy Birthday as she joins the #Seyon #HappyBirthdayBhagyashri." The celebration video showcases an incident that happens on the second day of the Maasi Kalari festival that is held at the Karumaathur Virumaandi Temple. The incident in question is shown taking place two hours after a major scuffle at the festival. A group of people gather at the local police station, even as the constable explains the situation to the inspector. He informs that a major fight had broken out at the festival, even as the inspector begins inspecting those who have gathered at the station. He finds a group of young men with half-tounered heads and asks them what happened. The constable explains



that the young men with half-tounered heads behaved in an indecent manner by flashing laser lights at dancers at the festival and making reels out of it. "Therefore, somebody bashed them up and tounered half their heads," he explains. The inspector then asks another man from another group as to why he was beaten. He says he was asked what play they were to stage at the festival and he had informed them that he was to stage the devotional "Valli Thirumanam (Valli's wedding to Lord Murugan)" and therefore, he too was bashed up. The reply makes those locked up

prays to him... The celebration video gives the impression that the story will be set in Madurai. The makers also disclosed that the film would be released in October this year. The film, which will feature Sivakarthikeyan in a power-packed and dynamic new role, will be a grand rural commercial entertainer. Now, with Wednesday's announcement, it has become evident that Bhagyashri Borse will be playing the female lead in the film. The film has triggered huge interest as it marks a significant reunion between Sivakarthikeyan and Raaj Kamal Films International. Their collaboration for this film comes on the heels of the blockbuster success of their earlier film 'Amaran', which garnered both critical acclaim and commercial triumph. Produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran, the film brings together powerful storytelling and a compelling cinematic vision. Director Sivakumar Murugesan will be stepping into his second directorial venture after the much-awaited soon-to-be-released 'Thaai Kizhavi'. Adding to the excitement, this project will mark the first-ever collaboration between RaajKamal Films International, Sivakarthikeyan, and acclaimed composer Santhosh Narayanan. The film has cinematography by Vivek Vijayakumar and editing by San Lokesh. Art direction for the film is by R K Nagu, while Keerthy Sampath and

Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade-starrer 'The India Story' set for July 24 global release



Director Chettan DK's eagerly awaited socio-national drama 'The India Story: Slow Poison in Progress', featuring actors Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade in the lead, will hit screens worldwide on July 24 this year, its makers announced on Friday. Taking to its social media timelines to make the announcement, MIG Productions and Studios, one of the production houses producing the film, said, "The field that feeds you. The field that buries you. #TheIndiaStory. Slow Poison In Progress. In Cinemas 24th July 2026. Releasing in 3 languages #Hindi #Tamil #Telugu #IndiasMostShockingTruth." After unveiling an intense and thought-provoking poster, the makers of 'The India Story'

have announced that the story of the film will be out soon. Starring Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade in the lead roles, the socio-national drama has already started creating buzz for its gripping theme and striking visuals. The film is being presented by Zee Studios in association with MIG Production & Studios. Directed by Chettan DK and written and produced by Sagar B Shinde, 'The India Story: Slow Poison in Progress' explores the alarming consequences of chemical misuse, particularly in pesticide farming and its impact on public health. The recently released poster offers a glimpse into the disturbing yet important subject that the film aims to address.

Moving beyond the story of an individual or a family, the narrative reflects a much larger crisis affecting countless lives across the country. The film intends to highlight the hidden dangers of industrial negligence and the urgent need for awareness and accountability. The makers have hinted that the teaser will offer audiences a deeper look into the hard-hitting world of 'The India Story', building anticipation around the film's socially relevant premise. Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade, coming together on screen for the first time, are expected to bring emotional depth and intensity to the narrative with their impactful performances. Backed by co-producers Sumit Bagade, Anita Jadhav, editor Ashish Mhatre, lyricist Shakeel Azami, and sound designer Anmol Bhawe, the film is all set to release in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil language.

Vinayak Saidani, Kalpesh Shah, Devyani Khorate, and Prem Joshi, and further elevated by the work of DOP Nishant Bhagwat, music composer Mangesh Dhakde, and hard-hitting world of 'The India Story', building anticipation around the film's socially relevant premise. Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade, coming together on screen for the first time, are expected to bring emotional depth and intensity to the narrative with their impactful performances. Backed by co-producers Sumit Bagade, Anita Jadhav, editor Ashish Mhatre, lyricist Shakeel Azami, and sound designer Anmol Bhawe, the film is all set to release in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil language.

BB 17 fame Soniya Bansal debuts at Cannes with Radha Rani-inspired look

Actor Soniya Bansal, known for her stint on "Bigg Boss 17", garnered a lot of eyeballs with her debut at the 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival. Soniya was at the film festival to represent her environmental film "The Last Breath". For her debut appearance at Cannes, she opted for a bespoke creation by designer Dolly J. She was seen wearing a pastel pink lehenga-saree hybrid, featuring intricate white floral embroidery and delicate gold detailing, paired with a sheer dupatta gracefully draped over her head. Her look seemed to be inspired by Radha Rani. Elevating the ensemble further, she completed her regal outfit with emerald and uncut diamond jewellery, along with traditional bangles, and a subtle alta accent on her hands. A soft, dewy makeup palette, defined eyes, and a minimal bindi completed the aesthetic perfectly. The peacock feather detail woven into her hair added a symbolic nod to Indian mythology. For those who do not know, the peacock feather is believed to be closely associated with Lord Krishna and Radha Rani. Speaking about her Cannes debut, Soniya shared, "Walking the Cannes red carpet feels truly magical. The city's



charm, energy, and love for cinema make every moment unforgettable. For my Cannes debut, I wanted to embody the grace and divinity of Radha Rani while proudly reflecting my Indian roots with global elegance."

Talking about all the hard work that went behind creating the look, she added, "It took hours of detailed preparation to perfect every element of the look — from the outfit and jewellery to the spiritual essence behind it. This is a dream moment I will always cherish." "The Last Breath" revolves around the pressing issues surrounding deforestation. It emphasizes both the emotional and environmental repercussions of the loss of trees across the country.

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, Ayeesha 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".