

Telangana Sizzles Under Severe Heatwave, Red Alert Issued



Hyderabad: Telangana is reeling under intense heatwave conditions, with scorching temperatures making life difficult for people across the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that the severe heat is likely to persist for the next four days and issued a red alert for extreme conditions. According to officials, this is the first time such a high-level warning has been issued for heatwaves in the state. Distripersist for the next four days and cts including Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and Khammam have been placed

under red alert, indicating the possibility of extremely severe heatwave conditions. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 An orange alert has been issued for eight districts—Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, and Hanamkonda—where severe heatwave conditions are expected. Meanwhile, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, and Jangaon districts are under yellow alert. Authorities have urged people to take precautions, avoid direct exposure to the sun, and stay hydrated as temperatures continue to soar.

Telangana BJP Launches 'Rythu Gosa – BJP Bharosa' Yatra



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP launched a three-day 'Rythu Gosa – BJP Bharosa' yatra to address farmers' grievances and assure support to the farming community across the state. The yatra is being led by BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao, with participation from several senior leaders. The party aims to under-

stand the problems faced by farmers and criticise the Congress government's alleged failure in addressing their concerns. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Among those taking part in the yatra are BJP Legislature Party leader A. Maheshwar Reddy, MLC leader

A.V.N. Reddy, MPs D. K. Aruna, Eatala Rajender and Raghunandan Rao, along with several MLAs, MLCs and party functionaries. The BJP stated that the yatra is intended to expose what it termed as the anti-farmer stance of the Congress government while standing in support of Telangana farmers.

Gandhi Hospital Junior Doctors Protest After Assault Allegation

Hyderabad: Junior doctors at Gandhi Hospital staged a protest on Monday and boycotted regular duties, except emergency services, after a first-year postgraduate student from the General Medicine department was allegedly attacked by a patient attendant on Sunday evening. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, the first-year female postgraduate doctor on duty during the incident said the altercation began when a female attendant repeatedly approached doctors to check her mother's glucose levels because the patient wanted to eat a cookie. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 "The attendant is alleging that PG doctors are touching patients. How can doctors, irrespective of gender, avoid touching patients while examining them? Bring in such technologies if that is possible," the doctor said. "The attendant was recording videos, but initially we ignored it. One of our PGs checked the glucose levels three times and informed her. However, she again came while recording videos. Our PG then took her mobile phone and handed it over to the nurse after repeatedly asking her not to record videos inside the ward. As he took the phone, she slapped him so hard that his spectacles broke and he sustained scratches on his



head," the doctor alleged. Also Read - Centre Not Cooperating In Paddy Procurement: CM Revanth The postgraduate doctor later approached Chilkalguda Police Station, where a case was registered. Doctors claimed that police sought CCTV footage, but there were no cameras installed in the ward. "Last year too, we protested demanding security and CCTV cameras. Attendants should not record videos or photographs of doctors. There is inadequate security and the existing personnel are unable to stop such incidents," the protesting doctors said. Also Read - HMRL Enters Pact With IRFC For Re-financial working conditions, attendants d - I&CAD Engineer Caught Red-Handed Taking ₹50,000 Bribe in Warangal In the post, the attendant alleged that the duty doctor mistook her video call with a relative for video recording, shouted at her, forcibly snatched her phone, twisted her hand causing injury, and pushed her against a wall.

Centre Not Cooperating In Paddy Procurement

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday said the state government is purchasing paddy from farmers though the Centre is not "cooperating" in the process. During an interaction with CPI leaders who called on him here, he said the state government is procuring maize from farmers, though the Centre is not purchasing. The state government is procuring Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday said the state government is purchasing paddy from farmers though the Centre is not

"cooperating" in the process. maize from farmers, though it makes losses in the process, he said and stated that the state has witnessed a good yield of maize during the crop season. In a separate interaction with CPI(M) leaders who met him, the chief minister alleged that the Centre is not procuring even 30 per cent of the produce from farmers. The Centre should be questioned on this, he said. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Against the backdrop of opposition's attack on the Congress



government over the alleged delay in procurement, the CM said there has been a shortage of workers for the procure-

The procurement is not taken up at the agriculture market yards in the afternoons in view of severe heat, he said. The state government is purchasing all the produce from farmers, and it is also paying a bonus for a fine variety of paddy, he said. The Telangana government has instructed officials to speed up the procurement of paddy and jowar and complete the process before the onset of rains. The number of paddy procurement centres was increased to expedite purchases and ensure smooth transactions for farmers.

CM Revanth Unveils New Indiramma Saris For Bathukamma This Year

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy unveiled the new Indiramma sari designs at the Secretariat on Tuesday. The state government this year will distribute parrot green saris to one crore women across Telangana for free during November-December 2026. Last year, the state had distributed blue-coloured saris, and this year the colour was parrot green with a maroon border. Breaking from the BRS regime's practice of repeating colours and designs of Bathukamma saris, the Congress government has decided to change the sari colours and designs annually. The move aims to bring variety to the flag-



ship free sari distribution scheme for women. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 In the review meeting held today regarding empowering

women belonging to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the state, the Chief Minister announced several key decisions. He directed officials to formulate comprehensive plans

to establish "Mahila Shakti Super Bazars"- a corporate-style retail outlet in (SHGs) across the state, the Chief Minister announced all constituency headquarters, to facilitate

the economic growth of women's groups. In addition to the Indira Mahila Shakti Super Bazars, the Chief Minister directed District Collectors to prepare proposals for the construction of rice mills and warehouses in every Mandal, to be operated under the aegis of the Self-Help Groups. He clarified that the government would assume the responsibility of facilitating the necessary bank loans for these projects. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Dasari Anasuya (Seethakka) and Pongulati Srinivasa Reddy, along with senior government officials, participated in the meeting.

KT Rama Rao promises 24-hour drinking water supply to Hyderabad

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao promised a 24-hour safe drinking water supply to every household in Hyderabad when the party returns to power. He said the previous BRS government had achieved round-the-clock electricity supply across Telangana, and the same model would be replicated for drinking water supply. Addressing a meeting of party cadres in Kukatpally on Monday, Rama Rao recalled that before Telangana's formation, the region had suffered decades of power cuts and water scarcity under successive governments. He said protests over electricity and drinking water were once a routine part of daily life. However, the senior BRS leader said the BRS government had changed that situation, delivered uninterrupted 24-hour power supply and launched Mission Bhagiratha to provide piped drinking water to



households across the State. He said the same commitment would now be on Hyderabad's water supply. "The person who gave 24-hour power to Telangana is KCR, and the person who will provide 24-hour drinking water to Hyderabad will also be KCR," he said, adding that he would personally take responsibility for implementing the programme. He said the BRS would introduce dedicated insurance and welfare programmes for workers in the construction sector.

every section of society with promises made during the Assembly elections, including enhanced pensions and monthly financial assistance for women, but delivered none. He said Hyderabad's real estate sector had taken a severe hit under Congress policies, triggering a slowdown in construction activity and causing loss of livelihoods for lakhs of construction and centring workers. He assured that after returning to power, the BRS would introduce dedicated insurance and welfare programmes for workers in the construction sector.

Outrage Over Cops Laughing in Briefing on Girl's Murder, TN CM Orders Strict Actions

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday directed the police to promptly register cases against those involved in sexual crimes, expeditiously investigate and ensure stringent punishment to the culprits. Reviewing the law and order situation along with senior officials, especially in the wake of the sexual assault and the brutal murder of a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore, Vijay directed that those involved in heinous crimes should be dealt with strictly and the suspects awarded severe punishment. Also Read - Tamil Nadu Teen Murdered Near Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple The meeting also comes amidst opposition criticism of the law and order situation under the TVK government. During a press briefing on this issue on Sunday, Inspector General R.V. Ramati Bharati and colleagues appeared to smile and laugh,



drawing sharp criticism for insensitivity from retirees, activists, and the public amid protests. Various political parties, including main opposition DMK have been lashing out at the TVK dispensation over a spate of murders and sexual crimes. Also Read - "Give Us Jobs, Not Insults": 'Cockroach Rally' Held in review meeting, the CM directed the Advocate General to speed up the trial, ensure precautionary measures and awareness in cases pertaining to women and children. "Sexual assault cases should be tried expeditiously and the culprits given severe punishment by conducting the case properly so as to serve as deterrent to others," Vijay direct-

ed the officials, a state government release said. Also Read - Coimbatore Girl Murder: CM Vijay Reaches Out to Family, Vows Justice On Sunday, the Chief Minister spoke to the family of the girl who was allegedly sexually assaulted and killed in Coimbatore over the phone and assured them that justice would be ensured. The sexual assault and brutal murder of the child in Coimbatore's Sulur has led to shock and onnection with the incident. The meeting, held at state Secretaria K Ma niva -ral Vand Women's Rights Department Mariam Pallavi Baldev, Director General of Police Sandeep Roy Rathore, and other senior officials.

HMRL Enters Pact With IRFC For Re-financing of Rs 13,600 cr loan

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metro Rail entered into an agreement with Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) for re-financing of Rs 13,600 crore loan, which would provide financial cushioning to the company on a long-term. In Delhi, IRFC CMD Manoj Kumar Dubey and CS K. Ramakrishna signed on the related documents to this effect. With a 20-year time limit and payment scheduled for every trimester, the loan would be extended to Hyderabad Metro. CS Ramakrishna said that 100 per cent stake of RIL had been transferred to the government. He said that the government was committed to improve the public transport system in the state. Hyderabad is growing as the key growth engine in the country. If the Metro connectivity improves, there would be less traffic and passengers can enjoy more facilities, he



Enhancing Hyderabad's Image

said. Speaking on the occasion, CS Ramakrishna said that 100 per cent stake of RIL had been transferred to the government. He said that the government was committed to improve the public transport system in the state. Hyderabad is growing as the key growth engine in the country. If the Metro connectivity improves, there would be less traffic and passengers can enjoy more facilities, he

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connectivity improves, there would be less traffic and passengers can enjoy more facilities, he said. He thanked the Centre, IRFC, L&T, HMRL teams for assisting in loan refinancing. The government is dedicated to install an efficient and stable public transport system in Hyderabad, he added.

Major Applicant Does Not Need Parent's ID For Passport: Telangana HC

Hyderabad: Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka of the Telangana High Court held that passport authorities cannot insist upon identity documents of parents for issuance of a passport to an adult applicant and observed that such insistence was illegal and arbitrary. The judge was dealing with a writ petition filed by Neha Fatima and another challenging refusal of an application by the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad, on the ground that the applicant had not furnished documents of the parents, voter ID and ration card. According to the petitioners, they applied for a fresh passport on August 22, 2025, and produced all required documents including Aadhaar card, birth certificate and marriage certificate. The passport authorities rejected the application after an adverse police verification report stating that documents of



parents were not furnished. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Counsel for the petitioners contended that for adult applicants, only personal proof of identity, address and date of birth were required and that parents' documents were insisted upon only in the case of minor applicants. It was argued that rejection of the application solely on the basis of non-production of parents' identity proof was contrary to the Passports

Act and Passport Rules. The Union of India, represented by the passport authorities, contended that the application was processed on a pre-police verification basis and an adverse report was received from the police. It was pointed out that a show-cause notice was issued to the petitioner but no reply was furnished initially. After examining the material on record and the statutory scheme under Section 6 of the Passports Act, Justice Bheemapaka observed that for an adult passport applicant, identity of parents documents were not mandatory and insistence upon such documents would be arbitrary. The court noted that the petitioner had previously been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for more than two years and therefore Section 6(2)(e) of the Passports Act would disentitle issuance of a passport for a period of five years from the date of conviction. The judge observed that the record did not disclose the date of conviction or whether the statutory five-year period expired. Disposing of the writ petition, the court directed passport authorities to consider the application in accordance with law if the five-year bar period had expired.

Vijayawada Completes 99% Household Enumeration

Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has completed 99 per cent of household enumeration under the Census-2027 exercise, commissioner H.M. Dhyana Chandra said on Sunday. He said officials, enumerators and supervisors had been conducting the survey in a coordinated manner by identifying and recording details of every household within the municipal limits. The commissioner said the household enumeration process had reached 99 per cent completion, while the population census component had so far achieved 67 per cent completion. Also Read - Truck Driver Burnt Alive in Collision on NH-44 Near Penukonda Explaining the delay in the population census process, Dhyana Chandra said several families had



travelled out of the city during the summer holidays, while many houses remained locked. He said enumerators and supervisors were revisiting locked houses regularly to collect details after residents returned. Describing the Census exercise as an important national programme, the commissioner appealed to citizens to cooperate

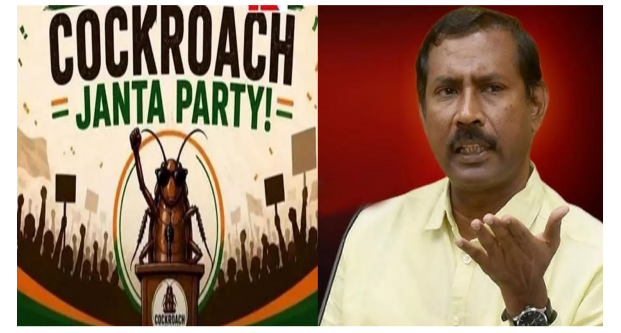
by providing accurate information. He said reliable statistics played a crucial role in welfare planning, infrastructure development and government policy decisions. Dhyana Chandra appreciated residents for not would also soon supporting the household enumeration process. He said enumerators and supervisors were revisiting

locked houses regularly to collect details after residents returned. Describing the Census exercise as an important national programme, the commissioner appealed to citizens to cooperate by providing expressed confidence that the population census component would also soon reach 100 per cent completion.

Cockroach Party Outcome Of Youths' Frustration, Not Political

Amaravati: The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Monday said the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) is the outcome of the frustration of the youth in the country and that it should be seen through the lens of young people's concerns. Days after the government banned the social media handles of CJP, TDP state president Palla Srinivas Rao said the issue of CJP should not be viewed from a political angle. Also Read - AP Govt Offers Rs 10 Lakh Collateral-Free Loans For DWCR Women "The issue of CJP should not be seen through a political angle alone but also through the lens of young people's emotions to understand them," he said in a statement. The TDP leader noted that democratic governments should responsibly receive the feelings being expressed by the country's youth about their aspirations, employment opportunities, competitive examinations, and economic pressures. Observing these trends on social media, Rao said the government should incorpo-

rate necessary policy changes and amendments to fulfil young people's aspirations. He said the government's goal is to rule in such a fashion that youth do not feel that they were cheated, but that their aspirations were fulfilled. Also Read - MSMEs Backbone of Economy, Says CM Chandrababu Naidu According to the TDP leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu are always concentrating on these aspects, including the future of youth and economic development. He emphasised that the NDA government is moving ahead with long-term plans on employment generation, Digital India, startups, the manufacturing sector, industrial development, and attracting international investments. Also Read - Leopard Rescued Safely from SV Veterinary University in Tirupati Social media is turning into an uncontrollable venue, including a platform to exert influence from across the border or overseas, and it can-



not be ignored. However, he contended that every criticism need not be treated as an anti-national action. Srinivas claimed that some political parties are allegedly looking to cash in on the concerns of young people, adding that it is not good to turn problems into political campaign vehicles. Further, he underscored that listening to criticism was not a weakness in democracy but a sign of mature leadership. Moreover, he underlined that Indian youths are not against the country but desire opportunities, transparency, and speedy governance. Also Read - Truck Driver Burnt Alive in Collision on NH-44 Near Penukonda He said the NDA government aims

to empathise with young people's aspirations, protect national security, and move forward. The 'X' account of Cockroach Janata Party, a satirical digital outfit that came up recently and took social media by storm, was withheld in India on May 21. Soon after came another handle - 'Cockroach is Back' with the tagline 'Cockroaches Don't Die'. The satirical platform emerged following a controversy around remarks attributed to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant regard "parasites" during "senior" designation of lawyers. The CJI later clarified that his observations, directed at individuals entering the legal profession through "fake and bogus degrees", were misquote

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

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.

Visakhapatnam Beaches Mapped, 122 High-risk Days Identified

Visakhapatnam: Particularly hazardous for tourists and inexperienced swimmers. Also Read - Pawan Kalyan Inspects Godavari Pushkaralu Works in Rajamahendravaram Dr Venkateswarlu's work reveals that wave direction is the most critical factor influencing rip current formation. At RK Beach, currents are most likely when waves approach between 110° and 180°, while at Rushikonda Beach, they occur predominantly between 40° and 170°. Bathymetry, or seabed topography, was also found to play a significant role, with wave height and wave period determining current intensity, while tidal variations exerted less influence. Also Read - Fuel Prices Surge Again; Petrol Crosses ₹117 in AP, ₹115 in Hyderabad The study involved extensive fieldwork at RK Beach, Rushikonda, Yarada, Appikonda, and Bheemili beaches, including beach profiling, wave measurements, bathymetric sur-



veys, and direct rip current observations. For the first time in India, coastal video monitoring techniques were integrated with numerical modelling to identify rip current hotspots. Nearly 800 simulations were conducted for RK Beach and 1,500 for Rushikonda under varying conditions, leading to the identification of persistent danger zones. Also Read - SP Urges Youth To Act As Anti-Drug Warriors Such mapping, researchers noted, could guide authorities in deploying lifeguards, installing warning signs, and strengthening public safety systems. The

research also drew on video imagery, satellite data, and field observations to track shoreline changes, sandbar formations, beach cusps, and nearshore bathymetry. Conducted under the guidance of Prof CV Naidu, the work was carried out in collaboration with scientists from ISRO in Ahmedabad and NCESS in Thiruvananthapuram. Dr Venkateswarlu presented his PhD thesis, "An Integrated Study of Nearshore Processes using Innovative Coastal Video Monitoring Techniques and Numerical Modelling," in May 2026, and was honoured with the "Best

Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked 4th Time In Two Weeks; Petrol Costs Over Rs 100/litre In Delhi

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel prices were increased by up to Rs 2.71 per litre on Monday, the fourth increase in two weeks, making the rates go up by Rs 7.5/litre since May 15. In the latest hike, petrol prices were raised by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71, according to industry sources. Petrol prices were raised to Rs 102.12 a litre in Delhi from Rs 99.51 previously, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 95.20 per litre from Rs 92.49. Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked 4th Time In Two Weeks; Petrol Costs Over Rs 100/litre In Delhi (PTI)

The back-to-back increases come after global crude oil prices surged more than 50 per cent since late February



following US-Israeli strikes on Iran and disruptions to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route. Petrol and diesel prices were increased on May 15 by Rs 3 per litre each, and on May 19 by 90 paise a litre. This was followed by an 87-paise per litre increase in petrol and a 91-paise hike in diesel rates on May 23.

After Monday's increase, petrol at PSU pumps in Mumbai now costs Rs 111.21 per litre

and diesel Rs 97.83, while prices in Kolkata rose to Rs 113.51 and Rs 99.82, respectively. In Chennai, petrol is priced at Rs 107.77 and diesel at Rs 99.55. Petrol prices in Jaipur have risen by Rs 2.82 per litre, while diesel prices have increased by Rs 2.73 per litre. Following the latest revision, petrol in Jaipur now costs Rs 112.66 per litre, up from Rs 109.84, while diesel prices have climbed from Rs 95.05 to Rs 97.78 per litre. The fol-

lowing are the revised prices in major Indian cities: Diesel Prices Hiked 4th Time In Two Weeks; Petrol Costs Over Rs 100/litre In Del Revised prices in major Indian cities (ETV Bharat) Prices vary across states due to local tax es. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) together control 90 per cent of India's fuel market. The hike on May 15 came, days after the assembly elections concluded in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Every time state-owned firms raised prices, private fuel retailers such as Nayara Energy swiftly matched them, raising petrol and

Pope To Release Major Artificial Intelligence Manifesto

Vatican City: Pope Leo XIV will release on Monday his long-awaited manifesto on artificial intelligence (AI), a bid to address ethical and social challenges as the technology rapidly develops worldwide. The US pope will attend the presentation of the "Magnifica Humanitas" (Magnificent Humanity) encyclical at the Vatican in person -- a first for the Catholic Church. He will be joined not only by officials from the Holy See but experts including the co-founder of the American startup Anthropic, a key player in the booming AI landscape. Anthropic is in a legal battle with the US military after refusing to change its internal policy prohibiting the use of its Claude model for lethal autonomous warfare or mass surveillance. Leo has denounced the race for AI in the military field, saying that "delegating decisions concerning the life and death of human beings to machines" is a "destructive spiral". Since his election a year



ago as the Church's first US pope, he has repeatedly warned of the dangers of AI, including "the gradual replacement of reality by its simulation". And he has slammed the "environmental devastation" caused by the "frenzied race" for rare earth elements, which are essential for modern electronics. "Wake-up call" - AI could be worth up to \$4.8 trillion (4.13 trillion euros) by 2033, a 25-fold increase in a decade, while concentrating its profits in the hands of a limited few, according to the UN. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last year warned "the window is closing to shape AI -- for peace, for jus-

justice, for humanity". Leo has made the hot-button issue a cornerstone of his papacy in dedicating to it his first encyclical -- a document which lays the basis for Church teaching and longer-term debate. Experts say "Magnifica Humanitas" could prove as influential as Pope Francis's "Laudato Si", a 2015 climate manifesto that triggered political and civic reactions worldwide. The Vatican sees this new text as an extension of its social teachings on "protecting people in the AI era". It was signed on May 15, the 135th anniversary of a 1891 encyclical by Leo XIII which laid the foundations of the Church's social doctrine during

the Industrial Revolution. "The Industrial Revolution transformed the labour market, people's lives, hegemony, and power dynamics," said Marijana Grbesa, political science professor at the University of Zagreb, and a speaker at an AI conference in the Vatican. "At the time, it was necessary to train individuals in the use of tools. The same is true today: we need to train and educate," she told AFP. The pope, she said, will emphasise that "education is not enough today". "It's a wake-up call for the whole of civilisation", to "be rational when we use these tools". "Perception of reality" - Leo has emphasised the need for "digital literacy... to understand how algorithms shape our perception of reality." In April he warned against the use of AI to fuel "polarisation, conflict, fear, and violence". And in January he lamented "the lack of transparency in the creation of the algorithms" that govern the operation of various

Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong To Visit India To Attend Quad Meet

Canberra: Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong is set to travel to India on Monday to attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting and deliberate on "shared interests", including maritime security and critical minerals. India is hosting the meeting in its capacity as the current chair of the coalition on Tuesday. "In these uncertain times, the Quad is a vital partnership -- four nations working together to shape a peaceful, stable and prosperous future for the Indo-Pacific region," Wong was quoted as saying in a press release issued on Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs' website. Wong said that Australia, India, Japan and the United States are "delivering concrete outcomes on shared interests including maritime security, critical minerals supply, infrastructure



development and disaster relief." She said that she will also hold the 17th Australia-India Framework Dialogue with the Minister for External Affairs, S Jaishankar, while in India. Wong asserted that Australia and India's partnership has "never been more consequential." "As Comprehensive Strategic Partners,

Australia and India are deepening cooperation in trade and investment, defence and maritime security, climate and energy transition, strategic technology, and education and skills; with an enduring social connection at the heart of our partnership," she said. The Quad, comprising India, the US, Australia and Japan, has emerged

as a key grouping largely focusing on peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. US secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is currently on a visit to India, will also attend the meeting. The upcoming meeting is also likely to set the broad agenda of the Quad summit that is likely to take place in India later this year

UCC Bill Introduced In Assam Assembly; Seeks To Ban Polygamy, Register Live-in Relationships

Guwahati: The Assam government on Monday tabled a Bill on the Uniform Civil Code, seeking to ban polygamy and make registration of live-in relationships compulsory. The Bill, however, said that it will not be applicable to any of the Scheduled Tribes residing in Assam. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Atul Bora tabled 'The Uniform Civil Code, Assam, 2026 Bill' in the assembly on behalf of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The opposition parties, including Congress, Rajiv Dal and Trinamool Congress, opposed the move and demanded wider consultation with all the stakeholders before its introduction. "The Bill aims to consolidate and simplify laws governing marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships," Sarma said in the 'Statement of Object and Reasons' in the Bill. For marriage, the Bill



sets 21 years and 18 years as minimum age for men and women respectively, and prohibits polygamy, he added. "Importantly, it protects Assam's cultural diversity by allowing marriages to be performed according to existing religious and customary rites," Sarma said. To safeguard legal rights, the Bill proposes to make marriage and divorce registration compulsory, which will be vital for securing maintenance, inheri-

ance and other legal protection for spouses. "For the first time, the Bill provides a legal framework for live-in relationships. By requiring registration, the law ensures that the rights of partners -- and any children born from such unions -- are formally recognised and protected," the CM said in the Bill. He further said that UCC aims to modernise succession laws to ensure a fair and equal distribution of property. "It introduces uniform

rules for inheritance, ensuring that the transfer of assets is handled justly for all residents of the state," Sarma stated. It also proposed to establish necessary administrative machinery, including the appointment of registrars, to implement the reforms. "This ensures that the code is not just a policy but a practical tool for social justice and equality in Assam," Sarma said. "The Constitution, under Article 44, directs the state to strive for a Uniform Civil Code for its citizens. This Bill seeks to implement this principle within Assam to ensure a common legal framework for all residents, regardless of their religion," Sarma said. By creating a uniform system, the code ensures legal clarity and protects the fundamental rights of every individual, he added.

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,

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 sday: 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 sday: 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).

Iranian Embassy In India Rejects Rubio's Remarks Over Nuclear Programme;

The US and Iran are close to signing an agreement that involves a 60-day ceasefire extension during which the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened, and Iran would be able to freely sell oil, Axios reported, citing a US official familiar with the draft agreement. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said earlier in the day he hoped his country could soon host the next round of peace talks between Iran and the United States. The statement comes after the US President Donald Trump on Saturday (US time), said a deal with Iran had been "largely negotiated," with the proposal including opening the crucial Strait of Hormuz, though the agreement was "subject to finalisation." "An Agreement has been largely negotiated, subject to finalisation between the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the various other Countries," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform, listing a number of Middle East powers along with Turkey and mediator Pakistan. "In addition to many other elements of the Agreement, the Strait of Hormuz will be opened." Among the Middle East countries whose leaders joined a call on Saturday to discuss the deal were Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain, Trump said. He added that he had a separate call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying it "likewise went very well." Earlier in the day, Iranian officials said gaps remained between the parties and that the dispute over its nuclear program would not be



part of the initial talks. Tehran said it was finalising a 14-point framework for a deal. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei noted what he called "a trend towards rapprochement," but said "it does not necessarily mean that the United States and we will reach an agreement on the important issues." "Our intention was first to draft a memorandum of understanding, a kind of framework agreement composed of 14 clauses," he said on state television. President Donald Trump said Sunday that he had told US negotiators "not to rush into a deal" with Iran amid anticipation -- and mounting criticism -- of an agreement to end the war in the Middle East. "The negotiations are proceeding in an orderly and constructive manner, and I have informed my representatives not to rush into a deal in that time is on our side," Trump wrote on his Truth Social account. "The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed," he wrote. The United States has imposed a blockade of Iranian ports since April

13 after Tehran virtually halted traffic through the economically vital Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli attacks on Iran that began February 28. "Both sides must take their time and get it right," Trump wrote in the same Truth Social post, while slamming the 2015 nuclear deal that former president Barack Obama agreed with Iran. "Our relationship with Iran is becoming a much more professional and productive one. They must understand, however, that they cannot develop or procure a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb," Trump wrote. (AFP) Lebanon's health ministry said Sunday that an Israeli strike the previous day in the country's south killed 11 people including six women and a child, despite a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war. "The Israeli enemy strike on the town of Sir al-Gharbiyeh in the Nabatieh district resulted in a massacre whose final toll is 11 dead including a child and six women, and nine wounded including four children and a woman," the ministry said in a statement. US President Donald Trump has

assured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he will hold firm on his demand for the dismantling of Iran's nuclear programme, as a condition in any final agreement with Tehran, a senior Israeli official told AFP. "President Trump made clear that he will remain steadfast in the negotiations regarding his longstanding demand for the dismantlement of Iran's nuclear programme and the removal of all enriched uranium from Iranian territory, and that he will not sign a final unday issued a strongly worded region" and deflect attention from the policies of the United States and Israel. The statement posted by the Iranian Embassy in India, through its official X handle, said, "The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India rejects the recent remarks made by the United States Secretary of State regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasizes that such allegations constitute a clear attempt to distort the realities of the region and to deflect attention from the destabilizing policies of the United States and the Zionist regime."

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 - Iran'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.

China Launches Three-crew Space Flight As Part Of Moon Ambitions

China: launched its Shenzhou-23 mission on Sunday, which will see a Chinese astronaut spend a full year in orbit for the first time, a crucial step in Beijing's ambition to send humans to the Moon by 2030. The Long March 2-F rocket blasted off in a cloud of flames and smoke on time at 11:08 pm (1508 GMT) from the Jiuquan launch centre in China's northwestern Gobi Desert, video from state broadcaster CCTV showed. The mission marks the first spaceflight ever undertaken by an astronaut from Hong Kong: 43-year-old Li Jiaying (Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese), who previously worked for the Hong Kong police. Other crew members include 39-year-old space engineer Zhu Yangzhu and 39-year-old Zhang Zhiyuan, a former air force pilot, who is travelling into space for the first time. The crew is set to carry out numerous scientific projects in life sciences, materials science, fluid physics and medicine. A key experiment of Shenzhou-23 will be the full-year stay in orbit by one of the crew in order to study the effects of a long stay in microgravi-



ty. Year-long experiment The experiment is part of China's preparations for future lunar missions, as well as missions to Mars. The astronaut selected for this one-year mission will be named at a later date, depending on the progress of the Shenzhou-23 mission, a spokesperson for the Chinese space agency (CMSA) said on Saturday. The main challenges will be long-term effects on humans, including bone density loss, muscle wasting, radiation exposure, sleep disturbances, behavioural and psychological fatigue, said Richard de Grijs, an astrophysicist and professor at Macquarie University in Australia. He also underlined the importance of reliable water and air recycling systems, as

well as the ability to manage potential medical emergencies far from Earth. China is "steadily" building operational experience for "sustained occupation" of its Tiangong space station, and year-long missions are an important step towards future lunar and potentially deep-space ambitions, de Grijs told AFP. "A year in orbit pushes both hardware and humans into a different operational regime compared with the shorter Shenzhou missions of the programme's earlier phases," he said. Crews aboard Tiangong have until now largely remained in orbit for six months before being replaced. The Shenzhou-23 mission is part of China's goal to land astronauts on the Moon before 2030, a race in

which the United States is also competing with its Artemis programme. Pakistani crew members China is testing the equipment required for its goal, with an orbital test flight of its new Mengzhou spacecraft set for 2026. Astronauts to the Moon. Beijing hopes to have built the first phase of a manned scientific base by 2035, known as tnt has significantly expanded its space programmes over the last 30 yearhang'e-4 probe on the China has been formally excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) since 2011, when the United States banned NASA from collaborating with Beijing, prompting the Asian giant to develop its own space station project.

I'm A Big, Big Fan Of PM Modi; India Can Count On Me 100%: Trump

New Delhi: India can count on me 100 per cent, US President Donald Trump said on Sunday night, calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "great" friend during an event celebrating the 250th anniversary of American independence. The event at the Bharat Mandapam here was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and US Ambassador Sergio Gor. The highlight of the event was a performance by AR Rahman. "I just want to say hello to everybody, I love the Prime Minister, (Narendra) Modi is great, he is my friend and I just want to say a very good evening to everybody," Trump said in a phone conversation with Gor. "I am a big, big fan of Prime Minister Modi," he said. The US ambassador held his phone to a microphone for the audience to hear Trump's remarks. "We've never been closer to India and India can count on me 100 per cent and our country," the US president said. "If they ever need help, they know where to call -- they call right here." Trump also claimed that the US economy was doing well. "We're doing well, we're setting records. We've a record economy, a record stock market," he said. The highlight of the evening was Rahman's performance as he sang hits such as "Dil Se", "Maa Tujhe Salaam" and "Tere Bina". In his remarks, Trump also described Rubio as the "greatest secretary of state in the history of the US" and concluded by saying: "Say hello to Prime Minister Modi and let him know I'm a big



fan." In his brief address, Rubio described India as a key partner of the US. Jaishankar said the US declaration of independence articulated ideas that shaped the modern world such as individual liberty, rule of law, free speech and accountable governance, and their resonance in India was natural given the country's history as a pluralistic society with a consultative ethos. The experiences of the US independence movement were taken into account by the makers of India's Constitution and the affinities between the two sides have grown with deeper economic and technology ties, Jaishankar said. The shared traits of being political democracies, market economies and open societies have been

strengthened by a convergence of national interests and this has enabled the two sides to overcome the "hesitations of history", the external affairs minister said. The Indian diaspora in the US has helped build political understanding between the two countries, he noted. Jaishankar argues that the world is going through an era of transition and it makes a good case for the India-US relationship to grow stronger. "Both nations gave a common interest in de-risking the global economy and providing the world with more choices," he said. There was also a celebration of Rubio's birthday and the evening was capped by a performance by American band Village People.

Outgoing Envoy Reaffirms India's Willingness to Deepen Ties With Bangladesh

Dhaka: Outgoing Indian High Commissioner Pradyuman Verma on Sunday reiterated New Delhi's willingness to enhance "multifaceted" ties with Dhaka in a farewell call on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Verma, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union. He met Rahman, who is also the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairman, at the Prime



Minister's Office at the Bangladesh Secretariat, according to a social media post by the party. Rahman thanked Verma for his contributions to bilateral relations and conveyed best wishes

for his next assignment, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said in a post on X. Verma "reaffirmed India's willingness to deepen multifaceted engagement with

Bangladesh for the mutual benefit and shared prosperity of the peoples of both countries," it said. The two also briefly discussed various potential areas of cooperation driven by the development priorities of the two countries. Foreign Minister Khalidur Rahman was present at the meeting, according to the BNP's post. Verma assumed charge as the High Commissioner to Dhaka on September 21, 2022. He will be replaced by

Asian Junior Squash: Aryaveer Clinches Crown; India Returns With Rich Medal Haul From China



India's rising squash talent Aryaveer Dewan scripted history on Sunday by becoming only the fourth Indian to win the prestigious Asian Boys Under-19 title at the 33rd Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in Panzhihua, China, on Sunday. The Delhi youngster produced a commanding performance in the final, defeating South Korea's Jonghyeok Lee 11-2, 11-7, 11-9 in straight games

to cap off a memorable campaign and continue India's strong legacy in junior Asian squash. With the triumph, Aryaveer joined an elite Indian list featuring Ravi Dixit (2011), Velavan Senthilkumar (2016) and Veer Chotrani (2019) - the only othstage in Aryaveer's er Indian male players to have won the coveted Asian U-19 crown before him. Seeded 3/4, Aryaveer entered the final after stunning Malaysian top

seed Nickhileswar Moganasundharam in the semifinals. His title-winning run further underlined his rapid rise in Asian junior squash after he had captured the Boys' U-17 Asian title last year. The victory also comes at a crucial stage in Aryaveer's development ahead of the upcoming World Junior Championships scheduled in two months. "Truly a magnificent achievement from Aryaveer winning back-

to-back titles. This will give him immense confidence going into the World Junior Championships," said Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) secretary-general Cyrus Poncha, Dronacharya awardee. India enjoyed an impressive overall campaign in China, finishing with one gold, three silver and four bronze medals across categories. Shiven Agarwal settled for silver in the boys under-17 category after losing to Pakistan's Nauman Khan in the final 10-12, 11-7, 11-2, 11-5. Anika Dubey also finished runner-up in the girls U-17 section after going down 9-11, 11-4, 12-10, 11-4 to Malaysia's Harleen Tan, while Amarya Bajaj claimed silver in the boys U-13 event following a hard-fought 5-11, 8-11, 11-stage in Aryaveer's 9, 12-10, 11-6 defeat against Hong Kong's Leung Ngo San. Bronze medallists include: Lokesh Subramani (boys U-17), Abhyuday Arora (boys U-13), Shanaya Parash (girls U-13), and Divyanshi Jain (girls U-13).

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 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.

IPL 2026 Playoffs Schedule: Fixtures, Venues, Teams And All You Need To Know

Hyderabad: The playoff scenario for the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) has now become clear. With 16 points, the Rajasthan Royals have become the fourth team to qualify for the playoffs. In their final league match held on Sunday (May 24), the Rajasthan Royals (RR) defeated the Mumbai Indians (MI) by 30 runs. In this match, played at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, the Rajasthan Royals set a target of 206 runs for the Mumbai Indians—a target they were unable to successfully chase down. As a result of this victory for the Rajasthan Royals, both the Punjab Kings and the Kolkata Knight Riders have been eliminated from the tournament. IPL 2026 points table: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Gujarat Titans (GT), and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) had already secured their spots in the playoffs. In the points table, Royal Challengers Bangalore holds the first position, Gujarat Titans the second, and Sunrisers Hyderabad the



third, while Rajasthan Royals occupies the fourth spot. IPL 2026 playoffs fixture: Now, Qualifier 1 of IPL 2026 is scheduled to be played on May 26 (Tuesday) between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Titans. The winner of this match will advance directly to the final. Meanwhile, the team defeated in Qualifier 1 will receive a second opportunity to

play in Qualifier 2. The winner of the Eliminator match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals will advance to Qualifier 2. Subsequently, the winner of Qualifier 2 will face the winner of Qualifier 1 in the final match to compete for the championship title. Schedule of the IPL 2026 playoffs: Qualifier 1 will be played at the Himachal Pradesh

Cricket Association Stadium. The Eliminator and Qualifier 2 matches are scheduled to take place on May 27 (Wednesday) and May 29 (Friday), respectively, at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh. The final match will be held on May 31 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Bernstein Says Adani Overhang Easing After US Developments;

Brokerage firm Bernstein said concerns surrounding the Adani Group following the 2023 short-seller episode and subsequent US regulatory developments now appear largely behind the group, potentially paving the way for a revival in foreign funding and broader investor participation. In a report covering four listed Adani companies - Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Green Energy, Adani Power and Ambuja Cements - Bernstein said many global funds had stayed away from the group pending clarity on US-related developments, leaving several stocks under-owned despite strong operational execution. The report aid the settlement of the US SEC case and moves by US prosecutors to drop charges against the group had removed a major overhang on Adani stocks, many of which still trade below pre-crisis levels despite a sharp recovery from earlier declines. "The group has gone through two big events in the last 4 years - the short seller event in January 2023 and US SEC-DoJ related developments starting November 2024. With the latest news from the US, both seem to be



behind," it said. The group is highly debated - many funds stayed away till clarity on the US developments came, and most stocks are still under-owned. "What was never debated though is their execution prowess (except in cement), and how important they are to build Infra in India." The Adani Group had come under intense scrutiny in January 2023 after US-based short seller Hindenburg Research alleged stock manipulation, improper use of offshore tax havens and accounting irregularities across group companies. While the ports-to-energy conglomerate repeatedly denied the allegations, calling them baseless and malicious, the report triggered a sharp

selloff in Adani stocks, wiped out billions of dollars in market value and led to heightened concerns over leverage and corporate governance. However, most Adani stocks subsequently recovered part of their losses as the group cut promoter share pledges, reduced debt concerns and restored investor confidence through continued operational growth. SEBI told the Supreme Court of India that it had completed most of its probes and found no evidence warranting cancellation of licenses or broader market intervention, while a limited number of investigations remained ongoing. Hindenburg later ceased operations and is no longer active. Separately, in November 2024,

US authorities, including the US Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission, initiated proceedings linked to alleged disclosures and fundraising practices involving Adani entities. However, earlier this month a settlement was reached on the SEC-related matter and US prosecutors moved to drop charges against the group, having eased a major overhang on the conglomerate and improved prospects for renewed foreign investor participation and dollar funding access. The brokerage said the group's core strength remained its ability to execute large-scale infrastructure projects efficiently and gain market share from state-run incumbents across sectors such as ports, logistics, thermal power and renewables. Bernstein highlighted the group's access to large contiguous land parcels, execution speed and operational scale as key competitive advantages, noting that Adani-controlled assets now account for around 50 per cent of India's container port market. he report said concerns over promoter share pledges, a major issue during the January 2023 short-seller crisis, had

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



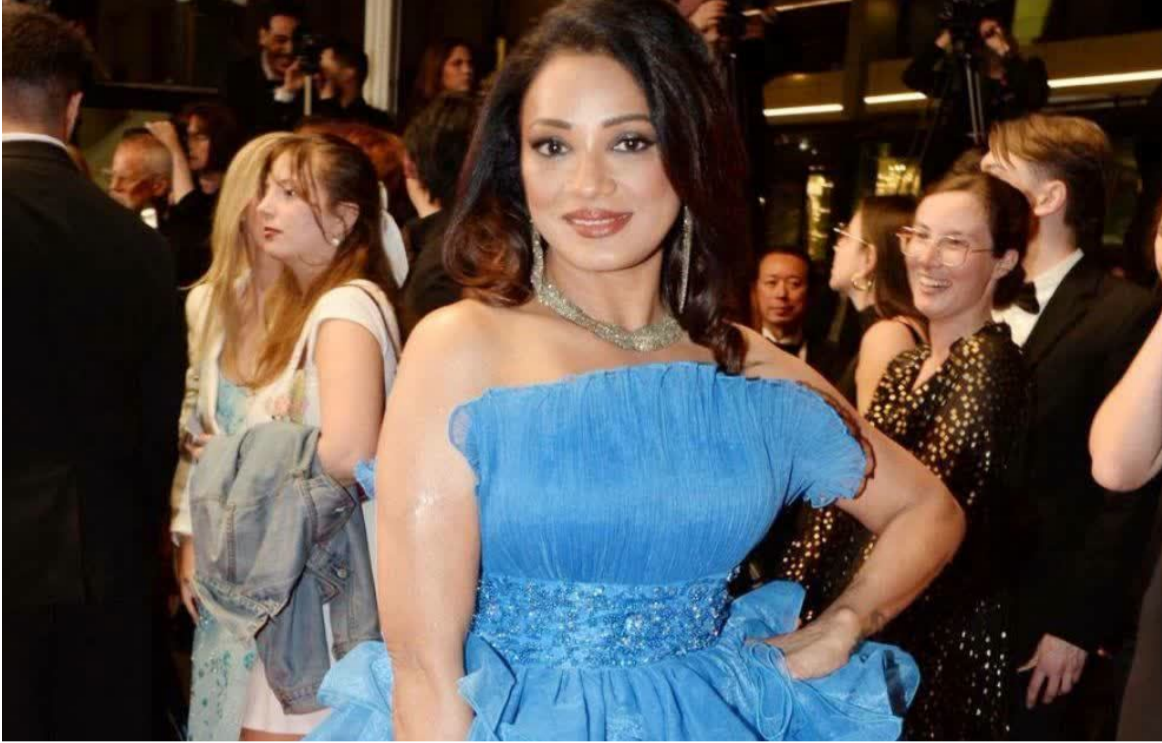
Benchmark Sensex rallied by 940 points on Wednesday following a sharp decline in crude oil prices after US President Donald Trump claimed progress in negotiations with Iran towards an agreement to end the war. Helped by flag-end heavy buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 940.73 points, or 1.22 per 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 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 "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, a 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," Hari Prasad 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

Jodhpur Gynaecologist Showcases Rajasthani Heritage, Power Of Womanhood At Cannes Red Carpet



From the operation theater (OT) of a hospital to the red carpet of Cannes Film Festival, 2026, renowned gynaecologist from Jodhpur, fashion icon, and social media influencer, Dr Sonal Parihar, has scripted a new chapter in history. After winning 'Mrs India' title and various international beauty pageants, Dr Parihar has now showcased Rajasthani culture at the world's most prestigious fashion platform. Dr Parihar has established an identity that extends far beyond that of a mere physician and has also carved out a strong presence in the realms of fashion, motivational speaking, and women empowerment. Her sartorial theme at the Cannes Film Festival red carpet was all about presenting a harmonious blend of Rajasthan's cul-

tural essence and global fashion trends. During the two-day event at the Cannes Film Festival, she beautifully showcased Indian craftsmanship, cultural heritage and the power of womanhood through a series of distinct looks. One of Dr Parihar's looks was particularly unique and deeply symbolic. Designed by Prashik Pushpalata Sukhmandan and Ineet Randhawa, this special ensemble was crafted using computer components and parts salvaged from discarded embroidery machines. This look vividly brought to life the interplay of traditional handicrafts and modern, machine-driven fashion. The wooden shoulder frames accompanying the outfit were inspired by traditional Indian embroidery hoops, thereby infusing

a sense of dignity and recognition to the centuries-old Indian artisans on a global stage. After showcasing glimpses of her culture at Cannes, Dr Parihar said that her journey is not merely a personal achievement but serves as an inspiration for all women who aspire to realise their dreams alongside their professional lives. Hailing from Jodhpur and making her way to Cannes, she has emerged as the city's new global icon. Her second ensemble on the Red Carpet, a heavily embroidered gown, was inspired by the natural beauty of India. Through intricate hand embroidery, the dress depicted blooming gardens, flowing rivers, and inherent natural splendour. The meticulous handiwork in her gown showcased the living

heritage of Indian artisans to the world. Her unique headpiece featured angelic motifs, symbolising motherhood, reflecting her identity as a gynaecologist, a woman who helps bring new life into the world. Dr Parihar's third look was entirely dedicated to the cultural heritage of Rajasthan. Adorned in a traditional Rajasthani saree and jewellery, she presented the rare 400-year-old artform known as 'Danka Work' at a global stage. Designer Neetu Singh's revived 'Meena Danka' collection featured an exquisite blend of gold-plated silver, copper, and German silver, creating a distinctive presence on the red carpet by seamlessly fusing traditional craftsmanship with modern luxury fashion.

Karan Johar reacts to David Dhawan's retirement from films



Filmmaker Karan Johar got emotional after David Dhawan's retirement announcement and said he had a bittersweet reaction to the news. Dhawan announced his retirement from directing on Saturday at an event in Mumbai. His upcoming directorial "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai", which features his son Varun Dhawan alongside Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde, will be his last film. Johar shared a note on his Instagram story on Sunday and said he is a filmmaker responsible for creating an entire genre of films. "Yesterday I went to Davidji's celebration and he told me this was going to be his last

film...I had a bittersweet reaction in my heart... here's a filmmaker who is responsible for creating an entire genre of films. A David Dhawan film spells entertainment," he wrote. "What must he feel saying this when he is an institution that so many filmmakerVeteran filmmaker David Dhawan announced his retirement in Mumbai, marking Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai as his final film. Karan Johar shared an emotional tribute, calling Dhawan an institution whose legacy of entertaining cinema inspires generations of filmmakerVeteran filmmaker David Dhawan announced his retirement in Mumbai,

by our fraternity... There's no opposing that!!! Here's to your summer blockbuster with your son... David Dhawan. No 1 man always," he added. "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai" is set to release in theatres on June 5. It revolves around the five-year-old relationship between Jas (Dhawan) and Ba in my heart... here's a filmmaker who is responsible for creating an entire genre of films. A David Dhawan film spells entertainment," he wrote. "What must he feel saying this when he is an institution that so many filmmakerVeteran filmmaker David Dhawan announced his retirement in Mumbai,

marking Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai as his final film. Karan Johar shared an emotional tribute, calling Dhawan an institution whose legacy of entertaining cinema inspires generations of filmmakerVeteran filmmaker David Dhawan announced his retirement in Mumbai, marking Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai as his final film. Karan Johar shared an emotional tribute, calling Dhawan an institution whose legacy of entertaining cinema inspires generations of filmmakerVeteran filmmaker David Dhawan announced his retirement in Mumbai,

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, 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".