

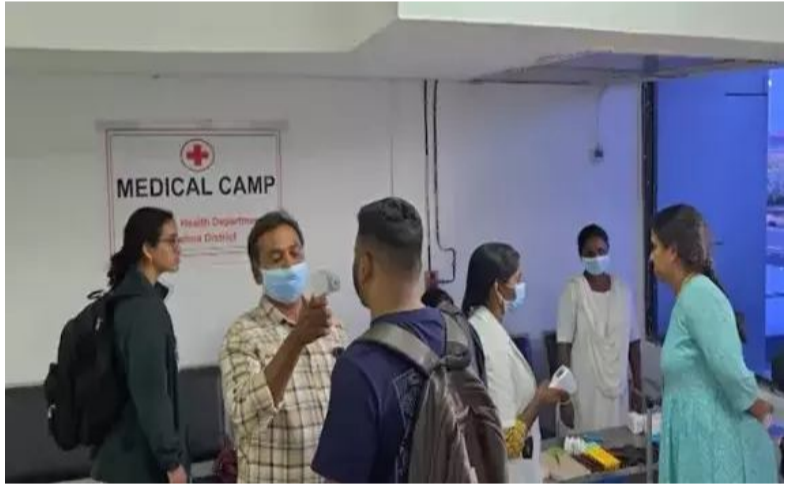
Anitha Denies Reports of AP Police Visit to Prof Nageswar's Residence in Hyderabad



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha has strongly condemned reports circulating on social media claiming that AP Police visited the residence of Prof. Nageswar in Hyderabad to arrest him, calling them "fake news." In a statement, she clarified that no such police action had taken place

and warned that strict legal and police action would be initiated against individuals spreading false information with malicious intent. The minister urged the public to rely on verified sources and avoid sharing unconfirmed reports, emphasizing the government's commitment to curb misinformation.

Ebola Screening Facility Set Up at Vijayawada Airport



Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has stepped up precautionary measures following a rise in Ebola virus cases in Africa. Acting in directions from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry, authorities have set up a screening facility at Vijayawada

International Airport. Airport officials said health screening is being conducted for all international passengers. On Tuesday morning, medical teams screened passengers arriving from Singapore. APs health checks for international passengers. Officials stated that anyone showing symptoms of the virus would be placed under quarantine as a preventive measure. The move is aimed at ensuring public safety and preventing any possible spread of the infection.

People Don't Understand Cyber Threat Until They Become Victims

Hyderabad: For over 25 years, Dr. Pattathil Dhanya Menon has worked on the darker side of cyberspace, tracing digital footprints, investigating fraud, training police departments, and helping organisations respond to cyber threats. Recognised by former President Ram Nath Kovind as India's first woman cyber crime investigator, Menon believes the country is entering a decisive phase in cyber security, especially with the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. Also Read - Pope Leo XIV Urges Robust Rules for AI in Vision for Future of Humanity "Data is the real asset today. It is no longer your laptop or your firewall. It is the data sitting behind all of it," she says. Dhanya, founder of Avanzo Cyber Security Solutions Pvt. Ltd, says many Indian companies still fail to treat cyber security as a core business risk. "For most organisations outside the IT sector, cyber security is not even an after-



thought. They only worry about containing reputational damage after an incident happens," she says. Also Read - China Launches Crewed Space Flight as Part of Moon Ambitions According to her, the DPDP Act could force organisations to finally take compliance seriously. The law introduces penalties ranging from ₹50 lakh to ₹250 crore for data breaches and non-compliance. "I do not think there is any organisation that can comfortably survive such penalties," she says, pointing to global examples where companies have faced massive fines for privacy lapses. But she believes the concern is not only corporate negligence, but public online.

Hyderabad Emerging as Global GCC Hub

Hyderabad: IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said that Hyderabad is increasingly emerging as the preferred destination for leading global companies to establish their Global Capability Centres (GCCs), owing to its world-class infrastructure and availability of a highly skilled talent pool. He stated that the rapid growth of GCCs in Hyderabad is expected to create significant employment opportunities for IT engineers and technology professionals. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad

Crime in 2025 The Minister expressed happiness that Regeneron, a global biotechnology major headquartered in Tarrytown, New York, USA, has chosen Telangana to establish its first GCC outside the United States, which he said would further enhance the state's global reputation. Regeneron's corporate headquarters and R&D operations are based in Tarrytown, New York. A delegation led by Mr. Bari Kowal, Senior Vice President of Regeneron, met the Minister at Dr. B.R.



Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Tuesday. On this occasion, Bari Kowal and Telangana Life Sciences CEO Sarvesh Singh have exchanged the MOUs. Also Read - India's AI Data Centres and the Invisible

Groundwater Cost Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that while Regeneron already operates offices and manufacturing facilities in countries such as Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany and the

Netherlands, the Hyderabad centre will function as a unique global hub. He stated that the proposed centre will coordinate the company's global operation manufacturing, industrial polecosystem. He further stated that the proposed Regeneron GCC is expected to create a large number of high-value employment opportunities in the coming years. The Minister said Regeneron is one of the world's leading biotechnology companies with a strong portfolio of innovative medicines serving patients globally.

Sense of Envy Says Pawan Kalyan in Obvious Reference to TN CM Vijay

Rajamahendravaram: In an indirect reference to the meteoric rise of actor-politician C Joseph Vijay as CM in his maiden election in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has said he sometimes wonders how some political forces achieve success in a short span, admitting that their rapid progress leaves him with a "sense of envy". Kalyan said his own path involved years of struggle on the ground while others appeared to achieve momentum much faster. Also Read - Andhra Pradesh Govt, Foundit Join Hands To Strengthen Skilling, Employment "I keep looking at other par-



ties and wonder what they are doing. They managed things so comfortably that it even makes me feel envious. They put up those cut-outs and won. Even though I struggled on the roads for 15 years, they still managed to come out ahead," Kalyan said while addressing a party meeting

in Rajamundry late on Monday. "These days, I have been observing politics in Tamil Nadu and how smoothly (happily) they have managed things. They have handled it in such a way that it left me feeling envious," Kalyan said. Also Read - Anitha Denies Reports of AP

Police Visit to Prof Nageswar's Residence in Hyderabad The Janasena chief also announced that the party would complete appointments to organisational committees across Andhra Pradesh by August 14 through a transparent process. Kalyan said the newly formed committees should celebrate Independence Day by hoisting the national flag in every constituency and strengthening the organisation ahead of local body elections. The deputy chief minister said parliamentary-level selection committees would identify committed workers, including long-time Sadhaks, active membership contributors and lead-

ers with an understanding of local political dynamics. Also Read - AP EDCET 2026 Results Declared, 99.30% According to Kalyan, around 25 parliamentary committees would be constituted to assess organisational strength from the panchayat level upwards and recommend appointments. Stressing discipline, he said Janasena would implement a strict code of conduct and establish a clear mechanism to speak on behalf of the party. Action would be unavoidable against anyone acting beyond party discipline or creating divisions through social media campaigns, he further said.

SIR Has No Political Overtones



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao on Tuesday asserted that the Special Revision Process (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state here has no "political overtones" but rather just a routine exercise by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Speaking to ANI, Rao explained that the objective of the SIR is to refine the voter rolls by identifying and removing discrepancies, drawing a parallel to similar drives conducted in West Bengal and other states. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 "Like in Bengal and other places, where the

fake voters and illegal immigrants are there, they will be deleted. And what Bengal has done, or what the SIR has done, is detect, delete, and deport. So this is what a voter list has to see - whether the voter list contains the real names, whether there are any fake voters there, whether there are any dead voters, or whether there are any transferred and shifted voters," he said. Also Read - India's AI Data Groundwater Cost So SIR has no political overtones in it. It is a regular exercise done by the Election Commission of India (ECI), he said. Meanwhile, Telangana

Congress has called for the SIR process to be conducted with transparency. A delegation of state Congress leaders met with the State Chief Electoral Officer over the issue earlier, urging that the SIR process be conducted with complete transparency and be extended for a period of time since no major elections are scheduled in the state. The ECI on May 14 announced the conduct of Special Intensive Revision Phase-III of electoral rolls across 16 States and three Union Territories, covering over 36 crore electors in a phased manner, including Telangana.

T-Works is not just a structure, it is a platform that transformed into technological powerhouse, says KTR



Hyderabad: Former IT Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao stated that T-Works was not just a building, but a platform that had transformed into a technological powerhouse in the hands of the youth. T-Works is India's largest prototyping facility. "T-Works is the vision that introduced the future of Telangana to the world. Born from the ideas of BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao, it is a magnificent platform that has transformed into a technological powerhouse in the hands of

the youth," Rama Rao said on X. At T-Works, the BRS government offered startups not just verbal encouragement, but world-class infrastructure, cutting-edge technology and complete freedom for innovation, he stressed. "Today, while the entire nation is discussing drones, defence technology and electronics, it was KCR's leadership that sowed the seeds for these sectors in Telangana many years ago," Rama Rao stated. The BRS working president said T-Works was not merely a

building, but a laboratory that gave wings to the dreams of Telangana's youth and a symbol of the self-confidence embodied by the "Make in Telangana" spirit. "It was KCR's foresight that established the country's largest prototyping centre and positioned Hyderabad as a global hub for innovation. Now, as this institution garners accolades at the national level, it once again stands as proof of the remarkable foresight with which Telangana's development has been steered," Rama Rao added.

Bakrid Rush Turns Risky as Fake Payment Frauds Hit Livestock Traders

Hyderabad: As Bakrid festival approaches, the goat and sheep markets in the city are bustling with buyers. However, taking advantage of this, some fraudsters are targeting innocent traders under the guise of digital payments and engaging in scams. In particular, they are creating fake mobile apps like "PhonePe" and showing screens that appear to indicate cash has been paid, thereby deceiving the traders. Taking advantage of the chaotic hustle in the markets, these fraudsters are duping traders who don't bother to check if the money has actually been deposited into their bank accounts. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar issued a

caution in this regard. According to him, two such scams came to light recently in the jurisdiction of Kanchanbagh and Rajendranagar police stations. In Kanchanbagh, six individuals arrived on three bikes, bargained with a trader, showed a fake app screen indicating a payment of Rs.6 8,000, and took away the livestock. Similarly, in Rajendranagar, four individuals purchased goats worth Rs. 48,000 and duped the seller using the same method with a fake payment app. The victims, upon later checking their bank accounts, realized no money had been credited and lodged complaints with the police. Also Read - Chain-Snatching Bid on Woman Foiled in



Kompally The goat and sheep sellers must remain extremely vigilant. If someone claims to send money online, do not trust just the screenshot visible on the buyer's phone or a "payment successful" message. "Check the official bank SMS that comes to your own mobile, or directly open your banking app and confirm the

balance has increased before handing over the livestock. Whenever possible, it's best to accept large transactions in cash form," he said in a post on 'X'. "If anyone behaves suspiciously or attempts to deceive you, do not delay even a moment—immediately call Dial 100 or provide information to our police officers," he added.

Telangana Govt Committed to Women's Safety, Empowerment: Seethakka

Hyderabad: Minister for Women and Child Welfare Department Danasari Anasuya Seethakka inaugurated the working women's hostel "Sakhi Nivas" and One Stop Center "Sakhi Centre" on Road No. 12, Banjara Hills here. Speaking on the occasion, Seethakka said the government is setting up working women's hostels to provide safe accommodation for women coming to Hyderabad from rural areas in search of employment and job opportunities. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 She informed that accommodation facilities have been provided for about 150 women in this hostel. She stated that special facilities have been arranged so that mothers coming with young children can also stay here. Seethakka noted that the Telangana government is working with utmost priority for women's safety, dignity, self-confidence, and economic independence. She said some people are criticizing because they cannot tolerate women's progress, but such criticisms do not stand



before women's power. Also Read - Chain-Snatching Bid on Woman Foiled in Kompally She remarked that women themselves will teach a lesson to the opposition parties that cannot digest women's advancement. The Minister informed that the state government has increased the interest-free loan limit for women's groups from five lakhs to ten lakhs rupees. She said they are providing employment opportunities suMinister A Revanth ch as rice mills, petrol bunkers, and women's supermarkets to women's groups. From a situation where they once had to depend

on others for expenses they are being elevated to the level of bearing household costs, taking responsibility for children's education, and providing employment to four people, she stated. Also Read - SCBA Condemns Brutal Murder of Senior Advocate in Hyderabad The Minister clarified that empowering women as a force for wealth creation is the government's goal. She poMinister A Revanth inted out that when women's income increases, the family strengthens, and the state becomes prosperous. She said Chief Minister A Revanth

Reddy is working with the goal that a woman should rise in every family. Seethakka revealed that solar power plants set up under the leadership of women's groups will be inaugurated on Wednesday, and in Madhira constituency, they will be launched through the hands of Deputy Chief Minister Batti Vikramarka. On June 5, Revanth Reddy will provide RTC buses to women, she disclosed. She called upon to showcase to society the victories women are achieving village by village, stating that Telangana's progress lies in women's upliftment.

HYDRAA Clears 22 Acres of Encroachments at Kokapet Lake

Hyderabad: In a major enforcement drive, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) carried out a large-scale operation to remove encroachments at Kokapet Kotha Cheruvu in Gandipet mandal of Rangareddy district. Officials identified encroachments over nearly 22 acres within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) area, which spans about 72 acres. Of this, around 1.20 acres had been occupied for the development of play areas and parks linked to a villa project, while nearly 20 acres were encroached upon by multiple construction firms through fencing and other structures. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Acting on numerous complaints from local residents seeking protection of the lake, HYDRAA, along with officials from con-



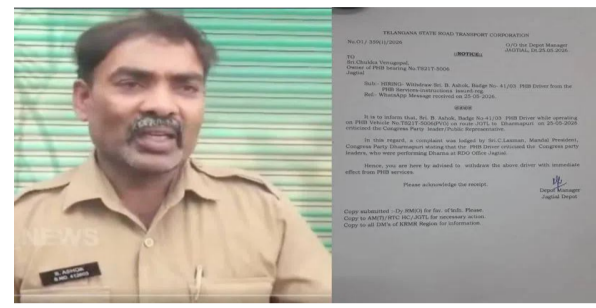
cerned departments, conducted field inspections before initiating action on Tuesday. Encroachments within the FTL limits were cleared, including removal of fencing and temporary boundary front of a gated commustructures. Authorities are now demarcating the lake boundaries anfront of a

gated commud putting up protective fencing. - SCBA Condemns Brutal Murder of Senior Advocate in Hyderabad In a parallel operation, HYDRAA also removed road encroachments in Khroad encroachments in aitalapur under Kukatpally mandal. Around 1,700 square yards of road space in

front of a gated community had been encroached upon. After verification, officials demolished structures including an office room and cattle sheds belonging to a construction firm. The agency stated that such drives will continue to protect public land and water bodies from illegal occupation.

Jagtial RTC Driver faces action after advising Congress leaders to focus on farmers

Jagtial: In an incident that has triggered allegations of political intolerance, a driver of a hired RTC bus in Jagtial was reportedly removed from duty after advising Congress leaders to focus on paddy procurement issues instead of protesting against the hike in fuel prices. The incident came to light on Tuesday after Ashok, who drives a hired RTC bus attached to the Jagtial depot, was allegedly taken off duty over remarks he made during a Congress protest on Monday. Congress leaders, including SC and ST Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar and local MLA Dr Sanjay Kumar, had staged a dharna near the Jagtial



RDO office against the increase in petrol and diesel prices. As part of the protest, party workers blocked the road, forcing vehicles to halt. Ashok, who was driving a bus from Jagtial to Dharmapuri, was stranded at the protest site. During the delay, he reportedly remarked that Congress leaders should focus on paddy procurement and helping farmers. His comments were recorded on mobile

phones and circulated widely on social media. Following the circulation of the video, Dharmapuri Congress mandal president C Laxman lodged a complaint with RTC officials. Subsequently, the Jagtial depot manager reportedly instructed the owner of the hired bplaint with RTC offiis to withdraw Ashok from bus services. When Ashok reported for duty on Tuesday morning, he

was allegedly not assigned any work. Responding to the action against him, Ashok maintained that he had not made any objectionable remarks against any political party or leader and had merely suggested that attention should be paid to paddy procurement issues. Reacting strongly to the development, BRS leader Gangula Kamalakar accused the Congress t the BRS would stage a dharna at the Jagtia Prabhakar reportedly intervened and directed RTC officials to withdraw the action taken against the driver and restore his duties. RTC officials are understood to have subsequently asked Ashok to resume duties after two days.

Woman Held as Key Accused in Husband's Murder in Sangareddy

Hyderabad: A 30-year-old woman Shambanolla Kalpana turned out to be the prime accused in the missing and murder of her husband Muthyam Reddy (35) in Sangareddy district on Monday. The police arrested Kalpana, a resident of Gangapur village along with her accomplices Gaini Pandari (24) and Gaini Vittal (33), both residents of Manoor. Narayankhed Inspector G Srinivas Reddy said Muthyam Reddy went missing on April 16, 2026. Based on a complaint lodged by Kalpana after two days, the police booked a missing case and took up investigation. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 During investigation, Kalpana's behavior appeared suspicious. Police inquiry revealed that she was having an illicit relationship with Pandari of Elgoyi village in Manoor mandal. The police took Pandari into custody for questioning,



during which he confessed that he, Kalpana, and his elder brother Vittal killed Muthyam Reddy. Both Kalpana and Pandari had reportedly been in a close to their illicit relationship, Kalpana allegedly conspired with her lover Pandari to kill him. On April 16, when Muthyam Reddy came to Narayankhed, Pandari allegedly lured him say-

he repeatedly warned his did not change. Bid on Woman Foiled in Kompally Believing that her husband was becoming an obstacle to their illicit relationship, Kalpana allegedly conspired with her lover Pandari to kill him. On April 16, when Muthyam Reddy came to Narayankhed, Pandari allegedly lured him say-

ing there was repair work for a borewell motor in his field and took him there on a bike. Upon reaching the spot, Pandari and Vittal, who was already present, strangled Muthyam Reddy with a rope and killed him. Later, they buried the body in a pit that had been dug earlier using an earthmover and covered it with soil.

SCBA Condemns Brutal Murder of Senior Advocate in Hyderabad

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Bar Association on Tuesday condemned the "planned, brutal, and shocking murder" of senior advocate Khaja Moizuddin in Hyderabad and sought a "fair, expeditious and thorough investigation" for bringing perpetrators to justice. Senior lawyer Khaja Moizuddin, 63, died after being allegedly run over by unidentified assailants in an SUV on May 23. The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), headed by senior advocate Vikas Singh, issued a statement, saying, "The attack resulting in the death of a member of the Bar is not merely a crime against an individual but an assault on the institution of justice itself." Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The resolution, signed by SCBA Secretary Pragya Baghel, said the death "clearly looks like a planned, brutal and shocking murder of the



senior advocate". "The incident has deeply disturbed the legal fraternity and raises serious concerns regarding the safety and undergoing treatment, security of advocates discharging their professional duties...The legal profession forms an essential pillar of the justice delivery system, and any act of violence against advocates strikes at the very foundation of ongoing treatment, the rule of law," the statement said. Also Read - Chain-Snatching Bid on Woman Foiled in Kompally The association urged the concerned

authorities to conduct a "fair, expeditious and thorough investigation and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice at the earliest in accordance with law." The 63-year-old lawyer was about to get into his car when the SUV with-out a number plate hit him at his residence at athen his last while undergoing treatment, police said. Visuals of the man being hit by a c a H y d e r a b a d . Moizuddin was rushed to a hospital but breathed his last while undergoing treatment, police said. Visuals of the man being hit by a

car had gone viral. Also Read - SIR Has No Political Overtones: Ramchander Rao Moizuddin's son said his father was fighting against encroachment and the grabbing of waqf properties by certain persons, who, he alleged, were behind the incident. Five attempts were made earlier on his father, he said, adding that the alleged waqf encroachers threatened him to persuade his father to stop fighting the cases against them. Based on Moizuddin's son's complaint, a murder case has been registered, police had said.

Kerala CM Satheesan To Meet PM Modi In New Delhi Today

New Delhi: Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan will hold his first official meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday in New Delhi, marking a politically significant engagement soon after assuming office. This is Satheesan's first meeting with PM Modi after the United Democratic Front government came to power in Kerala.

Though details of the agenda have not been officially disclosed, the discussions are expected to focus on Kerala's immediate development priorities, central assistance and key state issues requiring Union government intervention. Later in the day, the Chief Minister is scheduled to meet the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, at 2.30 pm at Kartavya Bhavan in New Delhi. Earlier on Saturday, Satheesan held back-to-back meetings with senior



Congress leaders, signalling the party leadership's continued engagement with the new Kerala administration. He first met Congress General Secretary K.C.

Venugopal at around 9 a.m., followed by discussions with Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge. Satheesan later met senior leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

During the interactions, he is learnt to have thanked the Congress high command for its support during the Assembly elections. Organizational matters and the party's future political strategy were also

discussed, according to sources. Meanwhile, Satheesan's first visit to Delhi after becoming Chief Minister drew enthusiastic crowds at Kerala House, where students and supporters gathered late into the night to greet him. The Chief Minister spent time interacting with visitors and posed for photographs, adding to the celebratory atmosphere surrounding his arrival in the national capital. Satheesan led the Congress-led United Democratic Front to a stunning victory in the Assembly elections. The UDF won 102 seats, while the Left was reduced to just 35 seats from 99. The BJP also reopened its account by winning three seats. On May 18, Satheesan, along with 20 of his Cabinet colleagues, was sworn in.

Ex-Rajya Sabha Member Debashish Samantaray Joins BJP A Day After Quitting Naveen-Led BJD

New Delhi: A day after resigning from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Rajya Sabha, senior leader Debashish Samantaray joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. Samantaray joined the BJP in presence of senior party leaders, ending days of speculations over his political future. Following his exit, the number of BJD Rajya Sabha members who have ended ties with the party has now risen to three. Samantaray expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and said he is deeply influenced by his programmes and his personality. "First of all, I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Today, he has blessed me and included me among his team so that I can contribute to his vision for India. He has dreamt of building a developed India, and he is continuously working towards that goal," Samantaray said. "I have been deeply influenced by his programmes and his personality, and that is why I am joining the Bharatiya Janata Party today. I hope that the BJP



leadership and all my friends in the party will continue to support and stay connected with me. Going forward, I want to work extensively for the BJP in Odisha," he added. Samantaray resigned from the primary membership of the BJD as well as from the Rajya Sabha on Monday, alleging that he was being "systematically belittled" within the party. In his resignation letter, Samantaray thanked BJD supreme Naveen Patnaik for giving him the opportunity to serve in the Rajya Sabha and various party organisations. "I shall always be indebted to you for nominating me to Rajya Sabha. I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to serve the people of undivided Cuttack district and to raise issues of Odisha at

large, at the national level," he had stated. However, he said he felt the party no longer needed his services. "I have always dedicated myself to the interest of the party and have, over the years, worked for the party with utmost conviction and commitment. However, I feel that, of late, I have been systematically belittled in the party and that the party does not require my services. Therefore, I have taken this hard decision in public interest and request you to accept my resignation," he mentioned. Samantaray was elected to the Odisha Assembly three times on a BJD ticket. He represented Tirtol constituency from 2000 to 2004 and later won twice from Cuttack-Barabati between 2009 and 2019. He was sent to the Rajya Sabha by the party in 2024.

Cockroach Janta Party: As Applications For Registry Get Filed From Across The Country,

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:

Seems Uncle Ben's advice to young Peter Parker, before he emerged as Spiderman, needs a 21st century revision. Not only does "with great power, comes great responsibility"; but first, that power has to be registered. Else, India's first cockroach — Abhijit Dipke, the visionary behind the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) — might soon end up as Old Major in Orwell's Animal Farm. Because, as with every other idea conceptualised in the US, the land of juaad has already thrown up several self-proclaimed leaders who are trying to associate their own names with the "party". From posters and anthems on social media, to attempts at getting the name registered in the name of these opportunists. Registration is a prerequisite for initiating any undertaking. It has now come to light that several



individuals have filed applications to register the viral name, CJP, as their own. Applications for registration have been submitted for both political party status and commercial usage purposes. Advocate Swapnil Mahale, a trademark expert, reported that over the past six days, 10 individuals from India have filed applications. Notably, two of them have submitted Form 45 — the specific application required to obtain official recognition as a political party.

However, the advocate clarified that if Abhijit Dipke or his associates were to officially file an application and submit the requisite supporting documents, they would likely be granted ownership of the 'Roaches' discussions surrounding the Cockroach Janta Party name first gained momentum on social media on May 15. Abhijit Dipke, a native of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (formerly Aurangabad) district, launched the campaign while pursuing his educa-

tion in Boston, USA. The initiative aimed to offer commentary on the Indian administrative system and the issues facing the nation's youth. He executed the social media campaign by drawing inspiration from a disparaging statement made by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant regarding today's youth. The campaign garnered an overwhelming response within a very short span of time. In just a few days, the associated social media pages amassed a follower count that surpassed the growth typically achieved by any newly formed political party. The campaign has elicited a wide range of commentary and criticism from various quarters. Nevertheless, perceiving a potential future opportunity from this trend topic, several individuals have already initiated legal registration

processes. The very first trademark application for the name "Cockroach Janta Party" was filed on May 19 — four days after Dipke launched the campaign. Mahale said that over the past six days, a total of 10 individuals have applied for registration of the name "Cockroach Janta Party" from across the country. These include three applications each from Gujarat and Telangana, two from Haryana, one each from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. To register a political party, it is mandatory to file an application under Trademark Class 45. Mahale noted that among the applied specifically under this category. Others, meanwhile, appeared to anticipate future commercial opportunities, and have applied for registration under various other categories, such as the production of T-shirts and campaign merchandise.

Himachal Expert's Idea Takes Shape As Centre Clears Chenab Projects To Boost India's Water, Power Capacity

Shimla: Months after putting the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance, the Narendra Modi-led Central government has now approved two major infrastructure projects linked to the Chenab river, which is likely to benefit Himachal Pradesh and strengthen India's use of its own water resources. One of the projects includes a crucial tunnel project in Himachal that was proposed by a researcher from the state exactly a decade ago. Praveen Sharma, Executive Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, had proposed an idea linked to the Chandrabhaga river, a tributary of the Chenab river. Consistently advocating changes to the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, Sharma had been writing to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Ministry of Water Resources and presenting his ideas with supporting facts in the national interest. "Chenab Water To Benefit India Now": Himachal-Based Expert's Idea Gets Shape As Centre Clears Chenab River water will be stopped from flowing into Pakistan. (Lahaul Police) The Sharma has now moved ahead with projects based on the same concept, approving two infrastructure projects linked to the Chenab river. One of them is the Chenab-Beas link tunnel project in Himachal



Pradesh, estimated to cost Rs 2352 crore. Under the project, water from the Chenab river will be diverted into the Beas river through a tunnel. Because of the Indus Waters Treaty, Chenab water, despite belonging to India, used to flow to Pakistan. Following the suspension of the treaty, India is now expected to benefit from the water through the new project. The second project relates to Jammu and Kashmir, where silt management work will be carried out at the Salal dam project. This project will cost Rs 268 crore. Together, the two projects worth more than Rs 2600 crore are expected to significantly benefit Himachal Pradesh. The financially stressed Sharma said. All hill states are likely to gain from increased power generation, while the Beas river, Sharma said. All rivers could become perennial, Sharma said. All about the project from Himachal Pradesh's perspective, the Chenab-Beas link tunnel project will come up in the tribal district of Lahaul-Spiti. The Rs 2352 crore project,

which will be handled by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), includes construction of an 8.7-km-long tunnel. Once completed, the tunnel will divert excess water from the Chenab basin into Himachal's Beas river system.

The tunnel project will form part of a larger inter-basin river-linking initiative. Its objective is to divert water from the Chandrabhaga river, a tributary of the Chenab, towards the Beas basin through hydraulic structures and tunnels. The project also includes a proposal to build a 19-metre-high barrage on the Chenab river. The Indus Waters Treaty was an important water dispute between Punjab and Haryana centres around sharing water from the Ravi and Beas rivers. The biggest symbol of this dispute is the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal project. The dispute began after Haryana was carved out of Punjab in 1966, leading to disagreements over river water sharing. In 1976, the Centre allocated 3.5 million acre-feet (MAF) of surplus Ravi-Beas water each to Punjab

'No Longer Pocket-Friendly': CNG Price Hiked By Rs 2 Per Kg; Fourth Increase Since May 15

New Delhi: CNG price in Delhi-NCR was hiked by Rs 2 per kg on Tuesday, the fourth increase in less than two weeks. Gas distributor Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) announced the latest increase in CNG prices. Following the revision by IGL, CNG in Delhi will now cost Rs 83.09 per kg, up from Rs 81.09 per kg. However, prices were revised upward across the National Capital Region (NCR), with consumers in Noida, Ghaziabad and Greater Noida now paying Rs 91.70 per kg, while rates in Gurugram rose to Rs 88.12 per kg. In Ajmer, CNG prices increased to Rs 92.44 per kg. The increase comes shortly after a Rs 1 hike announced on Saturday, continuing a steady upward trend in fuel rates over the past several days. The repeated rise in CNG prices is expected to significantly impact users of CNG-powered vehicles, especially in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai, where public transport systems, taxis,



and commercial vehicles heavily depend on the fuel. Vehicles line up at a CNG station in Geeta Colony, in New Delhi on Sunday. Vehicles line up at a CNG station in Geeta Colony, in New Delhi on Sunday. (ANI) Transport operators fear that the higher operating costs may eventually lead to increased fares for passengers. A commuter in the national capital questioned the government over the price hike, stating that the CNG is "no longer a pocket-friendly fuel". "There hasn't been any problem in the CNG supply, so why

are prices increasing? Only the companies and the government know why. It will definitely impact the common man's pocket. Now that it has reached Rs 80, what difference is left between it and petrol?" he asked. Meanwhile, a taxi driver reflected on the financial troubles faced by the common public amid the increase in prices of essential commodities, such as fuel. "It's not produced in our country. It comes from outside, so it's a problem for everyone. What will happen to the lives of common people? We are

auto drivers. Since it's increasing for everyone, it's not just our problem," he said. Another taxi driver expressed disappointment over the lack of an increase in fare rates, adversely impacting the income of the drivers. "CNG prices should be lower; there's starvation in the country. They've increased petrol prices, they've increased CNG prices, but the transport fares remain the same. Why don't they increase the fares? A driver is operating a 12 lakh rupee car, and the passenger is paying only ₹150. What is all this? Why should CNG prices increase so much? The prices should have remained what they were before. If they increase gas prices, they should at least increase the fares. The public is distressed; people have no business. What more can happen than this?" he questioned. Another taxi driver urged the government to take cognisance of the matter and provide relief to the public amid the repeated

hikes. "The price of CNG has increased by Rs 2, and it's making a difference for us. Please reduce the CNG rates a bit," he said. Apart from CNG, rates of petrol and diesel prices have risen for the fourth time in under two weeks. The back-to-back hikes are being attributed to volatility in global energy markets and growing concerns over crude oil supply amid continuing tensions in the Middle East. In Delhi, petrol prices have risen by Rs 2.61 per litre and are now retailing at Rs 10. Experts say fuel prices are closely linked to international crude oil rates, currency exchange fluctuations, and domestic taxation policies. The continuous rise in fuel costs is likely to push up transportation and logistics expenses, which may eventually affect the prices of goods also expected to face higher daily travel expenses. Meanwhile, the government had reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel on March 27 to provide relief to consumers.

SC Upholds Bombay HC Order On Misuse Of Over Rs 100 Cr Estate Of Parsi Zoroastrian

New Delhi:

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld an order passed by the Bombay High Court directing a court-monitored criminal probe into the conduct of parties concerning the estate of Purvez Burjor Dalal, a Parsi Zoroastrian from Mumbai who passed away in 2011. A bench comprising Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B Varale said: "the appeals being devoid of merit deserves to be dismissed and the same are accordingly dismissed. As we are upholding the judgment of the High Court, we may state here that in case pursuant to the directions of the High Court, a report is drawn by prothonotary and submitted for investigation, the competent investigation authority to proceed with the investigation expedi-



ously and submit the progress report as per the directions of the High Court". The bench said the conduct of the appellants and the associated entities revealed a concerted, deceitful effort to frustrate the administrator's mandate and dissipate the estate of the late Purvez Burjor Dalal. The bench said the high court was perfectly justified in refusing to be a mute spectator to this blatant abuse of process. The bench said the invocation of Article 215 of

the Constitution to direct a court-monitored investigation was not only legally sound but absolutely necessary to protect the estate in medio and uphold the majesty of the law. The bench said it finds no infirmity or illegality in the impugned common final judgment and order dated July 16, 2024, passed by the division bench of the high court, nor in the underlying order of the single judge dated December 21, 2018. The deceased was a bachelor and left

behind substantial movable and immovable properties, the valuation of which was estimated to be over Rs 100 crores. The apex court dismissed appeals filed by Bai Avabai Hormusji Tata Trust and others against the division bench order of July 16, 2024, which rejected their plea against the single judge order.

The bench said a holistic reading of the single judge's order makes it abundantly clear that the direction for a criminal investigation was not passed strictly under Section 340 of the CrPC for an offence affecting the administration of justice (like perjury in court documents alone). "Rather, the Court exercised its broader inherent powers to investigate a larger conspiracy of siphoning the estate's funds through fraudulent banking transactions and

Israel's Military Says It's Striking Hezbollah Sites As Netanyahu Vows To 'Increase The Blows'



Beirut: Israel's air force targeted sites belonging to Hezbollah in Lebanon, including in the country's eastern Bekaa Valley, late on Monday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to intensify attacks on the Lebanese militant group. Netanyahu's warning came as Hezbollah has been firing fiber optic drones — a weapon used widely in the war in Ukraine — at Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and northern Israel in recent weeks. "We will hit them. It's true that they are shooting drones at us, fiber optic drones. We have a special team working on that and we will solve that too," Netanyahu said in a video posted on social media. "What this requires of us now is to

increase the blows, to increase the intensity. We will smite them hip and thigh." Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said that after Netanyahu's post, some residents started leaving Beirut's southern suburbs where Hezbollah has large presence. The agency also said several airstrikes hit the eastern town of Mashghara in the Bekaa region on Monday night. Meanwhile, Hezbollah said that it carried out eight attacks earlier in the day, including a drone attack on Israeli troops in Misgav Am in northern Israel. The daily attacks between Israel and Hezbollah have been ongoing despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in place since April 17. A U.S. State Department official said

earlier on Monday that Hezbollah has ignored repeated requests to stop firing at Israel, including a recent ultimatum. The official, who was not authorized to talk to the media and therefore spoke on condition of anonymity, added that Israel will never be expected to passively absorb attacks on its forces and civilians. Since the ceasefire went into effect, Hezbollah has fired over a thousand drones and over 700 rockets to try and derail ongoing negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, the official said, adding that "the status quo is untenable." Last month, Lebanon and Israel began their first direct talks in more than three decades with meetings held in Washington. Lebanese and Israeli

military officials are to meet again on Friday, at the Pentagon, to discuss the ceasefire. Israel and the United States are seeking to have Hezbollah disarmed. The State Department official said the direct Lebanon-Israel talks and the implication that Lebanon stands to get significant support from the U.S. is a threat to the Iran-backed Hezbollah, along with a challenge to its narrative of resistance against Israel. "A successful ceasefire led by the government of Lebanon would strip Hezbollah of their power and their narrative," the official said. Earlier Monday, an Israeli airstrike on the southern village of Kfar Rumman killed four people and wounded three, the Lebanese NNA reported.

Pope Calls For Robust Regulation of AI In Manifesto That Ponders The Future Of Humanity

Vatican City: Pope Leo XIV called Monday for robust regulation of artificial intelligence and for its developers to work for the common good rather than profit, issuing a sweeping manifesto on safeguarding humankind as the technology impacts everything from work to war. "Magnifica Humanitas" (Humanity), Leo's first encyclical, has been eagerly awaited ever since history's first U.S.-born pope announced days after his election that he considered AI to be the biggest challenge facing humanity today. In the text, Leo denounced the "culture of power" driving the AI race, especially in development ever more sophis-



ticated methods of remote warfare. He declared that it was "not permissible" to entrust irreversible, lethal decisions to AI systems, setting up another flash point between the American pope and the Trump administration, which has worked aggressively to deregulate AI development. "Artificial Intelligence now demands to be disarmed, freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination,

exclusion and death," the pope told a special Vatican presentation of the encyclical, one of the most authoritative types of teaching documents a pope can issue. Experts in the tech industry, academia and Catholic morality said the document will likely become a benchmark in the debate over AI, a point of reference for policymakers, researchers and ordinary folk alike. It comes as the near-daily developments in the technology trigger concerns over AI replacing human jobs and even human intelligence. Taylor Black, a Microsoft AI executive and director of Catholic

University of America's AI institute, said the document would prompt people "at the forefront of these tools" to ask questions such as "What does it mean to be human?" Pope calls out AI companies even as he hosts Anthropic. The Vatican launch also included remarks by the co-founder of Anthropic, which is frameworks, independent for humankind since there is so much at stake — "a real possibility that AI will displace human labor at a very large scale." "We need more of to take this seriously, to look closely, and to push events in a better direction," Olah said. "We need moral voices that the incentives cannot bend."

19 Australian Women And Children Linked To Islamic State Group Set To Return From Syria



Melbourne: A group of 19 Australian women and children linked to the Islamic State group have booked flights to return from Syria and some could face charges, Australia's government said on Tuesday. The seven women and 12 children were expected to arrive on flights to Sydney and Melbourne on Tuesday, less than three weeks after a group of 13 people in similar situations returned to Australia's two largest cities. Three of the four women on the earlier flights were charged with slavery and terrorism offenses and remain behind bars. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said anyone among the 19 on their way to Australia who has committed crimes

"can expect to face the full force of the law." "The government has not and will not provide any assistance to this group," Burke said in a statement. "These are people who have made the horrific choice to join a dangerous terrorist organisation and to place their children in an unspeakable situation," he added. Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies have been preparing for their return since 2014 and have long-standing plans in place to manage and monitor them, Burke said. "The priority of the government, as always, is the safety of the Australian community," he said. After the departure of the latest group, at least two Australians will remain in Roj camp,

a location in northeast Syria near the Iraq border where people linked to IS have been held since IS forces in the Middle East were defeated in 2019. A mother who was prevented from returning to Australia in February by a temporary exclusion order was not traveling with the group. The government revealed earlier that one of the women at Roj was subject to an order that can be used to prevent high-risk citizens from returning for up to two years. Exclusion orders were created by laws introduced in 2019 to prevent defeated IS fighters from returning to Australia. The last Australian cohort returned from Syria on May 7, similarly without government

help. Kawsar Ahmed, also known as Kawsar Abbas, 53, and her daughter Zeinab Ahmed, 31, were arrested when they landed in Melbourne over allegations that their family had bought a female Yazidi slave. Janai Safar, 32, was arrested at Sydney Airport when she arrived with her 9-year-old son on charges of being a member of a terrorist organization and with entering or remaining in a region controlled by a terrorist organization. Australian governments have repatriated Australian women and children from Syrian detention camps on two occasions. Other Australians have returned quietly without government assistance.

Iran's Nuclear Dust Can Be Destroyed In US Or Another Location Under IAEA Supervision: Trump



Washington: US President Donald Trump said Iran's enriched uranium can be turned and destroyed in the US, but his preference is for it to be destroyed "in place" or at "another acceptable location," under the supervision of the IAEA. Trump's comment marks a shift in his repeated statements that Iran hand over its enriched uranium to the US as a sticking point of any potential deal. "The Enriched Uranium (Nuclear Dust!) will either be immediately turned over to the United States to be brought home and destroyed or, preferably, in conjunction and coordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran, destroyed in place or, at another acceptable location, with the Atomic Energy Commission, or its equivalent, being wit-

ness to this process and event," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. On Monday, Trump said negotiations with Iran to end the war were progressing "nicely" and urged countries involved in the peace talks to sign on to the Abraham Accords, which deal with establishing diplomatic, economic and security ties between Israel and Arab nations. He said it would be an honour to have Iran as a signatory to the Accords. "...after all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together, it should be mandatory that all of these Countries, at a minimum, simultaneously, sign onto the Abraham Accords," Trump said, adding that it may be accepted if one or two have a reason for not doing so.

Among the negotiators, the UAE and Bahrain are already members of the Accords, and Trump expects Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt and Jordan to sign up. On criticism of the possible deal with Iran, countries involved in the peace talks to sign on to the Abraham Accords, which deal with establishing diplomatic, economic and security ties between Israel and Arab nations. He said it would be an honour to have Iran as a signatory to the. "...after all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together, it should be mandatory that all of these Countries, at a minimum, simultaneously, sign onto the Abraham Accords," Trump said, adding that it may be accepted if one or two have a reason for not doing so.

not doing so. From within the Republican party, Trump asserted that the draft under negotiation was the "exact opposite" of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) finalised under the then President Barack Obama. "The deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal. It will be the exact opposite of the JCPOA disaster negotiated by the failed Obama Administration, which was a direct and open path to a Nuclear Weapon for Iran. No, I don't do deals like that," Trump said. "It will only be a Great Deal for all or, no Deal at all — Back to the Battlefield and shooting, but bigger and stronger than ever before — And nobody wants that," he said in a separate post on Truth Social.

Quad Foreign Ministers' Meet In New Delhi Today; Focus On Free And Open Indo-Pacific



New Delhi: Amid volatile situation in West Asia, India is geared up to host the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting here on Tuesday, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar set to chair high-level talks with a focus on strengthening cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The meeting, which brings together EAM Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, will be the first Quad Foreign Ministers' meet hosted by India since 2023. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the discussions are expected to focus on maritime security, resilient supply chains, critical minerals, infrastructure, climate action, emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. This apart, regional geopolitical developments, including the situation in West Asia and Ukraine, are also likely to figure in the talks. "In keeping with the Quad vision for a Free

and Open Indo-Pacific, the Ministers will build on discussions held in Washington, DC on 1 July 2025. They will exchange views on advancing Quad cooperation across priority areas, review progress on ongoing Quad initiatives, and reflect on recent developments in the Indo-Pacific region and other international issues of mutual concern," MEA said. Ahead of the meeting, Jaishankar held talks with Motegi on Monday and highlighted the importance of the India-Japan partnership in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. "Between India and Japan of course, we have a special strategic and global partnership and that signals that our ties have a larger implication, larger importance, larger impact and one ex briefing with Jaishankar, ample of that will be tomorrow when we meet in the Quad format to discuss how to advance free and open Indo-Pacific," Jaishankar said during the meeting. During their visit, the foreign ministers of

Australia and Japan, along with the US Secretary of State, are also expected to hold bilateral meetings with Jaishankar. Motegi is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. Reports suggest the Quad countries may announce fresh measures to strengthen economic security and technology partnerships during the meeting. Earlier, Rubio described India as "one of the most important strategic partners" for the United States and said both countries are aligned on several major global issues, including critical minerals, supply chains terrorism. Addressing a joint press briefing with Jaishankar, Rubio said India and the US have both suffered because of global terrorism networks and noted that democracies understand the importance of accountability scrutiny. Rubio said, "I have to go back and justify to the American people every decision we

make and the president has to do the same on why it's good for our country and our counterparts here in India have to do the exact same thing. You have to respond to the people of India about why your partnership with the United States or your stance on any issue for that matter is to the benefit of your country." "I imagine this is true in every country in the world to some degree, but it is particularly true for democracies," he added. Jaishankar held talks with Motegi on Monday and highlighted the importance of the India-Japan partnership in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. "Between India and Japan of course, we have a special strategic and global partnership and that signals that our ties have a larger implication, larger importance, larger impact and one example of that will be tomorrow when we meet in the Quad format to discuss how to advance free and open Indo-Pacific," Jaishankar said during the meeting.

im To Triple Trade To \$50 Billion: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: India and Canada are looking at concluding the negotiations for a free trade agreement by the end of this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. Goyal is in Canada for a three-day official visit, starting May 25. "Our prime ministers have tasked us not only with completing the free trade agreement with a comprehensive outlook before the end of this year or earlier and tripling our trade from a current USD 17 billion level to USD 50 billion by 2030," he has said, while jointly addressing the media in Ottawa with Canada's Trade Minister Ma ninder Sidhu on May 25. He said that the target was "very much doable" given the sincerity of purpose, since the signing of the terms of preference in March, and the trust between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Carney. Goyal noted that he had come with the largest business delegation from India, with over 112 Indian businesses already on their way to Canada. "I have come with the largest ever



business delegation that has stepped out of India ever in our history. At last count early this morning, at about five o'clock, I was reported 112 Indian businesses had already taken off from India," Goyal said. Noting how India and Canada are two very economies, democracies, and sets of people who believe in the shared prosperity of not only their countries but also their contribution to global economies and global peace and security, he labelled the relationship to be very important in the years to come. Goyal further called on Canada's Prime Minister of Canada mark Carney. In

a social media post on 'X', Carney said: "We're negotiating a free trade deal with India. This will be a game changer for Canadian workers and businesses — unlocking a massive new market. We're working fast — I met Minister @to review our progress so far and explore the opportunities ahead for both our countries in energy, agri-food, tech, and education". The two countries are negotiating a Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Two rounds of negotiations have been completed. The third round is going on in Ottawa from May 25 to 29. Key exports from India to Canada include

pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, seafood, cotton garments, electronic goods and chemicals, among others. Imports include pulses, pearls and semi-precious stones, coal, fertiliser, paper and petroleum crude. India's main services sector exports include telecommunications, computer and information services, and other business services. Canada is also home to over 4,25,000 Indian students and a strong Indian community. Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Brij Mohan Mishra, is the chief negotiator from the Indian side. Bruce Christie is Canada's

One Indian Among Four Killed In Ukrainian Drone Strikes On Russia

New Delhi: An Indian worker was killed and three others injured in a drone attack in the Moscow region, the Indian embassy said Sunday. One of Ukraine's largest drone strikes on Russia killed at least four people, including three near Moscow, and wounded a dozen others, AP reported, citing local authorities. Debris fell on Russia's largest airport without causing damage, it added. The incident comes amid escalating hostilities between Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine carried out overnight attacks targeting installations in Moscow. "One Indian worker has lost his life and three others have been injured in a drone attack in (the) Moscow



region earlier today. Embassy officials have visited the location and met the injured workers in the hospital," the Indian Embassy in Russia said on 'X'. "The Embassy connotes the loss of life and is working with the company management and local authorities to provide necessary assis-

tance to the workers," it said, even though it did not disclose the identities of the deceased or the injured persons. Russia and Ukraine have stepped up long-range drone and missile attacks in recent months, even as diplomatic efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the more than three-year-old

conflict have continued. 8 wounded in Russian drone strikes on Ukraine. Russia attacked Ukraine with 287 drones overnight into Sunday, 279 of which were shot down or jammed, the Ukrainian air force reported. The strikes wounded 8 people in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region:

White House Fact Sheet On Trump's China Visit Cites Iran Agreement; Omits Taiwan

Washington: The US and China have agreed to set up boards on trade and investment and build a constructive relationship of strategic stability based on fairness and reciprocity, according to a fact sheet by the White House on President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing. The fact sheet, issued on Sunday, said China will address the United States' concerns regarding supply chain shortages related to rare earths and other critical minerals, including yttrium, scandium, neodymium, and indium. It also said that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed that Iran cannot possess a nuclear weapon, called to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and agreed that no country or organisation can be allowed to charge tolls. The fact sheet also mentioned that Trump will welcome Xi for a visit to Washington this fall, and both countries will support each other as hosts of the G20 and APEC summits later this year. "President Trump and President Xi confirmed their shared goal to denuclearise North Korea," the fact sheet said, without making any mention of Taiwan. In media interviews after talks with Xi, Trump described a potential multibillion-dollar weapons sale to Taiwan as a "negotiating chip" with China, raising concerns in Taiwan. As the cornerstone of this historic agreement, Trump and Xi chartered two new institutions to

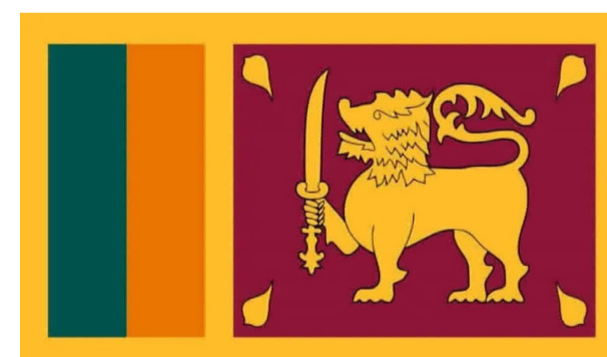


optimise the bilateral economic relationship: the US-China Board of Trade and the US-China Board of Investment. "The Board of Trade will allow the United States Government and the Government of China to manage bilateral trade across non-sensitive goods. The Board of Investment will provide a government-to-government forum for discussing investment-related issues," the fact sheet said. It further stated that President Trump negotiated a broad package of commitments aimed at creating high-paying American jobs and opening new markets for US goods. The fact sheet also noted that China will address US concerns regarding prohibitions or restrictions on the sale of rare earth production and processing equipment and technologies. "China approved an initial pur-

chase of 200 American-made Boeing aircraft for Chinese airlines," the fact sheet said, adding that China's commitment will drive high-paying, high-skilled US manufacturing jobs. It highlighted that China will purchase at least USD 17 billion per year of US agricultural products in 2026 (prorated), 2027, and 2028, in addition to the soybean purchase commitments that it made in October 2025. The document also said that China restored market access for US beef by renewing and expanding the listings of more than 400 US beef facilities, and will work with US regulators to lift all suspensions on these facilities. China also resumed imports of poultry from US states determined by the USDA as free of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Sri Lanka Central Bank Hikes Policy Interest Rates Amid West Asia Crisis

Colombo: Sri Lanka's central bank on Tuesday announced an increase in the policy rate by 100 basis points, bringing it to 8.75 per cent, saying the decision was made after "carefully considering the evolving conditions and outlook on the domestic and global fronts." The increase in the policy rate has been the first in three years. Last time, it was raised in March 2023 from 14.5 per cent to 15.5 per cent. "The Monetary Policy Board, at its meeting held on Monday, decided to increase the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) by 100 bps to 8.75 per cent. The Board arrived at this decision after carefully considering the evolving conditions and outlook on the domestic and global fronts," the bank said in a statement. Following this adjustment, the Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR)

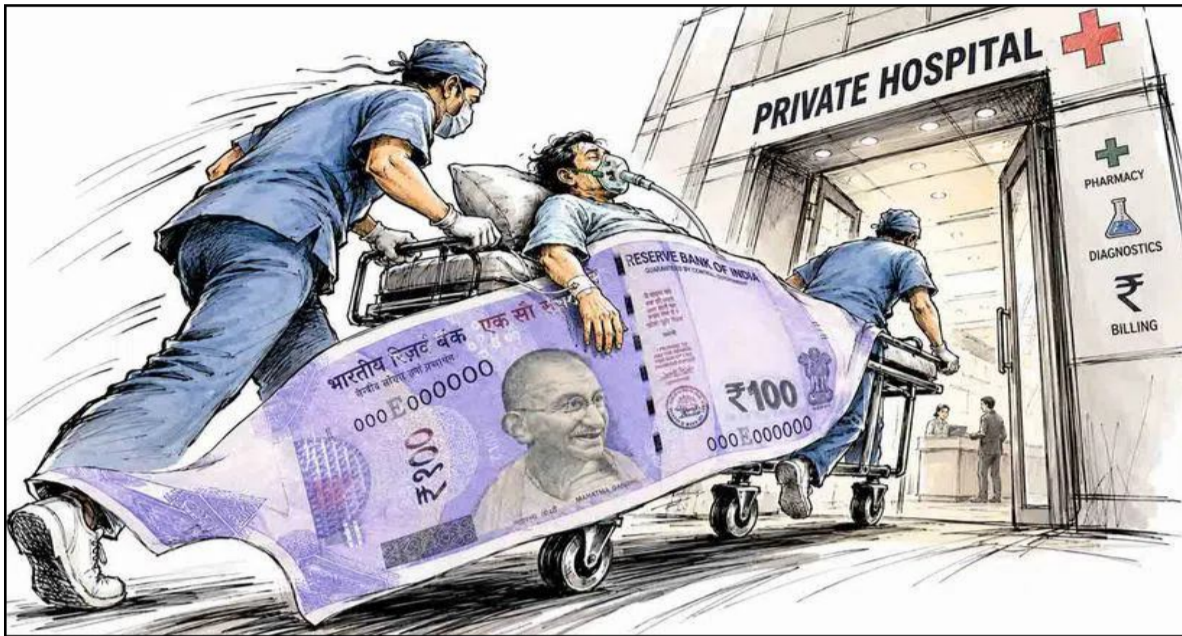


and the Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) — which are linked to the OPR with predetermined margins of \pm (plus-minus) 50 basis points — have been increased to 8.25 per cent and 9.25 per cent, respectively. The decision comes after a careful evaluation of evolving domestic and global macroeconomic conditions. The uncertainties arising from heightened tensions in West Asia have kept global commodity prices, particularly petroleum, high,

adversely affecting both the global and domestic economies. High global oil prices have necessitated sharp upward adjustments to domestic energy prices, largely contributing to the 5.4 per cent (year-over-year) inflation in April 2026, the Central Bank said. "The inflation is likely to remain above the target of 5 per cent in the period ahead, before easing and stabilising around it". The bank said the external pressures on the economy stemming from the West Asia conflict have amplified in

recent weeks due to speculative activity. Following the robust performance recorded in 2025, the surplus in the external current account remained modest in the first quarter of 2026. "This was mainly due to the widening trade deficit, particularly driven by increased expenditure on fuel imports and a slowdown in tourism earnings". "However, workers' remittances have remained resilient in 2026. Gross Official Reserves stood at USD 6.8 bn by the end of April 2026". The Sri Lankan rupee experienced notable depreciation pressures in recent weeks, although conditions have since eased to some extent. The rupee by May 22 from the beginning of the year had depreciated by 7.2 per cent, the Central Bank said earlier this week.

Delhi hospitals overcharging case and CCI ruling—When patients become captive consumers



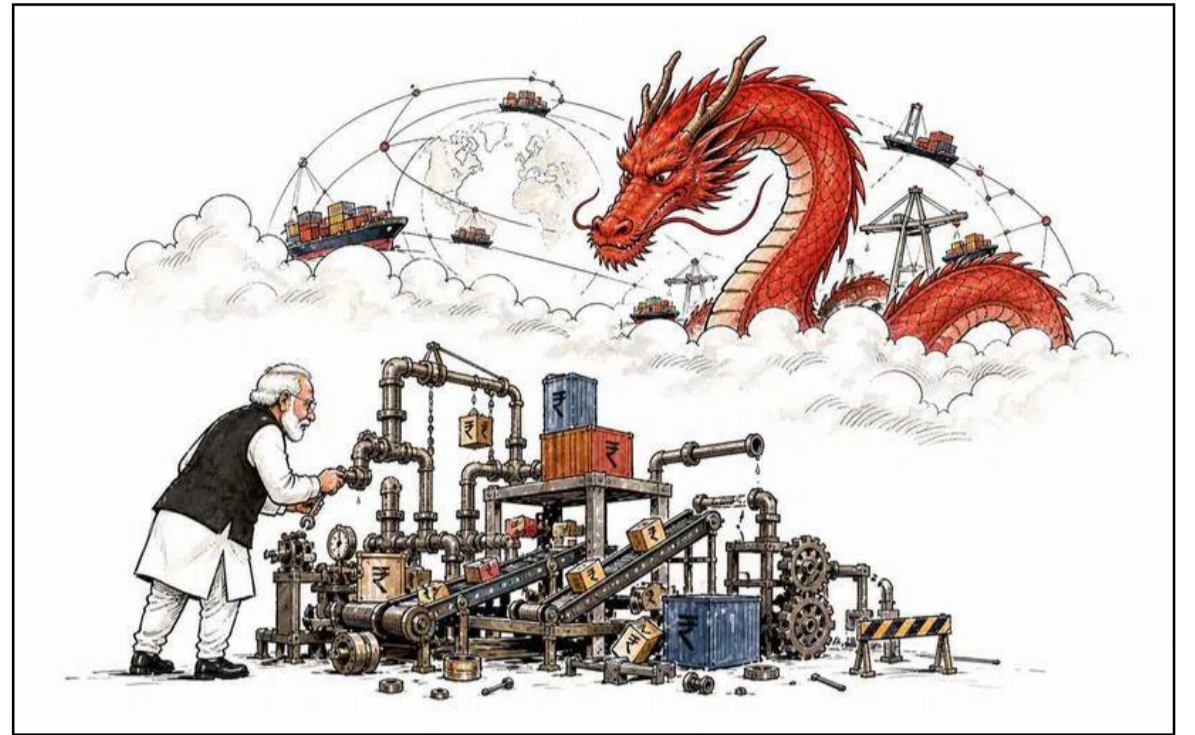
Private healthcare in India has become one of the most emotionally and financially draining experiences for middle-class and lower-middle-class families. Across the country, households routinely exhaust savings, borrow from relatives, pledge jewellery, liquidate investments, or even sell assets to pay hospital bills. Medical emergencies remain among the fastest paths from financial stability to financial distress. Hospitals need billing counsellors. Opinion: The hidden health crisis India continues to ignore. This is not a perception. It is a widely acknowledged reality and frequently reported in newspapers. "Hyderabad consumer commission orders hospital to compensate Rs 3 lakh for overcharging during Covid" was the headline in a leading English daily. Even as insurance coverage expands, out-of-pocket expenditure beyond insurance claims remains the dominant burden. Private hospitals—especially tertiary and super speciality centres—are respected for quality care, yet feared for open-ended and often unpredictable bills. That is why the recent Competition Commission of India (CCI) order involving 12 major Delhi NCR hospitals is not merely another legal decision. The CCI closed a decade-long investigation into allegations of overcharging and abuse of market dominance against 12 major private hospitals in Delhi-NCR. The watchdog dismissed the charges, concluding there was insufficient evidence to prove the hospitals had engaged in "excessive" and "unfair" pricing. This order strikes a raw public nerve. It raises two key questions: When a patient enters a hospital, does s/he remain a patient—or become a captive customer? Can the hospital overcharge an in-patient because s/he is captive? **Captive Ecosystem** A patient enters a hospital expecting care, professional judgment and trust—not a commercial marketplace where crucial purchase decisions are made on his behalf, without meaningful consultation. Yet once admitted: Medicines must be bought from the hospital pharmacy. Diagnostics are routed through the hospital's labs and must be redone. Consumables are used without discussion of brands or costs.

Tests are often repeated even when valid external reports exist. Families, under emotional pressure, rarely have the information or ability to question decisions. Thus, the CCI case is not about high bills alone. It concerns commercial behaviour within a medically captive environment. Why this matters: Office of the Director General (DG), the investigative arm of the CCI, conducted the fact-finding. This is crucial: the conclusions were not drawn by a private complainant but by a statutory authority. The DG found that admitted in-patients paid more than out-patients for medicines, consumables, diagnostics and services, and that once admitted, patients had little practical ability to procure these from outside sources. Each hospital became a closed commercial ecosystem. Before admission, a patient may theoretically be in a competitive market. After admission, he is not. Once admitted, the hospital controls: procurement, emergency brand selection, repeat test and the entire decision-making environment. Thus, the DG's "lock in" finding is central—not just because choice is reduced, but because reduced choice creates commercial disadvantage. The investigation reportedly documented differential pricing patterns, raising serious questions of fairness and patient rights. These are not allegations; they are independently established facts. CCI's Narrower Legal View The CCI appears to have accepted that admitted patients rely on internal hospital ecosystems. Yet it concluded that this does not constitute actionable abuse under competition law. Let's examine the CCI rationale. One pillar of CCI's reasoning is that patients can choose hospitals before admission. This is theoretically true but practically weak. Do hospitals disclose upfront: that in-patients lose access to OPD discounts? that medicines may be billed at MRP despite available discounts? that external diagnostics may not be accepted? that estimates are only indicative and may escalate significantly? In most cases, no. A choice based on incomplete information is not an informed choice. **The Aftermarket** The DG recommended treating each hospital's in-patient

ecosystem as a separate "aftermarket" or relevant market. The CCI rejected this, taking a broader view of super-speciality hospitals. Legally, that position is defensible. Practically, it is incompA recovering patient, an ICU patient, a post-surgical patient—none of them is participating in any competitive market. They are functionally dependent on one hospital. Before admission, the patient chooses the hospital. After admission, the hospital chooses everything for the patient. This is not an ordinary consumer choice; it is dependency. **Differential Pricing Problem** The CCI noted that higher prices alone do not prove abuse. That is correct. Hospitals incur legitimate costs: infrastructure, staffing, compliance, emergency readiness, and inventory management. But the sharper question is: If the same hospital uses the same pharmacy, staff, inventory, and supply chain, why do in-patients systematically lose access to discounts available to outpatients? If OPD patients get lower-priced medicines, discounted diagnostics, and more competitive consumable rates, why are admitted patients denied the same? This is not simply high pricing—it is differential pricing within a captive environment. Logically, inpatients—who bring more predictable volume—should receive lower pricing. Yet the opposite happens. **Diagnostics: Incomplete Explanation** The CCI argued that hospital diagnostics cannot be directly compared with opaque pricing. If emergency diagnostics require premiums, those premiums should be transparently disclosed. Routine daytime diagnostics cannot carry steep mark-ups merely by invoking 24-hour readiness, especially when many imaging facilities are not fully operational at night. The real issue is not the existence of a premium, but whether the premium is transparent, proportionate and fair. **The CCI may have adopted a narrow legal**

interpretation, but the public policy question remains urgent. Healthcare affordability in India is now a national household crisis. This is not an extraordinary complaint. It reflects a pattern that countless families recognise instantly. What Should Happen Next? Appellate Review Complainants should seriously consider appellate options. The DG's findings provide a substantial factual basis for re-examination of whether competition law was too narrowly applied to a captive medical environment. **Wider Policy and Ethical Review** This issue extends beyond competition law. It touches: consumer protection, medical ethics, informed consent, pricing transparency, and healthcare governance. The Central Consumer Protection Authority should examine unfair trade practices. The National Medical Commission should review ethical norms around commercial conduct. The Ministry of Health should consider mandatory transparency standards for billing and procurement. Patient rights groups should collect systematic evidence. Journalists should investigate pricing differences between OPD and inpatient care. The Larger Principle Hospitals are not ordinary businesses. Healthcare operates around trust, vulnerability and information asymmetry. Standards of transparency must therefore be higher, not lower. A patient is not a shopper. And an admitted patient is These points have merit. But they do not justify opaque pricing. If emergency diagnostics require premiums, those premiums should be transparently disclosed. Routine daytime diagnostics cannot carry steep mark-ups merely by invoking 24-hour readiness, especially when many imaging facilities are not fully operational at night. The real issue is not the existence of a premium, but whether the premium is transparent, proportionate and fair. **The CCI may have adopted a narrow legal**

China+1 strategy — less windfall, more a test for India



The 'China+1' strategy has become a defining feature of global trade in recent years. As multinational firms reassess their dependence on China, they are diversifying production across alternative locations. Rising labour costs in China, geopolitical tensions such as the US-China trade war, and supply chain disruptions during Covid-19 have accelerated this shift. India's foreign policy faces tougher tests ahead. **Opinion: India needs a supply chain strategy amid Hormuz, Red Sea crises** For India, this moment appears to offer a historic opportunity. Yet the reality is more complex: India is gaining, but not as much as it could. At first glance, the optimism is justified. India has made visible progress in attracting global manufacturing. The government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has played a catalytic role, particularly in electronics. Mobile phone exports have surged from roughly \$11 billion in FY23 to over \$15 billion in FY24, indicating that global firms are beginning to shift parts of their supply chains toward India. **Electronics Sector** The experience of Apple Inc illustrates this shift. iPhones now account for nearly two-thirds of India's mobile phone exports, and production has expanded rapidly over the past two years. Even more significant is the emergence of component exports: Apple's suppliers in India are increasingly exporting intermediate goods, suggesting that the country is moving, albeit gradually, beyond simple assembly. **More broadly,** India's electronics sector has expanded dramatically over the past decade, with production rising several-fold and exports growing even faster. India is now the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer. These trends indicate that India is, at least partially, integrating into global manufacturing networks. Only part of the story. Despite rapid growth, India's global position remains modest. Its share of smartphone exports remains 2-3%, far below China's dominance and trailing competitors like Vietnam, which has steadily increased its share to 10-12%. In labour-intensive sectors, Bangladesh continues to dominate textiles, while Mexico has benefited

from nearshoring due to its proximity to the United States. Even in electronics, India's strongest performing sector, the depth of integration remains limited. Domestic value addition is estimated at just 18-20%, compared to roughly 40% in China. This implies that India continues to rely heavily on imported components, capturing only a small portion of the value chains. **China+1 is not an automatic windfall.** It is a competitive race. Countries that are already embedded in global value chains have a clear advantage. The shift underway is not about building entirely new supply chains, but about relocating segments of existing ones. **In this context,** Vietnam's success is not accidental; it reflects years of integration through trade agreements and export-oriented policies. India, by contrast, has historically been more inward-looking, limiting its participation in cross-border production networks. **Major Bottleneck** Structural constraints further weaken India's position. Logistics remains a major bottleneck. While improvements have been made, costs are still significantly higher than in competing economies. Delays at ports, inefficiencies in transport, and fragmented supply chains raise operational costs for firms that operate on thin margins. **Labour presents another paradox.** India has an abundant workforce, but skill availability remains uneven. Modern manufacturing requires precision, consistency, and technical capability, areas where gaps persist. The issue is not the quantity of labour, but its readiness for complex production processes. **Policy uncertainty adds another layer of friction.** Frequent tariff changes and evolving compliance requirements create unpredictability for global firms. While some of these measures aim to promote domestic industry, they can inadvertently discourage integration into global value chains, which depend on seamless cross-border flows of inputs. **Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico advanced rapidly in global supply chains** are being reconfigured in real time. But such windows do not remain open indefinitely. As firms establish new production bases, the scope for late

entrants narrows. In the end, China+1 is less a windfall than a test. It tests whether India's role in global electronics manufacturing is expanding, and there are signs of deeper integration. A growing share of exports is now linked to global firms, and the country is increasingly seen as a viable alternative production base. **Beyond Schemes** But early gains should not be mistaken for structural transformation. The assumption that global firms will automatically shift to India as they diversify away from China is flawed. The evidence suggests otherwise. Countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico have moved quickly to position themselves within global supply chains, often with greater policy consistency and stronger ecosystem support. For India, the policy implication is clear: the focus must shift from protection to competitiveness. **Incentive schemes like PLI can attract investment,** but they cannot substitute for deeper reforms. Reducing logistics costs, improving skill development, ensuring policy stability, and expanding trade integration are essential. **India's cautious approach to trade agreements has limited its access to global markets,** particularly when compared to Vietnam's aggressive strategy of signing multiple free trade agreements. **Equally important is .** Manufacturing competitiveness does not depend on a single policy lever; it requires alignment across infrastructure, labour markets, trade policy, and governance. **Fragmented reforms will deliver incremental gains at best.** The China+1 moment represents a rare window of opportunity. Global supply chains are being reconfigured in real time. But such windows do not remain open indefinitely. As firms establish new production bases, the scope for late

entrants narrows. In the end, China+1 is less a windfall than a test. It tests whether India's role in global electronics manufacturing is expanding, and there are signs of deeper integration. A growing share of exports is now linked to global firms, and the country is increasingly seen as a viable alternative production base. **Beyond Schemes** But early gains should not be mistaken for structural transformation. The assumption that global firms will automatically shift to India as they diversify away from China is flawed. The evidence suggests otherwise. Countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico have moved quickly to position themselves within global supply chains, often with greater policy consistency and stronger ecosystem support. For India, the policy implication is clear: the focus must shift from protection to competitiveness. **Incentive schemes like PLI can attract investment,** but they cannot substitute for deeper reforms. Reducing logistics costs, improving skill development, ensuring policy stability, and expanding trade integration are essential. **India's cautious approach to trade agreements has limited its access to global markets,** particularly when compared to Vietnam's aggressive strategy of signing multiple free trade agreements. **Equally important is .** Manufacturing competitiveness does not depend on a single policy lever; it requires alignment across infrastructure, labour markets, trade policy, and governance. **Fragmented reforms will deliver incremental gains at best.** The China+1 moment represents a rare window of opportunity. Global supply chains are being reconfigured in real time. But such windows do not remain open indefinitely. As firms establish new production bases, the scope for late

Como Qualify For UEFA Champions League For First Time In Club's History

Cesc Fabregas' Como secured a place in the Champions League for the first time in the club's history with a 4-1 win over 10-man Cremonese on the final day of the Serie A season. After Como's win, AC Milan suffered 2-1 defeat against Caligari, and that confirmed the fourth-place finish for Como in the Serie A and a spot in the Champions League. "It's up there with all my achievements for how it was done and with whom we did it, because we did it with very young players, almost all of them are under 23 years old.



That's amazing," Fabregas said after the match. Jesus Rodriguez and Tasos Douvikas put Como in a commanding lead before a foul on Jamie Vardy in the penalty area handed a penalty to Cremonese, and they showed signs of bouncing back as

Federico Bonazzoli scored a goal for Cremonese. Como were awarded a controversial penalty with 20 minutes to go, and it resulted in the opposition showing aggressive protests. The referee issued three red cards to Midfielder Alberto Grassi, who was

on the field. Two players from the substitutes' bench, Milan Djuric and David Okereke, were also given reds.

Lucas da Cunha added a fourth goal for Como and ensured their place in Europe in just their second season after returning to the top flight. Heading into the match, Como needed a win and were hoping that either AC Milan or Roma would drop points to secure Champions League qualification.

Roma emerged triumphant against 10-man Hellas Verona and clinched the third spot. However, as AC Milan

FDI Easing Under FEMA For Foreign Companies

The decision to ease foreign direct investment norms for overseas companies with up to 10 per cent stake in Chinese companies will be notified soon under the FEMA law, a senior government official said on Thursday. After that, the changes will come into effect. In March, the Union Cabinet approved amendments in the press note (PN) 3 of 2020 under which foreign companies having a Chinese shareholding of up to 10 per cent will be eligible to invest in India under the automatic route across sectors. However, the relaxed FDI rules will not apply to entities registered in China/Hong Kong or other countries sharing land borders with India. The government has also decided that FDI proposals in specified sectors/activities of manufacturing in capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer or any other sector/activity added by the committee of secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary will be processed within 60 days. Though the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified these changes, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has not yet notified them. "The DEA will have to issue the notification under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act). It will be notified very soon. It requires a lot of fine-tuning," DPIIT Joint Secretary Jai Prakash Shivahare told reporters here. He added that the department is working to bring during April-February 2025-26 against USD 959 million in the full fiscal year of 2024-25. The media, DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the investment (FDI) is likely to reach USD 90 billion in the full 2025-26 fiscal. He said that reform measures, free trade agreements and fast-growing economic growth are helping the country to attract healthy investments. The depart-



ment also informed that Invest India, the national investment Promotion and facilitation agency, has facilitated the grounding of 60 projects worth over USD 6.1 billion during 2025-26. These investments span 14 states and are estimated to generate more than 31,000 potential jobs. About 42 per cent of the total grounded investment value originates from European nations. Continued participation from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other key source markets affirms broad-based international confidence in India's regulatory environment and manufacturing capabilities. Emerging source nations such as Brazil, New Zealand, and Canada indicate diversi-

fication in the country's investment base. "India's investment momentum is a direct outcome of policy clarity, institutional commitment, and the trust global investors place in our systems," Bhatia said. Invest India MD and CEO Nivrut Rai said chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and food processing sectors account for about 65 per cent of grounded investments, driven by high-value projects. The agency, she said, key emerging sectors such as electronics system design and manufacturing, aerospace and defence, and auto/EV have recorded significant activity. She added that the agency is focusing on 11 countries for attracting greater inflows.

Canada indicate diversi-

Karnataka Cricketer Dies Of Heart Attack After Collapsing On Pitch

Cricketer Santebenneur Lokesh Akshay (S.L. Akshay), aged 39, died of a heart attack during a Karnataka State Cricket Association league match. Akshay, a former first-class cricketer from Karnataka and a member of the 2014-15 Ranji Trophy-winning team, was playing a third division league match at the SLS Cricket Ground in Bommasandra, Bengaluru, on Sunday. Akshay, who had come into the field for Sapphire Cricket Club in a match against Bharat Cricket Club, had bowled 4 overs. He was then fielding at slip. At this time, he felt very unwell, walked off the field, and rested near the pavilion. He had been sitting after drinking water and eating a banana when he suddenly collapsed. His teammates and staff on the field immediately tried to take him to the hospital, but it is learnt that he died on the way. His body has been shifted to East Point Hospital in Avalahalli, Karnataka. Cricketer S.L. Akshay died of heart attack during match



Cricketer Santebenneur Lokesh Akshay (ETV Bharat) Hailing from Shivamogga, Akshay was a fast bowler. He was a member of the state team in the 2014-15 Ranji Trophy season and played 6 first-class, 3 List-A (One-Day) and 9 T-20 matches for Karnataka. He took a total of 32 wickets in his

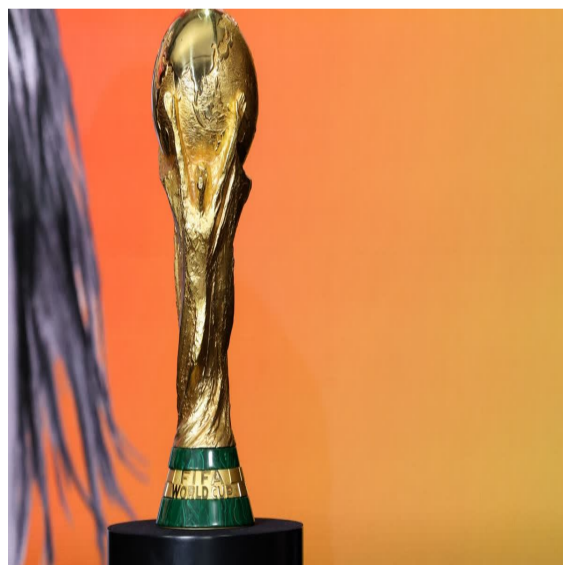
career. He last played for Karnataka in the 2012-13 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He represented Bijapur Bulls in the Karnataka Premier League tournament and played his last professional match against Ballari Tuskers in 2019. Akshay, who also served as the coach of the Karnataka Under-19

team, played a key role in developing many young cricket talents in the state. Many former and current cricketers, including the Karnataka State Cricket Association, have expressed deep condolences over the untimely demise of Akshay, a talented player and coach who was always smiling on the field. Former India cricketer Dodda Ganesh offered condolences on his 'X' handle. "Terrible, terrible news for the cricket community. SL Akshay, 39, a fast bowler, whom I saw from close quarters during his U19 days, has passed away today while playing a division match. Just don't have words to express my grief. A soft-spoken guy who played for Karnataka in 2011/12 with decent success is no more. RIP Akshay," he wrote in his post.

How Teams Qualify For FIFA World Cup? Slots For Each Continent, Qualification Process And All You Need To Know

The football World Cup is one of the biggest sporting events across the globe, and all the players dream to be part of it to showcase their talent in front of the world. Stars like Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe will have an opportunity to prove their mettle once again in the edition starting from June 11. Also, new generational talents like Lamine Yamal (Spain), Arda Güler (Turkey), Franco Mastantuono (Argentina), Pau Kubarzi (Spain) and Lennart Karl (Germany) will aim to dazzle with their footballing skills. Qualification for a football World Cup No team is guaranteed a spot in a football World Cup except for the hosts. Most of the other teams have to go through the qualification process, put in hard yards and emerge triumphant in the qualifiers in their respective continents to secure a berth in the

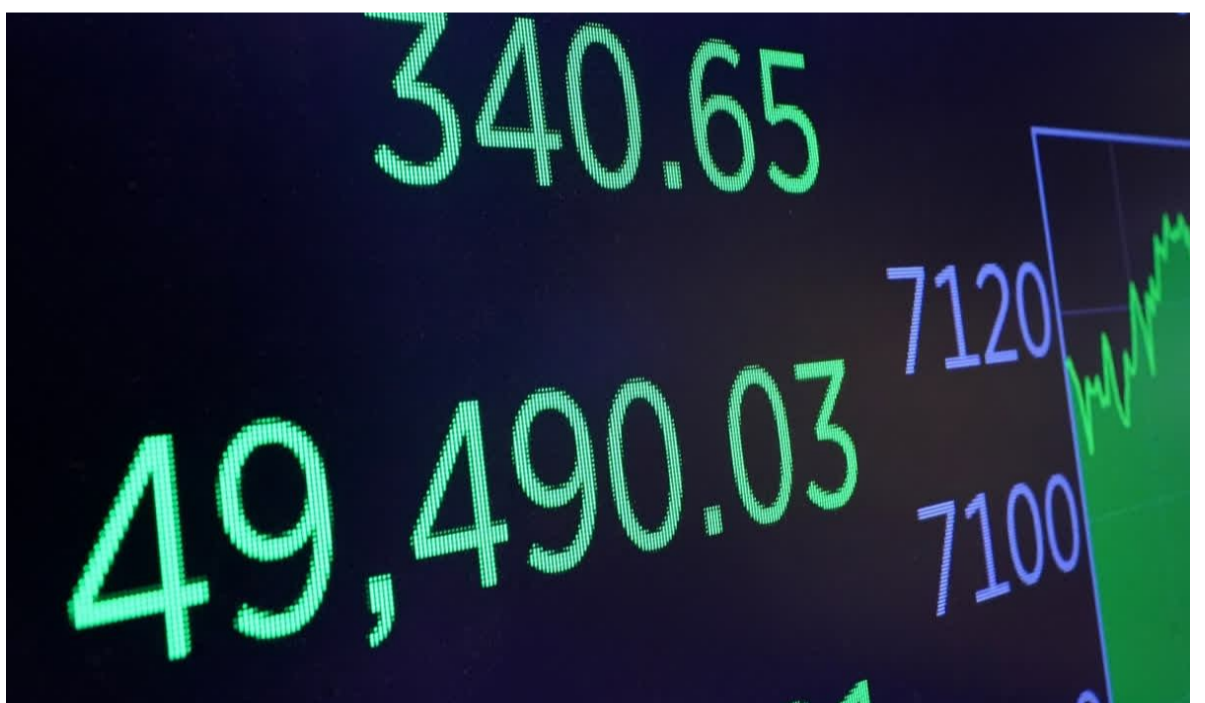
tournament. The high stakes are high, and as all teams have to advance through the qualifiers, it has happened that big teams have failed to make it into the tournament. For example, Italy have failed to make it to the World Cup thrice in a row. For qualification, each continent has been given a definite number of spots by FIFA. Continuous rise in the number of participants FIFA have been increasing the number of participants as the tournament is extending its legacy. The tournament started in 1930 with 13 participants, and the number increased to 16 by 1978. Then, it was extended to 24 teams till 1994 and eight more participant teams were added to the tournament from 1998 to 2022. Now, the 2026 edition is the first one where a total of 48 teams will participate, and FIFA aims to extend the number further. A 48-



team tournament was played to determine the 16 teams qualifying for the event. Teams were divided into 12 groups, with each group having four teams, while four other sides were determined through a tournament involving group runners-up and top UEFA Nations League performers. UEFA teams in World Cup: Austria, Belgium,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, England, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye. Africa All 53 CAF-affiliated nations were divided into nine round-robin groups. The teams played both home and away matches. All nine group winners were

Democrats Feud Over Stock Trading As They Sharpen Anti-Corruption Case Against Trump



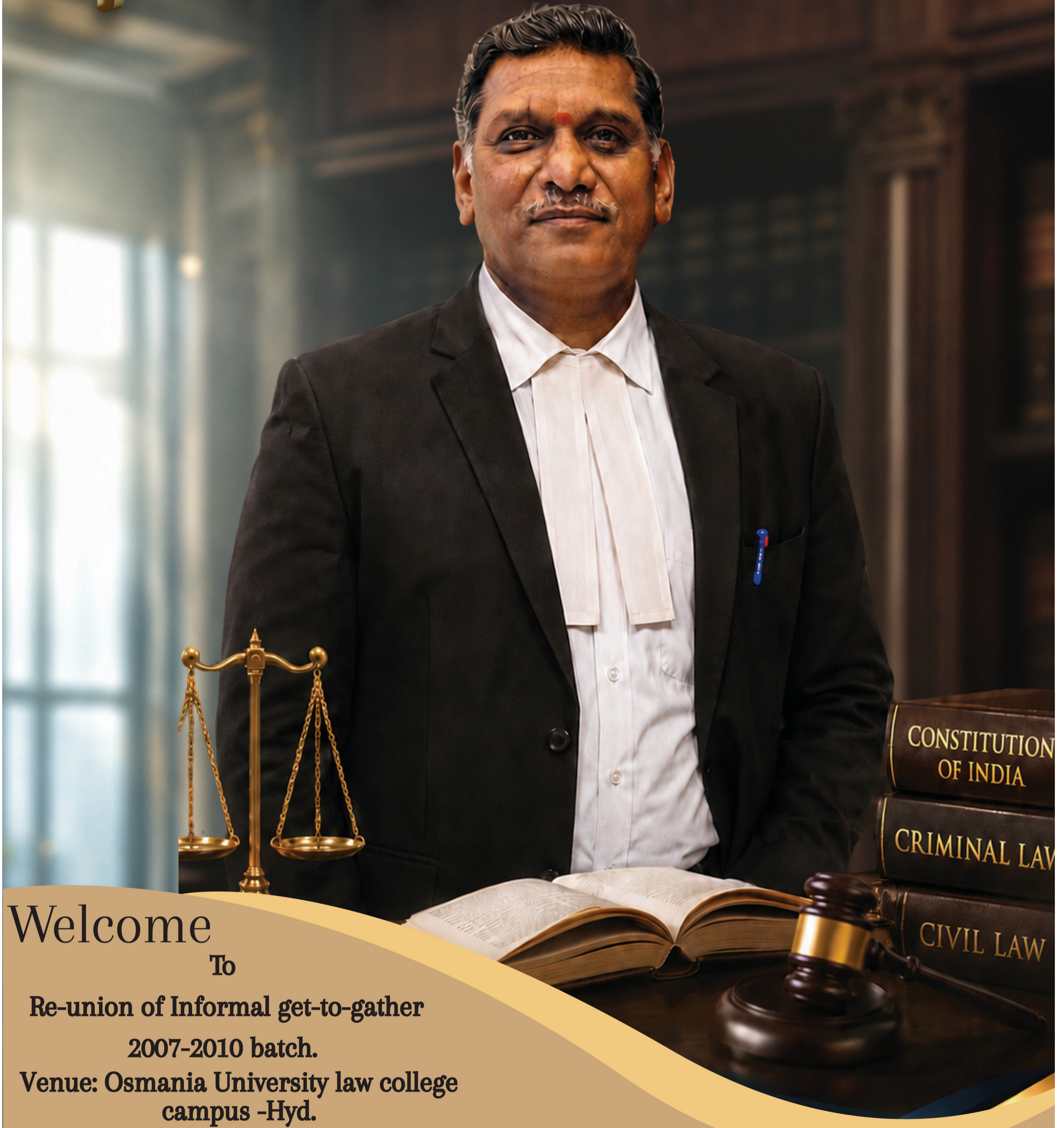
Dallas: After three terms in the U.S. House and two unsuccessful campaigns for the U.S. Senate, Colin Allred said he's heard plenty about voters' suspicions that politicians are just trying to make a buck in Washington. "What about the stock trading in Congress? What about people getting rich in Congress?" Allred said they ask him regularly. "And I have to say to them, you're absolutely right about that, too. We need to be better." He's challenging Rep. Julie Johnson in the Democratic runoff for a Dallas-area House seat on Tuesday, and he's one of several candidates trying to harness populist anger over congressional stock trading. Allred has denounced Johnson for trades involving companies like Palantir, a data analytics firm with ties to President Donald Trump's administration.

Johnson said her trades were handled by a financial manager, and she accused Allred of being "only out for himself." She pointed to financial disclosures that showed Allred's wealth nearly doubling during his own time in Congress, although Allred said his assets were in a blind trust and the money came from his wife's income as a partner at a law firm. "To be clear, the sum total I made on that trade was only \$90," Johnson said of her Palantir stock. "My opponent is trying to make it seem like it was hundreds or thousands." The bitter campaign is emblematic of broader debates within the Democratic Party over the role of money in politics. Long a refrain of strident progressives and good-government reformers, accusations that political rivals are self-dealing or bought by special interests have become a

mainstay of Democratic primaries. The heightened criticism of lawmakers' personal wealth comes as the party looks to sharpen its anti-corruption message against Trump and to develop a platform for overhauling Washington if Democrats take power in the midterms. Some are tracking congressional stock trading. Trump campaigned on a promise to "drain the swamp," capitalizing on Americans' disdain for the Washington establishment. Now that his family is profiting while he's back in the White House, Democrats are eager to regain the upper hand on an issue that could prove potent with voters. "The difficulty is that right now, no party has the mantle on anti-corruption," said Daniel Lobo-Lewis, a political consultant in Washington. "Many voters outside of the belt-way see both parties as corrupt, because they

see all politicians as bought by the donors or by their own self-interest." Lobo-Lewis and Nico Agosta founded the Political Integrity Project last year to track stock trading and corporate donations involving members of Congress. The organization asks candidates to sign an "integrity pledge" to refrain from trading stocks or accepting corporate donations while in Congress and vow not to work as a lobbyist after they leave office. So far, about 90 challengers and seven sitting lawmakers have taken the pledge. "If we want to, in any way, start rebuilding trust in our political institutions, it starts with no-brainer changes like this that have an approval rating above and beyond any other issue you could imagine," Lobo-Lewis said. Congress has yet to enact a stock trading ban for its members, though insider trading is already

Happy Birthday



Welcome

To

Re-union of Informal get-to-gather

2007-2010 batch.

Venue: Osmania University law college
campus -Hyd.

Time: 10:00 AM.