



BRS warns of a dharna at collector, add collector offices with soaked paddy



Karimnagar: Senior BRS leader and Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar on Wednesday warned of staging a dharna in front of the Collector and Additional Collector offices if the government failed to complete procurement within two days. Kamalakar visited paddy procurement centres in Karimnagar rural and Kothapalli mandals to assess the situation after unseasonal rains lashed the erstwhile Karimnagar district on Tuesday night, soaking paddy and maize stocked at the

centres. Accompanied by Civil Supplies officials, including the District Supply Officer and District Manager, he interacted with farmers at the PPC centres. Alleging complete failure on the part of the State government, Kamalakar said such situations never arose during the BRS regime as every grain produced by farmers was procured well in advance. He assured farmers that arrangements would be made to immediately shift the crop to godowns.

IMD forecasts gradual cooling in Telangana from Friday

Hyderabad: Notwithstanding the impact of heavy thundershowers that brought down maximum temperatures across Hyderabad and surrounding districts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, in its forecast on Wednesday, indicated that severe heatwave conditions are expected to continue for a few more days. While the recent downpours provided brief respite, the IMD has maintained a 'Red Alert' for regions in Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhpupalley, Mulugu, Bhadrachalam, Khammam and Khammam districts, where temperatures are likely to cross the 44 degrees Celsius mark. Based on weather forecasts and



assessments by IMD, New Delhi, a persistent high-pressure system, which traps heat and prevents cooler air from moving in, is causing temperatures across northern and eastern districts to rise. However, IMD, Hyderabad, has also indicated a clear path ahead towards the gradual easing of the ongoing heatwave conditions. Data from IMD, Hyderabad, and IMD, New Delhi, indicate that by Thursday or Friday, a gradual decline in maximum tempera-

tures by around 2 to 3 degrees Celsius is likely due to the strengthening of pre-monsoon atmospheric patterns. The weather department has indicated that localised thundershowers, lightning and gusty winds are expected to pave the way for gradual cooling in the coming days. By May 29 or 30, and into the weekend, the widespread heatwave conditions are projected to weaken, making way for more pre-monsoon weather.

Harish Rao blames delayed procurement for damage to paddy stocks

Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao said that the paddy at procurement centres was damaged only due to delay in purchasing the paddy by government. Speaking to news reporters after examining the soaked paddy in Chinna Kodur mandal, Ibrahimnagar and Gonapally villages on Wednesday, Harish Rao said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was making claims that they had completed 80 per cent of procurement. Demanding that Revanth visit the procurement centres to understand the reality, Rao said that the Chief Minister was just confined to AC meeting halls. He further accused the Congress and BJP of playing a blame game against each other shirking their responsibilities. While BJP was staging protests on delay in paddy and other grains procurement, Rao said that the Congress was blaming BJP on fuel price hikes. He demanded that the BJP leaders meet the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to



get the state's quota of paddy increased instead of engaging in a blame game. The BRS government under the leadership of former Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu put all the efforts to get the Kaleshwaram water to Siddipet, the former minister said adding that Congress could not purchase even the grains from farmers. Usually, he said that the procurement of paddy is completed by May month end every year, but the Congress government delayed the process in the name of tagging and other new rules.

MahaNadu a Festival of Cadres, Dedicated to Women: Chandrababu Naidu

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday described MahaNadu as a "festival of party cadres" and said this year's event has been dedicated to women, underlining the Telugu Desam Party's commitment to their empowerment. Addressing party workers, he said lakhs of cadres participated through a hybrid format, adding that while the meeting style has evolved, the spirit and principles of MahaNadu remain unchanged. He said the platform would be used to review past performance, discuss key issues, and outline future plans. Also Read - Jagan Accuses Andhra Govt of Neglecting Sugali Preeti Case Naidu asserted

that the TDP has consistently stood for welfare, development, and good governance, and has played a key role in ensuring social justice. He described the party as a guiding force in national politics, enjoying enduring public support. Recalling the party's struggles, he said TDP has fought relentlessly for democracy despite arrests, threats, and hardships. He paid tribute to party workers who sacrificed their lives and said the party never bowed to pressure. Woman Gets Life Term For Killing 2 Sons Over Extramarital Affair High the Chief Minister said several initiatives have been implemented to ensure their economic and social dignity. He cited



measures such as free bus travel, free LPG connections earlier, and the provision of three free gas cylinders annually. He

also stressed strict action against crimes targeting women and efforts to curb drug abuse. Naidu reaffirmed that the govern-

ment remains committed to fulfilling promises made to the people and ensuring inclusive growth across the state.

Bhatti Orders Readiness Review of Residential Schools

Nalgonda: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday directed officials to ensure full preparedness of government residential educational institutions for the academic year 2026-27. At a review meeting held at the Integrated District Offices Complex in Khammam, he assessed readiness for the upcoming academic session and asked officials to focus on increasing admissions by creating awareness among parents. He instructed them to identify reasons for unfilled seats in certain residential schools and address the gaps. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad



Crime in 2025 Noting that the academic year would start on June 12, he directed that all repair and infrastructure works taken up during the summer vacation be completed before reopening. The Deputy Chief Minister said boards displaying diet charges and menu must be installed in every residential school and hostel. He asked the district collector

to appoint a district-level officer as in-charge for each institution, with a mandate to conduct monthly visits and submit comprehensive reports. Officials were also instructed to carry out inspections and record findings formally. Also Read - ED Conducts Fresh Raids in Telangana He directed that monthly health check-ups be con-

ducted by qualified doctors and that student health records be maintained. Officials were asked to submit a detailed report on residential institutions operating in rented buildings and to prepare a preliminary plan on relocation of SC, ST, BC and minority residential schools once Young India Integrated School buildings are completed. He stressed expediting construction of these institutions. Also Read - People's Support for TDP has Remained Unwavering for Years: Naidu Regional coordinators were instructed to complete inspections of all residential schools within 12 days using a prescribed check-

list and submit reports. Priority must be given to timely distribution of textbooks and uniforms. Stating that education remains a top priority of the state by Amma Adarsha Schools committees had been cleared and that DMFT funds would be used to settle pending bills of the education department. Officials were also directed to prepare an action plan for installation of solar panels in residential schools. District collector Divakara T.S., additional collector Dr P. Srija, Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt and regional organisers of residential educational institutions attended the meeting.

KTR asks BRS workers to support farmers affected by unseasonal rains

Hyderabad: Expressing concern over the losses suffered by farmers due to unseasonal rains, BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded the Congress government to procure paddy, maize and other produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP) without imposing conditions on moisture content or deductions. He also urged BRS leaders and workers to stand by farmers during the crisis and extend all possible support. ent issued on Wednesday, Rama Rao expressed concern over the condition of farmers across the State, particularly in Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts, where heavy losses were reported. armers were devastated after unseasonal rains over the last two days washed away harvested paddy. Criticising the Congress government, Rama Rao said farmers were struggling to protect their produce while dealing with power



outages and poor facilities at procurement centres. "The farmers are facing this dire predicament solely due to the government's incompetence and lack of foresight," Rama Rao said. He charged that delays in procurement had worsened the situation and that farmers were watching their hard work being destroyed by the rains. Rama Rao directed BRS elected representatives, leaders and cadres to visit market yards and procurement centres affected by the rains in their respective areas. "The BRS leaders should stand firmly by every farmer, who is currently in distress, watching

helplessly as their grain stocks get soaked before their eyes," he said. He also asked party leaders to raise farmers' issues with the authorities and pressure the State government to immediately procure soaked grain stocks. The Congress government should procure soaked paddy, maize and other grains lying in market yards at MSP without citing moisture content or other deductions, he demanded. Rama Rao also sought immediate restoration of power supply at market yards and distribution of tarpaulin covers to help farmers protect the remaining stocks.

Lokesh for 33% Women's quota in TDP for 2029 Elections



Vijayawada: Nara Lokesh has proposed 33% reservation for women within the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) for the 2029 General Elections, stressing the need for greater representation of women in politics. Addressing the MahaNadu, Lokesh said he believes the coming phase of Indian politics will be defined by women's leadership. He noted that while the NDA government he said TDP has taken a historic step by introducing the Women's Reservation Bill, many opposition parties

failed to support it in Parliament. Also Read - Jagan Accuses Andhra Govt of Neglecting Sugali Preeti Case He emphasized that women should not remain mere beneficiaries of welfare schemes but must emerge as public support. Recalling the party's struggles, he said TDP has fought relentlessly for democracy despite arrests, he said TDP has threats, and hardships. He paid tribute to decision-makers. Criticizing parties that raise the issue of women's empowerment only

during elections, he said TDP has consistently supported women's aspirations since its inception. "Women have a greater role to play in India's political discourse. We must lead from the front," he said, proposing that 33% of seats be allocated to women in the 2029 elections. Lokesh added that the move is not just a slogan but a commitment to the future, aiming to create more women leaders, policymakers, and lawmakers, with the party's future being shaped by women.

Thunderstorms and gales leave farming community shattered in Telangana

Hyderabad: Thunderstorms coupled with gales lashed several parts of Telangana leaving a trail of destruction and trauma to the farmers as paddy and maize stocks at the procurement centres got soaked in the early hours of Wednesday. Farming community, which is already reeling under the incompetence of the Government leading to inordinate delay in procurement of paddy and maize, has been dealt a double blow with the paddy and maize stocks were completely soaked leading to heavy losses. Such instances were reported from Nalgonda, Suryapet, Medak, Siddipet, Karimnagar,



Adilabad, Asifabad and several other districts. In Sangareddy, thunderstorms coupled with gales lashed most parts of the erstwhile Medak district. The paddy farmers, who brought their harvest to procurement centres, bore the brunt as the rain water flooded into the procurement centres at many places. Paddy was swept

away along with the flood at several places. Though the farmers woke up at midnight to save their harvest by covering them with tarpaulin sheets, their effort proved ineffective as the rain water swept away crops at several places. The farmers were trying to salvage their harvest from water on Wednesday morning.

Vatpally in Sangareddy district recorded 75 mm rainfall while Nyalka recorded 73 mm followed by Hathnoora with 68 mm rainfall. Angadi Kistapur in Markook mandal of Siddipet district recorded 65 mm rainfall while Kagazmaddur in Medak recorded 48 mm rainfall. The delay in procurement of the paddy cost the farmers dearly as the rains lashed most parts of the district. The farmers have demanded the government to purchase the wet paddy without any delay. They said that protection of harvest is going to be tough since the IMD was also predicting the entry of monsoon into the state in a week's time.

Woman Loses Plea For Compassionate Job

Hyderabad: A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court ruled that a claim for compassionate appointment must be examined under the policy prevailing on the date of consideration of the application, particularly where a subsequent scheme has been given retrospective effect. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was dealing with a writ appeal filed by Canara Bank against an order of the writ court directing consideration of an application of a woman for compassionate appointment under an earlier scheme and not the subsequent scheme introduced thereafter. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The factual matrix reveal that father of respondent, who was working as a senior manager in the erstwhile Syndicate Bank, died in harness in 2017. She applied for compassionate appointment in July 2017 under the 2015 Bank scheme. During



the pendency of her application, the bank introduced a new scheme in January 2018 with retrospective effect from August 5, 2014, prescribing a family income ceiling of ₹35,000 per month. Her application was rejected on the basis of new scheme. In the earlier litigation, the writ court held that the scheme existing on the date of death of the employee would govern the claim and directed reconsideration of application under the earlier policy. Challenging the order, the bank contended that subsequent scheme was made retrospectively applicable and therefore was applicable to all pending applications. Counsel for appellant contended that compassionate appointment claims were to be con-

sidered in accordance with the norms prevailing on the date of consideration unless a vested right existed. Earlier policy, particularly when the application was already submitted. The rejection of application was based solely on new eligibility conditions which did not exist under the earlier scheme. The panel observed that compassionate appointment was not a vested right but only a concession subject to fulfilment of eligibility conditions under the applicable policy. The panel held that since the application of the respondent was rejected after the new scheme came into force and the scheme itself was retrospectively applicable from 2014, the application should be considered under the revised policy. Accordingly, the panel allowed the appeal and upheld the rejection of the claim of the respondent for compassionate appointment

under the new scheme. Also Read - Man Kills Wife, Two Children, Dies by Suicide in Wanaparthy No fresh probe into suicide case The Telangana High Court refused to order reinvestigation into the death of a woman in Nalgonda district, finding no material to displace the official conclusion of suicide. Justice N. Tukaramji was dealing with a writ petition filed by Mahamuda, who alleged that her daughter was murdered by her husband pursuant to a dowry-related conspiracy and that the police conducted a biased investigation to shield the accused. It was contended that external injuries noted in the post-mortem report pointed to a homicidal death. The petitioner sought a direction for reinvestigation and filing of a chargesheet for offences including murder. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Orders High Vigil amid Rain Threat Examining the record, the judge observed that the investigating agency examined relevant wit-

Traffic Curbs, Parking Diversions for Bakrid Prayers at Mir Alam Tank Edgah

Hyderabad: On the occasion of Bakrid prayers at Mir Alam Tank Edgah on Thursday from 7 am to 11.30 am, the Hyderabad traffic police imposed traffic diversions and parking arrangements in the following areas Mir Alam Tank Edgah: The vehicular traffic coming from Purnapur, Kamatipura, Kishanbagh towards the Edgah and Mir Alam Tank for prayers will be allowed through Bahadurpura X Roads from 7 am to 11.30 am and they should park vehicles at parking places mentioned below. Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 During this period, the general vehicular traffic will not be allowed towards Edgah and Tadban and it will be diverted towards Dr. Manmohan Singh express flyover (Zoo Park to Aramgarh). Parking places were provided for the devout at Zoo Park Wall and Open space Opp: Masjid Allah-ho-Akbar. Motorists coming from Shivarampally and Danamma Huts towards



the Edgah, Mir Alam Tank for prayers will be allowed through Dannama Huts X Roads from 7 am to 11.30 am and they should park vehicles at parking places mentioned below. Also Read - People's Support for TDP has Remained Unwavering for Years: Naidu During this period, the general vehicular traffic will not be allowed towards Edgah and it will be diverted at Danamma Huts 'X' Roads towards Shastripuram, NS Kunta, etc. The parking was provided at Single Line Parking on the road from Sufi Cars to Modern Petrol Pump, HMWS&S B, Modern Petrol Pump in front of Edgah main

road, Inside and Outside Mir Alam filter bed and single line parking from pillar no: 91 to 94 to Legacy Palace Function Hall, (for Two & four wheelers). Also Read - Hyderabad: Goat, Sheep Prices Soar Ahead of Bakrid The vehicular traffic coming from Kalapather towards the Edgah Mir Alam Tank for prayers will be allowed through Kalapather law and order police station from 7 am to 11.30 am and they should park vehicles at parking places mentioned below. During this period, the general vehicular traffic will not be allowed towards Edgah and it will be diverted at Kalapather

law and order police station towards Mochi Colony, Bahadurpura, Shamsheerunji and Nawab Saheb Kunta. The parking places provided were mass material shop parking and Indian Oil Petrol bunk. Ziyaguda and City College side (On needy Basis) till the entire congregation disperses after prayers from the Eidgah. From 7 am to 11.30 am, the heavy vehicles coming from Shamshabad, Rajendra Nagar and Milardevpally towards Bahadurpura will be allowed from Dr. Manmohan Flyover till the entire congregation disperses after prayers from the Edgah. From 7 am to 11.30 am, the

Hyderabad: Goat, Sheep Prices Soar Ahead of Bakrid

Hyderabad: With Bakrid approaching, the city's goat and sheep markets are witnessing the usual festive bustle - but this year, soaring prices have taken the sheen off the trade. At Tolichowki, one of the city's biggest markets, vendors say goat and sheep prices have climbed sharply this season and several roadside vendors also confirm this trend. They blame rising fuel prices, which have made transportation costlier, along with higher fodder costs, for the spike in rates. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Traders say transporting costs have shot up significantly, with freight charges more than doubling in some cases. Last year the rate was Rs 20,000 and now the price has gone up by Rs 8,000, quoted one trader. The labour costs involved in rearing the goats have also increased, he said.



With petrol costs going up, the transportation costs have also gone. Earlier, people who would purchase two goats are now taking only one. Also Read - People's Support for TDP has Remained Unwavering for Years: Naidu The lightweight goats, generally under 20-25 kg, only one. Also

Read - are priced anywhere between Rs.12,000 - Rs. 20,000, while those weighing 30 kg and 50 kg are priced at Rs. 22,000 - at Rs. 22,000 - Rs.40,000. The heavier premium goats weighing between 55 kg and 90 kg, which are some of the biggest attractions at Bakra Mandis, cost around Rs.

40,000 - Rs.90,000, reports state. Bakrid, also known as Eid al-Adha, commemorates the spirit of sacrifice and charity, and traditionally drives strong demand for goats and sheep across the country. But traders remain hopeful that last-minute customers will revive demand closer to the festival.

Telangana Woman Gets Husband Killed For Rs 2 Crore Insurance Money, Makes It Look Like Accident

Mancherial (Telangana): A woman in Telangana allegedly killed her husband with the help of her paramour and two others for insurance money, police said on Tuesday. Bharathi, along with Lagisetty Surrender, with whom she allegedly had an extramarital affair, hired two men to murder her husband, Saini Kumar, a police official said. Apart from Bharathi, police have also arrested Surrender and one of the two contract killers, who has been identified as Sriram. The second contract killer, Ram Mallesh, is absconding and efforts are on to apprehend him, the official said. Saini Kumar, aged 45, of Gudipet here, was found lying severely injured on the roadside on May 22. He passed away while being shifted to a hospital in Karimnagar in an ambulance the promise of giving lance. What was initially thought to be a planned murder. Lure for insurance money and the extramarital affair pushed



Bharathi and her paramour to hatch a plot to get rid of Kumar. Police probe revealed that Bharathi and Surrender decided to have Kumar killed because he had become a hurdle to their relationship and to get the Rs 2 crore insurance payout. Since January 2025, Bharathi has been paying premiums for her husband's life insurance policies. She had estimated that if Kumar died in a road accident, she would get about Rs 2 crore. Police also found out that Kumar had borrowed Rs 60,000 from

Gudipet, but he failed to repay the money. In this process, Mallesh got acquainted with Bharathi. Last month, Bharathi and Surrender paid Mallesh Rs 2 lakh on the promise of giving a total amount of Rs 10 lakhs if he killed Kumar. Since Mallesh could not do the job alone, on the promise of giving he roped in Sriram of LIC Colony in Mancherial to assist him. As per the plan, Ram Mallesh and Sriram made Kumar drink excessive alcohol on May 22, and when he started to feel dizzy, they

hit him on the head with a hammer. Later, to pass it off as a road accident, they left Kumar and his two-wheeler on the roadside and fled the scene. Police registered the case based on a complaint filed by Kumar's mother, Lakshmi, who pointed a finger of suspicion at Ram Mallesh. During the investigation, police came to know about Bharathi's extramarital affair with Surrender, which strengthened their suspicion and eventually led to the arrest of the three accused.

TDP MahaNadu a Platform for Unity, Says Palla Srinivasa Rao

Vijayawada: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) state president Palla Srinivasa Rao said MahaNadu serves as a platform to showcase unity within the party. He was speaking at the inauguration of MahaNadu 2026. He stated that the event provides an opportunity to review the party's journey so far and deliberate on future decisions and strategies. Highlighting the hybrid format of the event, he said lakhs of leaders and party workers are connected through MahaNadu 2026. u a Festival of Cadres, Dedicated to Women: Chandrababu Naidu Srinivasa Rao noted that while many political parties have faded over time, the TDP continues to remain active and disciplined, offering opportunities will be g opportunities to its cadre. He added that



within 23 months of coming to power, the party has filled all nominated posts with party workers and more opportunities will be provided in the future. He further sa Rao noted that while many political parties haopportunities

will be ve faded over time, the TDP continues to remid Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has prepared the Vision-2047 plan to transform Andhra Pradesh into a "Swarna Andhra." Emphasising youth participation, hfuture. He

further sa Rao noted that while many political parties have faded over time, the TDP contine said 63% of party importance is being given to young leaders, citing examples of leaders who rose to prominence at a young age.

Wife Of 1965 Indo-Pak War Martyr Receives Financial Assistance After Nearly 60 Years

Bageshwar: Thanks to the joint efforts of the Indian Army and the Sainik Welfare Department, the wife of an Army jawan martyred during the 1965 India-Pakistan war received financial assistance almost six decades after he made the supreme sacrifice. Debuli Devi, wife of late soldier Madan Singh from Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district, recently received the first installment of the financial aid meant for war widows. Madan Singh had sacrificed his life while fighting enemies during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. Through coordinated efforts of the Indian Army and the District Sainik Welfare and Rehabilitation Office, Retd Lieutenant Colonel Ved Prakash Joshi (Sena Medal), the Kumaon Regiment, and OIC PCDA Prayagraj, Rs 28.45 lakh has been deposited into his wife's account as the first



installment. After resolution of the long-pending case, his family now hopes for revival. Debuli Devi said that her husband attained martyrdom on September 7, 1965 during the Indo-Pak war. "So far, I had been receiving liberalised family pension," she said. This pension is given in cases where sol-

diers attain martyrdom while performing duties during war, border clashes, militant attacks or active military operations. Her case was reconsidered under a special campaign launched by the Government of India to review the cases of war martyrs and resolve pending matters. Officials said

that another installment of nearly the same amount is still pending. According to military officials, documents related to NPAC and due certificates are yet to be sent to Prayagraj through the Treasury Office and the District Sainik Welfare Office. Once the process is completed, the remaining

pending amount will also be deposited into Debuli Devi's account. After receiving the assistance, Debuli Devi thanked the District Sainik Welfare Officer and the entire staff of the Indian Army. She said that the Armed Forces always stand firmly with war widows and families of ex-servicemen. She also expressed hope that needy military families would continue receiving such support in the future. "This effort has also become a source of hope for thousands of military families whose cases are still pending. Families of ex-servicemen living in remote hill villages often get trapped in government procedures and documentation formalities. In such situations, actions like these not only show administrative sensitivity but also strengthen the respect and honour given to martyr families," she expressed.

Pre-stamp Postal Covers from Odisha Fetch Record Prices at US Auction



Bhubaneswar: Two pre-stamp era postal covers posted from Odisha have fetched record prices at a recent auction conducted by the Siegel Auction Galleries in the United States. The covers were part of the Magnolia Collection of Indian Postal Stationery. These rare covers belong to the period before the invention of postage stamps, when postal charges had to be prepaid by the sender. They are among the earliest known postal covers from Odisha and bear the city names "Pooree" and "Sumbulpore," spellings that were in use during the East India Company's rule over the region. Also Read - 27 Rescued from Odisha Over Suspected Conversion-Linked Trafficking The official folded letter addressed to P. DaCosta and posted from Puri on May 2, 1838, bears the oval hand stamp marking "POOREE/FREE." The cover was sold for \$950, nearly Rs 1.20 lakh, at the US auction. The Sambalpur cover, posted on September 3, 1850, was addressed to Androssan, Scotland. Bearing the framed hand stamp "SUMBUL-PORE/PAID," the cover travelled via Calcutta, Marseilles and London before reaching the addressee on October 21. It was sold for \$800, nearly Rs 1 lakh, to an unknown bidder. Also Read - CNG Price Hiked by Rs 1 Per kg in Delhi-NCR, Second Rise in Two Days According to Anil Dhir, Vice-President of the Eastern India Philatelic Association and a Fellow of the Philatelic Congress of India, pre-stamp covers from Odisha are scarce and highly valuable, often featuring early hand stamps or manuscript markings from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He said Odisha's early postal history was largely governed under the Bengal Presidency, with crucial mail routes and early hand-struck stamps connecting Cuttack, Puri and Balasore to Calcutta. Early postal routes were established by the East India Company to link the administrative centres of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Dhir, who is also the convener of INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter, said many heritage post offices and Dak Bungalows in the State have either been demolished or heavily renovated over the years. "These are important vestiges of the colonial era and should be properly preserved because of the rich history associated with them," he said.

Bakrid Bank Holiday: Banks Closed In Several States On May 27-28

New Delhi: Banks across several parts of the country will observe holidays on May 27 and May 28 in observance of Eid-ul-Adha (Bakrid) this year. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s holiday calendar, the bank closure schedule varies from state to state because of differences in moon sighting and local government notifications.

While several northern, eastern, and central states are observing Bakrid on Wednesday, many western and southern states have declared Thursday a holiday. In some places, including Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala, authorities have announced holidays for both days. Banks closed on May 27. Banks closed on May 27 in major cities, including New Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Dehradun, Chandigarh and Shimla. Banking operations are also shut in Bhopal, Raipur, Ranchi and Kolkata. In the Northeast, banks are closed in Guwahati, Agartala,



Kohima, and Imphal, while branches in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, are also closed today. On May 28, banks will remain closed in several western and southern states, following revised festival schedules. Banking services will remain unavailable in Mumbai, Belapur, Nagpur and Panaji in Maharashtra, as well as in Goa. Major southern cities, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Vijayawada,

will also observe the holiday. Apart from this, banks in Patna, Jaipur, Aizawl and Shillong will remain shut on Thursday. Despite physical bank branches remaining shut in many states, customers need not worry about essential banking services. The RBI has clarified that digital banking facilities, including internet banking, mobile banking and UPI services, will continue to function normally throughout the holidays.

National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) services will also remain available round the clock, as the RBI has been operating these digital fund transfer systems 24x7 since December 2020. ATMs across the country will continue to provide cash withdrawals, deposits, and other banking services during the holiday period. Centre Shifts Holiday

The Central government has also shifted the Bakrid holiday for all Central government administrative offices in Delhi from May 27 to May 28. In a notification issued by the Ministry of Personnel on May 22, the government said all Central government offices in the national capital would remain closed on Thursday instead of Wednesday on account of Eid-ul-Zuha.

Kerala Announces Two-Day Holiday

Meanwhile, the Kerala government has declared two days of public holiday for Bakrid on May 27 and May 28. The state government said that since Eid-ul-Adha will be celebrated in Kerala on Thursday, both days would remain public holidays. Government offices, educational institutions, public sector undertakings and institutions covered under the Negotiable Instruments Act will remain closed during this period.

SC Rules EC Has Power To Conduct SIR, Exercise Has 'Direct Nexus With Free And Fair Election'



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has the authority to conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, asserting that the poll body did not transgress any statutory or constitutional provision, and that SIR has a direct nexus with free and fair elections. The apex court said the SIR exercise breathes life into the constitutional mandate under Article 324 within the precise statutory contours provided by Section 21(3). The judgment was delivered by a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joydipya Bagchi. The bench said it cannot be said that the poll panel acted outside its statutory powers by exercising SIR. The bench said that the SIR fulfils proportionality and is not manifestly excessive. The court noted it was founded on the constitutional purpose of restoring the accuracy of electoral rolls and stressed that the measures adopted

by the poll panel could not be held to be disproportionate.

The apex court also affirmed the procedure adopted by the then poll panel during the SIR exercise. The CJI, pronouncing the judgment on behalf of the bench, added that the revision was founded on a legitimate and constitutional purpose and adopted a fair process. The apex court said SIR is a step towards an accurate and inclusive electoral roll. It said the statute itself authorises a special revision at any time, for reasons to be recorded and in such manner as the Election Commission may deem fit. The bench added that the exercise cannot be invalidated merely because it does not conform in every respect to the ordinary modalities contemplated for routine revision. The bench said SIR does not supplant the Representation of the People Act and the Rules, rather, it breathes life into the constitutional mandate under Article

324 within the precise statutory contours provided by Section 21(3). "Therefore, it cannot be said that the Commission has acted in excess of its statutory powers," it said. The bench said it was satisfied that the design of SIR advances a free and fair election. "A free and fair election cannot merely rest on the mechanics of polling and it equally depends on the integrity, purity, and accuracy of the electoral roll, which forms part of the foundation of democratic process," the bench said.

It said the poll panel has the power to examine the questions related to citizenship for the purpose of inclusion on the electoral roll and the ECI's exercise is confined only to electoral roll preparation. The bench observed that exclusion from the voter list does not mean a person has lost citizenship and added that those excluded should be dealt with in accordance with the law.

The bench said that if

Jaipur Couple On Kashmir-To-Kanyakumari Trip Reaches MP Running

Sagar: A Jaipur couple, accompanied by their three-year-old daughter, has embarked on an India tour, journeying through Kashmir to Kanyakumari with the mission to manage the expenses with Re 1 they started off with. Instead of thinking big savings, the family decided to fund their travel by setting up a mobile tea and fast-food stall, "Cafe Caravan," in every major city along their route.

After completing nearly half of the journey, the family claims it has covered all expenses by running the mobile cafe and still saved over Rs 11,000. Re 1 Journey: Jaipur Couple On Kashmir-To-Kanyakumari Trip Reaches MP Running A Roadside Cafe Re 1 Journey: Jaipur Couple On Kashmir-To-Kanyakumari Trip Reaches MP Running A Roadside Cafe (ETV Bharat)



Residents of Jaipur, Rahul Dev and his wife Pinky run the cafe business in the most simple way. They park their SUV at roadside spots or busy intersections in every city they visit. They then transform the vehicle into a temporary cafe where they sell tea, shakes, Maggi, momos and snacks. The unusual sight of a cafe operating from an SUV attracts curi-

ous crowds. Many stop to learn about the family's challenge and often end up buying tea or food, helping fund the next leg of the trip. The couple says they love travelling but since they had to spend heavily on earlier trips, this time they decided to prove that travel could sustain itself. They launched their first stall in Jaipur, using the initial earnings to buy

diesel and essential supplies. Since then, they have continued to earn through the cafe in every major city they pass through. Rahul, Pinky and their daughter have covered 2,622 km so far. Re 1 Journey: Jaipur Couple On Kashmir-To-Kanyakumari Trip Reaches MP Running A Roadside Cafe Kulhads ready to serve

chai (ETV Bharat) According to the family's calculations, their total earnings stand at Rs 32,946 and expenditure Rs 21,917. The diesel cost has been Rs 15,416 while grocery cost for the stall is Rs 3,536. Sundry expenses stand at Rs 2,296 and the savings they have made so far is 11,029. The couple says all travel and operating expenses have been funded through the cafe earnings. What's on the Cafe Caravan Menu? The cafe offers Kulhad Tea, Cold Coffee, Strawberry Shake, Mango Shake, Plain Maggi, Butter Masala Maggi, Cheese Maggi, Jumbo Veg Momo, Special Butter Jumbo Momo and chips and snacks. The family also shares customer interactions and travel moments on social media, turning the journey into a digital storytelling experience.

Rajasthan HC Upholds Life Imprisonment Of Convicted Rapist Asaram Bapu Out On Bail Since Oct 2025; Two Aides Acquitted

Jodhpur: The Rajasthan High Court on Wednesday upheld the life sentence to self-styled godman and convicted rapist Asaram Bapu, turning down his appeal challenging the sentence handed down in a sexual case.

In its judgment, a division bench of the High Court, comprising Justices Arun Kumar Monga and Yogendra Kumar Purohit, upheld the lower court's verdict regarding the charges of rape against Asaram under the Indian Penal Code, sexual assault under the POCSO Act, and offences under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, among others.

The division bench acquitted Asaram's aides (sevadaars), Sharat chandra and Shilpi, of all charges. Some relief for Asaram was granted a partial relief from the bench as it acquitted him of the charges of gangrape and criminal conspiracy. The court also ordered Asaram to surrender, as he is currently out on interim bail since October 2025 on medical grounds. Speaking on the matter, the victim's counsel, P.C. Solanki, stated that the court has not stayed the



sentence. While the life imprisonment sentence remains in force, the court has indeed granted some relief. Victim's counsel, P.C. Solanki speaking to media after the high court judgment. (ETV Bharat) "As far as the judgement is concerned, it is partly in favour of the accused and partly in favour of the victim. Two accused have been acquitted by the High Court. Given this, the accused, Asaram's charges of gangrape would not be sustained," Solanki said. Solanki further indicated that, after consulting with the victim, they intend to approach the

Supreme Court to challenge the order acquitting the other accused individuals. Following this verdict, Asaram is now required to surrender himself to jail. In March 2024, Asaram was granted bail for the first time—for a period of 10 days—to undergo medical treatment at a private hospital. Since then, he has continued to receive bail extensions at regular intervals.

In January 2025, Asaram was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court till March 31, 2025, on medical grounds. In October 2025, he was again granted an interim bail of six months by the

Rajasthan High Court on medical grounds. C mains out on interim bail; just two days ago, the duration of this bail was extended until July 7. Hearing Concluded on April 20, 2026. Asaram is now required to surrender himself to jail. In March 2024, Asaram was granted bail for the first time—for a period of 10 days—to undergo medical treatment at a private hospital. Since then, he has continued to receive bail extensions at regular intervals. In January 2025, Asaram was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court till March 31, 2025, on medical grounds. In October 2025, he was again granted an interim bail of six months by the

Surge Of Devotees Leads To Closure Of Registration Centre For Char Dham Yatra

Haridwar: A significant surge of devotees for the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand has forced authorities to process registrations in limited numbers, causing inconvenience to pilgrims.

The suspension of registration services at the temporary centre at the Rishikul Ground from 2 pm on Tuesday due to the heavy rush has left thousands of devotees disappointed, many of whom returned without registering. Owing to the prevailing situation, devotees have been facing difficulties over the past couple of days. Devotees alleged that they had stood in the queue all night, yet the registration counters were abruptly closed without prior notice. Before this, registrations had been conducted round the clock at the centre for several days.



Devotees are now demanding that adequate arrangements be made to ensure hassle-free registrations for the Char Dham pilgrimage so that no one faces any inconvenience during their journey. "Twenty-seven people have travelled here with me from the Ajmer district. We have been waiting in the queue for two days now, yet we have been unable to complete our registration. We do not have sufficient money to afford

accommodation in a hotel or 'dharamshala' (pilgrim guesthouse). Therefore, we wished to spend the night right here at the registration centre today, but were not even allowed to do so. The government must make proper arrangements for the smooth conduct of the yatra," said Prema Devi, an elderly woman from Rajasthan. Devotees Rush of devotees at the registration centre. (ETV Bharat) Echoing her,

Bharaturam Sahu, another devotee, said: "We have come all the way from Chhattisgarh and have been standing in line since 7 am. However, registrations were halted at 2 pm. There are around 95 people in our group, and we face significant challenges as far as accommodation is concerned. People are suffering due to the intense heat. The administration should ensure that everyone gets registered."

Pakistan's Role As Mediator Problematic:

Washington: Republican Senator Lindsey Graham termed "problematic" the role of Pakistan as a mediator in the United States' war with Iran. Graham's remarks came as Pakistan's Defence Minister Khwaja Asif said he is not in favour of Islamabad joining the Abraham Accords, which deal with establishing diplomatic, economic and security ties between Israel and Arab nations. Asif also talked about his country's long-standing position to not accept Israel until the Palestinian state on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital is established. "It has been apparent to me for quite a while that Pakistan as a mediator is more than problematic.



Their animosity towards Israel is long standing," Graham said in a post on X. He asked Pakistan to respond to US President Donald Trump's call to mediators in the US-Iran war to join the Accords. "As to the defence minister's comments about the Abraham Accords, saying that Pakistan

would never join because they don't trust Israel: The clip may be a year old, but I fear the sentiment is fresh," the Souwar to join the Accords. th Carolina senator war to join the Accords. said. "In that regard, it is imperative that Pakistan give an answer now to President

Trump's call to join the Abraham Accords," Graham added. The senior Republican leader said it is undeniable that Iranian military aircraft were being housed on Pakistani air bases and past rhetoric from the highest Pakistani officials against Israel was disturbing.

Prez Murmu Approves Increasing Supreme Court Judge Strength To 37

New Delhi: Residents of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) are likely to face another spell of intense heatwave conditions over the next two days. Later this week, weather patterns may change, bringing the possibility of rain, thunderstorms, and a sharp drop in temperatures. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for May 26 and 27, warning that heatwave conditions are expected to persist across the region with temperatures likely to touch 44-46°C.

According to the latest IMD forecast, Delhi-NCR is expected to witness maximum temperatures of 43-46°C on May 26 and 27. Minimum temperatures are likely to remain between 27-30°C. Strong surface winds of 20-30 kmph, gusting to 40 kmph, are also expected during the afternoon and evening hours. These winds will worsen the impact of the prevailing heat.

Delhi-NCR Braces For Two More Days Of Extreme Heat (ETV Bharat) The weather department has advised residents to exercise caution during the hottest parts of the day, especially in the afternoon hours when heatwave conditions are expected to peak. People have been urged to avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, reduce unnecessary outdoor activities, and maintain adequate hydration. These measures help avoid heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke. The IMD has also warned that heatwave to



severe heatwave conditions are likely to continue over northwest and central India during the next three to four days, while warm night conditions are expected in isolated pockets of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The ongoing heat spell has already caused considerable discomfort across Delhi-NCR, with residents grappling with extremely high temperatures and warm nights over the past several days. IMD data showed that, on Sunday, temperatures across several parts of northwest and central India remained between 43-47°C.

Banda in Uttar Pradesh and Brahmपुरi in Maharashtra recorded the country's highest temperature at 47.6°C. Hot, dry winds (loo) in northern India are likely to worsen conditions over the next 48 hours. Meteorological officials said May 27 is expected to remain largely unchanged. High temperatures and hot winds will continue across the region. Rain, Thunderstorms Likely From May 28 Weather officials have forecast thunderstorms and strong winds across Delhi-NCR. Weather officials have forecast thunderstorms and strong winds across Delhi-NCR. (ANI)

Forecasts suggest that weather conditions may begin changing from May 28 onward. A fresh western disturbance is expected to affect northwest India. The IMD said easterly winds carrying moisture from the Bay of Bengal are also likely to strengthen, increasing rainfall activity across several northern states. According to IMD projections, Delhi is likely to witness partly cloudy skies on May 28, with light rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. Winds could reach 40-50 kmph, possibly up to 60 kmph, during the evening and night hours. Maximum temperatures are expected to decline slightly to around 42-44°C.

Meteorologists have also warned of thunder squalls across Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh on May 28 and 29. Wind speeds may range from 60-80 kmph. Dust storms and isolated hailstorm activity are also possible across parts of northwest India during this period. The IMD further warned that strong winds and thunderstorms could uproot trees and damage power and communication lines. Traffic movement may be disrupted, and minor damage to vulnerable structures could

occur. Residents have been advised to stay indoors during storms, avoid taking shelter under trees, and stay away from power lines and bodies of water. Sharp temperature Drop Expected From May 29

A more substantial shift in the weather is expected from May 29 onward. Temperatures are predicted to fall sharply across Delhi-NCR. According to the IMD forecast, the region is likely to experience generally cloudy skies, with spells of light rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds during both daytime and nighttime.

Forecasts suggest that maximum temperatures could drop to around 35-37 degrees Celsius by May 29. Minimum temperatures may range from 25-27°C. The IMD noted that daytime temperatures could become markedly below normal during this period. This will bring significant relief after days of intense heat. The weather department has currently maintained a "no warning" status for May 30 and 31. However, the chance of light rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds is expected to continue. Humidity levels during this period are likely to fluctuate between 40-70 per cent.

Pakistan's Terror Doctrine Exposes 'Hollow Commitment' To UN Charter: India Warns Of Consequences For Cross-Border Terrorism

New Delhi: Strongly criticising Pakistan at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India has said there would be consequences for sponsoring cross-border terrorism and asserted that New Delhi has every right to defend itself against such attacks. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, made the remarks during the UNSC Open Debate on "Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and Strengthening the UN-Centered International System" on Wednesday (IST). Harish said the world today is facing "fragmentation and confrontation" while the UN system is stuck in the past. He highlighted growing concerns over the "legitimacy, efficacy and relevance" of the United Nations, especially the role of the UN Security Council in delivering on its mandate of maintenance of international peace and security. "World War II was not our war, but India paid dearly for it. Therefore, becoming UN's founding member was reflective of our yearning for peace. While global politics of colonialism ensured that India was not duly recognised for its significant sacrifices, we have



never compromised on our unwavering faith in the UN and in multilateralism, he said. Parvathaneni Harish delivered India's statement at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter Strengthening the UN-centered International System. (X@ndiaUNNewYork) The Indian ambassador further pointed out that although the UN Charter had mandated a review conference in 1955, no major review has taken place so far except increasing the number of elected UNSC members from six to 10 and expanding ECOSOC membership from 18 to 54. Calling for reforms in the Security Council, Harish said the current UN structure is "frozen

in the 1940s" and does not reflect present-day geopolitical realities. "The world is now characterised by fragmentation and confrontation. Central to UN's challenges today is an architecture that is frozen in the 1940s. The UN cannot be indifferent to a fundamental evolutionary principle of adapting to changing times," Harish said. He stressed that brute force and power politics cannot strengthen multilateralism and said countries must show a spirit of cooperation and compromise for the larger global good.

Harish also called for strengthening the UN General Assembly and demanded expansion in the permanent category of the UNSC to strengthen the UN to make its

decision-making process more representative. "The UN Security Council must be a living instrument, not a fossil," he said, while calling for greater transparency in the functioning of the Council.

Slamming Pakistan over terrorism, Harish said independent India began its journey while battling cross-border aggression from Pakistan. "The use of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan and its doctrine of 'bleeding India by a thousand cuts' exposes its hollow rhetoric of commitment to the UN Charter," he said.

"India has every right to defend itself from such cross-border terrorism. Pakistan will have to accept that there are consequences to its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism," he added.

'Everything Checked Out Perfectly': Trump Wraps Up 3-Hour Medical Visit To Walter Reed

Washington: President Donald Trump had another medical exam on Tuesday, putting his health under renewed public scrutiny after he has worked to dismiss concerns over his age and stamina. The 79-year-old president spent more than three hours at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for what the White House described as preventive medical and dental checkups. It was Trump's fourth publicly disclosed medical exam since he returned to office for a second term, and it comes as he tries to project strength ahead of midterm elections that will test his sway with voters. In a social media post after the visit, Trump said that he had just finished his "6 month physical" and that "Everything checked out PERFECTLY." The White House did not immediately release a written report from Trump's doctors. For decades, administrations have released selected results from presidential physicals, offering the public a glimpse at the commander-in-chief's health. But the results are filtered through the White House and must be approved by the president, raising questions about what the public does and doesn't get to see. Trump, a Republican, turns 80 next month and was the oldest person elected U.S. president. His immediate predecessor, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, was 82 when he left office, dropping out of the 2024 presidential race because of widespread concerns he was too old for the job. A Washington Post/ABC News/Ipsos poll conducted in April found



that less than half of U.S. adults think Trump has the mental sharpness or physical health to serve effectively as president. "I think concern for the president's physical health is probably at an all-time high, and I think advanced physical age is the No. 1 concern," said Dr. Jeffrey Kuhlman, who served as a White House physician for more than a decade under Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. For a president of Trump's age, a complete physical would be expected to include advanced heart testing, screening for common cancers and a cognitive assessment, along with basics like height, weight and blood pressure, Kuhlman said. The White House has not disclosed what the visit entailed but expressed confidence in what it will show. "President Trump is the sharpest and most accessible President in American history who is working nonstop to solve problems and deliver on his promises, and he remains in excellent health," White House

spokesperson Davis Ingle said in a statement. No law requiring presidents to disclose their medical records in the weeks leading up to his visit, Trump has been saying he feels as good as he did five decades ago — even as he jokes about his fondness for fast food and his minimal exercise regimen. Yet he's also sensitive to perceptions about his age, noting that he takes extra caution descending the steps from Air Force One to avoid headlines about a stumble. There is no law requiring presidents to publicize their health records, and the degree of transparency has varied by administration. Trump's past reports have been criticized for offering scant detail and for providing statistics that some medical experts have viewed with skepticism. At public appearances, Trump is often seen wearing makeup to conceal bruising on his hands, which the White House attributes to handshaking and regular aspirin use. He has sometimes appeared drowsy during meetings and closed his eyes for

long stretches, though he denies having fallen asleep. Trump often boasts of having "aced" cognitive tests while frequently deriding Biden, who faced questions about his mental acuity. Biden and his aides pushed back aggressively against doubts raised about his fitness for office. Some of Trump's previous physicals have included the Montreal Cognitive Assessment, used to screen for dementia and cognitive impairment. Trump's physicians reported a score of 30 out of 30 for him at his 2018 and 2025 checkups. Yet critics have pointed to Trump's meandering speeches and sometimes bellicose rhetoric as evidence of cognitive decline. Last month, a statement from more than 30 neurologists, psychiatrists and other medical experts — who acknowledged they've never examined him — said Trump was mentally unfit to serve and warned of an "increasingly dangerous decline" in his behavior based on what they called "objectively observable signs of serious medical con-

Israel Says It Targets New Hamas Leader In Gaza As Palestinians Report 3 Dead



Deir-al-Balah: Israel carried out a pair of airstrikes in Gaza City late Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring 12, hospital officials said. The strike took place on the eve of Eid al-Adha, a major Muslim holiday. In a joint statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister, Israel Katz, said the strikes had targeted the new leader of Hamas' military wing. They identified him as Mohammed Odeh and called him "one of the

architects" of the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks that triggered over two years of war. The strike came less than two weeks after Israel killed the previous head of Hamas' military wing, Izz al-Din al-Haddad. There was no immediate comment from Hamas. The bodies of the dead were taken to Gaza's Shifa Hospital, which confirmed a ceasefire reached the deaths. The attack came on the eve of Eid al-Adha, normally a joyous time of family gatherings and large meals. The holiday once again

is subdued this year in Gaza, where the vast majority of people remain displaced and live in tents or temporary shelters after a devastating war. A ceasefire reached between Israel and Hamas last October remains fragile. Israeli attacks have killed more than 880 Palestinians since the ceasefire took effect. Israel's ceasefire reached its attacks are in response to violations by Hamas or threats to its soldiers, but Palestinian health officials say scores of civil-

ians have been among the dead. Four Israeli soldiers have also been killed during this period. Israel launched its offensive in Gaza in response to the Hamas attacks in October 2023, which killed some 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza says over 72,700 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire. The ministry, part of Gaza's Hamas government, does not give a breakdown of civilian and militant deaths.

Iran Condemns US Strikes As A Show Of 'Bad Faith' And Begins Restoring Internet After Long Shutdown

Dubai: Iran on Tuesday denounced the most recent U.S. strikes as a sign of "bad faith and unreliability" as negotiations pressed on toward a possible deal to end the war, and the Islamic Republic began restoring internet access after one of the longest nationwide shutdowns ever. The U.S. military characterized Monday's strikes in southern Iran as defensive, with targets that included missile launch sites and minelaying boats, and said the U.S. acted with "restraint" in light of the weekslong ceasefire. Iran's foreign ministry called the strikes a ceasefire violation and warned that Washington would bear responsibility for "all consequences," without elaborating. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will leave no act of aggression unanswered," it added in a statement. Iran's Revolutionary Guard said Tuesday that it shot down at least one drone and deterred another drone and a fighter jet that entered its airspace, according to Iran's official Mizan news agency. It didn't specify when the incidents occurred. Iran's supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, used a statement about Islam's annual Hajj pilgrimage to address his country's confrontation with the U.S. and Israel, declaring that other Mideast nations "will no longer serve as a shield"



for U.S. military bases. Iran has previously complained about U.S. military facilities in the region and targeted them. It was not immediately clear what the developments would mean for negotiations. Iranian state TV reported Tuesday that Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi left Qatar, where talks had been taking place. The report did not elaborate or point to any next steps. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio projected that talks on extending the ceasefire and reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz will "take a few days." Iranians get back online, to some extent. Meanwhile, Iranian authorities eased a monthslong internet shutdown that they cast as a wartime necessity, but that has cost the country's economy an estimated \$30 million to \$40 million a day. Internet users reported that access was gradually being restored, at least in some places. State

media said fixed broadband service was back. It was unclear when mobile internet would be widely restored. Iran has long enforced filters and policed content on platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. But before the war, Iranians could bypass restrictions with cheap virtual private networks, known as VPNs, and other easy workarounds. Authorities cut off internet access in January during massive anti-government demonstrations and later began to relax those restrictions before imposing a complete internet blackout after the U.S. and Israel attacked on Feb. 28. The internet outage made it difficult for Iranians outside the country to maintain contact with loved ones, and the lack of connectivity devastated the country's relatively vibrant online businesses, putting further pressure on an already battered economy. In other developments, Iran hanged a man it convicted of spying for Israel, the latest of more than two dozen

allegedly espionage- and security-related executions since the war intensified a crackdown on dissent. The Iranian judiciary's news outlet, Mizanonline, identified the man as Gholamreza Khani Shakarab, calling him "a ringleader" for operations for Israel's intelligence agency, the Mossad, and accusing him of recruiting members inside and outside Iran to work against the nation's security. He was involved in sports and traveled to neighboring countries, according to the news agency. Activists and rights groups say Iran routinely holds closed-door trials in which defendants are unable to challenge accusations and often are forced to confess. The official judiciary agency said the country's Supreme Court had upheld Shakarab's death sentence. Global food official concerned about strait closure. The U.S. strikes were the latest flare-up in the fragile ceasefire that began April 7 and has largely held. Negotiations center in part on the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway off southern Iran through which a fifth of the world's crude oil and natural gas passed before the war began. Once the fighting started, Tehran retaliated by effectively closing the strait, stranding hundreds of ships, shocking the global economy, disrupting energy markets and squeezing fertilizer

Bangladesh Seeks New IMF-Supported Program: IMF



Washington: Bangladesh has requested a new IMF-supported programme, the multilateral financial organisation said, expressing commitment to support Dhaka achieve long-lasting financial stability. "The Bangladeshi authorities have requested a new IMF-supported programme. IMF staff are in discussions with the authorities on their reform agenda and policy priorities," Ivo Krznar, Mission Chief for Bangladesh at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said in a statement on Tuesday. He said the IMF remains a committed partner to Bangladesh in its efforts to secure lasting macro-economic and financial stability, strengthen resilience and support

strong, inclusive growth. During recent meetings with IMF officials, Bangladesh has conveyed that the existing IMF programme was adopted under a different economic and policy context, and subsequent domestic developments, changing global economic conditions and external uncertainties had created challenges in implementing some reforms. Bangladesh officials said the government is not stepping away from reforms, but rather wants to pursue a realistic and phased reform agenda that aligns with the country's current economic realities. A new government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rehman assumed office in February after the parliamentary election, the first since the

unseating of the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2024 in the midst of anti-government protests. ent meetings with IMF officials, Bangladesh has conveyed that the existing IMF programme was adopted under a different economic and policy context, and subsequent domestic developments, changing global economic conditions and external uncertainties had created challenges in implementing some reforms. Bangladesh officials said the government is not stepping away from reforms, but rather wants to pursue a realistic and phased reform agenda that aligns with the country's current economic realities. A new government led by Prime Minister Tarique Reh

RCB Advance Into Second Consecutive Final



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) made it into their second consecutive Indian Premier League (IPL) final by beating Gujarat Titans (GT) by 92 runs in the Qualifier 1 of the ongoing edition. The defending champions dominated the opposition on all three departments to script a victory. Rajat Patidar shone with the bat while Jacob Duffy dazzled with the ball taking most wickets for RCB. Gujarat Titans struggled to chase the target of 255 right from the start as they lost wickets at the regular intervals. They were reduced to 51/5 inside first six overs as Sai Sudarsan unfortunate hit-wicket triggered a collapse. The fall of wickets continued there-

after as well and the team was reduced to 88/8 soon. Rahul Tewatia played a resilient knock from one end forming 68-run partnership for the ninth wicket but win was beyond GT's reach. Tewatia played a knock of 68 runs from 43 deliveries but his innings went in vain as GT were bundled out on 162. Duffy was the pick of the bowlers for RCB taking three wickets. Earlier in the match, RCB put up a comprehensive batting show and rode on skipper Rajat Patidar's unbeaten 93 as they posted a mammoth 254 for 5 in the Qualifier 1 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) here on Tuesday. RCB lost their opener Venkatesh Iyer (19) early in the innings.

Iyer and Virat Kohli added 21 runs for the first wicket. Iyer, a left-handed batter, started with two successive boundaries in the first over off Mohammed Siraj. After playing a dot ball, he once again took Siraj to cleaners and hammered the third boundary of the over as RCB raced to 12 for no loss. Kohli (43) began his innings with a cheeky single as RCB ended the first over with 14 for no loss at the picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium here. Kohli faced three successive dot balls in the second over off Kagiso Rabada. Iyer smashed Rabada for a maximum over fine leg but was dismissed on the next ball, courtesy a

splendid catch by rival skipper Shubman Gill. Devdutt Padikkal (30 off 19 balls) joined Kohli, who fetched his first boundary in the third over, and the duo added a staggering 72 runs for the second wicket. Padikkal freed his arms in the third over, hitting a boundary on the last ball off Siraj, the team from Bengaluru, raced to 32 for no loss. Kohli was in his usual element as boundaries were coming thick and fast. Padikkal took Rabada to task as RCB notched up the team's fifty in just four overs. At 76/1 after six overs, the foundation was laid for a mammoth total.

Runs were coming at ease for both Kohli and Padikkal even as Gujarat

AI Becoming Infrastructure Of Intelligence: TCS Chairman N Chandrasekaran



Artificial intelligence is no longer just a technological layer but is rapidly becoming the operating foundation and "infrastructure of intelligence" for enterprises globally, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. In his letter to shareholders in the company's Annual Report for 2025-26, Chandrasekaran noted that TCS has scaled up the execution of its 'Human+AI' operating model, generating an annualised revenue of USD 2.3 billion in AI services and USD 11.5 billion in new-age services, including cloud, data, and cybersecurity. He noted that AI will

fundamentally influence how enterprises invest, organise supply chains, manage risk, and serve stakeholders, with generative and agentic AI now entering a new phase of growth as customers decisively move from experimental pilots to scaled deployments and embed AI into core functions. Looking ahead, the Chairman outlined a comprehensive future strategy centered on establishing secure, resilient, and sovereign AI infrastructure. A key priority for the IT major, he said, will be building an AI operating system tailored for industries to accelerate the deployment of agentic AI solu-

tions. Furthermore, TCS plans to construct India's first AI-focused data centre featuring a rack density greater than 160 KW, while strengthening its 'Infrastructure to Intelligence' offerings through expansive partnerships with hyperscalers, frontier AI firms, and industrial OEMs. Highlighting global macroeconomic shifts, Chandrasekaran noted that as global constraints on power, compute, and geography intensify, India is emerging as a strategic '+1' destination for AI infrastructure. TCS reported a 12.22 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit to Rs 13,718 crore, supported by

expanded profit margins. For fiscal year 2025-26, its profit after tax increased 1.35 per cent to Rs 49,210 crore compared to Rs 48,553 crore in FY25. The company added 2,356 jobs in Q4 to take the overall number of employees to 584,519 as of March 31, 2026, marking the first quarter of net addition after two consecutive quarters of decline. It signed new deals of USD 12 billion in the three months to March, led by North America at USD 5.4 billion and the banking, financial services and insurance business at USD 2.8 billion.

'This One For Him': Daniel Suarez Dedicates His Coca-Cola 600 Win To Kyle Busch



Daniel Suarez emerged triumphant in the Coca-Cola 600 and dedicated his win to his late friend Kyle Busch. Suarez navigated the 600-mile track with precision to finish at the top after starting 14th on the grid. He clocked a timing of 4:37:07.572 to edge out second-placed Christopher Bell by a narrow margin of 0.61 seconds. The Mexican-American car racing driver bagged 55 points, but more importantly, he celebrated his win for Kyle Busch, whom he credits for his career's trajectory. Busch recently died in the lead-up to this race.

Suarez dedicates his Coca-Cola 600 win to his late friend Kyle Busch. Suarez said in the post-race interview that Kyle always believed in him even when the seats were empty. "Kyle is the reason I'm here. He believed in me when the seats were empty. This one is for him. He's going through a lot, but he's still the GOAT in my eyes," Suarez remarked after winning the race. Only a few days after Busch's death, NASCAR returned to the track under a cloud of grief. Various sports personalities offered condolences after his demise. How did Kyle Busch die? The 41-year-old was

reportedly hospitalised after becoming unresponsive during a racing simulator session held in Concord, North Carolina, the previous week. According to a statement released by his family and confirmed on Thursday, NASCAR officials on Saturday, he died because severe pneumonia rapidly developed into sepsis. Busch's family confirmed he passed away due to complications linked to severe pneumonia and sepsis. He was one of the toughest competitors in NASCAR, winning championships in 2015 and 2019 for Joe Gibbs Racing. Also, he was

known by nicknames such as "Rowdy" and "Wild Thing" for his post-race banter and regular feuds with other drivers in the championship. NASCAR pay respects to Busch. Before the race, NASCAR paid respects to Busch in an emotional ceremony that included Busch's wife, Samantha, and two young children, Brexton and Lennix, his parents, and his brother, former NASCAR champion Kurt Busch. NASCAR CEO Steve O'Donnell said that Kyle will always be part of the NASCAR family and have their full support.

Sebi Proposes Framework For Management Of Option Strike Prices During Market Volatility



Capital market regulator Sebi on Monday proposed a comprehensive framework for the introduction and ongoing management of strike prices in options contracts to ensure the availability of contracts during periods of sharp intraday market volatility. In a consultation paper, Sebi said significant volatility in underlying or futures prices can lead to market movements beyond the farthest available strike price, causing inconvenience to market participants due to the non-availability of options contracts around prevailing market levels. To address this issue, the regulator proposed that stock exchanges put in place a framework governing the introduction and management of options contracts. Under the proposed frame-

work, exchanges will formulate rules for a minimum number of in-the-money and out-of-the-money options contracts and undertake daily reviews of strike prices around prevailing market levels. Stock exchanges will also review existing strike prices daily to eliminate contracts that are significantly away from prevailing market prices, as per the consultation paper. Further, Sebi has proposed that exchanges should have provisions for intraday elimination of contracts that are significantly away from prevailing market prices during market hours in the direction of movement of the underlying asset. The regulator said such intraday introduction of options contracts should not require any system-level changes by stock brokers or market participants during live trading operations.

According to Sebi, the operational modalities, including strike intervals, number of contracts to be introduced and wider intervals for contracts far away from the prevailing market price, will remain at the discretion of individual exchanges. The proposed framework will apply across all options segments, including equity, currency and commodities, with exchanges allowed to adopt different rules depending on liquidity and participation in specific sub-segments. Sebi has also proposed the discontinuation of an existing clause related to the rationalisation of strike intervals for long-dated index options after operationalisation of the new framework. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has invited public comments on the proposals until June 15, 2026.

Celina Jaitly Reacts To Twisha Sharma Case Amid Divorce Battle: 'Abuse Is More Than Bruises'



Actor Celina Jaitly has shared a deeply emotional note on marriage, abuse and loneliness while reacting to the tragic death of Twisha Sharma, the 33-year-old woman from Noida who was found dead at her marital home in Bhopal earlier this month. Celina's post comes at a time when she herself is going through a difficult divorce battle with her husband, Austrian hotelier Peter Haag. Through her Instagram post, the actor not only expressed grief over Twisha's death but also opened up about her own struggles inside marriage. Beginning her note with a reference to the shocking case, Celina wrote, "The heartbreaking case of Twisha Sharma has shaken the entire nation. An educated, beautiful,

talented young woman whose life became consumed by abuse, isolation, emotional suffering, & violence behind closed doors." She further said that what disturbed many people was how quickly the focus shifted away from the tragedy itself. "While her grieving family begged for answers, postmortems, & justice for their daughter, conversations around plants not being watered disturbed many people watching this tragedy unfold," she wrote. Calling abuse a frightening reality, Celina added, "Sometimes the suffering of women becomes so normalised that their pain slowly stops mattering to the people around them."

The actor's most striking line from the post read, "Marriage is not always happily ever after. Sometimes the loneliest form of violence is the one nobody sees." Celina went on to explain how abuse is not always physical. "Abuse besides bruises. Sometimes it is isolation. Sometimes it is slowly being cut off from your world. Sometimes it is living in a foreign place with no family, no support system, nowhere to go," she wrote. She also spoke about emotional manipulation and humiliation that many women silently experience. "Sometimes it is being made to feel that you are the problem, that your pain is an inconvenience. Sometimes it is humiliation behind

closed doors while the world believes you are living a beautiful life," the actor added. In one of the most personal parts of the note, Celina reflected on her own marriage and why she stayed despite feeling lonely and emotionally exhausted. "In my own case, my parents had already passed away, I was no longer financially independent, & above all, I had three small children," she shared. "Like so many women, I stayed longer than I should have because I believed keeping the family together was the right thing to do. I did not want my children to suffer. I had no one to turn to, & I was ashamed to admit how lonely I had become," she wrote.

Actor's Inspiring Journey, His Biggest Hits & 5 Major Upcoming Films

From living in a small Mumbai chawl to becoming one of Bollywood's biggest stars, Vicky Kaushal has had an inspiring journey. The actor, who is celebrating his 38th birthday today on May 16, has slowly built his place in the film industry with hard work, patience and powerful performances. Today, he is counted among Bollywood's most talented actors, and his recent blockbuster Chhava has only made his stardom bigger.

On Vicky's birthday, here's a look at his struggle story, biggest films and exciting upcoming projects. From Chawl Life To Bollywood Born on May 16, 1988, in Mumbai, Vicky did not have an easy childhood. Even though his father, Sham Kaushal, worked in Bollywood as a famous action director, life was not luxurious for the family in the early days. In earlier interviews, Vicky revealed that he spent part of his childhood in a small 10x10 room in a chawl in Mumbai's Malad area. Like many outsiders trying to make it big in films, Vicky also struggled before getting noticed.

Before becoming an actor, he worked behind the camera. He reportedly handled clappers, worked as an assistant on film sets and even did small backstage jobs during shoots. First Brea Vicky got his first major opportunity when filmmaker Anurag



Kashyap gave him a chance to work as an assistant director in Gangs of Wasseypur. However, his acting career began with Masaan, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan. The emotional drama received praise across the world, and Vicky's performance made everyone notice his talent. Even today, Masaan is considered one of the best films of his career. Films That Changed Vicky Kaushal's Career After Masaan, Vicky slowly became one of the most dependable actors in Bollywood. He impressed audiences with different kinds of roles and proved that he

could handle emotional, action and patriotic characters with equal ease. One of his most loved performances was Raazi, where he starred opposite Alia Bhatt. Though the film mainly focused on Alia's character, Vicky won hearts with his calm and emotional performance as Iqbal Syed. He then delivered several hit films, including Uri: The Surgical Strike, Sardar Udham and Sam Bahadur. Fans and critics praised his intense acting and dedication in all these projects. His latest release, Chhava, became a massive box office success and is said to be the highest-gross-

ing film of his career so far. Apart from lead roles, Vicky also impressed fans with supporting performances in films like Raman Raghav 2.0 and Sanju. From Rs 1,500 Salary To Crores According to reports, Vicky's first salary was only Rs 1,500. Today, the actor reportedly charges around Rs 20 crore for a film. Reports also suggest that his estimated net worth is around Rs 41 crore. Meanwhile, his wife, actress Katrina Kaif, reportedly has a much bigger net worth. The couple often grabs attention for their sweet chemistry and continues to remain one of Bollywood's most loved celebrity pairs. Vicky Kaushal's Upcoming Films After the success of Chhava, Vicky now has several exciting films in his kitty. One of the most awaited projects is Love & War, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Fans are already excited to see the trio together on screen. Another big project is Mahavatar, where Vicky is expected to play Lord Parashurama. The film will reportedly be directed by Amar Kaushik. kyalso has Takht in the pipeline. The historical drama by Karan Johar has been in discussion for a long time, and reports suggest Vicky may play Mughal ruler Aurangzeb in the film

Divyanka Tripathi - Vivek Dahiya Blessed With Twin Baby Boys: 'Mere Karan Arjun Aa Gaye'



Television's much-loved couple Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya and Vivek Dahiya have stepped into a beautiful new phase of life as they welcomed twin baby boys. The actors shared the happy news with fans on social media on Tuesday, and congratulatory messages poured in from friends, followers and television celebrities soon after the announcement. Vivek Dahiya took to Instagram to reveal the arrival of their babies through a heartwarming post featuring an animated image of two little boys dressed in matching blue outfits. The adorable announcement instantly grabbed attention online. The post read, "We asked for happiness... God said, 'Take

double.' Blessed with twin baby boys." Sharing his excitement about becoming a father, Vivek wrote, "The wait is finally over... 'The Boys' are here and life already feels more beautiful than we ever imagined." Adding a fun Bollywood touch to the announcement, the actor referenced the iconic film dialogue from Karan Arjun and wrote, "Mere Karan Arjun aa gaye!" He further asked fans and well-wishers to shower love and blessings on the family as they begin their parenting journey. "Need all your love and blessings as Div and I begin this incredible new chapter of parenthood," he added. The announcement quickly went viral across social media,

with fans lovingly calling the babies the "Divek twins." Many celebrities from the television industry also congratulated the couple and wished them happiness as first-time parents. Divyanka and Vivek are among television's most adored celebrity couples. The duo met on the sets of Yeh Hai Mohabbatein and later fell in love. They tied the knot in 2016 in a grand wedding ceremony attended by close friends and family members. Over the years, they have continued to remain fan favourites because of their chemistry and strong bond. The couple had announced their pregnancy earlier this year on the occasion of Gudi

Padwa. Since then, fans had been eagerly waiting for updates about the new addition to their family. Earlier, in an interview with a news agency, Vivek had spoken honestly about his first reaction after learning about the pregnancy. He admitted that instead of immediate excitement, he initially felt nervous because of the responsibility that comes with parenthood. "Honestly, my first reaction was not overwhelming excitement. I actually felt nervous and a little stressed," Vivek had shared. He added that over time, the feeling turned into happiness because becoming parents was something both he and Divyanka had always wanted.

Pati Patni Aur Woh Do : 5 Tweets To Read Before Booking Tickets For Ayushmann Khurrana's Family Entertainer

Ayushmann Khurrana is back in his favourite genre, quirky comedy, with Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, and if early reactions on X are anything to go by, the film seems to have struck the right balance between chaos, humour and family entertainment. Directed by Mudassar Aziz, the romantic comedy also stars Wamiqa Gabbi, Rakul Preet Singh and Sara Ali Khan in key roles. The film hit theatres today, and several early viewers have already shared their reactions online. Many film goers are calling the film a "laugh riot" packed with witty one-liners, energetic performances and entertaining confusion. Ayushmann's return to his signature small-town comedy space has especially impressed audiences. Taking to X, one user wrote, "#AyushmannKhurrana returns to his signature quirky comedy zone in this loud, fast-paced love square! Hilarious situational humour & witty one-liners. Excellent comic timing by Ayushmann & Wamiqa Gabbi. One-time weekend watch with family!" Another review praised the film's entertaining screenplay and modern treatment of a familiar concept. The tweet read, "#PatiPatniAurWohDo is a delightfully messy, fast-paced situational comedy that escalates into glorious theatrical madness. It handles the age-old comedy-of-errors trope with a highly refreshing, modern spin." The same user also praised the lead cast, writing, "#AyushmannKhurrana shines brightly as Prajapati Pandey, delivering an impeccable masterclass in small-town comic timing. #WamiqaGabbi anchors the screen beautifully, matching his energy in every frame." Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet



Singh have also received positive reactions for adding glamour and comic energy to the story. One tweet mentioned, "The unexpected entries of #SaraAliKhan and #RakulPreetSingh inject massive glam factor and double the runtime's chaotic energy." Another user summed up the theatre response perfectly by posting, "Haha! What a hilarious ride #PatiPatniAurWohDo. Ayushmann Khurrana is back in the A game. The screenplay handles the chaos well & inside the theatres people were giggling throughout." Viewers are also appreciating Mudassar Aziz's writing style. Many tweets mention that the dialogues and one-liners are landing well with audiences. One review read, "Writer-Director #MudassarAziz crafts incredibly sharp, snappy one-liners that keep the theater rooms constantly buzzing with genuine giggles." However, not every reaction has been glowing. A few viewers felt the film follows a familiar formula and becomes

repetitive in parts. One user wrote after the interval, "The movie is only sporadically funny and looks outdated. The director is recycling the same concept over and over. Despite mixed opinions from a small section of viewers, the overall response on X has remained largely positive. Fans are especially happy to see Ayushmann back in a light-hearted comedy after experimenting with different genres in recent years. Ahead of the release, Ayushmann also addressed concerns around the film's theme. Speaking about the story, he clarified that the film does not glorify infidelity and instead focuses on humour and family-friendly storytelling. "The way Mudassar has woven this classic, iconic story is brilliant. It's not a typical rom-com; there's more comedy in the film," the actor said in a recent interaction. He also described his character Prajapati Pandey as a "green flag" hero with a strong moral compass, adding a fresh layer to the comedy setup.