



P5

Syria welcomes US decision to ease Assad-era sanctions as 'positive step'



P3

RBI sold nearly \$400 billion of foreign currency in FY25, sharply higher than previous fiscal

Trisha calls Thug Life sets 'a safe space', says Kamal Haasan is her mentor: 'I feel like I grew up with...'

P6

Crucial READ

Protesters scuffle with security forces near Manipur Raj Bhavan

Imphal (Agency): A scuffle broke out between protesters and security forces on Sunday while they were on their way to gherao the Raj Bhavan here against the removal of the state's name from a government bus. The protesters responding to a call by COCOMI to stage mass agitation gathered at Khwairamband and took out a rally for some 500 metres before they were stopped by security forces. They were demanding an apology from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla over an alleged insult to Manipur's identity.

Man arrested for raping seven-year-old girl in West Tripura

Agartala (Agency): A man was arrested on Saturday for allegedly raping a seven-year-old girl at a place in West Tripura district, police said. "Mother of the minor rape survivor lodged complaint at West Agartala Women Police Station on May 19. On the basis of the complaint, we registered case and yesterday we arrested the accused. We forwarded him to court today," a police official from the West Agartala police station said. The police said that preliminary investigation suggests the accused allegedly raped the minor on May 9, when she had gone to her neighbour's house.

Amid boycott calls for Turkey, PM Modi says more Indians choosing domestic vacations

During "Mann Ki Baat", Modi said that a renewed energy is visible in the whole country regarding 'Vocal for Local'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that after Operation Sindoor, several families have vowed to spend their vacation in India in recognition of 'vocal for local' calls. During his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat", the prime minister said that a renewed energy is visible in the whole country regarding 'Vocal for Local'.

"After this campaign, a renewed energy is visible in the whole country regarding 'Vocal for Local'. Many things touch the heart. A parent remarked, "We will now buy toys only made in India, for our children. Patriotism will start from childhood." Some families have taken a pledge, "We will spend our next

vacation in some beautiful place in the country." Many young persons have taken a pledge to 'Wed in India'... that they would get married in the country itself," the prime minister said. "Someone also said, "Now whatever gift we will give, it will be made by an Indian artisan", he added. The remarks come amid reports that Indian travellers have decided to avoid travelling to Turkey and Azerbaijan following the outrage among Indians over the public support shown by both countries for Pakistan over India's Operation Sindoor. Pakistan also used Turkish drones on a large scale during the military conflict with India.

Visa applications to Turkey, Azerbaijan drop sharply Earlier this week, visa

processing platform Atlys said that Indian travellers have responded swiftly by deciding to avoid travelling to Turkey and Azerbaijan. Within just 36 hours, the platform noted 60 per cent of users exiting the visa application process midway, it said on May 20. "The reaction wasn't scattered, it was sharp and behavioural. People didn't need to be told to avoid certain destinations. They simply moved on, guided by instinct, information, and access to alternatives," "That's what modern travel looks like. It's emotionally intelligent, logistically agile, and backed by platforms that let people act fast. In the same spirit, we also paused all marketing efforts for Turkey and Azerbaijan, standing by India and in solidarity with national sentiment," Mehta added.

Citing the "current geopolitical situation" involving Turkey, several educational institutes, including IIT Bombay, suspended their agreement with Turkish universities.

CMs from NDA-ruled states pass resolution hailing Operation Sindoor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the success of Operation Sindoor, pointing out that it was a reaffirmation of the achievements the country has made in the defence sector. While addressing chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ruled states, he said the Union government's decision to carry out caste enumeration is a step towards bringing the marginalised and those on the margins of development into the mainstream, said people aware of the details. A resolution hailing the valour of the armed forces during Operation Sindoor, India's military strike against terror camps in Pakistan, and the government's iteration of a new national narrative that the country will respond to any terrorist attack decisively was passed at the meeting. A second resolution lauding the caste census that was announced by the Union government earlier this month was also passed.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met Prime Minister Modi, Chief Minister was on a two-day visit to Delhi

Bhopal (Agency): Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Sunday and discussed several issues. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav today participated in the meeting of the Chief Ministers Council of the National Democratic Alliance. Earlier on Saturday, Prime Minister Modi met Chief Minister Dr. Yadav and Chief Ministers of other states in the Governing Body meeting of the NITI Aayog. The Chief Minister has said that the two-day New Delhi visit was meaningful and successful. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav listened to the 122nd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' during his New Delhi visit on Sunday. After listening to the "Mann Ki



Baat" program, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the Mann Ki Baat program is a unique medium of public dialogue. This program is a unique effort to awaken collective consciousness towards nation building. Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat program is a dialogue program connecting every section of the society from youth

power, rural development, women empowerment, poor welfare, environmental protection and innovation, which gives new energy and direction to the citizens of the country. The dynamic, inspiring and farsighted thoughts of the Prime Minister continue to inspire people to work for national service, social awareness and public welfare.

Massive dust storm in parts of Rajasthan reduces visibility; 2 killed amid heavy rain

New Delhi (Agency): Dust storms and rain disrupted Jaisalmer and other parts of Rajasthan on Saturday night, reportedly leading to the loss of two lives, along with low visibility and damage to property.

A woman and her daughter were killed in the Khairthal-Tijara district's Bhiwadi town after a wall of their house collapsed due to the heavy rain. Tjara saw a total of 35 mm of rainfall. Sumaya, 21, and her one-year-old daughter were buried alive while the woman's husband was hospitalised after being



injured in the incident. Jodhpur and Jaisalmer witnessed rain as well, with the highest rainfall recorded in Hanumangarh's Nohar, followed by Pilani in Jhunjhunu which gauged 49.8 mm of precipitation and Sikar which saw 38 mm of rainfall.

Tea shop owner, 58, rapes minor in UP village, arrested: Cops

Banda (Agency): A 58-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Banda, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred in the Khakharelu Police Station area on Friday, they said. The man, identified as Prahlaad Singh Patel, was taken into custody the next evening, they said. Local station House Officer Bachchela Prasad said Patel, a tea shop owner, was arrested from the village.

'God give them sadbuddhi'

BJP MP under fire for Pahalgam attack remark issues clarification

New Delhi (Agency): After facing severe criticism from the opposition parties for his 'women in Pahalgam should have fought back' remark, Haryana BJP MP Ram Chander Jhangra on Sunday claimed that his statement on the Pahalgam terror attack was "distorted" and misrepresented for political gain. "In a video statement, Jangra expressed regret if his comments hurt anyone and said that he had no intention of insulting the women who lost their husbands in the

April 22 attack. "I do not treat women of my



country weakly in any manner. We stand with the women who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam

attack, we stand with those families. Still, if I have hurt anyone's feelings, I have no hesitation in apologising," he said in the video.

The controversy erupted after Jangra, while speaking at an event marking the 300th birth anniversary of Maratha ruler Ahilyabai Holkar, said that the women who lost their husbands in Pahalgam should have acted like 'veerangnas' (warrior women) and the victims should have fought back against the terrorists.

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to move into quarantine ahead of space travel on June 8

New Delhi (Agency): Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three other crewmates part of the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station are headed into quarantine, the US-based private space firm announced on Sunday. The Axiom-4 mission -- a collaborative effort of Axiom Space, NASA, European Space Agency (ESA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) -- is scheduled for lift-off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Sunday. The Axiom-4 mission will be the first time an Indian astronaut will visit the

International Space Station (ISS). During the 14-day mission docked to the orbiting laboratory, the astronauts will conduct global outreach activities, microgravity research and technology demonstrations. A ceremonial send-off was organised at Axiom Space for the crew ahead of their launch onboard SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket. "The crew is on their way to quarantine. Before they went, Axiom Space employees came together to celebrate. The crew send-off is a tradition that pays tribute to the dedication and tireless efforts of the staff prior to the crew embarking on their mission," Axiom Space said in a post on X.



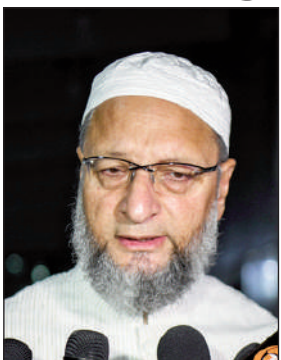
SC upholds arrest in AP liquor scam

New Delhi (Agency): The Supreme Court on Friday found no fault in the Andhra Pradesh government's action to arrest former chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's IT adviser in the ₹3,200-crore Andhra Pradesh liquor scam in April this year. A bench headed by justice JB Pardiwala dismissed a petition filed by the father of Kessireddy Raja Shekhar Reddy, who is currently in jail, alleging that his son's arrest was vitiated as no proper grounds were furnished by the Crime



Investigation Department. The petitioner referenced the Supreme Court's February ruling in Vihaan Kumar v State of Haryana, which held that arrest grounds must be meaningful enough to enable the accused to seek bail and approach the high court against illegal detention.

In Bahrain, Asaduddin Owaisi calls Pakistan a 'failed state', praises Indian government



New Delhi (Agency): AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, during an interaction in Bahrain on Sunday, as part of an all-party delegation, referred to Pakistan as a

"failed state" and reaffirmed India's ability to defend itself against any aggression from the neighbouring nation. As a member of the all-party delegation from India to Bahrain, led by BJP MP Baijayant Panda, Owaisi explained India's measured response towards Pakistan's actions. "The government and the media, our air defence system, our technology and warfare capabilities, successfully intercepted and neutralised everything that was launched by a failed state like Pakistan."

New Delhi (Agency): Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday reacted to the expulsion of his elder brother, Tej Pratap Yadav, from the party for 'irresponsible behaviour' and said the party "cannot tolerate such things". Tej Pratap Yadav was expelled from the party for six years by RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav for his "irresponsible behaviour". The RJD supremo also snapped all family ties with his elder son. The expulsion comes a day after Tej Pratap Yadav shared a photograph

with a woman on social media, referring to her as his



'partner' of nearly 12 years. The post was soon deleted and Tej Pratap Yadav claimed that his Facebook account

was hacked and that his photos were edited

wrongfully. "We cannot tolerate such things, we are working and are dedicated to the people of Bihar. If it's

about my big brother, political life and personal life are different. He has the right to make his personal decisions. He is an adult and free to make decisions," Tejashwi Yadav told reporters on the expulsion of his elder brother from the party. "Our party's chief has made it clear, and ever since he has said so, it is his feelings. We didn't question such things... What he is doing in his personal life, nobody asks before doing anything. I have come to know about it via the media only," he added.

What Lalu Prasad said

Lalu Yadav wrote on microblogging platform X that the "activities, public conduct and irresponsible behaviour of the eldest son are not in accordance with our family values and traditions." "Ignoring moral values in personal life weakens our collective struggle for social justice," the RJD supremo said. "Therefore, due to the above circumstances, I remove him from the party and family. From now on, he will not have any role of any kind in the party and family. He is expelled from the party for 6 years. He is capable of seeing the good and bad merits and demerits of his personal life. All those who will have relations with him should make their own decisions. I have always been an advocate of public shame in public life. The obedient members of the family have adopted and followed this idea in public life," Lalu Yadav wrote.

Nodal Officer/Sec PWD inspects Jal Jeevan Mission projects

Vindhya Corridor, Engineering College and Gau-Ashraya site Barkachha also inspected, instructions given to concerned

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Noded Nodal Officer/Secretary Public Works Department Uttar Pradesh Government Prakash Bindu today, in view of the reality of drinking water projects and other construction works under the Water Life Mission Scheme by the governmentThe District Magistrate along with Priyanka Nirnanjan visited various places of the district and inspected. During the inspection, he visited the under construction Vindhya Karidor and took information about the

progress and other proposed works of the scheme. Thereafter inspected the construction work of Engineering College Bathua. During the inspection, under construction boys/girls



Nodal officer lighting point taking information by inspecting development works, cow-blessings and drinking water

hostels, administrative buildings, educational buildings, project rooms, multipurpose hall,The work of boundary wall etc. was inspected. He directed to complete the boundary work of the campus and complete it. The nodal officer reached the village plain banat of the city development block and got information about the supply

of drinking water from the beneficiaries and was seen running the tap/totted on the door, where the water was being supplied. Kamala Devi of the village, Rahmulla, While inspecting the

site/Qazi House operated by the District Panchayat was inspected at Nodal Officer Barkachha. Additional Chief Officer told that this cowshed Very old is currently 50 cow dynasty. It was told by the vet that the center of the Animal Dissemination Officer is at Barkachha, he is tested for the animals once every day. 100 percent of the animals have been tagged Jio Tagging. Bhusha and green fodder were found in sufficient quantity on the spot. Gauvansho after observing the Bhusha register, health test register etc. by the nodal officer Wearing garlands was also fed. District Magistrate Priyanka Nirjan, Municipal Magistrate Vineet Upadhyay, Deputy District Magistrate Sadar Gulab Chandra, Project Manager C & DS, Executive Engineer Public Works Department, Deputy Collector Shakti Pratap Singh and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

AAP committed to change in society and power by doing service and dedication : Sunil Pandey Advocate

■ Aam Aadmi Party gave message of cleanliness by sweeping primary health center urban ■ Aam Aadmi Party giving message of cleanliness in common people on strength of service and dedication: Prof B. Singh

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Aam Aadmi Party workers by Aam Aadmi Party state in -charge and MPIn view of the creative works on the instructions of Sanjay Singh, in order to clean the primary health center today, a worker and officer of Mirzapur district, under the leadership of Aam Aadmi Party District President Professor B.

Singh, a cleanliness drive was carried out at Mirzapur Primary Health Center Urban Confuse and the entire Primary Health Center was cleaned. The chief guest of



this program is common manThe party's state secretary and district in-charge Sonbhadra Sunil Kumar Pandey Advocate while cleaning the Primary Health Center urban Arogya Mandir, saying that the Aam Aadmi Party is doing politics of change in society on the strength of service and dedication, we are not just in politics for the fight of power, we are doing politics to serve the common man.

The Aam Aadmi Party does a creative work in the district every month. In the sameln order, on the orders of the state leadership today, all the workers are running a huge

common man's service education health development water employment electricity will provide basic amenities to the common man through power and through service we will work to struggle for the interests of the common man. Prominent in the program Santosh Kumar Pandey, District General Secretary Jayaprakash Seth, Ravindra Kumar Srivastava Seema Khan, District Vice President Meera Singh Patel, District President Mahila Women Arif Ansari, District President Students Bing Satyam Tripathi, District President Youth Wing Santosh Soni, City President Youth Wing Nasim Khan, District Vice President Business Cell Mirzapur Manbodh Dubey, City In-charge Anand Kumar Singh, Rajan Jaiswalz Mohammad Khalil, Radheshyam Gautam, Bholanath, Ramraj Jaiswal and other workers were present.

Power Corporation management creating atmosphere of strike

Preparations for comprehensive movement with consumers from May 26: Sangharsh Samiti

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee Uttar Pradesh has accused the Power Corporation management that it supports suppression and harassment Regarding this scorching heat, he wants to impose electricity strike on the state. While there is no notice of the strike of the Sangharsh Samiti. The chairman of the Power Corporation is engaged in expanding the directors by citing the strike. Director Finance, Nidhi Narang has been extended for the third time in the name of strike. Apart from thisIn the name of the chairman has expanded the work. In the meeting of the Central Officers of the Sangharsh Samiti in Lucknow today, the general public of the state was assured that the common consumers will not be allowed to face any problem with the ongoing peaceful attention movement against privatization. The Sangharsh Samiti also decided that from May 26 to

May 28, consumers alongWill be run. The Sangharsh Samiti said that during the ongoing movement against privatization, the chairman and management of Power Corporation will be fully uncomfortable, but essential services, especially the common consumers, especially hospitals, railways, drinking water supply etc. will not be allowed to be disrupted. On the instructions of the Power Corporation management, preparations to fill the drinking water in the tankers of the Jal Nigam unnecessarily to create an atmosphere of fear in the general publicThe inherent purpose is being taken and privatization is to impose strike. The Sangharsh Samiti said that it has been reported that representatives of private houses taking interest in the tenders of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam have camped in Lucknow. It is also discussed

that he has a continuous contact with the chairman of Power Corporation. Power Corporation strike only to help private housesIs engaged in imposing. The



Sangharsh Samiti has instructed the power workers in all the districts to keep a close watch on the matter that the electricity system should not be deliberately disturbed and the strike situation should not come unnecessarily. The Sangharsh Samiti has formed a separate team to keep an eye on all the districts for this. Sangharsh Samiti officials Sanjay Singh Chauhan, Jitendra Singh Gurjar, Girish Pandey, Mahendra Rai,PK

Dixit, Suhail Abid, Shashikant Srivastava, Chandra Bhushan Upadhyay, R Y Shukla, Chhotalal Dixit, Devendra Pandey, RB Singh, Mo. Wasim, Mayashankar

Tiwari, Ram Niwas Tyagi, Mo Ilyas, Srichand, Sarju Trivedi, Yogendra Kumar, A.K. Srivastava, K.S. Rawat, Rafiq Ahmed, PS Bajpai, G.P. Singh, Ram Sahsa Verma, Prem Nath Rai, Vishambhar Singh said that Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam andA peaceful movement has been going on for the last 06 months in protest against the privatization of Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. He said that the Sangharsh Samiti has

not given any notice of the indefinite strike, but it is a matter of great misfortune that the chairman of the Power Corporation is sending a letter to the high officials of the government and the District Magistrates, writing that the strike is going to be done in the energy corporations and blue prints are being issued to deal with it.The Sangharsh Samiti said that it seems that the chairman of the Power Corporation is mixed with private houses and they are so eager to privatize that in the scorching heat, they want to impose the strike through suppression and harassment of electricity workers. He said that the management has given notice of disciplinary action to thousands of electricity workers, junior engineers and engineers. The same language has been used in the notice. Employees who have not come to Shaktibhavan even once for the last 06 months are being gathered in Shaktibhavan and imposed in the notice of spreading unrest.

All this is ready to impose strike. On Sunday, on Sunday, even on all districts and projects, the electricity workers gathered and decided a strategy to give a sharp edge to the ongoing movement against privatization and widespread public relations with consumers to carry out the movement by taking consumers together. Engineer Deepak Singh, Anshu Kumar Pandey, Vineet Kumar Mishra, Sumit Kumar Yadav, Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Shekhar Suman, Ramesh Kumar Vaishya, Vipin Patel, Jayakar Patel, Sanjay Yadav, Avinash Agarhari, Sachin Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Ram Singh, Pankaj Kumar, Pramod Kumar, Amit Singh, Vinay Gupta, Vinay Kumar, Shambhu Kumar, Brijesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Roshan Kumar, Sandeep KumarSingh, Anoop Kumar Singh, Praveen Kumar Singh, Indresh Kumar Singh, Maheshwar Kumar Singh, Shiv Shankar Singh, Sunil Kumar etc. were present.

Constitution Bachao Conference organized by Cong

Go to Block and Nyaya Panchayat area and promote policies and progs of Cong in public: Chief guest Vijendra Mishra



State Secretary Vijendra Mishra addressing the Constitution Bachao Conference

under the leadership of Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. The inclination of the people of the country is moving towards the Congress party. Mr. Chaudhary said that the organization is also getting stronger under the leadership of State President Ajay Rai in Uttar Pradesh. All of us together will go among the public and tell the policies of the Congress party. Mirzapur Coordinator Vikram Patel addressed the Constitution Save Conference While doing this, all of us will unite and strengthen the Congress party. Presiding over the program, Dr. Shiv Kumar Kumar Singh Patel said that the BJP government is working to change the constitution. Inflation does not talk about unemployment, misleading

the public. District Panchayat member Shivshankar Choubey, members of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, Chhote Khan, Officer Ali,Rajdhar Dubey, Ramesh Prajapati Pappu, Ishtiaq Ansari, Aditya Padyatri, Akhilesh Singh, Anshu Pandey, Ram Lakhnan Master, Ratnesh Singh, Rajendra Vishwakarma, Chhabiraj Pal, Dharmendra Pal, Pramod Gupta, Kunjbihari Upadhyay, Anuj Mishra, Babbu Pathak, Santosh Yadav Dr. Dinesh Chaudhary Shukla, Ashok Gupta, Vivek Santosh Shukla, Ashok Gupta, Pankaj Patel, Vinay Singh, Piyush Patel etc. should be present. Organizer of the program Manoj Singh Rajesh Mishra Jyoti conducted Sikh Block President and Operations.

Jayant Chaudhary chair 38th Central Apprenticeship Council Meet

Staff Reporter Varanasi: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will convene the 38th Meeting of the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC) on 26th May 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Council, reconstituted in October 2024 under the chairmanship of Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), MSDE, plays a pivotal role in advising the Government on key policies related to apprenticeship training across the country. The last CAC meeting was held in June 2021. Since then, India's apprenticeship landscape has evolved considerably—with over 43.47lakh apprentices engagedacross 36 States and Union Territories, with active participation from more than 51,000 establishments, enhanced outreach across districts and social groups, and renewed alignment with futuristic sectors through the PM-NAPS and NATS schemes. The 38th CAC will deliberate on critical reforms including: • Digital and virtual mode apprenticeship delivery • Integration of Degree Apprenticeships through rule amendments, including the introduction of new definitions to formally regulate Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDP) • Provisions for global deployment of apprentices at client sites • Enhanced stipend rates linked to inflation • Measures to support women, PwDs, and

apprentices from NER •Institutional strengthening including setting up of new regional boards The Council comprises representatives from Central Ministries, State Governments, industry (public and private), academia, labour bodies, and technical experts. Notable members include Chairpersons of BHEL, Indian Oil, Tata Group, Maruti Suzuki, Reliance Industries, NSDC, UGC, AICTE, and senior bureaucrats from Ministries such as Education, Labour, MSME, Railways, and Textiles. State apprenticeship advisors from ten key states and domain experts with experience in education, labour, and industry also serve on the Council. Ahead of the meeting, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Chairman of CAC and Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), MSDE stated:“The future of apprenticeships lies at the intersection of education, technology, and opportunity. As we prepare India's youth for a dynamic and inclusive economy, this Council meeting will serve as a catalyst to unlock greater flexibility, global linkages, and institutional coherence in our apprenticeship framework. It is an important step in our journey toward a 'Kushal Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.” The meeting will begin at 10:30 AM at Vigyan Bhawan, with a keynote address by the Hon'ble Minister, followed by discussions on proposed reforms and policy enhancements. Outcomes from the Council are expected to significantly shape India's skilling priorities in the years ahead.

BRIEFS State VP BKU expressed mourning when son of farmer leader died in road accident



The leaders of Bhakiyu expressing condolences on death of the son of farmer leader in a road accident

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, A wave of mourning raged in the common man of the area, including the officials of the Indian Farmers Union, about the death of the farmer leader of village Bhadawal of Jamalpur development block in the untimely road accident. On this information, Siddhnath Singh, State Vice President ofBharatiya Kisan Union along with his colleagues, village unitReaching the general secretary of the general secretary and expressed condolences. It is said that Raju Patel, son of Vijay Mal Singh, general secretary of the village unit of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, died on 19 May 2025 when he died untimely in a road accident. Reaching the residence of General Secretary Vijaymal and expressed condolences and prayed to God, give all the Parivarjan the power to bear the sorrow and give God peace to the soul of the deceased and give your feet to your feet! support me. Among those who expressed condolences, Virendra Singh District General Secretary, Divisional Spokesperson Rajesh Kumar Singh alias Guddu, District Treasurer Swami Dayal Singh, Shiv Mandir Singh etc. paid tribute to the deceased farmer son.

Emphasis on strengthening the frontal



Staff Reporter Prayagraj. Congress party's Gangapur cum in Congress Party's District Office Zero Road In a meeting held in the presence of senior leaders of all the frontal officials in the organization creation program under the chairmanship of Coordinator Rahul Tripathi, Tripathi said that he talked about selecting the officials of various frontal frontal frontal office bearers. He said that till oursThe Congress will not be strong until the organization is strong. In the program, Gangapur District President Ashfaq Ahmed said that whatever Congress party will strengthen among every frontal organizations, we will give it a place in the organization. I call all the intellectual young men of Gangapur in Prayagraj that only the Congress party is the only party that respects the caste religion sect temple mosque, Amir Poor, and all the people fight for honesty and duties for all the people. Program leaders and speakersProminent present in Dr.Jagat Narayan Khan, Devraj Upadhyay, Sanjay Tiwari, Ram Manorath Saroj, Sandeep Chaudhary, Manoj Pasi Girdhari Lal, Rakesh, Ashraf (Babbu) Mohammad Aslam, Amir Khan, Mohammad Ajmal, Rajesh Patel Kisan Congress President Saurabh Srivastava, Ayush Mishra, Gorelal Mishra NSUI, Aniket Pandey Youth Congress, Mahendra Pratap Singh, Sunil KumarPandey, Rajeshwari Patel Chhotalal Patel Backward Classes Khushanveda Farooqui, District President Women, Reshma Bano Tanjim Fatima District Vice President, Afreen Khan, Reshma Begum District Secretary, Mahevar where District Secretary, Sangeeta Singh, Seva Dal District President Anupam Srivastava, Mohammad Saddam Advocate etc. were present

Airspace over Andaman sea partly closed on May 23-24; can be for likely missile or weapons system test



New Delhi (Agency): India has announced the closure of airspace over an area around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea for three hours each on May 23-24 for a planned air activity, and no civilian aircraft will be allowed to use the specified airspace at any altitude, according to a recent Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Indian authorities. The NOTAM was issued on Friday (May 16) evening. It is not mandatory for the exact nature of the air activity to be mentioned in the NOTAM. A review of past NOTAMs issued for military exercises and weapons tests shows that the specific nature of the activity was mentioned in a number of notices, while a few were non-specific. But the location and certain particulars of this NOTAM may be interpreted as indicative of a missile or weapons system test. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands region has been used time and again by India for missile tests, with the test firing of the BrahMos supersonic missile in salvo mode in January 2025 being a recent example. In April last year, India successfully tested an air-launched ballistic missile in the Adamans, and in March 2022, a successful test firing of the extended range BrahMos missile was done from a launch pad in the island group. According to the NOTAM, the specified airspace—over a polygonal area around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with maximum corridor length of around 500 km—will be restricted between 01:30 and 04:30 UTC (7 am and 10 am IST) on May 23 and 24, and consequently nine international flight routes will be closed for these periods without any alternative routes being made available.

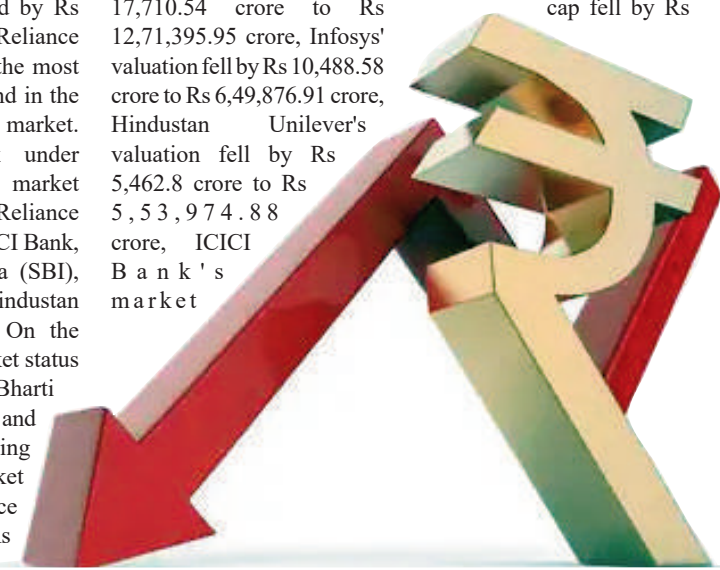
RBI sold nearly \$400 billion of foreign currency in FY25, sharply higher than previous fiscal

New Delhi (Agency): The Reserve Bank of India sold a record \$398.71 billion of foreign currency in 2024-25 on a gross basis as the Indian central bank stepped up its defence of the rupee amid a volatile global environment. The RBI's sale of foreign currency in the spot market in the last financial year was sharply higher than the \$153.03 billion it had sold in 2023-24 and the previous record of \$212.57 billion in 2022-23, data released late Wednesday by the central bank showed. To be sure, the RBI also bought foreign currency heavily last year, resulting in a net sale of \$34.51 billion for the 12 months ended March 2025. However, this was only the seventh time in the last three decades – data for which is available – that the central bank sold more foreign currency in a year than what it bought. Further, the \$34.51 sold on a net basis in 2024-25 is second only to the \$34.92 billion sold in 2008-09 during the global financial crisis. After a fairly stable couple of years, the rupee began weakening sharply in the second half of 2024-25 as it became increasingly likely Donald Trump would return to the White House as president of the US for a second term. The RBI's



Market capitalization of six Sensex companies decreased by Rs 78,166 crore

New Delhi (Agency). Last week, the market capitalization of six of the top 10 Sensex companies collectively declined by Rs 78,166.08 crore. Reliance Industries suffered the most due to the weak trend in the domestic stock market. During the week under review, the market capitalization of Reliance Industries, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Infosys and Hindustan Unilever declined. On the other hand, the market status of HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance and ITC increased. During the week, the market valuation of Reliance Industries fell by Rs 40,800.4 crore to Rs 19,30,339.56 crore, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)'s market cap fell by Rs 17,710.54 crore to Rs 12,71,395.95 crore, Infosys' valuation fell by Rs 10,488.58 crore to Rs 6,49,876.91 crore, Hindustan Unilever's valuation fell by Rs 5,462.8 crore to Rs 5,53,974.88 crore, ICICI Bank's market capitalisation fell by Rs 2,454.31 crore to Rs 10,33,868.01 crore and State Bank of India (SBI)'s market cap fell by Rs 1,249.45 crore to Rs 7,05,446.59 crore. In contrast to this trend, the market valuation of Bharti Airtel rose by Rs 10,121.24 crore to Rs 10,44,682.72 crore, Bajaj Finance's market cap rose by Rs 4,548.87 crore to Rs 5,74,207.54 crore, ITC's market capitalisation rose by Rs 875.99 crore to Rs 5,45,991.05 crore and HDFC Bank's valuation rose by Rs 399.93 crore to Rs 14,80,723.47 crore. In the list of top 10 companies, Reliance Industries remained at the top position, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and ITC, respectively.



PM Modi inaugurates 103 railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Bikaner (Agency): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated 103 redeveloped railway stations, spread across 86 districts in 18 states and Union Territories, under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He also flagged off a new weekly train between Bandra Terminus in Mumbai and Bikaner station in Rajasthan. After praying at the Karni Mata temple in Deshnoke, around 30 km away from Bikaner and nearly 200 km from the International Border with Pakistan, PM Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Deshnoke railway station, and virtually inaugurated 102 other stations. Of the 103 stations redeveloped at a cost of over Rs 1,100 crore, 19 are in

Uttar Pradesh, 18 in Gujarat, 15 in Maharashtra, nine in Tamil Nadu, eight in Rajasthan, six in Madhya Pradesh, five each in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, three each in Jharkhand, Telangana and West Bengal, two each in Bihar and Kerala and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry. A total of 1,300 stations have been identified for redevelopment under the scheme. Out of these, 157 are in Uttar Pradesh, followed by 132 in Maharashtra and 101 in West Bengal. Launched in 2022, the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a long-term plan to improve railway stations and develop them as “city centres”. According to the Ministry of Railways, under the scheme,

detailed plans are made for each station and the work is done in phases, based on what each station needs. Among the stations

Telangana incorporates design elements inspired by the architecture of the Kakatiya empire, Thawe station in Bihar has murals



and artworks depicting Madhubani paintings. Dakor station in Gujarat is inspired by Ranchhodrai Ji Maharaj. The redeveloped stations feature various facilities such as entry and exit points, waiting halls, toilets,

platforms, and roofing. Along with this, lifts, escalators, and free Wi-Fi are added wherever needed. There are also better signs and information systems to help passengers. Some stations will have executive lounges and special areas for business meetings. Local products will be sold at kiosks under the ‘One Station One Product’ scheme. Earlier, under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, a total of six stations were redeveloped— MP's Rani Kamalapati, Gujarat's Gandhinagar Capital, Karnataka's Sir M V Terminal, UP's Ayodhya Dham, the first phase of the Gomti Nagar railway station, and the second entry of Odisha's Cuttack station. Many of them were pilot

projects for the scheme. According to railway ministry data, around Rs 8,000 crore was spent under the head of ‘customer amenities’ for 2023-24. The expected expenditure target for the last financial year 2024-25 was Rs 12,992 crore, and over Rs 12,000 crore has been allocated for FY 2025-26. PM Modi also inaugurated various completed electrification projects such as Suratgarh-Phalodi rail line (336 route kilometres or Rkm), Phulera-Degana rail line (109 Rkm), Udaipur-Himmatnagar rail line (210 Rkm), Phalodi-Jaisalmer rail line (157 Rkm) and Samdari-Barmer rail line (129 Rkm). He also laid the foundation stone for the doubling of the Churu-Sadulpur rail line (58 km).

HSBC Global Research: ‘Hybrids not cannibalising EV sales, powertrains attracting different set of customers’



New Delhi (Agency): Increasing adoption of strong hybrid passenger cars is having a net positive impact on electric vehicle (EV) sales in India as the two powertrains are currently attracting different sets of customers, a note by HSBC Global Research said. States which have offered incentives for hybrid cars have actually seen a strong growth in EVs, the note said. The firm said that the perception that promoting hybrids will hinder EV adoption is “misplaced” since incentivising them “contributes to the broader development of the clean mobility ecosystem”. “We think strong hybrid electric vehicles (SHEVs) and battery electric vehicles (BEVs) are not cannibalising each other but, rather, are attracting different sets of customers,” the note said. “In states where incentives are offered for SHEVs, BEV sales have also seen strong growth. In FY25, the growth in EV sales was similar to the growth in SHEV sales, despite incentives being offered on SHEVs by Uttar Pradesh, the largest PV selling state in India,” it added. State government incentives for hybrid vehicles typically include a complete or partial exemption of road tax, which can bring down the overall cost of a car substantially. The note said that EV sales have grown strongly in all the states from the time they introduced incentives on hybrids. For instance, EV sales in Haryana grew more than 130 per cent between June-December 2022 and July 2023 and in Rajasthan they increased 150 per cent between August-January 2023 and February-July 2023. “The latest trends reinforce our longstanding belief that India will remain a multi-powertrain country for a prolonged period. Hybrids, CNGs, and biofuels are practical medium- to long-term solutions, while the country moves towards eventual electrification,” the HSBC note said. For some time now, hybrid vehicles have received global attention, and several carmakers have been seen to be realigning their electrification plans due to a slowdown of sales in the segments, particularly in markets like the United States and Europe.

How derivative losses forced IndusInd Bank to declare first quarterly losses in 19 years

Mumbai (Agency): Hit by losses in the derivative portfolio and weak asset quality, IndusInd Bank Ltd has reported a net loss of Rs 2,329 crore for the quarter (Q4) ended March 2025 as against a net profit of Rs 2,349 crore a year ago. On March 10, 2025, the bank disclosed that it noted certain discrepancies in its derivative portfolio. The internal review by the bank had estimated an adverse impact of approximately 2.35 per cent of the bank's net worth as of December 2024. Following the disclosure, the bank's Managing Director & CEO Sumant Kathpalia and deputy CEO Arun Khurana resigned in April. IndusInd Bank reported a net loss of Rs 2,329 crore for the quarter ended March 2025 as against a net profit of Rs 2,349 crore a year ago. This was mainly led by the derivative losses and rise in non-performing assets. It

was the first quarterly loss for the bank in 19 years. The two new accounting discrepancies in interest income, unearthed in the internal audits last week worth Rs 674 crore and Rs 595 crore, were also reflected in the March quarter results. As a result, its provisions increased to Rs 2,522 crore in March 2025 as against Rs 950 crore a year ago. The gross NPA increased to 3.13 per cent as against 2.25 per cent as on December 31, 2024. Net non-performing assets were 0.95 per cent as compared to 0.68 per cent. “The Board and the Management acknowledge that the lapses happened have been unfortunate for an institution like our Bank. However, the Board along with the management have shown a strong resolve to address all the identified issues in a timely and comprehensive manner,” said Sunil Mehta, the

Chairman of the Board of Directors, IndusInd Bank. “I express my continued, unequivocal trust in the Chairman and board of the bank for their appropriate, swift actions in order to address discrepancies and attendant areas of concern,” said Ashok P. Hinduja, Chairman, IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL), promoter of IndusInd Bank. On March 10, 2025, IndusInd Bank disclosed that an internal review of its derivative portfolio had revealed a potential 2.35 per cent adverse impact on its net worth, which would have an impact of approximately Rs 2,000 crore on the bank. While the bank sought to shift the blame to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) change in rules relating to the derivative portfolio, the loss from the derivative book remained unresolved for a long time, leading to the accumulation of losses.

As per directives on investments issued by the RBI in September 2023, banks are prohibited from conducting internal trades/hedging and,

interest income), while the corresponding treasury gains were recognised in the profit and loss (P&L) statement. Following the announcement, several



accordingly, IndusInd Bank ceased internal trades from April 1 2024. However, during an internal review, the bank identified certain discrepancies, wherein the accounting of losses on forex derivatives/ swap transactions executed prior to April 2024 (over the past 5-7 years) to hedge forex deposits/ debt were not recognised through NII (net

broking firms downgraded the bank's stock. Its shares crashed by 27 per cent on the stock exchanges on March 11. Amid the derivative loss issue, the exit of the bank's CFO Gobind Jain and the decision of CEO Sumant Kathpalia and Deputy CEO Arun Khurana to sell shares worth Rs 157 crore in the last two years came to the spotlight.

The internal review by the bank had estimated an adverse impact of approximately 2.35 per cent of the bank's net worth as of December 2024.

The bank appointed an independent professional firm to conduct a comprehensive investigation of derivative losses. Allaying the fears of depositors, the RBI on March 15 said that IndusInd Bank depositors need not worry since the bank's financial health remains stable. “There is no need for depositors to react to the speculative reports at this juncture. The bank's financial health remains stable and is being monitored closely by the Reserve Bank,” the regulator said in a statement. The bank is well-capitalised and the financial position of the bank remains satisfactory, the RBI said. “As per auditor-reviewed financial results of the bank for the quarter ended December 31, 2024, the bank has maintained a comfortable capital adequacy ratio of 16.46 per cent and provision coverage

ratio of 70.20 per cent,” the RBI said. The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) of the bank was at 113 per cent as on March 9, 2025, as against regulatory requirement of 100 per cent. On April 15, IndusInd Bank said the report prepared by the external agency – PwC — showed Rs 1,979 crore of ‘negative impact’ to the net worth of the bank due to the derivative discrepancies. “Based on the report, the bank said that it has assessed an adverse impact of 2.27 per cent to its net worth as of 2024,” the lender had said in an exchange filing. The bank also disclosed the ongoing review by an external agency which was independently reviewing the internal findings. “The report from the external agency identified discrepancies relating to derivative deals,” it said. According to an audit report by Grant Thornton, two former officials of IndusInd

Bank were allegedly involved in insider trading during a period when the bank faced accounting lapses in its derivative portfolio. Weeks after IndusInd Bank disclosed accounting lapses and losses of nearly Rs 2,000 crore in its derivatives portfolio that triggered a rout in its shares, the bank's Managing Director & CEO Sumant Kathpalia resigned with effect from April 29. In his letter to the lender's board, Kathpalia wrote, “I undertake moral responsibility, given the various acts of commission/ omission that have been brought to my notice. I would request that my resignation be taken on record at close of working hours today.” A day prior to Kathpalia's resignation, the bank's deputy CEO Arun Khurana also resigned. IndusInd Bank's board has started the process for identifying potential CEO candidates.



EDITORIAL

Quiet rebuff

The face-off between US President Donald Trump and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in the Oval Office was less a diplomatic exchange and more a carefully choreographed performance designed to provoke, posture, and polarise. In a dramatic setting involving dimmed lights, video screenings, and clippings of questionable provenance, Mr Trump cornered his counterpart with incendiary claims about the “persecution” of white farmers in South Africa ~ allegations widely dismissed by international observers as exaggerated or unfounded. What made this encounter more revealing than inflammatory, however, was Mr Ramaphosa’s carefully calibrated response. Faced with a barrage of visual and rhetorical provocation, he chose not to directly repudiate the video’s content. Instead, he contextualized it. The incendiary chants, he explained, came from fringe political elements with no sway over national policy. He acknowledged the reality of criminal violence in South Africa but emphasised its indiscriminate nature ~ affecting more Black citizens than white farmers by a significant margin. In that moment, Mr Ramaphosa demonstrated a form of diplomacy that values poise over combativeness. By admitting that violent crime exists without conceding the “genocide” narrative, he walked a fine line between candour and sovereignty. It was a lesson in how to neutralise demagoguery without letting it define the terms of engagement. His white agriculture minister ~ himself from an opposition party in the national unity government ~ played a strategic supporting role, lending visual and political counterweight to Mr Trump’s claims of racial targeting. The inclusion of white South African golfers and a billionaire Afrikaner in the delegation also served as a subtle rebuttal to the notion of systemic persecution. Perhaps the most deft turn came when Mr Ramaphosa pivoted the conversation from accusation to cooperation. Instead of getting ensnared in a blame game, he asked the US for technological assistance to improve policing in South Africa. This moved the dialogue from spectacle to substance ~ offering a constructive outlet for what could have been a purely antagonistic exchange. What this moment illustrates is not just a clash of narratives, but a collision of worldviews.



One is steeped in grievance politics, where facts are subordinate to optics and perception is king. The other is grounded in the slow, often thankless business of democratic governance ~ acknowledging problems without surrendering to hyperbole. Mr Ramaphosa’s restraint also underscored a deeper truth: that in global politics, emotional control is a form of power. His refusal to escalate or react impulsively revealed more about his leadership than any sound-bite or staged confrontation could. In an age where international diplomacy is increasingly stage-managed for domestic audiences, Mr Ramaphosa’s approach may not win headlines, but it carries the quiet strength of resilience. It also offers a roadmap for smaller nations dealing with more powerful interlocutors who prefer drama over dialogue. When confronted with spectacle ~ as when Mr Trump famously asked to “turn the lights down” before playing a confrontational video ~ the most disarming response may simply be to stay calm, speak plainly, and let facts ~ however complex ~ speak for themselves.

Bridging Worlds

The recent international literary recognition of Banu Mushtaq is more than a personal milestone; it is a significant cultural moment for India. Mushtaq’s win not only honours her craft but also reaffirms the transformative power of regional literature, especially in languages that have long existed at the margins of global literary circuits. Mushtaq’s stories, written in Kannada and spanning over three decades, are quiet yet powerful. They do not shout for attention, but they demand it. Rooted in the lived realities of Muslim women in southern India, her writing dismantles dominant narratives and stereotypes. These are not tales of dramatic revolution, but of daily endurance ~ of women navigating faith, identity, and patriarchy with subtle, often invisible resistance. Such literature challenges the mainstream’s appetite for spectacle, insisting instead on the value of attending to the ordinary ~ the layered complexities of lives lived in silence, in struggle, in quiet rebellion. What makes Mushtaq’s achievement particularly remarkable is that it comes from a place often neglected in the global and even national literary gaze. Kannada literature has historically been rich, but rarely given space on international platforms. Mushtaq’s recognition is a sharp reminder of the narrowness of our literary lens ~ one that tends to privilege urban, English-language, upper-caste perspectives.

Her success calls on Indian publishers, critics, and readers to pay attention to the literary wealth that thrives in other tongues and other worlds. Translation serves as a bridge between worlds, transforming local truths into universal narratives. Through Deepa Bhashti’s translation, Mushtaq’s intimate portrayals transcend linguistic barriers, inviting global audiences to confront shared human struggles. This collaboration amplifies voices that might otherwise remain unheard. Moreover, Mushtaq’s life is inseparable from her work. Her journey ~ from a convent-educated girl in a conservative Muslim household to a selftaught writer, journalist, and lawyer ~ mirrors the very themes her fiction explores. She has not merely written about resistance; she has lived it. Her candid reflections on personal suffering, from postpartum depression to suicidal despair, and her defiance of religious orthodoxy are not anecdotal flourishes but the emotional core of her literary ethos. In today’s India, where literature often risks becoming either a vehicle of escapism or a curated performance of political correctness, Mushtaq offers something rare ~ honesty. She doesn’t pander to dominant ideologies, nor does she sanitise the rawness of her community’s contradictions. Instead, she opens a window into interior worlds with precision, empathy, and quiet rage. As readers, we owe it to ourselves and to the future of Indian literature to listen more deeply. Mushtaq’s recognition is not an end ~ it is an invitation. An invitation to explore the silenced, the overlooked, and the regionally rooted stories that define us far more than global trends or marketable themes ever will.

The constitutional case for protecting Rohingya refugees

Ramvilas Sharma



Last Friday, a division bench of the Supreme Court of India, consisting of justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh, refused to stay the alleged deportation of 43 Rohingya refugees. The petition alleged that the Delhi Police had transported the refugees to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and dropped them off in international waters for deportation to Myanmar. The Bench refused to intervene or take cognisance of the telephonic evidence or the UN inquiry report presented to it. The Bench reasoned that the relief sought in this case had been referred to a three-judge Bench and cited the orders of the Chief Justice of India. The case was then scheduled for a hearing before the three-judge Bench on July 31, 2025.

Against this backdrop, larger questions emerge regarding the Indian government’s outlook on the proliferation of refugee crises worldwide, particularly in India’s neighbourhood. The Indian government views Rohingya refugees as a threat to national security, labelling them “illegal immigrants” and advocating for their deportation. This stance infringes on constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 21, read with Article 51(c) of the Constitution. Articles 14 and 21 guarantee the right to equality and the right to life and personal liberty to all persons, including non-citizens, rendering these rights universally applicable and non-excludable. Article 51(c) requires fostering respect for international law and treaty obligations. Therefore, India’s ratification

of international conventions such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) prohibits the deportation of refugees when there is a serious risk of human rights violations. Constitutional provisions must be interpreted in a manner that aligns with the global human rights regime. This principle, known as non-refoulement, prohibits countries from sending individuals to a territory where they face a threat to their life. It is widely recognised as a fundamental tenet of international law and is accepted by most states as legally binding and non-derogable.

The Indian judiciary’s stance on refugee rights has been inconsistent. Three cases are most relevant to note. In NHRC vs Arunachal Pradesh, concerning the deportation of the Chakmas (who had migrated from Bangladesh in 1964 and first settled in Assam before settling in Arunachal Pradesh), the Supreme Court ruled that Article 21 of the Indian Constitution applies to all individuals, regardless of citizenship. The Court directed the Arunachal Pradesh government to protect the refugees, fulfil its legal obligations to safeguard the lives of Chakmas in the state, and ensure they were not forcibly evicted. The Court also emphasised the protection of refugees’ rights. In Ktaer Abbas Habib Al Qutaifi vs Union of India, the Gujarat High Court recognised that the principle of non-refoulement is included in Article 21 of the

Constitution and underscored India’s responsibility to respect international treaties and conventions concerning humanitarian law. The Delhi High Court took a similar stance in Dongh Lian Kham vs Union of India, recognising the principle of non-refoulement as integral to Article 21 of the Constitution. However, this approach seems to have faded as the Supreme Court has now taken a contrary stance on the deportation of the Rohingyas, ruling that the government’s right to expel a foreigner is unlimited and absolute. India claims that it is not bound by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (“1951 Convention”) or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (“1967 Protocol”) and therefore is not obligated to adhere to Article 33(1) of the 1951 Convention regarding the principle of non refoulement. However, it is imperative to note that this principle applies not only to recognised refugees but also to individuals whose refugee status has not been formally recognised.

Refugee status determination is declaratory in nature; a person is recognised as a refugee because they are one, not because of recognition. In the context of Rohingyas in India, India’s refusal to recognise them formally should not negate their inherent rights under international humanitarian principles or the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Currently, India’s treatment of different refugee populations is based on non-uniform assessments and the nation’s geopolitical interests. This approach has resulted in different standards of treatment, protection and assistance for different refugee groups. For example, Tibetan refugees have received a more favourable response, including residence permits, access to education, and government-supported settlement.

Is the government collecting dividend from the Reserve Bank by valuing the protected money?

The central government has once again collected a historic dividend of Rs 2.69 lakh crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This is the largest dividend amount till date which the Reserve Bank is transferring to the government. Due to the increase in the gold reserves deposited in the Reserve Bank and the value of foreign currency, the government has considered it as the profit of the Reserve Bank. The question is, is this dividend the result of the real profit of the Reserve Bank, or the increase in the valuation of gold and foreign exchange reserves due to the increase in the price in the market. The price of gold and dollar keeps rising and falling in the market. The profit that is visible today. Tomorrow it can also turn into a loss. The government took its dividend from the Reserve Bank by considering the price increase as profit. If there is a loss in the future, then the loss will be of the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank is not a company. The Reserve Bank does not even do any business. It is a regulatory body, it has assets. For example, the foreign exchange reserves and gold reserves have not come from the earnings of any trade or sale. Its valuation is done as a credit by the price change in the market. International credit is created by the gold and foreign exchange reserves deposited in the Reserve Bank. On the basis of that credit, the economic condition of the Reserve Bank is evaluated by global institutions. The value of gold reserves deposited in the Reserve Bank was \$80 billion last year. Which has increased to \$100 billion this year. The price of gold has increased only on paper. Gold has not been sold. The value of dollars deposited in the Reserve Bank has increased. The value of the dollar has increased from 78-79 to 85-86 rupees against the rupee. Due to which the value of foreign exchange reserves has increased on paper. The Central Government considered this increased value as profit and asked for dividend from the Reserve Bank. In fact, this is the re-valuation of the balance sheet of the Reserve Bank at the current prevailing price. Which the government is considering as profit. This fund deposited by the Reserve Bank has remained safe with the Reserve Bank till now for future crises, currency stability and security of the banking system. This trend of the Central Government is worrying. The Central Government is adopting new methods of taking dividend from the Reserve Bank. This rule of the Central Government is sure to affect the independence of the Reserve Bank and the stability of the long-term economic balance. It is a matter of thought that when the government is taking such a huge dividend from the Reserve Bank, in such a situation, why is Rs 4 lakh crore being collected from the public through taxes on petrol and diesel. Since when did paper profits start being considered profits? Can taxes be imposed on common people also by considering them as profits in this way? For the last one decade, the Central Government has been collecting huge revenue in the form of taxes, in such a situation, should the common citizen not get relief from taxes? The income of the Reserve Bank that the government is seeing is an imaginary profit. The loss behind this is the risk of the Reserve Bank when the price falls. How will the public trust the Reserve Bank on financial autonomy, fairness of monetary policy remain intact?

Glaucoma, the silent sight stealer

A large number of patients remain unaware about this eye disease that results in irreversible blindness if left untreated

Ramvilas Sharma

According to the Ayurvedic texts, if a person was blind due to a white visible reflex, it was called ‘safed motia’, a colloquial term still used for cataract. However, if a person was blind without a visible whiteness, it was called ‘kala motia’, to describe what is currently known as ‘glaucoma’, a term from ancient Greek ‘glaukos’, meaning grey. Nearly 80 million people worldwide suffer from glaucoma, half of whom are unaware of its presence.

More than 200 years ago, a Parisian ophthalmologist, Pierre Demours, provided the first clear description of glaucoma, a leading cause of irreversible blindness today. A major treatment breakthrough occurred in 1857 when Albrecht von Graefe from Berlin surgically created a small hole on the periphery of the coloured iris diaphragm for the fluid to bypass the pupil and prevent angle closure. This treatment, highly relevant for our population, is still followed today, though a laser beam has replaced the surgical knife.

The eye maintains its nearly spherical shape due to a constant flow of a transparent fluid known as aqueous humor across the pupil, a hole in the centre of the iris diaphragm, at a pressure ranging from 10 to 21 mmHg. The aqueous fluid exits the eye to enter the bloodstream primarily through specialised channels at the angle located at the junction of the clear cornea and the iris to sustain homeostasis.

However, the eye pressure may rise over the years with or

without an apparent block in the fluid flow. Ophthalmologists identify the former as ‘angle closure’ and the latter as ‘open angle’, the two major types of glaucoma, which equally affect glaucoma patients. Asians, including Indians, are more prone to angle closure because of the small shape of their eyes as compared to the white population.

In nearly 25 per cent of angle-closure patients, fluid flow may suddenly become obstructed, leading to a sharp increase in eye pressure and vision loss within days. Patients experience severe eye pain, listlessness, headaches and vomiting. They must seek emergency services for immediate relief from elevated eye pressure. Approximately 30 per cent of patients may face intermittent angle closure, with high pressure alleviated during sleep. Watching movies in the dark may trigger such attacks. During such an episode, individuals may experience blurred vision and see rainbow colours around lights. Nearly all of those suspected of angle closure or showing intermittent closure can be treated with a simple Von Graefe’s procedure. For the remaining patients, it prevents glaucoma’s progression. If left untreated, it may lead to insidious angle closure with increased eye pressure, often resulting in blindness without any symptoms.

The hemispherical back of the eye is lined with a tiered photosensitive layer where highly specialised cells called rods and cones convert light entering the

eye into electrical signals through a cycle of sustainable chemical reactions. The process resembles how plants use a green pigment, chlorophyll, in photosynthesis. The electrical signals reach the retinal ganglion cells (RGC), varying in number from 0.7 to 1.5 million (average 1.2 million), via an intricate network of cells. Long fibres (axons) from the RGCs converge from



each point in the retina to form the optic nerve at the back of the eye to carry signals to the brain for interpretation and future memory. Peripheral fibres entering the optic nerve are more susceptible to pressure changes in the eye.

For nearly 200 years, it has been known that high eye pressure can lead to the loss of optic nerve fibres, ultimately resulting in blindness. Presently, we understand that the RGCs, the parent cell bodies of the optic nerve fibres, are particularly vulnerable to elevated eye pressure. In one-third of patients, even at low or

normal eye pressure —likely due to deprivation of neurotrophic growth factors —the RGCs undergo irreversible, controlled self-destruction, leading to the death of fibres. Even in healthy individuals, the RGCs decline at an average rate of 0.6 per cent per year. However, for unknown reasons, the RGCs may sustain viability for years even with raised eye pressure. Labelled

tect the disease as early as possible, or even earlier if a family member has been diagnosed with glaucoma or if you wear myopic glasses (minus lenses for distant vision).

Besides myopia and hereditary factors, nocturnal obstructive sleep apnoea and smoking increase the risk. Racial factors significantly influence the occurrence of glaucoma, with an 8.5 per cent prevalence among the black population, which is over 2 to 4 times that of white Americans. In Ghana, one in 10 individuals is irreversibly blind, making it the leading cause of irreversible blindness. Surveys conducted in South India and other Asian countries indicate that the prevalence of glaucoma among people above 40 ranges from 2.6 per cent to 3.5 per cent. Four times as many individuals are suspected of having glaucoma and require detailed evaluation. Dr Srishti and Dr Pandav at the PGI, Chandigarh, identified a lack of awareness, illiteracy, and poor socio-economic status as factors contributing to late reporting for treatment; the nerve fibres had been extensively damaged by then.

For several decades, the primary method for assessing the severity of glaucoma has involved measuring eye pressure, evaluating the cavitation of the optic nerve head caused by the thinning of the nerve fibres, and assessing the loss of retinal sensitivity through automated perimetry. This technique entails random automated projections of tiny lights into the eye and

charts the light intensity that the patient can perceive. However, by the time these tests show tangible results, nearly 25-35 per cent of the RGCs have already been lost. In the past 25 years, OCT, a quick, non-invasive tool measuring the thickness of nerve fibres around the optic nerve head, has emerged as a more sensitive and reliable technique than measuring the thickness of the RGC layer in the retina. In open angles, the treatment paradigm has shifted from reducing eye pressure through various eye drops or surgeries to administering neurotrophic factors into the eye to postpone inevitable blindness for as long as possible. In a breakthrough, Prof M Francesca Cordeiro from Imperial College, London, has developed a special fluorescent staining technique to determine the health of dying retinal cells to detect glaucoma at the earliest, hoping that emerging therapies can revive the dying cells.

According to a recent report by Dr NN Sood, a well-known glaucoma expert in India, 90 per cent of glaucoma patients were unaware of the type and severity of the disease they were experiencing. Only 3.6 per cent of patients from Kamal and 16 per cent from New Delhi had undergone the most basic yet critical examination to determine whether the drainage channels were open or closed. Furthermore, damage assessment to the optic nerve fibres had not been conducted for the vast majority. Ironically, younger patients were unaware that the disease can run in families.

Syria welcomes US decision to ease Assad-era sanctions as ‘positive step’



Damascus (Agency): Syria considers the move by the Trump administration to ease sanctions imposed on the war-torn country as a “positive step” to ease humanitarian and economic suffering, its foreign ministry said Saturday. In a statement, the ministry said Syria “extends its hand” to anyone that wants to cooperate with Damascus, on the condition that there is no intervention in the country’s internal affairs.

The statement came after the Trump administration granted Syria sweeping exemptions from sanctions on Friday in a major first step toward fulfilling the president’s pledge to lift a half-century of penalties on a country shattered by 14 years of civil war.

Thomas Barrack , the US ambassador to Turkey who has also been appointed as special envoy for Syria, met with Syria’s president and foreign minister during their visit to Turkey on Saturday, adding the President Ahmad al-Sharaa welcomed Washington’s “fast action on lifting sanctions.”

“President Trump’s goal is to enable the new government to create the conditions for the Syrian people to not only survive but thrive,” Barrack said in a statement. Barrack said he stressed that the cessation of sanctions against Syria will preserve the integrity “of our primary objective — the enduring defeat of” the Islamic State group, also known as IS or ISIS. He added that it will give Syrians a chance for a better future.

“I also commended President al-Sharaa on taking meaningful steps towards enacting President Trump’s points on foreign terrorist fighters, counter-ISIS measures, relations with Israel, and camps and detention centers in Northeast Syria,” Barrack said.

He was referring to detention centers where thousands of IS members are held and two camps where their families stay in areas currently controlled by the U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

A measure by the State Department waived for six months a tough set of sanctions imposed by Congress in 2019. A Treasury Department action suspended enforcement of sanctions against anyone doing business with a range of Syrian individuals and entities, including Syria’s central bank.

The congressional sanctions, known as the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, had aimed to isolate Syria’s previous rulers by effectively expelling those doing business with them from the global financial system. They specifically block postwar reconstruction, so while they can be waived for 180 days by executive order, investors are likely to be wary of reconstruction projects when sanctions could be reinstated after six months.

The Trump administration said Friday’s actions were “just one part of a broader U.S. government effort to remove the full architecture of sanctions.” Those penalties had been imposed on the Assad family for their support of Iranian-backed militias, their chemical weapons program and abuses of civilians.

Trump said during a visit to the region earlier this month that the U.S. would roll back the heavy financial penalties in a bid to give the interim government a better chance of survival.

Damascus resident Nael Kaddah said now that the sanctions are being eased, the country will flourish again. He said Syrians will be able to transfer money freely, unlike in the past when there were several companies that monopolized the business and took large commissions on transfers.

Hong Kong university announces ‘unconditional offers’ for those affected by Trump’s Harvard ban

Hong Kong (Agency): Amid escalating tensions between the US government and Harvard University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has stepped forward, offering a lifeline to those caught in the crossfire.

In a press release, the university said it has opened admissions for those most affected by the ban, promising “unconditional offers” for international students to ensure their educational goals are met without disruption.

In a statement posted on X, HKUST reiterated its stance, extending an open invitation to international students currently enrolled at, or holding confirmed offers from Harvard to continue their studies in Hong Kong.

“In light of global academic shifts, HKUST is extending an open invitation to international students currently enrolled at, or holding confirmed offers from, Harvard University to continue their

academic journey with us,” the university said in a post on X.

“This initiative comes in response to evolving global academic landscapes and reinforces HKUST’s commitment to fostering a diverse, world-class learning environment,” it added.

It also assured the students that a dedicated team is ready to provide guidance and assistance throughout the process. “Inquiries or expression of interests from Harvard students can be directed to hkust-harvard@ust.hk, where a dedicated team is ready to provide guidance and assistance throughout the process,” it added.

The provost at HKUST, prof GUO Yike, in the press release, said, “We are prepared to welcome Harvard students into our community, offering them the resources and vibrant environment needed to thrive in their fields,” adding, “Diversity fuels creativity and progress.”

The university also promised to

not only provide unconditional offers but also streamlined admission procedures, and

ensure talented students can pursue their educational goals without disruption,” the university



academic support to facilitate a seamless transition for students affected by the crackdown.

“As a leading international institution ranked among the top universities globally, HKUST is extending this opportunity to

added.

According to Harvard’s own figures, the university enrolled 6,703 international students in 2024, including 1,203 from China, making up 20 percent of its international intake.

The development comes after the Trump-led administration revoked Harvard’s authorisation to enroll international students. Ordered by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, the action effectively cuts Harvard off from the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), an important federal database required to maintain international students’ visa status.

The DHS accused Harvard of fostering a “hostile” and “unsafe” campus environment for Jewish students and promoting pro-Hamas and anti-American rhetoric through its protest culture and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Students who have completed their degrees this term will be allowed to graduate. But for the vast majority still enrolled in degree programs, will either have to transfer to another SEVP-certified institution or lose legal status in the US.

Okay to go to India, but no US sales without tariffs: Trump to Apple

Trump warns of 25 per cent tariff on the technology company’s products if not made in US

New York/Washington (Agency): US President Donald Trump has said it is okay for Apple to go to India to build its plants, but then the technology company will not be able to sell its products in the US without tariffs.

Trump’s remarks came as he signed multiple executive orders in the Oval Office to boost US nuclear power.

“...But I had an understanding with Tim (Cook) that he wouldn’t be doing this. He said he’s going to India to build plants. I said, ‘That’s okay to go to India, but you’re not going to sell into here without tariffs.’ And that’s the way it is,” Trump said on Friday.

“We’re talking about the iPhone. If they’re going to sell it in America, I want it to be built in the United States,” he said.

Early on Friday, Trump said in a social media post that he expects Apple iPhones that will be sold in the US to be manufactured in America and “not India, or anyplace else”, threatening to put a 25 per cent tariff on the technology company’s products if it does not comply.

“I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhones that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else. If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25 per cent must be paid by Apple to the US. Thank you for your attention to this matter!” Trump said.

Just last week, Trump had said in Doha during his visit to the Middle East that he had told the Apple CEO to not build in India and instead build its manufacturing capacity in the US.

“We have Apple, as you know, that’s coming in, and I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday,” Trump had said in Doha in remarks to top executives. “I said to him, ‘Tim, you’re my friend. I treated you very good. You’re

coming here with USD 500 billion but now I hear you building all over India. I don’t want you building in India. You can build in India if you want to take care of India because India is the highest, one of the highest tariff nations in the world. It’s very hard to sell into India. And they’ve (India) offered us a deal where, basically they’re willing to literally charge us no tariff,” he had said.

Earlier this month, Cook had said in a Q2 2025 Earnings Conference call that the existing tariffs that apply to Apple today are based on the product’s country of origin.

“For the June quarter, we do expect the majority of iPhones sold in the U.S. will have India as their country of origin and Vietnam to be the country of origin for almost all iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, and AirPods products sold in the US,” Cook had said.

On Trump calling for Apple to shift iPhone production from India to the US, research firm Counterpoint Research Research Director Tarun Pathak had said last week that “this is a familiar Trump tactic: He wants to push Apple to localise more and build a supply chain in the US, which is not going to happen overnight. Making in the US will also be much more expensive than assembling iPhones in India.”

Counterpoint Research Vice President Neil Shah said that Apple has been doing a lot of groundwork in India, which has helped it successfully manage some of the US iPhone demand from its India production facilities.

“In terms of capacity, India has enough to potentially meet all US iPhone demand in the future, but the ecosystem needs to be ramped up. We will see more efforts towards this as well as products beyond iPhones. We expect made-in-India iPhones to account for 25-30 per cent of global iPhone shipments in 2025, as compared to 18 per cent in 2024.”



Pashtun activist condemns Pakistan Army drone strike killing children in North Waziristan

Paris (Agency): Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) activist Fazal ur Rehman Afridi has vehemently criticised the recent drone strike conducted by the Pakistan Army in Hurmuz, North Waziristan, which resulted in the deaths of four young children and their mother.

The activist claimed that the areas populated by Pashtuns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are being utilised as a “laboratory” by the Pakistani military to test various weapons, notably drones.

Afridi disclosed that there have been more than 32 drone strikes in North and South Waziristan and Tank districts over the past few years. “This is not the first instance where the Pakistani army has assaulted innocent Pashtun civilians, particularly women and children,” he stated, noting that the latest victims were children aged from five to eight.

Dismissing the military’s

assertion that the strike targeted militants, the activist accused the Pakistani state of having relocated over 55,000 Taliban leaders and their families into Pashtun regions through a formal arrangement. “Now they label them as terrorists and use this as justification for con-



ducting assaults. It’s a proxy conflict. The Taliban are merely pawns of the Pakistan Army,” he asserted, suggesting that the true aim behind the strikes is to seize the resource-rich lands of the Pashtuns.

He also connected the drone attacks to the events following India’s recent counter-terror operation. “Immediately after Opera-

tion Sindoor by India, the Pakistan army resumed attacks on Pashtun civilians. Innocent children and elderly individuals lost their lives,” he said.

Voicing complete support for India’s Operation Sindoor that targets terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the activist mentioned that Pashtuns collectively welcomed such an initiative. “We were relieved that our regions were not affected, and we understand that the terror strongholds are in Punjab. We wish the operation had continued longer to dismantle the rogue Pakistani army,” he added.

He concluded with optimism that future operations would ultimately relieve Pashtuns of their enduring military oppression.

At least four children of the same family were killed and five people injured in a suspected drone strike in Pakistan’s restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Kyiv hit by explosions as Russia launches airstrike after prisoner exchange

Prisoners swap on Friday was first phase of a complicated swap involving the exchange of 1,000 prisoners from each side

Kyiv (Agency): Ukraine’s capital came under a large-scale Russian drone and missile attack early on Saturday with explosions and machine gun fire heard throughout the city, forcing many Kyiv residents to take shelter in underground subway stations. The nighttime Russian attack came hours after Russia and Ukraine began a major prisoner exchange, swapping hundreds of soldiers and civilians in the first phase of an exchange that was agreed on by the two sides at a meeting in Istanbul last week. The agreement was a moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire in the three-year-old war.

The debris of intercepted missiles and drones fell in at least four city districts of the Ukrainian capital early Saturday, acting head of Kyiv military admin-

istration, Tymur Tkachenko, wrote on Telegram. According to Tkachenko, six people required medical care after the attack, two fires sparked at Solomianskyi district of Kyiv. Prior to the attack, city mayor Vitalii Klitschko warned Kyiv residents of more than 20 Russian strike drones heading towards Kyiv. As the attack continued, he said drone debris fell on a shopping mall and a residential building in Obolon district of Kyiv. Emergency services were headed to the site, Klitschko said.

The prisoners swap Friday was the first phase of a complicated swap involving the exchange of 1,000 prisoners from each side. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the first phase brought home 390 Ukrainians, with further releases expected over the weekend that will make it the

largest swap of the war. Russia’s Defence Ministry said it received the same number from Ukraine.

The swap took place at the border with Belarus in

tered the medical facility Friday, people holding signs and photos of their relatives shouted names or brigade numbers, seeking any news of a loved one.



northern Ukraine, according to a Ukrainian official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly. The released Russians were taken to Belarus for medical treatment, the Russian Defence Ministry said. As the freed men en-

The returning men inspected the photos, and a serviceman said he shared a cell with one of those on the sea of portraits held out toward him. “Vanya!” cried Nataliia Mosych, among the gathered relatives, “My husband!” The exchange, which would be the latest

of dozens of swaps since the war began and the biggest involving Ukrainian civilians at one time, didn’t herald any halt in fighting.

Battles continued along the roughly 1,000-km front line, where tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed, and neither country has relented in its deep strikes. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan had called the prisoner swap a “confidence-building measure.” But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday that there has been no agreement yet on the venue for the next round of talks as diplomatic maneuvering continued. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Friday night that Moscow would give Ukraine a draft document outlining its conditions for a “sustainable, long-term, comprehensive” peace agreement once the ongoing prisoner exchange had finished.



Austin Butler and Zoe Kravitz take on a life unknown in new film Caught Stealing



Sony Pictures are bringing a whole bunch of confusion and action with their new film Caught Stealing, which will follow the life of Hank Thompson, played by Austin Butler. Director Darren Aronofsky, who is known for films like Requiem for a Dream (2000), Black Swan (2010), The Whale (2022) and The Wrestler (2008), is in the driving seat of the narrative. The film features stars like Austin Butler, Zoe Kravitz, Matt Smith, Bad Bunny, Liev Schreiber, Regina King, Vincent D’Onfrio and Action Bronson.

The trailer starts with introducing the protagonist, Hank, who is a bartender and is closing shop for the day when Yvonne (Zoe Kravitz) convinces him to go back to his place together. We meet his obnoxiously dressed neighbour Russ (Matt Smith), who is apparently going out of town and needs Hank to take care of his cat. Yvonne and Hank agree to what seems to be a simple enough assignment and take the cat with them. Soon enough some people come looking for Russ and assault Hank for not telling them where Russ is. They are not the only ones looking for Russ, though, and Colorado (Bad Bunny) threatens to kill Hank if he doesn’t speak up. Once Russ comes back, Hank confronts him and asks him about the entire mess. Russ takes him to a storage facility and shows him a tonne of stolen clothes and merchandise along with \$4 million, which seems to be the reason why everyone is after Russ. He explains how everyone was “supposed to get a cut: the Russians, the Puerto Ricans, and even the Hebrews”. All chaos ensues as Hank decides to drive into the storm rather than away from it while juggling his relationship with Yvonne, who is still wondering where they both stand romantically. Everyone under the sun starts chasing Hank, and the bartender fights back with whatever limited skill he has, considering this is a very strange world for him, and even surprises himself when he knocks one of the Russians out cold. Yvonne tells him, “That I need a man who handles his stuff,” and Hank kisses her and says, “I can handle this.” The trailer ends on a confusing and amusing note as Hank is seen eating dinner with the Hebrew gangsters (Liev Schreiber and Vincent D’Onfrio) who were chasing him.

Renowned photographer, actor Radhakrishnan Chakyat passes away at 53, Dulquer Salmaan mourns loss

Renowned photographer and Malayalam actor Radhakrishnan Chakyat passed away from a heart attack on May 22 at the age of 53. Radhakrishnan Chakyat began his career assisting renowned fashion photographer Rafique Sayed in Mumbai. After learning the ropes and a brief stint at

an advertising agency, he ventured out as an independent photographer. Over the years, he collaborated with top models and brands such as Cadbury, Taj Hotels, Asian Paints, Corelle, and Roca, among others. His work stood out for its balance of emotional depth and technical mastery. Later in life, Radhakrishnan



founded Pixel Viilage, a popular YouTube channel dedicated to photography education. His tutorials and expert insights made photography accessible to aspiring photographers. In addition to his work behind the lens, Radhakrishnan Chakyat stepped in front of the camera for Dulquer Salmaan’s Malayalam film

Charlie, which marked his silver screen debut. He was last seen in the Hindi web series Crime Beat. The news of Radhakrishnan Chakyat’s demise was shared by the Pixel Village team on their social media handle. It read, “It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved mentor, friend, and inspiration, Radhakrishnan Chakyat.

Trisha calls Thug Life sets ‘a safe space’, says Kamal Haasan is her mentor: ‘I feel like I grew up with Mani Ratnam’

Trisha Krishnan found it extremely comfortable to work on the sets of Thug Life, thanks to her past associations with co-stars Silambarasan aka Simbu, Kamal Haasan, and director Mani Ratnam. While she previously worked with Kamal Haasan in Manmadhan Ambu and Thoonga Vanam, she has also shared the screen with Simbu in the romantic dramas Vinnaithaandi Varuvaayaa and Alai. Trisha has been a frequent collaborator with Mani Ratnam as well, having worked with him in Aayutha Ezhuthu and the two-part epic Ponniyin Selvan. In a recent interaction with India Today, Trisha shared that her prior collaborations with the cast made her feel right at home on the Thug Life sets. “I have known Simbu and Kamal sir for several years

now, and it was quite easy for me. In my film career, Kamal sir has been a mentor to me. Simbu and I have done two films, and we have known each other for a long time. When I entered the film set, it felt like a safe space for me. I have built a comfort level with everyone, even with Mani sir,” she said. Talking about how Mani Ratnam mentored her and how their frequent collaboration have helped her understand him better, she said, “It’s the comfort that I have with Mani sir and others on the set. Doing Ponniyin Selvan after doing Aayutha Ezhuthu helped me understand Mani sir more. I feel like I grew up with him. I was trained by the best. Working with someone repeatedly helps you form a bond or understand each



other better. He now knows what and how to extract from me. I have the comfort with him. You are both in sync than you have before.” Thug Life marks the reunion of Kamal Haasan with Kamal Haasan after a gap of 38 years. They last worked together in Nayakan (1987). The film also stars Silambarasan, Trisha Krishnan, Abhirami, and Aishwarya Lekshmi in pivotal roles.

Trisha Krishnan shared that her prior collaborations with Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam made her feel right at home on the Thug Life sets.

Squid Game S3 gets brutal with new poster: A baby born into hell tests how low humanity can sink

Squid Game 3 returns with darker games, deeper trauma, and a baby born into chaos. With humanity hanging by a thread.

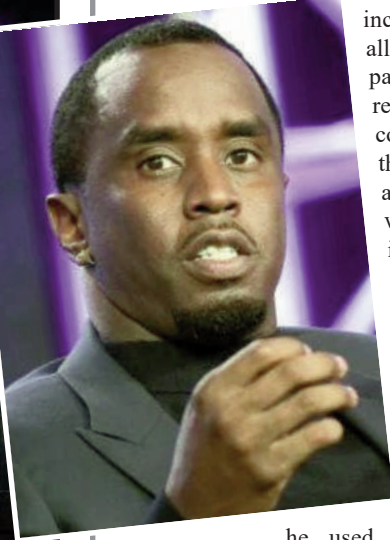
Squid Game is returning for the third and final season with South Korean A-listers like Lee Jung Jae, Lee Byung Hun, Kang Ha Neul, and others. After digging into the story of desperation and money hunger in the deadly children’s game, the upcoming instalment will test the worst of humanity. The trailer already teased the sound of a crying baby, and Hwang, in a recent interview with Entertainment Weekly, confirmed it’s not just random background noise; it’s a huge part of the story that will change fates. On May 23, Netflix also unveiled a new set of pictures. After giving Netflix its all-time biggest hit with its debut in 2021, Squid Game is about to get more intense than ever. If you thought the first two seasons were brutal, creator Hwang Dong Hyuk wants you to know it’s just the start. “In the case of Season 3, I wanted to introduce games that could really show the lowest bottom of human beings,” Hwang told ET. He added that since this season is the climax, with no plans of renewal in mind, he’s pushing things to a

whole new level to explore just how far people will go when forced to survive in extreme conditions. “I wanted very intense games to bring out the bottom parts of human nature.” The upcoming season will see Gi Hun (played by Lee Jung Jae) return to the game. The traumatic events of Season 2 and the chilling death of close friend Jung Bae still haunt him. While the emotional toll is high and will pretty much determine his gameplay this time, Hwang confirmed that the storyline won’t be focusing on him much, as the spotlight will shine on the unborn baby of Myung Gi (played by Yim Si Wan), which will lead Si Wan’s character to probably undergo a drastic and most shocking transformation in the story. “Gi-hun goes through the most dramatic change... but look for Myung G’s change as well,” he said. “This baby plays a very important role in Season 3,” he teased. “Not just for Jun Hee [Jo Yu Ri’s character], but also for the fate of everyone inside,” Hwang continued. The games, which were earlier limited to Tug of War with the deadly heights sequence, are about to get scarier too. Hwang says since Season 2 skipped over those fears, the finale, “will introduce games that could really infuse fear in people with sheer height.”



Diddy’s lawyer drops DNA twist during Kid Cudi’s testimony; music mogul silent on \$20,000 payment demand from Cassie’s mother

Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs, accused of sex trafficking, racketeering, and other serious sexual assault charges, is now heading into the third week of his trial in New York’s federal court. In the first two weeks, jurors heard from the rapper’s ex-girlfriend Cassandra Ventura, a federal prosecutor, rapper Kid Cudi, and some



of Diddy’s former staff, including sex workers he allegedly hired for “freak-off” parties. So far, the court has recorded testimonies covering Combs’ 20 years in the music industry, including allegations of abusing women, and using his influence to commit illegal activities. However, Diddy’s legal team, led by Marc Agnifilo, maintains that their client is not guilty. The case has brought up claims of Diddy holding onto “kompromat” (compromising videos he used to control people) and demanding \$20,000 from Cassie’s mother. Kid Cudi was also cross-examined on Diddy’s alleged involvement in the bombing of his Porsche in 2012.

After Cassie detailed her brief romance with Kid Cudi, the rapper was subpoenaed in the case, where he confirmed his dating timeline, which clashed with singer’s relationship with Combs. Cudi insisted that at the time, he knew Cassie had broken up with Diddy due to problems in their relationship. However, shortly after, he revealed that the Bad Boy Record producer showed up at his home with his men and tried messing with his dogs in his absence. Days later, the rapper said his luxury Porsche was set on fire. Though he didn’t know who was behind it, he recalled a heated confrontation with Diddy, which led him to believe that Diddy was responsible for this. The police investigated, but Cudi said he never received any updates. During cross-examination, Diddy’s lawyer surprised Cudi by saying the police found female DNA on the Porsche, but Cudi claimed that he never heard about any DNA evidence. In another big moment, Cassie’s mother, Regina Ventura, was ordered to take the stand to detail her daughter’s relationship with the disgraced music mogul. According to her, Diddy was furious when he found out about Cassie’s affair with rapper Kid Cudi and demanded \$20,000 from her as payment for the money he had spent on Cassie’s music career through his record label, Bad Boy Records.



‘I know my mom Smita Patil is waiting for me at the end of this life, don’t want to come back in next life,’ says Prateik

Being the child of a Bollywood star comes with its own set of advantages and challenges, and being the son of two popular actors can definitely be complicated. Son of actors Raj Babbar and Smita Patil, Prateik, had an unconventional upbringing after his mother passed away in childbirth and he grew up with his maternal grandparents. In a recent interview, the actor shared that “spiritually”, one chooses their parents and so by that logic, he

chose this life, and he chose his mother. In a chat shared on Varinder Chawla’s YouTube channel, he said, “Well, I chose this life and this battle. I chose a mother that would leave, and it’s because I wanted these hardships. The reason I wanted those hardships was because, I went through multiple lifetimes making mistakes. This could be the life where I chose my mother and before coming here we made a deal that we live this life together but the deal was ‘no, you

die, I suffer, I go through these hardships only because I don’t want to come back here again. We don’t want to do this again so I feel like I am clearing all my karma in this lifetime.” Prateik continued to speak about his spiritual connection with his late mother and said that he just wants to be united with her in the afterlife. “The reason I chose this is because I don’t want to come back. I just want to finish everything. Give me all the obstacles that exist in this lifetime

because I don’t want to come back in my next birth. In my next birth, I just want to party with my mom and my grandparents. I know my mother and my grandparents are waiting at the end of this life,” he said. Prateik, in an earlier interview, shared that watching his late mother’s films had an adverse affect on him. “I was angry all the time, and I was filled with rage. I remember watching the television, and one of my mother’s movies was playing.



IPL 2025 Playoffs Top-2 race: Team-wise scenarios for GT, PBKS, RCB and MI to book Qualifier 1 spot



Delhi (Agency): With the race for the playoffs ending sooner than expected in the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL 2025), the quest for the top two spots is still on after three knockout-bound teams — Gujarat Titans, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Punjab Kings — have lost their respective last games to eliminated teams, making the top two spots available for all qualified teams.

While GT lost to Lucknow Super Giants in a stern 236-run chase, Royal Challengers Bengaluru were dealt with a similar 42-run loss in a chase of 232 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, and PBKS were

Remaining IPL 2025 fixtures

GT vs CSK in Ahmedabad – May 25

SRH vs KKR in Delhi – May 25

PBKS vs MI in Jaipur – May 26

LSG vs RCB in Lucknow – May 27

essentially giving them an extra game and chance to qualify for the finals, as the loser of Qualifier 1 will play

the winner of Eliminator — played between the 3rd and 4th ranked teams — for a place in the finals.

Here's scenarios for all four teams for top-two qualification in IPL 2025

Gujarat Titans: GT have the best chance to consolidate their position at the top. The top-two scenario is fairly straightforward for them: beat Chennai Super Kings, book a spot in Qualifier 1. A win against CSK in their last league game on Sunday will take the Shubman Gill's side to 20 points, out of reach for all three remaining teams. Even if they lose to CSK, GT can still make it to top two provided that any one of MI, RCB or PBKS lost their last match.

Punjab Kings: Things are not simple for PBKS. They need to beat Mumbai first and hope either GT or RCB lost their last league game to book their berth in the Qualifier 1 match which will be played at their home ground in Mullanpur.

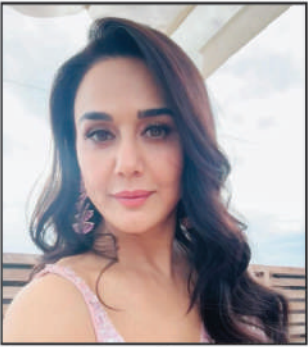
Royal Challengers Bengaluru: The qualification scenario for RCB is exactly the same as PBKS. They need to ensure they win against LSG and hope MI beats PBKS and CSK beats GT. They can afford it if one of GT and PBKS wins their last match, but not both, as this will take matters into NRR. The good thing in RCB's favour is that they will play the last match of the league stage, so if it comes down to NRR, they will know their target against LSG.

Mumbai Indians: The Hardik Pandya side, who were the last to qualify for playoffs, have a slim chance of a top-two finish. They have to win their last match vs PBKS, which will take MI to 18 points and then hope one of GT or RCB loses their last league game. That's the only way for MI to play Qualifier 1.

Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta donates Rs 1.10 crore to Army Wives Welfare Association

New Delhi (Agency): Punjab Kings co-owner and Bollywood actor Preity G Zinta has donated Rs 1.10 crore to the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) under its initiative 'Operation Sindoor', a statement said on Saturday. This contribution is from her share of the CSR report of Punjab Kings.

"The donation aims to empower Veer Naris and support the education of their children," it said. Speaking at a function in Jaipur on the occasion, she said, "It is both an honour and a responsibility to give back to the brave families of our armed forces. The sacrifices made by our soldiers can never truly be repaid, but we can stand by their families and support their journey forward. We take immense pride in India's armed forces and offer unwavering support for their efforts to safeguard national security. We stand united with the nation and our brave forces". The contribution was made during a ceremony held in Jaipur, attended by the Army Commander South Western Command, Regional President Shapta Shakti AWWA and Army families.



Jabra Ladies Open 2025: Hitaashee rises up to fourth; all four Indians make cut

Evian-les-Bains (Agency): Hitaashee Bakshi shot the day's best round of five under 66 to rise to tied fourth at the second day of the Jabra Ladies Open 2025. Hitaashee (72-66) was four-under and three behind the leader, Chiara Tamburlini of Switzerland (67-68).

As Hitaashee moved into contention, the other three Indians Diksha Dagar (71) at T-30, Avani Prashanth (72) at T-35 and Tvesa Malik (70) at T-43 also made the cut. That made it four out of four Indians into the final round.

Playing her first season on a limited card, Hitaashee, who was T-12 at Dutch Ladies Open last week, landed six birdies against one bogey, according to a release.

Hitaashee started on the 15th, which is the start of the back nine of the Evian Golf Resort, with a birdie and added one more on the 17th. She birdied the first and the third and again the sixth and eighth. Her sole bogey came in between on the

fourth. Diksha, who had a Top-10 last week, played an even par round of 71 with four birdies and four bogeys for the round with a total score of one-over par for two days.

Avani Prashanth played one-over par 72 for the second day in a row to close the day at 2-over for two days and was T-35. Avani had a double bogey on the first, which was her 14th hole and a birdie on the fourth, which was her 17th hole. The leader after two days is Chiara Tamburlini of Switzerland. Chiara after a 68 has a total score of seven under par. Chiara has been consistent this season and was looking forward to a good week in France after having to sit out of the Dutch Ladies Open last week. During her second round Chiara made five birdies and two bogeys.

The second and third placed players are Czech Sara Kouskova (66-70) at a total of six under par and Shannon Tan of Singapore (70-67) at five under par.

Mumbai (Agency): Following the announcement of the Indian squad for the England Test series, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief selector Ajit Agarkar revealed the reason for exclusion the right-arm speedster Mohammed Shami from the squad for the upcoming Test series.

Right-hand batter Shubman Gill has been appointed as the new Test captain for India. At the same time, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will serve as his deputy in the longest format, as the BCCI announced the squad for the highly anticipated five-match Test series against England on Saturday.

In the bowling department, right-arm seamer Jasprit Bumrah will be leading the unit on England

soil. Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh and Shardul Thakur are the other fast bowlers in the squad.

Speaking at the press conference about Shami's exclusion, Ajit Agarkar said, "The medical guys have told us that he has been ruled out of this series. He has been trying to be fit for the series, but he had a setback over the last week, and he has had some MRIs done. I don't think he was going to be able to play five tests. We were hoping he would be available for at least some part of the series, but if he is not fit at the moment, it will be very difficult to keep waiting. It is unfortunate. We always want to pick a bowler like him."

Meanwhile, Shami

Season of comebacks: Why Arsenal's Uefa Women's Champions League win is a remarkable achievement

Delhi (Agency): Arsenal forward Stina Blackstenius struck a late winner as the London team shocked holders Barcelona 1-0 on Saturday to claim their second Uefa Women's Champions League title and first in 18 years to the delight of their 5,000 travelling fans. Arsenal beat Real Madrid, Lyon, and finally, Barcelona on their way to a second UWCL title. Between them, Lyon and Barcelona had won the last nine editions of UWCL and Arsenal ended that streak. Already the only English side to become European champions back in 2007, Arsenal extended that tally in 2025. Remarkably, Arsenal recovered from a poor start to the season that led to the departure of former manager Jonas Eidevall and the appointment of Renee Slegers. The knockout stage wins were thrilling comebacks as Arsenal overturned a 2-0 first leg loss to then dismantle Real Madrid 3-0 at the Emirates Stadium in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, it was an away comeback as they beat powerhouses Lyon 4-1 at their home to advance 5-3 on aggregate. Club legend Leah Williamson, who was outstanding in defence, was a

mascot at Arsenal's 2007 victory over Sweden's Umea. "A lot of this team have been together for a long time and to be able to do it on the biggest day, some people had the game of their lives," she said. "I'm so happy. I'm

years and had hoisted the trophy in three of the past four campaigns. Saturday's reverse was just their fourth loss of the season across all competitions. In the title clash, Arsenal withstood a flurry of Barca

out a leg to stop her shot from 12 metres. "Amazing," Arsenal forward Alessia Russo told TNT Sports through tears. "We had to suffer a lot. They're a top side. We knew coming into this game that we'd have to suffer and there would be moments when we wouldn't have the ball and we would have to be content and happy with not having the ball knowing our moment would come. Our squad just wanted it so badly."

The Arsenal players stood arm-in-arm in front of their red-clad fans after the final whistle singing along to Queen's "We are the Champions". "We knew it was going to be a game of momentum shifts because we respect Barcelona, we know how good they are on the ball but we also know how good we are," Slegers told TNT, through a voice hoarse from celebrating. "So we knew that momentum was going to shift. Maybe other people were thinking something else, but that's what we believed. In all the phases that happened in the game, the mentality we showed, the resilience we showed, the effectiveness in all our actions, our belief, it was incredible."



trying not to swear or cry." The win comes against a mighty Barcelona team considered on paper to be the best in the world. Barca midfielder Aitana Bonmati called the loss "absolutely devastating."

"I don't believe it," the 2023 and '24 women's Ballon d'Or winner told Catalan TV. "I just want to start the game again and do it differently. Personally, this hurts me a lot." Barcelona were playing in their sixth final in seven

chances before Blackstenius broke the deadlock in the 75th minute. The Sweden international latched onto fellow substitute Beth Mead's reverse pass in a crowded area and fired a low diagonal shot past goalkeeper Catalina Coll at the Estadio Jose Alvalade. They held on to win against a Barca side going for a third straight Champions League title. Blackstenius almost struck a couple of minutes before her goal but Coll stuck

"Don't think he was going to be able to play": Ajit Agarkar on Mohammed Shami's exclusions from England Tests

stayed away from the on-field action for over a year due to an ankle injury. Shami recovered successfully from the ankle surgery in February 2024 but started

ence, the fast bowler enjoyed a fruitful outing and returned with seven scalps against Madhya Pradesh last year. Rumour mill suggested his return during the



suffering pain in his right knee, for which he has been seeking treatment.

Last year returned to the domestic circuit and featured in the Ranji Trophy for Bengal. With his experi-

Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia; however, the series went by, and there were no signs of him.

The 34-year-old was assigned to bowl with the new ball for India across

Titans chase top-two finish as CSK look ahead to the future

New Delhi (Agency): Former champions Gujarat Titans will look to address the shortcomings from their previous loss as they gear up for the IPL 2025 playoffs, aiming for a top-two finish when they face the already-eliminated Chennai Super Kings in their final league match in Ahmedabad on Sunday.



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad has kept the door open for the Titans to secure a top-two spot. A win against CSK will take GT to 20 points and guarantee a top-two berth, giving them two opportunities to reach the final.

For CSK, already out of playoff contention, the focus shifts to the future. The team is expected to test younger players and explore new combinations in what has been a season of mixed outcomes. Chennai are likely to give more game time to emerging talents like Ayush Mhatre, Urvil Patel, and Dewald Brevis.

GT's batting success has largely depended on their top order—Shubman

Gill, Sai Sudharsan, and Jos Buttler. With Buttler set to leave for national duty after Sunday's match, the middle order, including Shahrulkh Khan and Sherfane Rutherford, must step up and spend valuable time at the crease.

Bowling remains a concern for the Titans. Star spinner Rashid Khan is far from his best, although the franchise continues to back him. The pace unit also needs reinforcement, especially with Kagiso Rabada departing for international duty. Finding a reliable fourth seamer to support Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna will be crucial heading into the playoffs.

For CSK, currently anchored to the bottom of the table, a win on Sunday may not affect their standings but could offer some consolation to their fiercely loyal fan base. Head coach Stephen Fleming recently acknowledged that the team's current position re-

Squads: Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Rashid Khan, Rahul Tewatia, Shahrulkh Khan, Nishant Sindhu, R. Sai Kishore, Gerald Coetzee, Jayant Yadav, Arshad Khan, Karim Janat, Sherfane Rutherford, Mahipal Lomror, Washington Sundar, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Brar, Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada, Prasidh Krishna, Kulwant Khejroliya, Mohammed Siraj, Dasun Shanaka, Kusal Mendis, Jos Buttler.

Chennai Super Kings: Shaik Rasheed, Andre Siddarth C, Rahul Tripathi, Devon Conway, MS Dhoni, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Vijay Shankar, Deepak Hooda, Anshul Kamboj, Rachin Ravindra, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravichandran Ashwin, Sam Curran, Matheesha Pathirana, Shreyas Gopal, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Noor Ahmed, Khaleel Ahmed, Ayush Mhatre, Dewald Brevis, Urvil Patel.

Rajat Patidar, Pat Cummins fined for maintaining slow over rate during RCB vs SRH clash

New Delhi (Agency): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) regular skipper Rajat Patidar was fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during the 65th encounter of the Indian Premier League



(IPL) 2025 against the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Friday at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.

As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Patidar was fined Rs 24 lakhs. The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is

lesser, as per the IPL Media Advisory. SRH captain Pat Cummins was also fined in the same game for maintaining a slow over-rate during the match.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's bowlers Pat Cummins and Nitish Reddy shine as Hyderabad post a commanding victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by 42 runs in the on-going Indian Premier League (IPL), on Friday at Lucknow. RCB were bowled out for 189.

After this defeat, RCB is placed third in the IPL points table, with 17 points, eight wins, four defeats, and a no-result match. On the other hand, SRH is placed eighth with five wins and seven defeats in 13 matches; they have 10 points. With the play-off race heating up, the defeat may serve as a timely reminder for the Bengaluru franchise to tighten their combinations and bring their top-order firepower in sync with a more consistent middle-order performance.

BRIEF NEWS

Take a pledge to give priority to things made in the country

Delhi (Agency): Take a pledge to give priority to things made in the country Modi said, the real strength of India is 'connection of people and minds, public participation. I also urge all of you, come, take a pledge on this occasion, we will give priority to things made in the country wherever possible in our lives. This is not just a matter of economic self-reliance, it is a sense of participation in nation building. Our one step can become a huge contribution to India's progress. - Connect with yoga Prime Minister Modi said, less than a month is left for International Yoga Day. This occasion reminds that if you are still away from yoga, then connect with yoga now. Yoga will change your way of living. Since the beginning of Yoga Day on 21 June 2015, its attraction has been increasing continuously. This time too, the enthusiasm and excitement of people is visible all over the world regarding Yoga Day. Different institutions are sharing their preparations. - AYUSH will be spread all over the world Modi said, along with Yoga Day, something has happened in the field of Ayurveda, which you will be very happy to know about. On May 24, an agreement has been signed with the World Health Organization, this will help in spreading AYUSH to more and more people in the whole world in a scientific way.

Suspension of 18 BJP MLAs in Karnataka revoked

Delhi (Agency): Karnataka Assembly Speaker UT Khader said on Sunday that the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs from the Assembly for six months has been revoked. Khader made this announcement after a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Leader of Opposition R Ashok and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil. 18 BJP MLAs were suspended from the Assembly for six months on March 21, accusing them of indiscipline. After this, they were thrown out of the House by marshals. Khader said that the suspension has been happily withdrawn.

Cherry goods train will run from Katra to Mumbai

Delhi (Agency): The first Cherry goods train will run from Katra in Jammu to Mumbai on the 3rd of next month. Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this decision. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Northern Railway in Jammu, Uchit Singhal said that the first cherry goods train will be run from Katra to Bandra railway station on June 3. 24 tonnes of goods will be transported through this. The goods will reach their destination in 30 hours. At the same time, Jitendra Singh said that before running the goods train to transport cherries from Jammu to Mumbai, recently a special train was also run on this rail line to carry soldiers from Delhi to Kashmir.

A girl who had come to visit Mahakal was molested, Shahrukh, a father of two children, started taking her to the bushes

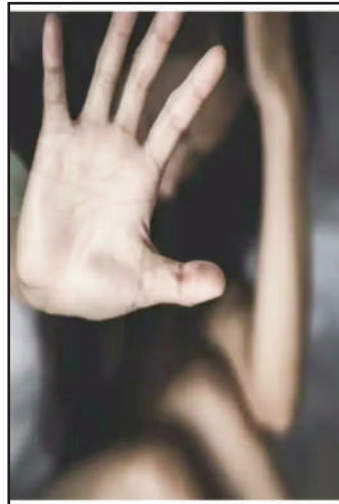
Bhopal (Agency): Amid the heated atmosphere in Ujjain over love jihad, two incidents of Hindu girls being caught with Muslim youths have come to light. The first incident is from Mahidpur in Ujjain city. In Mahidpur, a Muslim youth was caught with a Hindu girl by a Hindu organization and handed over to the police. On the other hand, late Saturday night, a Muslim youth tried to forcibly molest a girl who had come to visit Mahakal. On the information of the local people, people of the Hindu organization reached the spot and handed over the youth to the police. The police have registered a complaint in both the cases.

In the last one month in Ujjain district, incidents of making obscene videos of innocent girls

and blackmailing them have come to light in Ghattia and Nagda tehsils. Now Ujjain police has registered a case in two police stations in two separate incidents. The first incident is from Mahidpur tehsil where a Muslim youth Aman from Dewas was roaming with a Hindu girl from Ujjain, who was caught by the workers of a Hindu organization and handed over to the police. The second incident is from Mahakal police station area where a Muslim youth who had taken a woman who had come to visit Mahakal to other temples tried to molest her forcibly. The victim told the Chintaman police that she had to visit Mahakal, so she came to Ujjain alone by train on May 23. She had taken a room in a hotel in Begumbagh near the temple.

The victim said that in the month of November last year also she had

driver resident of Ujjain's Jaithal. Since then she had Shahrukh's



come to Ujjain with her family for Mahakal darshan. Then she had booked the magic of Shahrukh, a

mobile number. When she called Shahrukh for a magic vehicle to take her to Mahakal temple,

Shahrukh said that he did not have a magic vehicle. He would take her around on a motorcycle.

The girl refused at first but on Shahrukh's repeated requests, she agreed to go to the temple by motorcycle. The victim said that Shahrukh came to pick her up on a motorcycle at around 8 pm and took her to Chintamani Ganesh temple for darshan. After visiting Chintamani Ganesh temple, the girl asked Shahrukh to drop her back to Mahakal temple. The girl said that while coming from Chintamani temple, Shahrukh took the motorcycle to a deserted place near a bridge. When Shahrukh stopped the bike and held the girl's hand with bad intentions, she got scared and started screaming loudly. On this, Shahrukh threatened to kill her.

However, by then some people came there after hearing the voice, during this time Shahrukh left the victim and ran away. People took the victim to Chintamani police station where the police registered a case on her complaint. The victim says that Shahrukh trapped the girl in his love trap by telling him that he was a bachelor on WhatsApp. Shahrukh is already married. He also has two children. A worker of a Hindu organization said that a local farmer contacted them on hearing the girl's scream, after which the workers of the organization reached the spot and saved the girl. It is being claimed that WhatsApp chats of more than 150 Hindu girls were found in Shahrukh's mobile but the police say that the investigation in the case is still going on.

Pre-monsoon rains will be heavy in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal (Agency): A big update has come in the weather forecast of Madhya Pradesh. There will be heavy rains in MP before the arrival of monsoon. If the weather department is to be believed, then the rain will continue in about three dozen cities including MP's capital Bhopal from May. An alert has also been issued by the IMD on thunderstorms and hailstorms. There will be heavy rains in about three dozen cities in Madhya Pradesh for the next two to three days. After the warning of the Meteorological Department, the police-administration has also come on alert mode. People living on the banks of rivers in many cities of MP have been instructed to be cautious during the rains.

If the weather department is to be believed, then with the pre-monsoon rains, people



will get a lot of relief from the scorching heat. Due to a weather act in Madhya Pradesh, there will be heavy rains. After the rain, the day and night temperatures will decrease, which will give

relief to the people. However, before the pre-monsoon rains, the humid



heat is also making people sweat profusely. If we believe the weather department, then along with rain, an alert has been issued for strong winds and thunderstorms. In the first

week of May, people sweated a lot due to the temperature crossing 40 degrees. The weather forecast of Madhya Pradesh has predicted rain. Along with rain, thunderstorms will occur in cities like MP capital Bhopal, Ujjain, Panna, Indore, Shahdol, Datia, Harda, Maihar, Ujjain, Bhind, Rewa, Shahdol, Umaria, Seoni, Sidhi, Betul, Datia, Khargone, Maunanj, Chhindwara, Morena, Khandwa, etc. After the warning of the weather department, the police-administration has also come on alert mode. It is known that in the first week of May, the temperature in many cities of Madhya Pradesh had crossed 40 degrees, due to which people were facing severe heat.

A camera was installed in the changing room, when the videos of women changing clothes started going viral, there was a ruckus

Bhopal (Agency): A sensational incident has come to light in the tribal-dominated Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. A case has been registered against the shop owner and his son under various sections after a hidden camera was found in the 'changing room' of a clothes shop located in a small town of Shahdol district. The police said on Sunday that the incident came to light when some videos made by the hidden camera while women were changing clothes started being shared on social media at the local level. When the videos started going viral, there was a ruckus. People angry with the incident lodged a complaint with the police. The police said that when women were seen in the viral video clips, people became angry. People lodged a complaint with the police. This entire matter is of Budhwa, a small town in Devlond police station area of Shahdol. Devlond police station in-charge Subhash Dubey told that Krishna

Pal Singh Bais, a resident of Budhwa, gave a written complaint to the police. It is said that a hidden camera is installed in the 'changing room' of Narayan Deen Gupta's clothes shop in Budhwa. Women using the changing room were being recorded with this camera. Police raided the shop and recovered the hidden camera installed in the changing room. The station in-charge said that the shop owner himself had installed this camera so that footage of women changing clothes could be captured. The shop owner used to watch these videos on his computer. When the shopkeeper's son got a hint of these videos, he also started watching the videos. Then he also shared some videos with his friends. After this, initially these videos started going viral at the local level. Police said that when the videos started going viral and local women were seen in some videos, then there was an uproar and a complaint was lodged with the police.



Railway introduces Two New Trains

New delhi: Indian Railways has announced to introduce two new express trains to enhance passenger convenience, including a new service of the Vande Bharat Express. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will virtually flag off both trains during a program organised in Dahod. Train number 26901, the Sabarmati-Veraval Vande Bharat Express, will operate

six days a week, excluding Thursdays. The train will depart from Sabarmati station at 5:25 AM and arrive at Veraval station at 12:25 PM, with scheduled halts at Chandlodia, Viramgam, Rajkot, and Junagadh. In the return direction, train number 26902 will depart Veraval at 2:40 PM and reach Sabarmati at 9:35 PM, following the same route. Chandlodia station is currently undergoing

redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Once completed, the Vande Bharat Express will commence regular commercial halts there. To further improve Rail connectivity within Gujarat, another express service—Valsad-Dahod Express—is also being introduced. Train number 19011 will depart from Valsad station at 5:15 AM daily and reach Dahod at 11:05 AM, passing through Bilimora,

Navsari, Surat, Vadodara, and Godhra. On its return journey, the train will depart Dahod at 11:55 AM and arrive in Valsad at 8:05 PM. The train will consist of 17 coaches, including one Executive Class coach, four Third AC coaches, and ten Second Class coaches. Additionally, two guard-cum-parcel vans will be part of the composition, with one van offering seating facilities for passengers with disabilities.

Drug smuggling racket busted, charas worth Rs 1 crore found on the spot, links to this state



Delhi (Agency): Delhi Police today busted an interstate drug smuggling racket. Police arrested three accused and also seized 2,124 grams of charas worth about Rs 1.10 crore. According to the police, this gang used to get the drugs from Kasol in Himachal Pradesh. The arrests and seizures were made in two separate operations. The first arrest by Delhi Police was made on January 8. Police, following a tip-off, arrested Naseem (25) of Uttar Pradesh and Sandeep (40) of Punjab. Police said that a total of 1,438 grams of charas was seized from their

possession. Further investigation led to the arrest of Inder Singh alias Indru from Kullu in Himachal Pradesh. Subsequently, 696 grams of charas was seized during a house search, police said. Inder Singh grew the contraband in the remote hilly areas of Kasol through Naseem, police said. "Naseem handled the cultivation, Sandeep arranged for transportation and Inder Singh was the main supplier. Together, they created a high-value narco network," DCP (crime branch) Apoorva Gupta said. Further investigation is underway, she added.

Delhi Police arrested 9 Bangladeshis, this banned item was found with them, 100 streets were searched

Delhi (Agency): Delhi Police has arrested 9 Bangladeshi citizens living in the national capital. The official statement said that the Foreign Cell of Delhi Police (North-West District) is continuously conducting surveillance operations. Under this campaign, Delhi Police has arrested nine Bangladeshis living illegally. During the operation, a smartphone equipped with banned IMO application has been recovered from the possession of the infiltrators. Delhi Police said that the Foreign Cell of North-West District arrested nine Bangladeshi citizens living illegally in India from Wazirpur JJ Colony. A smartphone equipped with banned IMO application was recovered from them. These infiltrators had entered illegally from the Cooch Behar border. Delhi Police further said that

all the accused have been handed over to the Foreign Regional Registration Office, RK Puram, New

Delhi. The police raid was carried out on May 23 in Bharat Nagar police station jurisdiction. The action was



Delhi for further deportation proceedings. The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammed Saidul Islam (45 years), Najma Begum (42), Najmul Ali Aayu (23), Ajina Begum (20), Apple Ali (19), Laden Ali (17), Eidul Ali (8), Shaida Akhtar (6), Aryan Ali. These Bangladeshi nationals were found living illegally in

part of an ongoing campaign to identify and take action against unauthorized foreign nationals living in Delhi. The operation was launched by Delhi Police after receiving intelligence inputs about the presence of illegal immigrants in the area. The police said that after continuous surveillance for several days, the Foreign

Cell received concrete information about the presence of an illegal Bangladeshi national living in the jurisdiction of police station Bharat Nagar on May 23. Acting on this intelligence input, the police team cordoned off the area. The police conducted a comprehensive verification operation. During the intensive search operation, about 50 footpaths and 100 lanes were thoroughly checked. A suspect was caught during the operation. After this, the police interrogated the suspect in detail. In the initial interrogation, he tried to mislead the investigation team. But on strictness, he broke down and accepted himself to be a Bangladeshi citizen. After this, he made many revelations on the basis of which other intruders were also identified. In this way, the police caught all the intruders.

Ruckus over gutkha spitting in Delhi's Khajuri Khas, one injured in firing

Delhi (Agency): Ruckus broke out over gutkha spitting in Khajuri Khas area of North-East Delhi. A bullet was fired during the ruckus. A police officer said on Sunday that a 35-year-old man was injured in the firing. The victim has been identified as Aamir, a resident of Khajuri Khas. Aamir has been shot in the back. He is being treated in the hospital.

According to the police, the incident took place on Saturday night after a dispute between neighbors over gutkha spitting. The officer said that there was no previous enmity between the two parties. A Delhi Police officer said that in a heated argument, a person allegedly fired a shot from a pistol, injuring Aamir. Based on the information, a police team reached the spot and registered a case after preliminary investigation.