

BRIEF NEWS

फर्जी जीएसटी कागजात के सहारे हो रहा था कोयला परिवहन, ट्रक जब्त

KISHANGANJ : जिले में इंद्री माफिया और अवैध कोयला परिवहन के खिलाफ पुलिस व राज्य कर विभाग की संयुक्त कार्रवाई लगातार जारी है। पुलिस अधीक्षक संतोष कुमार के निर्देश पर चलाए जा रहे विशेष अभियान के तहत शुक्रवार और शनिवार को शहर के विभिन्न इलाकों में जांच अभियान चलाया गया। इस दौरान सदर थाना क्षेत्र से अवैध रूप से कोयला परिवहन कर रहे एक ट्रक को जब्त किया गया। जानकारी के अनुसार, जब्त ट्रक में कोयला लदा हुआ था और परिवहन के लिए इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे जीएसटी कागजात प्रारंभिक जांच में फर्जी पाए गए। कार्रवाई के दौरान ट्रक चालक को हिरासत में लेकर पूछताछ की गई। मामले में शनिवार को सदर थाना में प्राथमिकी दर्ज करने की प्रक्रिया जारी थी।

पार्षद ने सांसद प्रदीप सिंह से भेंटकर जनहित के मुद्दे पर की चर्चा

ARARIA : जोगबनी नगर परिषद की मुख्य पार्षद रानी देवी ने शनिवार को सांसद प्रदीप सिंह से उनके अररिया आवास पर मुलाकात कर जोगबनी में जनहित से जुड़े मुद्दों को लेकर चर्चा की। इस दौरान उन्होंने जोगबनी नगर के सर्वांगीण विकास, आधारभूत संरचना, स्वच्छता, स्वास्थ्य एवं शिक्षा व्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करने सहित अन्य मुद्दों पर चर्चा की। मुख्य पार्षद ने नगर की स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बेहतर करने एवं शिक्षा के स्तर में सुधार हेतु सांसद का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए एक ज्ञापन भी सौंपा। साथ ही जोगबनी नगर को मॉडल टाउन बनाने के लिए कई महत्वाकांक्षी योजनाओं की जानकारी दी और उन योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन हेतु सांसद से सहयोग की अपेक्षा की। सांसद प्रदीप सिंह ने सभी मुद्दों को गंभीरता से सुनते हुए सकारात्मक आश्वासन दिया।

नेपाल से शराब और नकद तस्करी की कोशिश नाकाम

SUPAUL : भारत-नेपाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा पर तस्करी के खिलाफ चलाए जा रहे अभियान के तहत सशस्त्र सीमा बल की 45वीं वाहिनी बीरपुर ने बड़ी कार्रवाई करते हुए नेपाली शराब और भारी नकद तस्करी की गुप्त सूचना मिली थी। सूचना के आधार पर रइ और पुलिस की संयुक्त टीम ने इलाके में घेरावदी की। इसी दौरान नेपाल से भारत की ओर आ रही दो महिलाओं को सदिग्ध स्थिति में रोका गया।

3 दिनों में पुलों की सेफ्टी ऑडिट रिपोर्ट करें अपलोड

■ पथ निर्माण विभाग के सचिव पंकज कुमार पाल ने राज्य के पुलों की स्थिति, सुरक्षा और सेफ्टी ऑडिट को लेकर की समीक्षा बैठक

AGENCY PATNA : बिहार सरकार ने राज्य में पुलों की सुरक्षा और गुणवत्ता को लेकर सख्त रुख अपनाया है। पथ निर्माण विभाग के सचिव पंकज कुमार पाल की अध्यक्षता में शनिवार को राज्य के पुलों की स्थिति, सुरक्षा और सेफ्टी ऑडिट को लेकर समीक्षा बैठक आयोजित की गई। बैठक में अधिकारियों को स्पष्ट निर्देश दिया गया कि पुलों की सुरक्षा के साथ किसी भी प्रकार का समझौता स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा।



सचिव पंकज कुमार पाल ने क्षेत्रीय पदाधिकारियों को निर्देश देते हुए कहा कि राज्य के पुलों का सघन सेफ्टी ऑडिट कराया जाए और 72 घंटे के भीतर जांच रिपोर्ट पीएमआईएस पोर्टल पर अपलोड की जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि 60 मीटर से 250 मीटर तक तथा 250 मीटर से अधिक लंबाई वाले

सभी पुलों का विशेष रूप से सुरक्षा ऑडिट किया जाएगा और इसकी निगरानी मुख्यालय स्तर से जांच की जाएगी। आगामी मानसून में पुलों की तकनीकी स्थिति की बारीकी से जांच करने पर भी जोर दिया गया। सचिव ने कहा कि ऑडिट के दौरान पुलों के बेयरिंग, गडर, स्पैन स्लैब, पाइल, ज्वाइंट,

अप्रोच रोड की स्थिति और ड्रेनेज सिस्टम की सफाई समेत सभी महत्वपूर्ण पहलुओं की गंभीरता से जांच की जाए। आगामी मानसून को देखते हुए सभी कार्यपालक अभियंताओं को सतर्क रहने और पुलों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के निर्देश दिए गए। साथ ही राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर स्थित पुलों के सेफ्टी

पश्चिमी हाइट गेज पोल पर कैमरा लगाकर फरार हुए दो अज्ञात

सराय के रेलवे फाटक पर अवैध सीसीटीवी कैमरा मिलने से हड़कंप



का सिम और 32 जीबी माइक्रो एसडी कार्ड लगा हुआ था। साथ ही लगभग 106 इंच का एक छोटा सोलर पैनल भी बरामद किया गया। इस पूरे मामले पर रेल एसपी वीणा कुमारी ने हिन्दुस्थान समाचार से बातचीत में बताया कि प्राप्त आवेदन के आधार पर जांच की जा रही है। सदिग्ध व्यक्तियों की पहचान और कैमरा लगाने के उद्देश्य का पता लगाने के लिए आरपीएफ सहित अन्य एजेंसियां जांच में जुटी हुई हैं।

एक सोलर प्लेट और छोटा कैमरा लगाया गया था। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए आरपीएफ ओपी भगवानपुर के उप निरीक्षक बिपिन कुमार द्वारा सोलर स्टैंड कैमरा शामिल है, जिस पर एक्टिव पिक्सल आईडी, आईएमईआई नंबर, जियो कंपनी

अवैध रूप से लगाया गया था। इसके बाद 08 मई की रात करीब 12:15 बजे गवाहों की मौजूदगी में उक्त उपकरण को जब्त कर लिया गया। जब सामग्री में एक सोलर स्टैंड कैमरा शामिल है, जिस पर एक्टिव पिक्सल आईडी, आईएमईआई नंबर, जियो कंपनी

भारतीय जनता पार्टी का पटना समेत राज्य के कई जिलों में दो दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण शुरू

AGENCY PATNA : भारतीय जनता पार्टी बिहार प्रदेश द्वारा आयोजित जिला स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण वर्ग अभियान के अंतर्गत शनिवार को राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में दो दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण वर्ग का शुभारंभ हुआ। यह प्रशिक्षण अभियान पूरे बिहार में आगामी 31 मई तक संचालित होगा, जिसमें पार्टी के कार्यकर्ताओं, पदाधिकारियों एवं जनप्रतिनिधियों को वैचारिक, संगठनात्मक एवं व्यवहारिक प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया जा रहा है। बेगूसराय जिला प्रशिक्षण वर्ग का उद्घाटन केंद्रीय मंत्री गिरिराज सिंह एवं भाजपा बिहार प्रदेश के महामंत्री संगठन शिखु भाई दलसनिया ने संयुक्त रूप से किया। वहीं बांका जिला प्रशिक्षण वर्ग का उद्घाटन बिहार सरकार के पथ निर्माण मंत्री इंजीनियर शैलेन्द्र कुमार ने किया।



दीप जलाकर कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत करते भाजपा के नेता

नवादा जिला प्रशिक्षण वर्ग का उद्घाटन बिहार सरकार के मंत्री प्रमोद कुमार चंद्रवंशी एवं स्थानीय सांसद विवेक ठाकुर ने संयुक्त रूप से किया। मुजफ्फरपुर जिला प्रशिक्षण वर्ग का उद्घाटन बिहार सरकार के मंत्री केदार गुप्ता एवं भाजपा बिहार प्रदेश प्रशिक्षण प्रभारी व अध्यक्ष बिहार प्रदेश पदाधिकारी, वरिष्ठ नेता, सांसद, विधायक एवं विधान परिषद सदस्य बड़ी संख्या में उपस्थित रहे।

संवाददाता सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि टीआईई 4 के अध्यक्षी अपनी जायज मांगों को लेकर आए थे, लेकिन सरकार ने उनकी बात सुनने के बजाय उन पर बेरहमी से लाठीचार्ज कराया। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार अन्त्यर्थियों को न्याय देने के बजाय केवल 'तारीख पर तारीख' दे रही है। राजेश राम ने आरोप लगाया कि एक ओर लाखों योग्य अन्त्यर्थी रोजगार के लिए सड़कों पर संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर तीन-तीन पूर्व मुख्यमंत्रियों के बेरोजगार बेटों को मंत्री पद दी जा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि इनमें पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के बेरोजगार बेटे को भी मंत्री पद दिया गया है, जो सरकार की पक्षपातपूर्ण नीति को उजागर करता है।

शिक्षक अभ्यर्थियों पर लाठीचार्ज लोकतंत्र पर हमला : राजेश राम

PATNA : बिहार प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष राजेश राम ने शनिवार को प्रदेश कांग्रेस मुख्यालय, सदाकत आश्रम में आयोजित संवाददाता सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि टीआईई 4 के अध्यक्षी अपनी जायज मांगों को लेकर आए थे, लेकिन सरकार ने उनकी बात सुनने के बजाय उन पर बेरहमी से लाठीचार्ज कराया। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार अन्त्यर्थियों को न्याय देने के बजाय केवल 'तारीख पर तारीख' दे रही है। राजेश राम ने आरोप लगाया कि एक ओर लाखों योग्य अन्त्यर्थी रोजगार के लिए सड़कों पर संघर्ष कर रहे हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर तीन-तीन पूर्व मुख्यमंत्रियों के बेरोजगार बेटों को मंत्री पद दी जा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि इनमें पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के बेरोजगार बेटे को भी मंत्री पद दिया गया है, जो सरकार की पक्षपातपूर्ण नीति को उजागर करता है।

मोबाइल छीनने का विरोध पड़ा भारी, दो युवकों पर हमला, एक की हालत गंभीर

AGENCY SUPAUL : जिले के राधोपुर थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत नगर पंचायत सिमरौही के रामनगर रोड में शनिवार दोपहर करीब एक बजे मोबाइल छीनने का विरोध करना दो युवकों को भारी पड़ा गया। बदमाशों ने विरोध करने पर दोनों युवकों पर चाकू से हमला कर दिया, जिसमें दोनों गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। इनमें एक युवक की हालत नाजुक बताई जा रही है, जिसे हायर सेंटर रेफर किया गया है। घायलों की पहचान सिमरौही वार्ड संख्या-1 निवासी मो. जफिर आलम के 19 वर्षीय पुत्र मो. जावेद तथा फिरोज खान के 22 वर्षीय पुत्र अरवाज खान के रूप में हुई है। घायल मो जावेद ने बताया कि वह अपने दोस्तों के साथ रामनगर रोड स्थित एक पान एवं किराना दुकान पर सामान खरीद रहा था। इसी दौरान दो



अस्पताल में उपचार के दौरान घायल युवक

युवक वहां पहुंचे और उसका मोबाइल छीनने का प्रयास करने लगे। जब उसने विरोध किया तो दोनों हमलावरों ने उस पर चाकू से हमला कर दिया। वहीं अरवाज खान ने बताया कि वह भी मौके पर मौजूद था। घटना का विरोध करने पर बदमाशों ने उसे भी चाकू मारकर घायल कर दिया। घटना के बाद इलाके में अफरा-तफरी मच गई। स्थानीय लोगों की मदद से दोनों घायलों को तत्काल राधोपुर रेफरल अस्पताल पहुंचाया गया,

जहां डॉक्टरों ने प्राथमिक उपचार शुरू किया। रेफरल अस्पताल में इवूटी पर मौजूद राहुल झा ने बताया कि मो. जावेद की स्थिति गंभीर होने के कारण प्राथमिक उपचार के बाद उसे बेहतर इलाज के लिए हायर सेंटर रेफर कर दिया गया है। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही राधोपुर थाना पुलिस अस्पताल पहुंची और घायलों से पूछताछ कर मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी। पुलिस आचार्यों की पहचान कर गिरफ्तारी के प्रयास में जुटी हुई है।

पहल जीविका दीदियों ने राहगीरों और स्थानीय लोगों के लिए की स्वच्छ भोजन की व्यवस्था पारंपरिक व्यंजनों के साथ 50 रुपये में परोसा जा रहा भरपेट खाना

AGENCY BHAGALPUR : गंगा के पावन तट बरारी घाट पर इन दिनों एक नई हलचल देखने को मिल रही है। यह हलचल किसी धार्मिक आयोजन की नहीं, बल्कि सेवा और स्वावलंबन की एक नई इबारत लिखने वाली 'जीविका' को दीदियों द्वारा संचालित रसोई की है। बिहार की महिलाओं को आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त बनाने और उन्हें समाज की मुख्यधारा से जोड़ने के उद्देश्य से शुरू किया गया 'जीविका' मिशन अब धरतल पर अपनी उपस्थिति मजबूती से दर्ज करा रहा है। इसी कड़ी में बरारी घाट पर श्रद्धालुओं, राहगीरों और स्थानीय लोगों के लिए बेहद



किफायती दरों पर शुद्ध और स्वच्छ भोजन की व्यवस्था की गई है। बरारी घाट पर अक्सर बड़ी संख्या में लोग गंगा स्नान और अन्य धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों के लिए आते हैं। ऐसे में दूर-दराज से आने वाले लोगों के लिए सबसे बड़ी चुनौती उचित दर पर पौष्टिक

भोजन प्राप्त करने की होती है। इस समस्या को समझते हुए जीविका दीदियों ने मिलकर यहाँ एक सार्वजनिक रसोई की शुरुआत की है। इस रसोई की बागडोर 'गंगा जीविका स्वयं सहायता समूह' की सदस्य लक्ष्मी देवी और उनके साथियों के हाथों में है। लक्ष्मी देवी

बताती हैं कि इस पहल का मुख्य उद्देश्य न केवल लोगों को कम दाम में भोजन उपलब्ध कराना है, बल्कि समूह की महिलाओं को रोजगार से जोड़कर उन्हें आत्मनिर्भर बनाना भी है। इस रसोई की सबसे बड़ी खासियत यहाँ का मेनू और उसकी दरें हैं। आज के महंगाई के दौर में जहाँ सामान्य होटलों में एक थाली की कीमत सौ रुपये से ऊपर चली गई है, वहीं जीविका की यह रसोई मात्र 50 रुपये में भरपेट शुद्ध शाकाहारी भोजन उपलब्ध करा रही है। इस भोजन की थाली में चावल, दाल, सब्जी, पापड़ और सलाद शामिल है। यह भोजन पूरी तरह से घरेलू स्वाद और स्वच्छता के मानकों को ध्यान में रखकर

तैयार किया जाता है, जो बाहर से आने वाले लोगों के लिए घर की कमी को पूरा करता है। भोजन के अलावा, यहाँ पारंपरिक बिहार के पसंदीदा नाश्ते और व्यंजनों की भी लंबी फेहरिस्त है। बिहार की पहचान माना जाने वाला लिट्टी-चोखा यहाँ विशेष रूप से उपलब्ध है। मात्र 20 रुपये में दो पीस लिट्टी और चटनी के साथ लोक अपनी भूख मिटा सकते हैं। इसके साथ ही, स्थानीय लोगों के बीच बेहद लोकप्रिय चूड़ा फ्राई और घुघनी की व्यवस्था भी यहाँ की गई है। 30 रुपये प्रति प्लेट की दर से मिलने वाला यह नाश्ता न केवल सस्ता है, बल्कि स्वास्थ्य के लिहाज से भी बेहतर विकल्प माना जाता है।

एक ही व्यक्ति के नाम तीन वोटर आईडी कार्ड थाने में मामला दर्ज

ARARIA : बिहार में अररिया जिले के फारबिसगंज थाना पुलिस ने रामपुर दक्षिण वार्ड संख्या नौ के रहने वाले मो नोएम अंसारी पिता मो.सज्जाद अंसारी को गिरफ्तार किया। जिनके पास से एक ही नाम के तीन अलग अलग पते से जारी तीन वोटर आईडी कार्ड जारी किया हुआ मिला। एक ही व्यक्ति के नाम से तीन अलग-अलग वोटर आईडी कार्ड मिलने के बाद अपर थानाध्यक्ष सत्येंद्र कुमार गुप्ता के बयान पर उनके खिलाफ फारबिसगंज थाना में कांड संख्या 273/26 लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम 1950(43) की धारा 31 के तहत दर्ज किया गया है। कांड के अनुसंधानकर्ता एसआई कुमारी बबोता बनाई गई है।

राष्ट्रीय लोक अदालत का आयोजन 31 बेंचों में कई मामलों का निष्पादन

AGENCY BHAGALPUR : भागलपुर में शनिवार को इस वर्ष के दूसरे राष्ट्रीय लोक अदालत का आयोजन किया गया। लोक अदालत को लेकर भागलपुर व्यवहार न्यायालय में 22 बेंच, नवागछिया में 7 और कहलगांव में 2 बेंच बनाए गए। लोक अदालत का उद्घाटन जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश राज कुमार राजपुत्र, प्रिंसिपल जज दीपंकर पांडे, जिलाधिकारी डॉक्टर नवल किशोर चौधरी, वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक प्रमोद कुमार यादव समेत कई न्यायिक अधिकारियों ने संयुक्त रूप से किया। इस दौरान प्रिंसिपल जज दीपंकर पांडे ने बताया कि लोगों को त्वरित और सरल न्याय उपलब्ध करने के उद्देश्य से लोक अदालत का आयोजन किया गया है।



उन्होंने कहा कि पहली बार ट्रैफिक चालान मामलों के निष्पादन के लिए जिला स्कूल में विशेष बेंच लगाया गया है, ताकि आम लोगों को सुविधा मिल सके और मामलों का जल्द निपटारा हो। राष्ट्रीय लोक अदालत में बैंक ऋण, बिजली बिल, पारिवारिक विवाद, दुर्घटना दावा, ट्रैफिक चालान सहित विभिन्न प्रकार के मामलों का आपसी सहमति के आधार पर निष्पादन किया जा रहा है।

Why BJP's wins in Assam, Bengal matter for all of Northeast

The BJP victory in Assam did not come as a surprise—at least not to anyone in the Northeast. The party returned with 82 seats in the Assembly of 126, giving it a majority on its own. Its allies in the North East Democratic Alliance, Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People’s Front, won 10 seats each.Many factors ensured this. The foremost is the persona of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and his well-calculated and calibrated populist agenda whipping up and capitalising on the inherent Assamese demographic anxiety of being overwhelmed by Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh. Whether this proves to be a boon or a bane for the state and the region in the long run is a matter of anticipation.Equally important is the fact that dislodging a party in power, especially if it is also in power in New Delhi, has never been easy in the Northeast. The region today suffers from a psychology of living on Delhi’s charity, therefore seeing themselves safer on the right side of the powers that be at the Centre. The BJP’s victory was also helped by some high-profile, pre-election defections—engineered or otherwise—from its major rival, the Congress.

The Congress was left licking its wounds, garnering just 19 seats, down 10 seats from its share in the last election. Even its flag-bearer, Gaurav Gogoi, lost in his home constituency Jorhat. While it does seem like a decimation of the Congress in the state, a little rethink is called for. The picture is quite different in terms of vote share. While the BJP won 37.81 percent of the votes polled, the Congress received 29.84 percent. Though nobody can argue with the decisive nature of BJP’s win, in terms of the support base, the margin is not as great as the seat numbers make it seem. The debate on the pros and cons of the first-past-the-post electoral system is for another time. What everyone needs to keep in sight at this moment is that though victors have all the right to celebrate their victory, they also need to display some humility in the knowledge that citizens on the opposite end of the political spectrum number almost as many as those who supported them.The Assam victory is important for the BJP and its prospect in the Northeast. The party’s upbeat mood is also bolstered tremendously by its victory in West Bengal. For the Northeast, Kolkata offers an important junction parallel to Guwahati for connectivity to the rest of the country.So whatever happens in Bengal has always had very profound impact on the Northeast as well. This has been so from the colonial days. Indeed, when the British annexed Assam in 1826, it was made an extension of Bengal. Likewise, Curzon’s partition of Bengal and subsequent reunification had a great bearing on the politics and psychology of ordinary people in the Northeast. Not the least, most first-generation, western-educated pioneers from the region acquired their degrees from Calcutta and Dhaka universities, making this connection even deeper-rooted.How, then, would the BJP victory in Assam and West Bengal pan out in the rest of the Northeast is a question all observers of politics in the region would be asking. The first thing to remember is that of the region’s seven states—excluding Sikkim, which is more in West Bengal’s orbit—the four states of Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur are BJP-ruled today.The remaining three, which are core Christian states—Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland—are ruled by regional parties allied with the BJP. Those alliances are not for any ideological affinity, but are driven by transactional considerations of aligning with the power corridors in Delhi. This profile of the major political equations in the region is unlikely to change. What the BJP victory in Assam and West Bengal has probably done is to ensure this equation remains secure and intact.

Somnath’s saga of faith and resilience

Special pujas will be organised at Somnath for the next thousand days

AT the start of 2026, I had gone to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking 1,000 years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple. Now, I will be back in Somnath on May 11 to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored temple by the then President of India, Rajendra Prasad. In less than half a year, it is a privilege to be attending two important milestones relating to Somnath and its journey from ruin to renewal or what we describe as from vidhvans to srijan.Somnath gives us a civilisational message. The vast sea before it evokes timelessness. The waves tell us that no matter how fierce the storms or turbulent the tides are, one can always rise again with dignity and strength. The waves return to the shore, as though reminding every generation that the spirit of the people can never be subdued for long.Our ancient scriptures say: Prabhasam cha parikramya prithvi-krama-sambhavama. It means, a pradakshina (circumambulation) of the divine Prabhasa (Somnath) is equal to a pradakshina of the whole earth itself!While people have come here to pray, they have also experienced the remarkable continuity of a civilisation whose flame could never be extinguished. Empires rose and fell, tides changed, history moved through conquest and upheaval, yet Somnath continued to endure in our consciousness.It is time to remember the countless greats who stood firm in the face of tyranny. There were Lakulisha and Soma Sarman, who transformed Prabhasa into a great centre of philosophy. Chakravarti Maharaja Dharasena IV of Vallabhi built the Second Temple three centuries ago. Bhima Deva, Jayapala and Anandapala will always be remembered for defending civilisational honour against invasions. It is said that Raja Bhoja too helped with the reconstruction. Karna Deva and Siddharaja Jayasimha played a vital role in restoring Gujarat's political and cultural strength. Bhava Brihaspati, Kumarapala Solanki and the Pashupata Acharyas rebuilt and sustained the shrine as a great centre of worship and learning. Vishaladeva Vaghela and Tripurantaka protected its intellectual and spiritual traditions. Mahipaladeva and Ra Khangar were instrumental in reviving worship after destruction. Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, whose 300th birth anniversary is being marked, ensured the continuity of devotion in the most difficult of times. There were the Gaekwads of Baroda who safeguarded the rights of pilgrims. And, of course, our soil is blessed to have nurtured brave personalities like Veer Hamirji Gohil and Veer Vegdaji Bhil, whose sacrifice and courage have become a part of Somnath's living memory.In the 1940s,



Unfortunately, fate did not allow Sardar Patel to witness the fulfilment of the dream he had championed. Before the restored Somnath Temple could open its doors to devotees, he had departed from this world. Yet, his impact continued to be felt across the sacred shores of Prabhas Patan. His vision was championed by KM Munshi, ably supported by the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar. In 1951, when the Temple was complete, it was decided to call President Rajendra Prasad for the ceremony. Overcoming objections from the then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, Prasad graced the ceremony, thus making it even more special and historic.

My mind also goes back to October 2001, when I had just taken over as Chief Minister. On October 31, 2001, the Jayanti of Sardar Patel, the Gujarat Government had the honour of organising a programme to mark 50 years since the Somnath Temple had opened its doors. It also coincided with the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Patel. The then Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee and the then Home Minister LK Advani attended the programme.

During his speech on May 11, 1951, Rajendra Prasad said that the Somnath Temple proclaimed to the world that anything built on unparalleled faith and love could not be destroyed. He expressed hope that this temple would live in the hearts of people. He also said that the restoration of the temple was a fulfilment of Sardar Patel's dream. And taking that spirit forward, it was important that we restored prosperity to the lives of people. These are important and inspiring messages.This is the path we have been walking for over a decade. I consider it my good fortune that, inspired by the principle of 'Vikas Bhi,

Virasat Bhi', from Somnath to Kashi, Kamakhya to Kedarnath, Ayodhya to Ujjain, Trimbakeshwar to Srisailem, our team has had the opportunity to equip our spiritual centres with the latest facilities while at the same time, preserving their traditional character. This, along with efforts to improve connectivity, ensures more people can visit them. It boosts the local economy, secures livelihoods and deepens the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'

The struggles and sacrifices of those who laid down their lives to protect Somnath and those who rebuilt it time and again will never be forgotten. Countless individuals from different corners of India contributed to restoring its glory. They saw every part of Bharat as sacred, bound together by

a sense of oneness that transcended geography. In a world often marked by divisions, this spirit of unity is more relevant than ever. Somnath will continue to stand tall in all its glory because the sense of unity and shared civilisational consciousness lives on in the hearts of every Indian.As a tribute to this, remembering the extraordinary courage of 1,000 years, special pujas will be organised at Somnath for the next thousand days. It is gladdening to see several people donating for these pujas.I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath in this special time. When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade, that is unbroken and unyielding. You will experience Bharat's unconquerable spirit and understand why, despite every effort, our culture remained undefeated. You will have the opportunity to behold the vision of eternal triumph. It will surely be unforgettable.

Blasts in Punjab: Low-intensity attacks, high-stakes warning

The reflexive blame game may be politically expedient, but it is strategically myopic

PUNJAB’s twin blasts — first outside a BSF facility in Jalandhar — and then near an Army cantonment in Amritsar — are too close in time and target to be dismissed as routine disturbances. Even if low in intensity, they carry a high strategic message: India’s security grid is being tested at sensitive nodes. The confirmation by Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav that an improvised explosive device was used near a military zone underscores the seriousness of the threat. These are not random acts; they suggest reconnaissance, planning and a deliberate attempt to probe vulnerabilities around defence establishments. Whether the hand behind them is local, cross-border or an opportunistic mix of both, the pattern is unmistakable.Equally troubling is the political reaction. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for destabilisation, while the BJP has accused the state government of security failures. This reflexive blame game may be politically expedient, but



it is strategically myopic. Security crises demand coordination, not confrontation. Punjab’s history

makes it particularly sensitive to even low-grade disruptions. The state has, over decades, built a reputation for resilient policing and intelligence-led operations. A spate of recent incidents, including three blasts in under 10 days, risks denting that hard-earned credibility. The question is not merely who is to blame, but whether intelligence inputs were missed or responses delayed.

The need of the hour is a unified response: tighter intelligence sharing between Central and state agencies, immediate security audits of defence perimeters, and enhanced surveillance, especially against emerging threats like drone-based infiltration. Public reassurance must follow, but without downplaying risks. These explosions are warnings, not aberrations. Ignoring their pattern or politicising their aftermath would be a costly mistake.

Mythos moment is a wake-up call

AI readiness must become a top-tier priority for governments worldwide

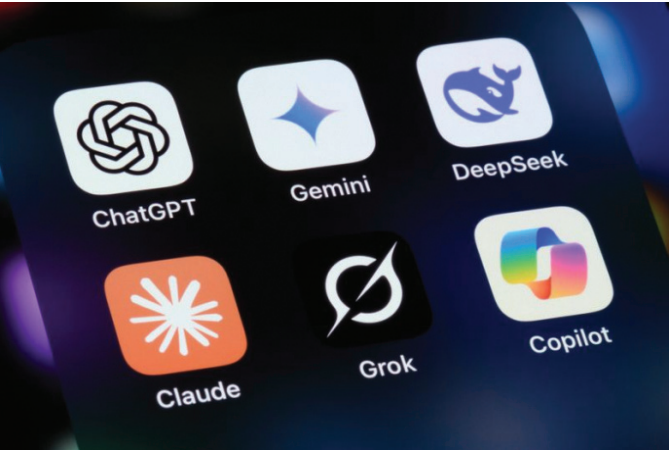
WHEN Anthropic, the San Francisco-based artificial intelligence (AI) company, announced its new frontier model on April 7, the news startled governments and corporations around the world. In pre-release testing, Claude Mythos had autonomously identified thousands of previously unknown software flaws — so-called zero-day vulnerabilities — across every major operating system and major web browser.More striking still, Anthropic chose not to release the model publicly. Mythos was instead made available to roughly 50 partners, including Amazon Web Services, Apple, Google, Microsoft, JPMorgan Chase and the Linux Foundation, under an initiative called Project Glasswing. A week later, OpenAI followed with a similarly restricted release of GPT-5.4-Cyber, a variant of its flagship model trained for defensive cybersecurity work and limited to vetted users.

The decision by two of the world’s leading AI companies to withhold their most powerful tools from the public marks an inflection point. For most of the past three years, AI laboratories have competed to put new models in the hands of as many users as possible, as fast as possible. Now, the same firms are acknowledging that some capabilities are too dangerous to release without controls.It is not hard to see why. Large language models have advanced remarkably over the past 18 months. They can draft polished prose, complete in hours research that once took consultants weeks, identify candidates for drug discovery, write code and build production-grade websites and applications. They can operate autonomously for extended periods. On many benchmarks, they now approach the performance of trained professionals.The benefits are real. AI has the potential to lift productivity in agriculture, broaden the reach of public health and education, and transform whole sectors. But the technology is dual-use by design.

The same capabilities that help defenders find and patch software flaws can help attackers exploit them. According to Anthropic’s own published assessment, engineers with no formal security training were able to ask Mythos to find remote-code-execution vulnerabilities overnight, and wake up to a complete working exploit. The cost of one such chain was under \$2,000.This matters because cybercrime is no longer a fringe concern. Cybersecurity Ventures, an industry research firm, estimates that global cybercrime damages reached \$10.5 trillion in 2025 — a figure that, were cybercrime a country, would make it the world’s third-largest economy after the United States and China. More conservative estimates from outlets such as Cyber Defense Magazine put direct losses in the \$1.2-1.5 trillion range. Either way, AI-driven phishing campaigns, deepfake fraud and adaptive malware are already widespread. SoSafe’s 2025 Cybercrime Trends report found that 87 per cent of global organisations had experienced an AI-powered cyberattack in the previous 12 months.The euphoria around ‘vibe coding’ — the recent explosion in amateur software development enabled by AI — was always going to be tempered by concerns over its mirror image: vibe hacking. If cyberattack tools that once required state-level resources become available at the price of an API (Application Programming Interface) call, the asymmetry between attackers and defenders could shift abruptly.

Whether models such as Mythos will ultimately help defenders more than attackers is unsettled. Anthropic argues that controlled access gives defenders a head start. Independent researchers at AISLE (an AI-native cybersecurity company) have shown that smaller, openly available models can already replicate much of Mythos’ analysis. A more difficult question is whether

the world is comfortable with frontier AI capabilities being held by a handful of firms — fewer than half a dozen in the US, with a comparable group in China — and parcelled out to chosen partners. Open-source AI has helped diffuse the technology’s benefits globally. Restrictions, however well-intentioned, risk entrenching a tech oligopoly, dulling competition and tempting those in possession of the most powerful



models to use them against perceived adversaries. The history of managing dual-use technologies is not reassuring on this front.A second lesson is that AI readiness must become a top-tier priority for governments. That means three capacities at once: to deploy AI productively across the economy; to research and develop it domestically; and to govern against misuse. The mood in some capitals has turned against regulation, but the global picture is more nuanced. The European Union is implementing risk-based guardrails

through its AI Act. China has moved quickly to address harms to children, including emotional dependence on chatbots. The instruments — legislation, executive guidance or co-regulation with industry — are a sovereign choice. Stepping away from the responsibility is not.Finally, Mythos is a reminder that AI does not respect borders. Its impacts cross jurisdictions at the speed of light, and so must any credible response. The release of DeepSeek R1, a powerful open-source model, from China in January 2025, made it clear that breakthroughs can come from anywhere. Common standards for safety, interoperability and responsible use will not emerge from any country acting alone.

This is the backdrop for the first Global Dialogue on AI Governance, which convenes in Geneva on July 6-7. The Dialogue, established by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in August 2025, is paired with a new Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, tasked with regularly assessing the technology’s opportunities and risks. Governments, scientists, civil society and the private sector will, for the first time, meet at the United Nations to debate AI’s potential to accelerate development as well as the risks it poses to safety, security, inclusion, cultural and linguistic diversity, and human rights. Building AI capacity in less-developed economies will be on the agenda too.

The Mythos moment will not be the last of its kind. Surprise breakthroughs are arriving every few months. The work of patching vulnerable systems, training defenders and building shared rules of the road has barely begun. There is no time to waste — starting with the weakly protected websites and software that still hold up much of the digital economy.

Did SIR Impact West Bengal Results? What Election Commission Data Says

The numbers suggest that while there were indeed large-scale deletions of "ineligible" electors during the SIR process, there were also equally significant additions.

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls emerged as one of the most politically contentious issues in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. Months before polling, the exercise triggered fierce opposition from the Trinamool Congress and several opposition parties, which alleged that the revision drive was aimed at disenfranchising minorities, migrants and economically weaker voters. Protests were held across the state, the Election Commission came under sharp criticism, and opposition leaders repeatedly claimed that lakhs of legitimate voters were being deleted from the rolls. However, post-election data released by the Election Commission paints a far more

complex picture. The numbers suggest that while there were indeed large-scale deletions of "ineligible" electors during the SIR process, there were also equally significant additions of eligible voters before nominations closed. More importantly, many of the constituencies that saw the highest deletions eventually voted in favour of the very parties that had opposed the SIR process most aggressively.

No Impact In Seats With The Highest Deletions
According to Election Commission data, the highest deletions during the SIR exercise took place in constituencies concentrated in the Malda and Murshidabad belt. Sujapur recorded the



deletion of 1.50 lakh electors, followed by Raghunathganj with 1.30 lakh, Samserganj with 1.25 lakh, Ratua with 1.23 lakh and Suti with 1.20 lakh deletions. These constituencies were at the centre of the political storm surrounding SIR, with opposition parties

alleging that minority-heavy areas were being selectively targeted. Yet the final election results did not support the narrative that the exercise had electorally weakened the opposition. All five of these constituencies were won by the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC). In other words, despite massive deletions during the revision process, the ruling party retained its dominance in these politically sensitive regions.

Additions After SIR
The data becomes even more revealing when additions after the SIR are examined. Data shows that the same constituencies also witnessed some of the highest additions of eligible electors between February 28, 2026 and the last

date of nomination under Section 23(3) of the Representation of the People Act. Sujapur alone saw 1.14 lakh additions after the final SIR list. Raninagar added nearly 76,000 electors, Harischandrapur over 74,000, Chanchal more than 72,000 and Ratua over 71,000. These figures suggest that a large number of voters whose names were initially removed either completed documentation later or were restored after adjudication. The Election Commission had maintained throughout the controversy that the exercise was intended to remove duplicate, shifted, deceased or otherwise ineligible electors, while eligible citizens would continue to be added through the legal process. The post-SIR additions appear to support.

Desilting done, New Delhi Municipal Council plan for monsoon care in place

New Delhi.(Agency)
The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Friday announced details of its comprehensive Monsoon Action Plan 2026, covering pre-monsoon preparedness, emergency response during heavy rainfall and restoration of damaged infrastructure after the season. NDMC Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal said the civic body has already completed 100% desilting work in the first phase by March 31, while the second phase is scheduled to be completed by June 15. He said GIS mapping of underground drainage networks, including bell mouths, gully traps, connecting pipes, manholes and brick barrel drains, has been initiated to improve monitoring of waterlogging-prone areas. According to the NDMC, extensive cleaning and desilting of drains and stormwater channels are underway along with repairs of damaged roads, potholes, trenches, manhole covers and drainage infrastructure. Chahal said dewatering pumps, DG sets, manpower and control rooms have been arranged at vulnerable points. At present, only five major waterlogging-prone locations remain in the NDMC area — Purana Quila, Dayal Singh College area, Panchkuian Road, Hanuman Mandir and Satya Sadan. He added that CCTV cameras and sensor-based monitoring systems are being installed at these locations for quicker response during heavy rainfall.



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Delhi rolls out real-time tracking of road pollution, dust hotspots

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) launched a road pollution control programme to increase monitoring and control of sources of dispersed air pollution across the city. It has deployed 13 dedicated field surveyors to survey roads daily, with a total coverage of nearly 18,000 kilometres of roads across MCD, PWD, NDMC, and Delhi Cantonment Board areas. Surveyors will use the MCD-311 mobile app to log a minimum of 70 geo-tagged, photographic pollution issues per day per surveyor, with a citywide target of around 1,000 identified issues daily. The entire road network of Delhi will be comprehensively covered every month, with each surveyor assigned a minimum of 20 kilometres of roads to be covered daily. Titled Road RADAR, or Real-time Air Pollution Detection across Roads, the DPCC programme is aimed at improving road cleanliness, reducing dust, and strengthening measurable air-quality outcomes in the city. The environment ministry said the new monitoring system includes built-in safeguards to ensure zero duplication of reported issues, so that every complaint corresponds to a unique and actionable pollution source. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the fight for clean air must be won on the ground, lane by lane and road by road. "Through Road RADAR," he said, "the government is introducing a scientific system of daily surveillance, real-time reporting, and direct departmental accountability, so that pollution sources are not ignored, repeated, or allowed to linger."

The programme will track 11 categories of air pollution issues: road dust, such as unpaved roads, broken footpaths, dividers, and potholes; sand or loose material piled on roadsides; unsurfaced and unregulated parking lots; garbage, including overflowing dhalao and dumped roadside waste; biomass and garbage burning on roadsides; plastic burning on roadsides; construction and demolition waste dumped on roadsides; barren roadsides requiring greening; greening needs on central verges; dust from construction sites; and other dispersed sources of air pollution identified during field surveys.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi ready with proposal to start RFID-based 'free-flow' toll system

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is set to place a proposal before its Standing Committee to introduce an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)-based toll collection system at the capital's border entry points, officials said on Friday. The proposal is likely to be discussed during a Standing Committee meeting scheduled later this year. According to officials, the civic body plans to introduce a multi-lane free-flow tolling mechanism similar to the FASTag system used on national highways. The system will use ANPR cameras and RFID technology to automatically deduct toll tax without requiring vehicles to stop at plazas. "We are moving towards an ANPR

camera-based toll collection system along the lines of highways. The details are being finalised, and everything is being done as per the directions of the Supreme Court,"



an official said. Under the proposed mechanism, cameras will identify vehicles passing through toll points, while RFID tags installed in vehicles will enable seamless toll tax collection.

Officials said the move is aimed at reducing long queues and traffic congestion at toll plazas and border entry points, especially during peak hours. "With the new system, vehicle owners will not be required to stop, and taxes will be deducted automatically, similar to the FASTag system on national highways," official said. The development comes after the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's toll tax department was asked to revise a proposal related to appointing a new agency for operating 156 toll plazas and generating minimum annual revenue of '900 crore. Meanwhile, the civic body has granted a six-month extension to the existing concessionaire until a new agency is finalised, officials added.

Reimagining Delhi shared responsibility: LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu

New Delhi.(Agency)
Delhi has always represented the spirit of India as a diverse, resilient, dynamic and aspirational city, Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu said on Friday. Speaking at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), he said the challenges before the capital required coordinated action. "The task before us is not easy," he said, citing urbanisation, environmental pressures, population growth, mobility challenges and resource management as key concerns. "Reimagining Delhi is a shared responsibility. Let's work together to build a Delhi that is environmentally conscious, culturally vibrant, economically dynamic, technologically progressive, and deeply humane," Sandhu added. He said that the future must be built on five essential pillars, with sustainability being the first. He stressed that



no city could aspire to global leadership without addressing environmental challenges with urgency. Cleaner air, rejuvenated water bodies, enhanced green cover, effective waste management, adoption of renewable energy and sustainable mobility must become central to Delhi's urban vision, he said. The second pillar is inclusion. A truly global city is one where growth is shared and opportunities are accessible to all. The third pillar, he said, is culture. As we modernise Delhi, we must ensure that we do not lose its cultural memory, he said. "The fourth pillar is innovation and economic growth. Delhi has the potential to emerge not only as an administrative capital but also as a leading centre for knowledge, startups, tourism, hospitality, the creative economy, and the wider service sector."

Summer vacation in Delhi coincides with remedial classes beginning May 11

The initiative aims to provide additional academic support to students, particularly those who require extra attention.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Delhi government has announced summer vacation for all government schools from May 11 to June 30. However, remedial classes for students of Classes 9, 10, and 12 will be held from May 11 to May 23 to help improve learning outcomes and strengthen conceptual understanding. According to a circular issued by the directorate of education, these special classes will be conducted based on the availability of teachers and school infrastructure. The initiative aims to provide additional academic support to students, particularly those who require extra attention. The remedial classes will be conducted from 7.30am to 10.30am and each period will last for one hour. For classes 9 and 10, schools have been directed to focus mainly on science and mathematics. Heads of schools, though,



may include other subjects based on academic performance, result analysis and teacher availability. For Class 12 students, subjects for remedial teaching will be decided by the schools according to students' needs. The circular says that schools must ensure special attention for academically weak students. Wearing a school uniform during remedial classes has been made mandatory,

and attendance will be marked online. Schools have also been instructed to obtain parental consent before students attend the classes. Library facilities will also remain open. The directorate has directed heads of schools to ensure the availability of clean drinking water and other basic amenities on campus. Guest and contractual teachers may also be engaged if regular teachers are unavailable. Meanwhile, the last-minute directive raised concerns among teachers and students, as it coincides with ongoing census duties. The order, issued late on Thursday evening just a day before schools closed for summer break, disrupted plans of many students, particularly those from migrant families who had scheduled travel to their native places. Principals were asked to inform students via WhatsApp, leaving little time for adjustments.

NEWS BOX

Mojtaba Khamenei emerges as key power figure in Iran, directing war strategy and diplomatic talks

Washington. (Agency)

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has emerged as a key figure in shaping Iran's war strategy during the conflict and in directing officials involved in diplomatic negotiations with the United States to end the war. Despite sustaining serious injuries in the same strike in which his father, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed along with several senior Iranian military commanders on the first day of the attack launched by the United States and Israel, Mojtaba has reportedly remained deeply involved in shaping Iran's wartime strategy, directing military operations, and guiding diplomatic efforts aimed at reaching a settlement with Washington, according to assessments by U.S. intelligence officials. CNN reported that Mojtaba suffered severe burns across his face, arm, torso, and leg. US intelligence believes he is playing a pivotal role even as he recovers largely out of public view, communicating exclusively through in-person meetings or handwritten notes carried by couriers, deliberately avoiding any electronic communication. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian confirmed this week that he had held a two-and-a-half-hour face-to-face meeting with Mojtaba, the first publicly confirmed encounter between the new supreme leader and a senior Iranian official since the attack.

Mazaher Hosseini, head of protocol in the office of Iran's Supreme Leader, said on Friday that Khamenei is recovering from his injuries and "is now in complete health."

Transparency International Bangladesh exec director alleges 'well-known journalists' instigated attacks on offices of media houses Prothom Alo, Daily Star

Dhaka. (Agency)

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman has alleged that the December 18 attacks on the offices of prominent Bangladeshi media outlets Prothom Alo, and The Daily Star last year had help from within the media community, alleging that some "well known journalists" were involved in instigating the attacks. Speaking at the inaugural session of the Bangladesh Journalism Conference 2026, organised by MRDI at the Radisson Blu Water Garden hotel, he said, "Enemies within the media, alongside external forces, also worked behind these attacks."

"There is documentary evidence that some well known media personnel were among the instigators, and certain quarters expressed glee over the incidents."

He further criticised the former Md Yunus led interim government's silence, indifference, and inaction of law enforcement agencies and the army over the attacks, adding that journalism remains one of the most hazardous professions globally, with 26 journalists in the country killed within the past decade.

The outlets were attacked by mobs due to their supposed "pro-Hasina", and "pro-India" stance, following the death of vocal anti-India spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi, with his Islamist group, the Inqilab Moncha being at the forefront of the attacks.

Additionally, critics and social media reports have questioned the role of Faruk Wasif, who was appointed Director General of the Press Institute Bangladesh (PIB) shortly before the attacks, alleging that he acted as an "influencer" whose rhetoric may have contributed to the climate of hostility against these specific media houses.

Iraq rejects US allegations of Deputy Oil Minister Ali Bahadil helping Iran evade sanctions

Baghdad/Washington. (Agency)

Iraq has rejected US allegations against its Deputy Oil Minister Ali Maarij al-Bahadli, who Washington hit with sanctions following allegations he was helping Iran evade sanctions on its oil exports.

Announced late Thursday, the sanctions are the latest tool used by the US State Department as part of its broader pressure tactics to force Baghdad on curbing its supposed ties with Iran-linked networks and militias. According to the State Department, Bahadli "abused his government position to divert Iraqi oil in support of the Iranian regime and its terrorist proxies." US officials accused him of helping facilitate the fraudulent blending of Iraqi and Iranian crude oil in order to disguise the origin of sanctioned Iranian shipments and move them onto international markets.

Pushing back against the US allegations, the Iraqi oil ministry releasing a statement said that it "denies the accusations" against Bahadli, and stressed "the importance of transparency in addressing all ... accusations on the basis of evidence and facts," according to the INA state news agency.

It added that Iraqi authorities were prepared to investigate the matter, but argued that the deputy minister's official responsibilities do not include "crude oil export operations, marketing, loading onto tankers, and related procedures."

The dispute comes amid growing tensions between Washington and Tehran following the outbreak of war earlier this year. The United States has intensified efforts to crack down on networks suspected of helping Iran bypass sanctions, particularly through oil exports and maritime trade.

Trump says expecting Iran's response to latest US proposal tonight

Donald Trump said he expected to hear from Iran by Friday night on Washington's latest proposal to end the war, even as Tehran indicated it had not yet finalised its response and was still

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he expected to hear from Iran by the night on Washington's latest proposal aimed at ending the war, even as Tehran indicated it was still reviewing the offer and had not yet finalised its response.

"I'm getting a letter supposedly tonight. So we'll see how that goes," Trump told reporters outside the White House before departing for his golf course in Sterling,

Virginia. When asked if Iran was intentionally slowing the process, Trump replied: "We'll find out soon enough."

According to CNN, citing Iranian media, Iran is still reviewing "messages" sent by the United States through Pakistani mediators and has not yet reached a final decision on the proposal.

The proposed agreement is a one-page, 14-point memorandum designed to halt the conflict and open formal negotiations between Washington and Tehran. Under the plan, Iran could pause nuclear enrichment activities, while the United States may ease sanctions and release billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets.

The proposal also reportedly includes steps by both sides to reduce restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route that has remained at the centre of recent military tensions. The agreement would begin with a 30-day negotiation period intended to pave the way for a broader long-term deal.

FRESH TENSIONS IN HORMUZ

The diplomatic push comes amid continued military friction in and around the Strait of Hormuz. An Iranian military source warned that clashes could resume if the



United States interferes again with Iranian vessels in the region. While describing the current situation as "calm", the source said there remained "a possibility of re-entering such conflicts" if US forces attempted to disrupt Iranian ships, according to Iran's Tasnim news agency.

Iran's Fars news agency earlier reported "sporadic clashes" between Iranian forces and US naval ships in the strategic waterway. The escalation followed statements from US Central Command (CENTCOM), which said American forces struck two empty Iranian-flagged oil tankers allegedly attempting to breach an ongoing US blockade by entering an Iranian port through the Gulf of Oman.

CENTCOM also said US forces carried out strikes on Iranian military targets after Tehran's forces attacked three American destroyers transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday. "US forces intercepted unprovoked Iranian attacks and responded with self-defense strikes as US Navy guided-missile destroyers transited the Strait of Hormuz to the Gulf of Oman," CENTCOM said.

Iran's central military command, however, accused Washington of violating the ceasefire.

Gulf fighting flares as CIA report says Tehran can resist blockade for 4 months

World. (Agency)

Efforts to end the war between the US and Iran appeared to lose momentum on Friday as both sides exchanged fire in the Gulf, while a CIA assessment suggested Tehran could endure a naval blockade for several more months.

According to a US official familiar with the intelligence analysis, Iran would not face severe economic pressure from a US blockade of its ports for around four months, indicating Washington's leverage over Tehran may remain limited despite mounting military and economic pressure.

The assessment, first reported by The Washington Post,



came as tensions sharply escalated in and around the Strait of Hormuz, where some of the heaviest clashes since the April 7 ceasefire were reported this week.

The United Arab Emirates also faced renewed attacks on Friday, with authorities saying air defences intercepted two ballistic missiles and three drones launched from Iran. Three people suffered moderate injuries, officials said. Washington is awaiting Tehran's response to a US proposal aimed at formally ending the conflict before negotiations begin on broader issues, including Iran's nuclear programme.

"We should know something today," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters in Rome, according to Reuters. "We're expecting a response from them."

However, Iran's foreign ministry said Tehran was still considering its response, with no formal reply announced by late Friday.

CLASHES CONTINUE IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Iranian and US forces were involved in sporadic clashes in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday, according to Iran's semi-official Fars news agency. Tasnim later quoted an Iranian military source as saying the situation had calmed, though further confrontations remained possible. The US military said it struck two Iran-linked vessels attempting to enter an Iranian port, with a fighter jet targeting the ships' smokestacks and forcing them to retreat. Iran has largely restricted non-Iranian shipping through the strategic waterway since the conflict began with joint US-Israeli airstrikes across Iran on February 28.

WHO confirms 6 Hantavirus cases, 3 deaths linked to Spain-bound cruise ship

The WHO has confirmed a hantavirus outbreak linked to a cruise ship after eight people fell ill and three died. The agency said the wider global risk remains low, though the onboard risk is moderate.

World. (Agency)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Friday confirmed a hantavirus outbreak linked to the cruise ship MV Hondius, with eight people falling ill and three deaths reported so far. The agency said six of the infections have been laboratory-confirmed as Andes virus, a type of hantavirus, while two other cases are considered probable.

According to the WHO, the confirmed infections were identified through PCR testing. The outbreak was first reported on May 2 when the vessel had 147 passengers and crew members on board. Authorities said another 34 individuals had already left the ship

before the outbreak came to light.

The cruise ship departed from Cabo Verde on May 6 and is currently heading toward Spain's Canary Islands, where passengers are expected to disembark. Health authorities are continuing to monitor passengers and crew as the vessel proceeds on its route.

Of the infected individuals, four remain



hospitalised in South Africa, Netherlands and Switzerland. Another suspected patient who was transferred to Germany later tested negative for the virus, the WHO added.

The UN health agency assessed the risk to the wider global population as low,

but described the risk to passengers and crew on the ship as moderate due to the confined environment and close contact among travelers. Investigators believe the first patient may have contracted the infection before boarding the cruise ship, possibly while travelling in Argentina and Chile. Subsequent transmission is believed to have occurred on board the vessel.

Hantaviruses are typically spread through contact with infected rodents, their urine, droppings or saliva. The Andes virus strain is of particular concern because it is one of the few hantaviruses known to spread from person to person in limited circumstances. Symptoms can initially resemble flu-like illness, including fever, muscle aches and fatigue, but severe infections may lead to respiratory complications and death.

The WHO said it is working with national authorities to trace contacts, monitor exposed individuals and strengthen surveillance linked to the outbreak.

Russia, Ukraine agree to 3-day Trump-mediated ceasefire, prisoner swap

SEOUL. (Agency)

Russia and Ukraine confirmed on Friday that they had agreed to a three-day ceasefire announced by US President Donald Trump, with the truce set to run from May 9 to May 11 amid ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the more than four-year-long war.

Trump, posting on Truth Social, said the ceasefire would include a complete halt to "all kinetic activity" as well as a major prisoner exchange involving 1,000 prisoners from each side.

"This request was made directly by me, and I very much appreciate its agreement by President Vladimir Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy," Trump wrote. "Hopefully, it is the beginning of the end of a very long, deadly, and hard fought War."

Trump added that negotiations aimed at

ending the conflict were continuing and progress was being made every day. US President Donald Trump later said he would like to see a ceasefire in



Russia's war in Ukraine extended beyond three days.

According to Reuters, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed the agreement in a Telegram post, saying the ceasefire had been arranged through US-mediated negotiations and stressing

that humanitarian issues remained a priority.

"That is why today, within the framework of the negotiation process mediated by the American side, we received Russia's agreement to conduct a prisoner of war exchange in the format of 1,000 for 1,000," Zelenskyy said.

In a symbolic gesture, Zelenskyy also issued a tongue-in-cheek decree "allowing" Russia's May 9 Victory Day parade to proceed, saying Ukrainian weapons would not target Moscow's Red Square during the commemorations.

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov, speaking on behalf of Russian President Vladimir Putin, confirmed Moscow's participation in the ceasefire initiative and said the agreement had been reached during telephone discussions with the US administration.

US sanctions China, Hong Kong firms over Iran drone and missile supplies

The United States has sanctioned 10 individuals and companies accused of helping Iran procure drone and missile components. The move signals possible wider action against foreign networks supporting Tehran as regional tensions remain high.

World. (Agency)

The US Treasury on Friday imposed sanctions on 10 individuals and companies, including entities based in China and Hong Kong, accusing them of helping Iran procure weapons components and raw materials used in Shahed drones and ballistic missiles.

The move comes as efforts to end the war with Iran remain stalled and days before US President Donald Trump is scheduled to travel to China for talks with President Xi Jinping.

In a statement, the Treasury Department said it remained prepared to take further economic action against Iran's military-industrial base to prevent Tehran from rebuilding its production capabilities.

The department also warned that it could target foreign companies and financial institutions supporting illicit Iranian

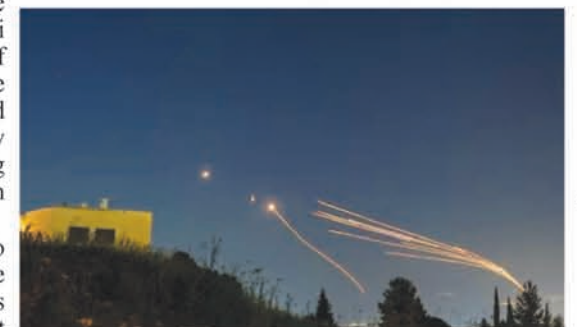
commerce, including those linked to China's independent "teapot" oil refineries and airlines aiding Iran's activities.

Among the entities sanctioned were China-based Yushita Shanghai International Trade Co Ltd, accused of facilitating Iran's attempts to acquire weapons from China, and Dubai-based Elite Energy FZCO, which allegedly transferred millions of dollars to a Hong Kong company involved in procurement operations.

Hong Kong-based HK Hesen Industry Co Ltd and Belarus-based Armory Alliance LLC were accused of acting as intermediaries in the procurement network, while Hong Kong-based Mustad Ltd allegedly facilitated weapons procurement for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Iran-based Pishgam Electronic Safeh Co was

sanctioned for procuring motors used in drones, while China-based Hitex Insulation Ningbo Co Ltd was accused of



supplying materials used in ballistic missile production. Brett Erickson, managing principal at Obsidian Risk Advisors, said the sanctions were aimed at limiting Iran's ability to threaten shipping

in the Strait of Hormuz and regional allies. Iran shut the Strait of Hormuz following US and Israeli strikes on Iranian targets on

February 28. The closure has severely disrupted shipping through the strategic waterway, through which roughly one-fifth of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas supplies pass, pushing energy prices sharply higher.

According to the British government-funded Centre for Information Resilience, Iran has the industrial capacity to manufacture around 10,000 drones per month. Erickson said the latest sanctions remained narrowly targeted, giving Iran time

to adapt its procurement routes, and noted that Washington had not yet targeted Chinese banks that continue to support Iran's economy.

The interesting part about the IBL project is that it is not just launching a tournament and hoping things somehow work out later.



Sonam Kapoor

Pens Romantic Note On 8th Wedding Anniversary With Anand Ahuja: ‘The Calm In My Chaos’

Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja, one of the most loved and popular couples of B-Town, are celebrating their eighth wedding anniversary today. What makes the occasion even more special is that it also marks a decade of togetherness for the couple. On this occasion, the actress shared a heartfelt, romantic note expressing how much she loves her hubby, and also shared unseen glimpses from their day-to-day life with their sons.

Sonam Kapoor Wishes Anand Ahuja A Happy Anniversary
On May 8, Sonam Kapoor shared a collage of unseen pictures with Anand Ahuja. One of the adorable photos shows Sonam holding their newborn son in her arms, while Anand is seen with their three-year-old son Vayu as they both put the children to sleep. In her caption, the actress wrote, “A decade with you. Eight years married. Three cities. Three homes. Two beautiful boys. Countless dreams built from scratch. So many risks taken, lessons learnt, businesses created, failures survived, victories celebrated and moments where we held each other a little tighter through the uncertainty of it all.”

Sonam Kapoor Calls Anand Ahuja ‘The Calm In My Chaos’
She further added, “And somehow, through every version of life we’ve lived together, one thing has only become more certain...my love, respect and compassion for you have only grown deeper. You are still the first person I want to speak to in the morning and the last person I want beside me at night. The calm in my chaos. The person who makes me feel safest, strongest and most myself.”

Sonam then expressed her love for Anand Ahuja and wrote, “Ten years later, I love you more gently, more intentionally and more completely than I knew was possible when we first began. Thank you for building this life with me. For the laughter, the friendship, the resilience, the family and the kind of love that evolves instead of fades. There’s nobody else I’d rather do this life with. Happy anniversary my love. #everydayphenomenal.” Sonam Kapoor and businessman Anand Ahuja got married in 2018. Their wedding took place in Mumbai and it was a star-studded affair. Almost the whole of Bollywood such as Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Rani Mukerji, Ranveer Singh, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, and others were a part of the wedding festivities. The couple welcomed their first child, son Vayu, in August 2022. They welcomed their second son in March 2026.



Tanishaa Mukerji

Calls Her Bigg Boss Experience ‘Traumatic’: ‘People Went After My Family’

Tanishaa Mukerji, who was the first runner-up of Bigg Boss 7, recently opened up about her time on the reality show, describing the experience as ‘traumatic’ and emotionally overwhelming. The actress revealed that she entered the controversial reality show without fully understanding its nature. She said that she



was extremely naïve back then, and hadn’t even watched the show before entering the BB house. She further claimed that several contestants used her sister Kajol, brother-in-law Ajay Devgn’s name to gain screen time during the season.

Tanishaa Mukerji Recalls Her ‘Traumatic’ Bigg Boss Experience

While speaking with Mamaraazzi, Tanishaa said, “A lot of people still remember me from Bigg Boss and say things like, ‘Tanisha is so cool, entertaining and honest.’ But definitely on Bigg

Boss, I don’t think I spoke out as much because, I wasn’t very comfortable with the language.” She said that while it’s embarrassing to admit, most of her communication was in English and not Hindi, and that her Hindi is much better now than it was 10-12 years ago. “At that time, a lot of my communication was cut from the show because I spoke in English,” she said.

Tanishaa Claims Co-Contestants Were Using Her Family’s Name For Screen Time

She further added that she consciously chose not to speak about many things, as she did not want to get into fights or situations that could invite backlash against her family. However, she said that people were just finding reasons to speak about her and her family. “I had no idea until I came out of the house that people were using my name, my sister’s name, my brother-in-

law’s name just to get screen time. That was my naivety. Today, I would never put myself in that position again where anybody feels they have the right to say anything about my family because of me,” she said.

She said that she never resorted to attack contestants personally or never brought up their families during arguments. “That experience definitely made me a lot more guarded because people really did go after my family. Even the channel upset me at times,” she said.



Shakti Kapoor SLAMS Fake Death Rumours, Threatens Cyber Complaint: ‘I Am Healthy And Happy’



Veteran Bollywood actor Shakti Kapoor has strongly reacted to fake rumours about his death that recently surfaced on social media. The actor shared a video message on Instagram and dismissed the reports as ‘completely fake’. He also warned that he would file a cyber complaint against those responsible for spreading the misinformation online.

‘My Death News Is Fake’: Shakti Kapoor

The rumours began circulating widely across social media platforms, leaving fans shocked and concerned. Soon after the reports went viral, Shakti Kapoor released a video message on Instagram clarifying that he is safe and healthy. In the video shared online, the actor said, “My death news is all fake. I am healthy and happy. Please ignore it.” Shakti Kapoor further stated that he intends to take action against those circulating the fake news. “I am going to do a cyber complain about it. But this is not good. It’s not good,” he said, in the video, urging people to avoid forwarding unverified information.

Last year, Raza Murad faced a similar ordeal when false reports about his death surfaced online. The actor later filed a complaint at Andheri Police Station after a social media post wrongly claimed that he had passed away. Speaking to ANI, Murad revealed that the post not only spread fake news about his demise but also suggested that despite spending decades in the film industry, no one remembered him. He said, “This should stop now. It is not only about me. Celebrities are often declared dead while they are still alive. This is wrong, and whoever does this should be punished.”

About Shakti Kapoor
Coming back to Shakti Kapoor, the veteran actor remains one of the most recognised names in the Hindi film industry. Best known for his comic timing and memorable negative roles, Kapoor enjoyed immense popularity during the 1980s and 1990s, especially through his collaborations with late actors Asrani and Kader Khan. Some of his most loved films include Raja Babu, Andaz Apna Apna, ChaalBaaz, Coolie No. 1, Judwaa, Satte Pe Satta and Bol Radha Bol, among others.

Twinkle Khanna Has A Hilarious Reaction To Karan Johar's MET Gala Look: 'Come Over Wearing This And...'



Actor-author Twinkle Khanna shared her hilarious reaction to filmmaker Karan Johar’s recent appearance at the prestigious Met Gala. Taking to her social media account, Twinkle shared a picture of Karan from the fashion event and couldn’t help but admire his dramatic and artistic ensemble.

She wrote, “Wah! Now come over wearing this and I will hang you up on my wall you piece of art @karanjohar.” For the uninitiated, Karan made a statement on the red carpet of Met Gala on Tuesday.

The filmmaker was seen in an elaborate black outfit featuring intricate embroidery, regal detailing, and a cape-like silhouette that instantly grabbed attention. As he made his MET Gala debut, Karan penned a note of gratitude on his social media, saying that life really does come full circle in the most unexpected ways. Karan wore an ensemble inspired by Raja Ravi Varma’s art designed by Manish Malhotra for the MET Gala theme “Costume Art.”

“From loving cinema and costume as a wide-eyed dreamer to standing on the steps of THE Met Gala...life really does come full circle in the most unexpected ways.

This moment wasn’t just about fashion for me,” Karan wrote. “About taking the legacy of Raja Ravi Varma and letting it live again... this time, not on canvas, but in motion. To representing India and our culture, our art and our storytelling on the global ‘steps’. Thirty years of friendship and collaboration with Manish Malhotra and still creating firsts together – so grateful to you and your team for this core memory.”

For the uninitiated, Twinkle and Karan have known each other for decades. Both belong to Bollywood families, with Karan Johar being the son of filmmaker Yash Johar and Twinkle the daughter of late superstar Rajesh Khanna. Karan, in an episode of the reality show Koffee with Karan, the filmmaker had admitted to having a crush on Twinkle while growing up.