



CHAKRADHARPUR : चक्रधरपुर के पंचमोड़ स्थित वेंकटेश्वर बालाजी मंदिर में आयोजित 43वें वार्षिकोत्सव ब्रह्मोत्सव के दूसरे दिन बुधवार को सामूहिक कुमकुम पूजा एवं तुलसी अर्चना हुई। सुबह से ही भगवान वेंकटेश्वर की पूजा-अर्चना आरंभ हो गई थी। तिरुपति से आए पंडितों के मंत्रोच्चार से पूरा क्षेत्र गूंज उठा। भक्तों ने गोविंदा-गोविंदा श्रीनिवासा गोविंदा... का जाप किया। सामूहिक कुमकुम अर्चना में करीब 100 युवतियां और सुहागिनें शामिल हुईं। मंत्रोच्चार के बीच हल्दी, सुपारी, पान, अक्षत, मिष्ठान, रक्षासूत्र सहित पूजन सामग्री सत्यनारायण भगवान को अर्पित कर श्रद्धालुओं ने सुख-समृद्धि का आशीर्वाद मांगा। अंत में श्रद्धालुओं के बीच महाप्रसाद वितरित किया गया। पूजा से पहले भगवान बालाजी की पालकी को मंदिर परिसर में पंडितों ने मंत्रोच्चार और गाजे-बाजे के साथ भ्रमण कराया। बुधवार को देर शाम भगवान वेंकटेश्वर का कल्याणम (विवाह) हुआ। विवाह से पहले भगवान बालाजी, माता पदमावती(लक्ष्मी) एवं माता अंडाल् (भूदेवी) की मूर्तियों को सोने-चांदी के गहने और रेशमी वस्त्र से श्रृंगार किया गया। कार्यक्रम आममशास्त्र पंडित अनंतनारायणचायुर्लु के तत्वावधान में सभी कार्यक्रम किया गया। इसके साथ ही ब्रह्मोत्सव संपन्न हो गया।

शिक्षकों की कमी के विरोध में हुआ धरना-प्रदर्शन



CHAIBASA : आरटीई-एक्ट 2009 के तहत शिक्षकों की बहाली और विद्यालयों में मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने की मांग करते हुए बाल अधिकार सुरक्षा मंच चक्रधरपुर-बंदगांव द्वारा चक्रधरपुर प्रखंड कार्यालय परिसर में बुधवार को विधानसभा स्तरीय धरना-प्रदर्शन किया गया। इस मौके पर मंच के अध्यक्ष विजय सिंह सामंड ने बताया कि बीडीओ को मुख्यमंत्री के नाम 21 सूत्री मांगपत्र सौंपा गया है। इसमें आरटीई एक्ट 2009 के अनुसार शिक्षकों की अविलंब नियुक्ति करने, आंगनबाड़ी के साथ मध्य एवं उच्च विद्यालय में समुचित व्यवस्था करने, रसोईया दीदियों को नियमित करने, सभी पंचायत में (प्राथमिक, मध्य एवं उच्च विद्यालय) में जरूरत के अनुसार छात्रावास बनाने आदि प्रमुख हैं। धरना को लक्ष्मी हांसदा, दयासागर केराई, काश्मीर कांडेयांग, कुश पुरती, साहेब हेंब्रम आदि ने भी विचार रखे।

एनएसयूआई ने फूँका पीएम व केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री का पुतला

CHAIBASA : नीट-2026 परीक्षा पेपर लीक प्रकरण को लेकर कांग्रेस के छात्र संगठन एनएसयूआई ने बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान का पुतला दहन किया। नारेबाजी के बीच कांग्रेस भवन, चाईबासा के सामने हुए पुतला दहन के दौरान एनएसयूआई के जिलाध्यक्ष अनीष गोप, जिला महासचिव सचिन बिरुवा, सदस्य संजु कुंकल, रूप सिंह बिरुवा, अरुण हेम्ब्रम, पूर्व नगर अध्यक्ष अजय कुमार, मो. अरसलाम, संजय साव, सुशील दास आदि भी उपस्थित थे।

बिष्टुपुर के एक घर में बंद विवाहिता को पुलिस ने कराया मुक्त, परिजनों पर आरोप

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

शहर के बिष्टुपुर थाना क्षेत्र के गरमनाला स्थित बीएसएनएल ऑफिस के पास एक विवाहिता को कथित रूप से कमरे में बंद कर प्रताड़ित किए जाने का मामला सामने आया है। पीड़िता रोशनी कुमारी वर्मा की मां प्रभा देवी ने आरोप लगाया है कि उनकी बेटी को उसके ससुराल वालों ने कमरे में कैद कर बाहर से ताला लगा दिया था। घटना की जानकारी मिलने के बाद समाजसेवी रानी गुला और पुलिस के हस्तक्षेप से महिला को कमरे से बाहर निकाला गया। प्रभा देवी ने बताया कि उनकी बेटी ने कौटिल्य नामक युवक से प्रेम विवाह किया था। परिवार की नाराजगी के बावजूद दोनों की शादी हुई, लेकिन शादी के कुछ समय बाद से ही रोशनी को प्रताड़ित



अपनी पीड़ा बताती महिला
किया जाने लगा। उनका आरोप है कि पिछले दो वर्षों तक बेटी को मायके में रखा गया और जब वह दोबारा ससुराल पहुंची तो उसके साथ मारपीट और मानसिक उत्पीड़न शुरू हो गया। पीड़िता ने आरोप लगाया कि उसके सास-ससुर उसे बहू मानने से इनकार कर रहे हैं, जबकि पति भी साथ रखने को लेकर टालमटोल कर रहा है। रोशनी ने बताया कि घटना वाली

रात उसे कमरे में बंद कर दिया गया था। खाने-पीने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई और शौच के लिए कमरे में केवल एक बाल्टी रख दी गई। जब उसकी मां मिलने पहुंचीं तो उनके साथ भी धक्का-मुक्की और मारपीट की गई। परिवार को बेटी को साथ ले जाने पर गंभीर परिणाम भुगतने की धमकी भी दी गई। पीड़िता ने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि जब उसने मोबाइल से वीडियो रिकॉर्डिंग करने की कोशिश की तो उसका फोन छीन लिया गया और तोड़ने का प्रयास किया गया। प्रभा देवी ने बताया कि उन्होंने पहले ही पुलिस में शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी और इंजरी रिपोर्ट भी बनवाई थी। फिलहाल पुलिस मामले की जांच में जुटी है, जबकि पीड़िता और उसके परिजन सुरक्षा तथा न्याय की मांग कर रहे हैं।

आंदोलन जान-बूझकर मजदूरों को आपस में लड़ा रहा प्रबंधन, आर-पार की लड़ाई को यूनियन तैयार : रामा पांडे

सेल की खदान में चक्काजाम के बीच टेका मजदूरों का काम बंद, बड़ी चिंता

PHOTON NEWS CHAIBASA :

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के गुवा स्थित सेल (स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड) के खदान में स्थानीय युवाओं की बहाली को लेकर चल रहे अनिश्चितकालीन चक्काजाम आंदोलन के बीच बुधवार को सेल प्रबंधन ने बड़ा फैसला ले लिया। प्रबंधन ने गुवा में कार्यरत सभी टेकेदारों के साथ बैठक कर निर्देश दिया कि जब तक आंदोलन जारी रहेगा, तब तक किसी भी ठेका मजदूर को काम पर नहीं लगाया जाए। प्रबंधन के इस फैसले के बाद क्षेत्र में ठेका मजदूरों के बीच चिंता का माहौल बन गया है। रोज कमाने-खाने वाले मजदूरों के सामने परिवार चलाने का



साईंस के बाहर प्रदर्शन करते ग्रामीण
संकट खड़ा हो गया है। मजदूरों का कहना है कि काम बंद होने से उनकी रोजी-रोटी पर सीधा असर पड़ेगा। झारखंड मजदूर संघर्ष संघ यूनियन के केंद्रीय अध्यक्ष रामा पांडे ने सेल प्रबंधन की नीति पर

कड़ी प्रतिक्रिया दी। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रबंधन जान-बूझकर मजदूरों को आपस में लड़ा रहा है। रामा पांडे ने आरोप लगाया कि प्रबंधन आंदोलन का समाधान निकालने की बजाय मजदूरों पर दबाव बनाने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि ठेका मजदूर रोज कमाने-खाने वाले लोग हैं। यदि उन्हें काम से बैठा दिया गया तो उनके सामने परिवार चलाने का गंभीर संकट खड़ा हो जाएगा और भूखे मरने जैसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हो सकती है।

मजदूर विरोधी नीति का होगा विरोध

रामा पांडे ने चेतावनी दी कि सेल प्रबंधन की इस मजदूर विरोधी नीति को किसी भी कीमत पर बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि मजदूरों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए यूनियन अब आर-पार की लड़ाई लड़ने को तैयार है।



खदान क्षेत्र में तनावपूर्ण स्थिति लगातार जारी आंदोलन और प्रबंधन के नए फैसले के बाद गुवा खदान क्षेत्र में तनावपूर्ण स्थिति बनी हुई है। स्थानीय युवाओं की बहाली की मांग को लेकर मुंडा-मानकी संघ के बैनर तले चल रहा आंदोलन पहले से ही खदान,

क्रशर प्लांट और परिवहन व्यवस्था को प्रभावित कर रहा है। प्रबंधन और आंदोलनकारियों के बीच अब तक कोई ठोस समझौता नहीं निकल सका है। यूनियन ने साफ किया है कि जब तक मजदूरों के हितों की रक्षा नहीं होती, आंदोलन जारी रहेगा।

सीबीएसई : 12वीं में 92.3% विद्यार्थी हुए पास, 1.1 प्रतिशत गिरा रिजल्ट

स्टेट टॉपर की सूची से शहर के छात्र लगभग गायब, टॉपरों के अंकों में भी गिरावट

सीबीएसई-12वीं के टॉप टेन की सूची

साइंस		
रैंक	छात्र-छात्रा	प्रतिशत
1	सायरा दाता	97.6%
2	सार्थक सिंह	97.0%
3	पीयूष दास	96.8%
4	हिनी फिरदौस	96%
5	सालेहा परवीन	95.8%
6	पियूष बिस्वास	95.4%
7	शीतल कुमारी	95.2%
7	मो.फ़रहान अहमद	95.2%
7	प्रियाशु कुड़ू	95.2%
7	आशीष राज	95.2%
8	अदीब अख्तर	94.8%
8	मुकुल महतो	94.8%
9	एस राजश्री नायडू	94.6%
10	श्रीमोन चंद्रा	94.4%

कॉमर्स		
रैंक	छात्र-छात्रा	प्रतिशत
1	श्रेयाशी धल	98.6%
2	संस्कृति सिंह	95.6%
3	अभय कु. पटेल	95.4%
4	पलक अग्रवाल	94.6%
5	सिद्धि कुमारी	94.4%

5-	भूमि कुमारी	94.4%
6-	अनिबान दास	94.2%
6-	लखिन्द्र बाधुक	94.2%
7-	निषा जायसवाल	93.6%
8-	शालू शर्मा	93.2%
8-	अंकिता हासदा	93.2%
9-	अनिमेष कुमार	93.0%
10-	हर्षरीत कौर	92.8%

आर्ट्स		
रैंक	छात्र-छात्रा	प्रतिशत
1-	प्रज्ञा शर्मा	98.0%
2-	रिया बिसाई	95.4%
3-	अनुष्का	94.8%
4-	शरीना बिस्वाल	94.4%
5-	निकिता दास	94.2%
6-	रोहित राज सिंह	93.4%
7-	दर्शना शाही	93.0%
7-	पायसम प्रियंका/श्रुति पालित	93.0%
8-	अनुष्का	92.4%
9-	दार्मिनी रॉयचौधरी	91.0%
9-	अंदलीब कौशर	91.0%
10-	श्रेयांश सिंह	90.2%

मुकाबले टॉपरों के अंक में गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। यही वजह है कि इस बार स्टेट टॉपर की सूची

घाटशिला के डायनमरी गांव में घर तोड़कर हाथी खा गया दो बोरी धान



ध्वस्त हुए घर का मुआयना करते पहुंचे पदाधिकारी

GHATSILA : झॉटीझरना होते हुए डायनमरी गांव में मंगलवार को रात लगभग 11 बजे एक विशाल हाथी ने पांडू हेंब्रम के घर पर हमला कर दिया। घर की मोटी दीवार तोड़कर हाथी दो बोरी धान खा गया। दीवार गिरने की आवाज और हाथी की चिंघाड़ से गांव वाले उठकर शोर मचाने लगे। पांडू हेंब्रम की पत्नी हाथी को देखकर डर गई और जान बचाकर भागने लगी, लेकिन अंधेरा होने के कारण वह गिर पड़ी। इस

बीच गांव वाले शोर मचाते रहे और हाथी धान खाता रहा। दूसरे दिन बुधवार को सुबह में उत्कृष्टित उच्च विद्यालय झॉटीझरना के शिक्षक उधर से गुजर रहे थे, तो ग्रामीणों ने शिक्षक डॉ. कमर अली और किशोर कुमार बांद्रा को आगाह किया कि आगे भी हाथी हो सकता है। इसके बाद वे जैसे ही आगे बढ़े, हाथी की लौढ़ार रास्ते में दिखी, जिससे वे सतर्क हो गए। पता चला की रात भर हाथी इधर ही घूम रहा था।

हाथियों के हमले से प्रभावित 6 परिवारों को मिला मुआवजा

CHAIBASA : पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के पोड़ाहाट वन प्रमंडल अंतर्गत आनंदपुर वन प्रक्षेत्र में हाथियों के उत्पात से प्रभावित 6 परिवारों को मुआवजा मिल गया। सभी प्रभावित ग्रामीण बुधवार को आनंदपुर से चक्रधरपुर आए थे, जहां विधायक आवास पर विधायक जगत माझी ने हाथियों के हमले में जान गंवाने वाले प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के आश्रितों को 3.80 लाख रुपये का चेक सौंपा। प्रभावितों को पहले ही 20 हजार रुपये की तत्काल सहायता राशि दी गई थी। इसके अलावा जानमाल के नुकसान के साथ मकान और फसल क्षति के लिए भी मुआवजा प्रदान किया गया। मुआवजा पाने वालों में संजय खलखो, जयवन जोजोगार, जीवनी उरांव, सिंफेदर सुंड़ी, मनमोही लुगुन और सलन लुगुन शामिल हैं। स्थानीय लोगों का कहना है कि प्रभावित ग्रामीणों को मुआवजा तब मिला, जब वे आनंदपुर से चक्रधरपुर पहुंचे। वन विभाग को यह मुआवजा उनके गांव में ही दिया जा सकता था।



पूडित परिवार को चेक देते विधायक जगत माझी



दुकान को ध्वस्त करता बुलडोजर

चक्रधरपुर में तीसरे दिन भी चला अतिक्रमण पर बुलडोजर

CHAIBASA : पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के चक्रधरपुर में अतिक्रमण हटाओ अभियान तीसरे दिन बुधवार को भी चला। एनएच-75ई पर हनुमान चौक, प्रभात सिनेमा से लेकर पोटका के लाल गिरजा तक अतिक्रमित कई दुकानों को तोड़ा गया। मजिस्ट्रेट के तौर पर अंचलाधिकारी सुरेश कुमार सिन्हा के नेतृत्व में नगर परिषद और पुलिस प्रशासन के संयुक्त अभियान में दुकानदारों से 1500 रुपये जुमाना भी वसूला गया। यहां बता दें कि सोमवार से ही नगर परिषद शहर में अतिक्रमण हटाओ अभियान चला रहा है। संभावना है कि एनएच 75 ई में अभियान समाप्त होने के बाद गुरुवार से बाजार क्षेत्र में अभियान चलाया जाएगा। बाटा रोड, पोस्टऑफिस रोड, तंबाकू पट्टी, पुराना रांची रोड में अभियान चलाना बाकी है। अभियान के दौरान नगर परिषद कार्यालय और पुलिस प्रशासन के पदाधिकारी भी तैनात थे।

स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के एटीएम की सुरक्षा में तैनात गार्डों ने बिष्टुपुर में किया प्रदर्शन

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

शहर में स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया के एटीएम की सुरक्षा में तैनात करीब 140 महिला और पुरुष गार्डों ने बुधवार को बिष्टुपुर स्थित एसबीआई कार्यालय के बाहर जोरदार प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने बैंगलुरु की निजी सुरक्षा एजेंसी पर अचानक नौकरी से निकालने, पीएफ की राशि जमा नहीं करने और अप्रैल महीने का वेतन रोकने का गंभीर आरोप लगाया। गार्डों का कहना है कि 28 अप्रैल को एजेंसी की ओर से उन्हें नोटिस देकर सेवा समाप्त कर दी गई। प्रदर्शन कर रहे कर्मचारियों ने बताया कि वे पिछले कई वर्षों से शहर के विभिन्न एटीएम केंद्रों में सुरक्षा गार्ड के रूप में कार्यरत थे, लेकिन बिना किसी पूर्व तैयारी या वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था के उन्हें हटा दिया गया। प्रदर्शनकारी वृजेश कुमार



प्रदर्शन कर रहे सुरक्षा कर्मियों से बातचीत करते पुलिस पदाधिकारी

सिंह और संगीत देवी ने आरोप लगाया कि पिछले 15 महीनों से उनके वेतन से पीएफ और ग्रेच्युटी के नाम पर कटौती की जा रही थी, लेकिन वह राशि उनके खाते में जमा नहीं हुई। उन्होंने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि बैंक से जुड़े कर्मचारी राजकुमार पांडे की ओर से पीएफ जमा होने की फर्जी स्लिप दी जाती रही। कर्मचारियों का कहना है कि बैंगलोर की डब्ल्यू डब्ल्यू एओ

नामक सुरक्षा कंपनी ने पीएफ जमा नहीं किया और कर्मचारियों को गुमराह किया गया। धरना के दौरान कई प्रदर्शनकारी पुलिस से भी उलझ गए और राजकुमार पांडे को सामने लाने की मांग करने लगे। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने एसबीआई प्रबंधन से मांग की कि नई एजेंसी की नियुक्ति होने पर हटाए गए सभी 140 गार्डों को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर दोबारा काम पर रखा जाए।

खरकई नदी में डूबे युवक का दो घंटे बाद मिला शव

CHAIBASA :

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के मंझारी थाना अंतर्गत तांतनगर ओपी क्षेत्र के नारगौं गांव में खरकई नदी में डूबने से 24 वर्षीय युवक सनी दुडू की मौत हो गई। ग्रामीणों ने करीब दो घंटे के बाद उसका शव नदी से निकाला। पोलका गांव निवासी सनी दुडू अपने दोस्त गुणेश्वर माडों के घर नारगौं गांव आया था। सनी 16 मई को आर्मीजेंट होने वाले डबरा बुरु सेंद्र पर्व मेले में शामिल होने की योजना बना रहा था। वह पांच दोस्तों के साथ खरकई नदी में नहाने गया था। नहाने के दौरान वह अपने साथियों से अलग दिशा में तैरते हुए चला गया। शुरूआत में दोस्तों को लगा कि वह आसपास ही होगा। लेकिन, काफी देर तक नहीं दिखने पर उसकी खोजबीन शुरू की गई। जब उसका पता नहीं चला तो ग्रामीणों



सनी दुडू की फाइन फोटो

को सूचना दी गई। इसके बाद बड़ी संख्या में ग्रामीण नदी किनारे पहुंचे और खोजना शुरू किया। घटनास्थल झारखंड-ओडिशा सीमा क्षेत्र में होने के कारण कुछ समय तक दोनों थाना क्षेत्रों में असमंजस की स्थिति बनी रही। बाद में स्थानीय पुलिस के समन्वय से तांतनगर ओपी पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल चाईबासा भेजा।

India Inc's role in vision 2047

The world economy is being reshaped by a confluence of unprecedented disruptions—geopolitical realignments, technological acceleration and climate transition. These disruptions are not just a source of uncertainty; they are also a catalyst for reinvention as they re-organise the global economy. Supply chains are being redesigned, industries are being reimaged and new centres of innovation are emerging. It is in this environment that India needs to achieve its ambition of becoming a developed nation.

Industry has a critical role in catalysing this ambition—as a builder of capabilities, driver of innovation and a value creator. The decisions businesses make today—on manufacturing, technology, energy and talent—will shape not just enterprise success, but the trajectory of India’s future. It is in this context that CII’s Vision for India@100 assumes significance.

Developed through engagement with more than 10,000 stakeholders, it represents a multi-stakeholder roadmap for India’s journey to becoming a developed nation by 2047. The theme of the CII Annual Business Summit 2026—The Future | Global Economy, Industry, Society—places this vision within the context of a rapidly changing world, with industry at the centre of translating ambition into action.

India is expected to remain the fastest growing major economy, and as per IMF estimates, its growth is expected to be more than twice the global average in the near future. It is seen as a trusted partner—able to engage across regions, build bridges and offer stability amidst uncertainty. This gives India a unique vantage point to shape global conversations on trade, technology, climate and development.India’s experience in building inclusive digital ecosystems at scale demonstrates how innovation can serve society and simultaneously enable a rapidly growing digital economy. Together, these strengths point to a clear shift—India is not only participating in global systems but actively helping redesign them.

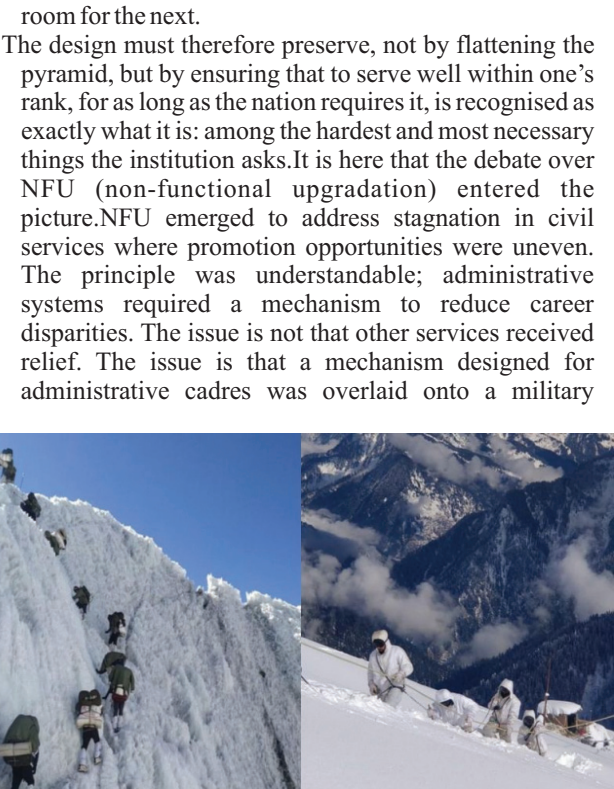
The global economic order itself is undergoing a structural shift. Trade and investment flows are increasingly shaped by resilience, trust and strategic alignment, rather than cost efficiencies alone. Industrial policy has re-emerged as governments seek to shape economic outcomes more directly.In this environment, competitiveness must be built across multiple dimensions—manufacturing strength, technological depth, sustainability and institutional capability. Nations need to balance self-reliance with global integration, strengthening domestic capacities while remaining deeply engaged with the world. This balance lies at the core of India’s path forward, which rests on five strategic capabilities.First is building manufacturing scale and strategic depth. The renewed global emphasis on industrial policy highlights the importance of targeted capability-building. Industry will play a decisive role in this transformation—by investing in advanced manufacturing, strengthening supply-chain resilience and leveraging free trade pacts, and driving innovation to position India as a competitive manufacturing hub.Second is the imperative of technology leadership. In an increasingly innovation-driven economy, technological capability will be central to productivity, competitiveness and strategic influence. Today, artificial intelligence, digital platforms and advanced manufacturing are becoming foundational to growth. Sustaining India’s momentum in this space will require higher research and development investment, stronger industry-academia collaboration and a continued focus on building globally competitive products and platforms.

The covenant complete

Part II, The soldier at the door: This is not about pay parity. It never was. It is about design.

THE civil servant and the soldier are the twin stabilisers of the Republic. One operates through continuity and administrative persistence; the other through intensity and existential risk. Both are indispensable. Both deserve frameworks that reflect what they are actually required to do. The answer to difference is not hierarchy. It is design.Any framework for the military must begin with one foundational reality: rank in the armed forces is fundamentally different from rank in civilian systems. In civilian life, rank is largely a measure of seniority and administrative progression. In military life, it is operational authority over life and consequence. An administrative error may cost money or delay; an error in command costs lives and territory.

A brigadier commanding troops in active operations does not merely hold greater seniority than a colonel. He carries a categorically different burden of consequence. That distinction matters because the military pyramid narrows by design. Combat leadership demands youth. The institution therefore remains structurally young by ensuring that only a small number rise to the highest ranks. That is not failure. It is the arithmetic of command.But the consequences of that arithmetic are profound.Most officers, however capable, will never rise beyond certain levels. The institution is therefore sustained not only by those who reach the top, but by those who remain where the system needs them most, the Majors and Lieutenant Colonels, the company commanders and battalion seconds, the officers carrying the operational weight of the force at precisely the level where command is closest to consequence.When that cohort sees no meaningful progression within rank, when the only visible signal of recognition becomes the promotion the pyramid denies to most of them, something slowly begins to erode. Not competence. Not courage. But certainty that the institution still sees them clearly.And then many leave. Not in protest. Simply because the civilian world has learned to recognise what military service has produced in them, composure under pressure, decisiveness, leadership without certainty, and offers them a framework that acknowledges those qualities. The state loses not its weakest product at that moment, but some of its best formed.That is why within-rank progression is not a cosmetic issue. It is central to institutional design. Responsibility, professional distinction, posting profile and visible recognition within rank must continue even when promotion cannot. Otherwise, the system unintentionally signals that service matters only if one keeps rising. But the military cannot function as a ladder alone. The rank one holds must itself remain a form of arrival, not merely a waiting



room for the next.

The design must therefore preserve, not by flattening the pyramid, but by ensuring that to serve well within one’s rank, for as long as the nation requires it, is recognised as exactly what it is: among the hardest and most necessary things the institution asks.It is here that the debate over NFU (non-functional upgradation) entered the picture.NFU emerged to address stagnation in civil services where promotion opportunities were uneven. The principle was understandable; administrative systems required a mechanism to reduce career disparities. The issue is not that other services received relief. The issue is that a mechanism designed for administrative cadres was overlaid onto a military structure built on entirely different foundations.In civil services, rank and pay broadly track seniority. In the military, rank is operational authority and accountability for irreversible consequence. When NFU logic enters the military ecosystem, it creates a category confusion. Pay equivalence gradually begins implying equivalence of status, even though the underlying responsibilities remain fundamentally different. The officer commanding troops in active operations does not become institutionally equivalent to another functionary merely because arithmetic aligns their pay scales. The comparison is not invidious; it is simply incomplete.

That is why pay and rank must be governed by separate design logics. Rank reflects operational authority, command responsibility and the burden of consequence. Pay and material recognition reflect what the state owes across a career it has deliberately shaped, compressed, intense and structurally shortened by institutional necessity. Conflating the two distorts both. NFU did not create the underlying problem; it exposed the design mismatch that already existed.

That mismatch becomes most visible at the point where military service itself structurally terminates. And then comes the final reality the system must confront:

the military career ends early not because the individual has ceased to contribute, but because the institution must remain young. A civilian career is usually a long climb with compounding returns. Skills deepen, networks expand and earnings rise with age. Military service inverts that logic.Its most intense years are often the earliest. It extracts the greatest personal cost at precisely the age civilian careers are consolidating. And it ends before civilian peers reach their professional peak. A post-service annuity calibrated to those lost earning decades is therefore not a pension in the ordinary sense. It is deferred recognition of a career architecture deliberately designed by the state to extract the maximum from an individual during the years when that extraction carries the highest personal cost.

The covenant is never signed by the soldier alone. The family serves invisibly beside him, carrying the absences, instability and uncertainty the uniform normalises. The officer who has commanded under pressure and subordinated self to institution for decades has given the Republic something that cannot be fully measured in any pay matrix. A terminal recognition at the completion of that covenant is therefore not sentiment. It is institutional honesty.Modern conflict only sharpens the urgency of getting this design right. Wars no longer unfold only on borders; they run through infrastructure, information systems and public psychology. In such an environment, military, paramilitary, civil administration and political leadership must function as one coherent instrument. That coherence depends not merely on capability, but on clarity of authority and mutual respect across the system.

A state that permits unresolved status dissonance within its own crisis architecture introduces friction into the mechanism. Modern conflict requires to remain frictionless. And in moments of consequence, friction kills.From disaster relief to the calibrated precision of operations, the requirement remains the same: coherence. Command cannot be negotiated in the middle of consequence. Respect cannot be improvised during collapse. Coherence is built slowly over years through frameworks that signal the Republic understands the role of each of its institutions.When the soldier knows the nation has seen him clearly, confidence compounds into capability. When he suspects the accounting has missed the point, something quieter begins to erode. Not loyalty. Not courage. Something harder to name and harder to replace.The framework is the Republic’s answer to him. When the state responds with design, the institution holds. The soldier knows the nation understands. And the nation knows the soldier will remain what he has always been at the decisive hour:

Economic turbulence : Civic discipline alone can’t turn the tide

It seems that the Modi government is preparing the people for a crisis that it failed to anticipate

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi’s post-poll austerity push has an ominous ring to it. Apparently, all’s not well on India’s economic front. Global headwinds, particularly the war in West Asia, are taking their toll on an economy that remained resilient even during the Covid-19 pandemic. The PM has asked citizens to work from home, use public transport, avoid unnecessary foreign travel and postpone the purchase of gold. Citing the habits adopted during the disruptive pandemic, he has stressed the need to reduce fuel consumption and save foreign exchange. His call for a “civic Satyagraha” is a politically astute move, considering that the majority of the states are ruled by the BJP on its own or in alliance with other parties. Yet, it seems that the Modi government is preparing the people for a crisis that it failed to anticipate.India heavily imports crude oil and gold, both of which strain foreign exchange reserves when global prices surge. Encouraging fuel conservation, domestic tourism and reduced dependence on imports

are sensible responses to a volatile international



environment. However, the fact is that the government largely remained occupied with the Assembly

elections over the past month and a half. Economic management took a back seat during this period. Now, efforts are afoot to deal with the challenges.

Asking families to put off weddings abroad or avoid buying gold reflects anxiety over the rupee’s alarming depreciation. A government that has repeatedly projected economic strength is now urging behavioural restraint on a nationwide scale. Some steps may have unintended consequences. India’s jewellery sector supports millions of livelihoods, and a big drop in gold purchases could hurt workers far more than wealthy investors. Also, the work-from-home policy is not practical for large sections of the workforce. Indeed, civic responsibility matters, but it is no substitute for contingency planning. The government must urgently do course correction.

Austerity without equity will fail

If this is to be India's forex Satyagraha, the design must match the ambition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeal — with its eleven specific requests spanning fuel, gold, fertilisers, cooking oil, solar pumps and foreign travel — is being read by many as a prelude to administered price hikes. But there is a larger ambition visible in the speech.It is to make forex conservation a genuine national movement, a civic mobilisation comparable in spirit, if not in form, to Mahatma Gandhi’s Salt March of 1930. Gandhi’s genius was to choose salt, an everyday item, universally used, symbolically powerful, to crystallise the case for economic self-reliance into a mass act of participation. Modi is reaching out, so that each Indian feels personally invested in the nation’s economic resilience, when conserving foreign exchange becomes as much a patriotic duty as flying the flag.

The instinct deserves credit. India’s import dependence on crude oil, fertiliser inputs, gold and edible oil is a structural vulnerability that has been diagnosed for decades without adequate remedy. Modi is making it vivid and personal, asking citizens to connect their everyday choices to the national balance of payments. This is an act of economic leadership.

Lal Bahadur Shastri did something similar with food in 1965, asking Indians to voluntarily fast on Monday evenings as the country faced both a war and a food crisis. Socialist parliamentarian Madhu Limaye pressed the point further in Parliament, arguing that voluntary austerity was a constitutional duty in times of national stress, and that the political class must visibly lead rather than merely preach. The tradition of appealing to civic solidarity in times of economic emergency is honourable and has worked before.But Gandhi’s salt Satyagraha movement’s moral force came partly from the fact that the salt tax was visibly, outrageously regressive. It hurt the poor more. Gandhi chose salt precisely because of

the injustice. On the other hand, the forex conservation movement is not against injustice and is itself regressive. Because it asks those with the least to bear a disproportionate share of the pain.Look at the eleven requests through this lens. Deferring foreign vacations and destination weddings abroad is something only the



affluent need consider. It is irrelevant to the poor. Shifting to an electric vehicle presumes having the capital to buy one.Work-from-home is an option for white-collar professionals, not daily-wage earners. Asking to reduce edible oil consumption falls hardest on those with the least since cooking oil is not a luxury. Some of the requests are well-targeted at the wealthy; others inadvertently ask those with the smallest margins to absorb a disproportionate share of the sacrifice. The economic backdrop makes the equity question more urgent. India’s three State-owned oil marketing companies are losing between Rs 1,600 and Rs 1,700

crore every day, with cumulative losses over the past ten weeks crossing Rs 1 lakh crore. Negative margins stand at Rs 14 per litre on petrol and Rs 18 on diesel. Excise duty cuts to cushion the blow are costing the treasuryRs 14,000 crore a month.Fertiliser subsidies, budgeted at Rs 1.71 lakh crore, face an overshoot of Rs 35,000 to Rs 50,000 crore. And this crisis lands on top of an already strained fiscal position: in FY26, direct tax receipts fell short of revised estimates by Rs 80,594 crore.

The FY27 direct tax target is Rs 26.97 lakh crore, which is a whopping 15 per cent jump over FY26 actuals. But revenues are already slowing down.Here lies a structural paradox in Modi’s appeal. Some of what he asks will genuinely help the current account without hurting domestic output like reducing gold imports and foreign travel. But fuel price hikes are categorically different: they are inflationary, compress real household incomes across the board, and will force the Reserve Bank of India into the uncomfortable trade-off between defending the rupee and protecting growth.

There is also a cognitive dissonance in the government trying to suppress prices but also asking citizens to behave as if prices are too high. There is now pressure on tax mobilisation. The Income Tax Department’s Central Action Plan for 2026-27 directs field officers to prioritise recovering Rs 2.57 lakh crore in demands upheld at appeal, track the top 10,000 PAN-wise defaulters, and classify Rs 7.88 lakh crore in large unclassified arrears by July.The scale of what has gone uncollected is striking: confirmed, undisputed tax demands of over Rs 9 lakh crore sit in arrears, concentrated overwhelmingly in Mumbai (Rs 1.65 lakh crore) and Delhi (Rs 1.21 lakh crore) — the wealthiest

urban centres in the country. In FY26, the actual cash recovery against a target of Rs 5.04 lakh crore was only Rs 85,000 crore.The government cannot credibly ask families to cut their cooking oil consumption while Rs 9 lakh crore in confirmed tax dues from large corporate and individual defaulters remains uncollected year after year. Ensuring that tax demands are actually recovered, using whatever digital surveillance, would be a powerful signal that the national sacrifice is genuinely shared.

This is also an opportune moment to revisit whether India’s tax architecture is structurally progressive enough. India abolished its wealth tax in 2015 and has had no estate or inheritance duty since 1985. The top one per cent of Indians hold an estimated 40 per cent of the nation’s wealth.A temporary crisis surcharge on very high incomes, a windfall levy on entities benefiting from the disruption — commodity traders, domestic refiners — or a carefully designed wealth tax would serve multiple purposes: raising revenue to offset the fiscal haemorrhage, making burden-sharing visibly equitable and giving the mass movement the moral authority it needs. Madhu Limaye’s argument was precisely this: austerity without equity is not patriotism, it is the displacement of pain downward.We also need to examine our resilience and risk buffers. The member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA) hold 90 days of strategic petroleum reserves as a treaty obligation. Europe built LNG import terminals and diversified supply at emergency speed. Japan and South Korea pass through price signals rapidly and hedge exposure through financial markets.

India’s dedicated strategic petroleum reserves cover only about nine to ten days of demand, far below the 90-day benchmark used by many IEA countries, though total oil stocks including commercial and refinery inventories are estimated around 74-75 days.

Work from home for Zoho employees following PM Modi's appeal? Sridhar Vembu ready to...

MORBI.(Agency)
Zoho co-founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu has reignited the discussion on remote working/work from home, following PM Narendra Modi's recent appeal to citizens on maintaining national austerity. Vembu tweeted that as a company, he is ready to revisit work from home, although the company has fully adopted work from office in recent months."I hope all of us heed the Prime Minister's appeal. As a company, we adopted Work From Office fully in recent months, but we will revisit Work From Home now. We have adopted natural farming in our farm and we are also actively looking for ways to cut diesel use," Vembu wrote on X.Vembu's comments were further critically questioned by netizens. One asked about how the Zoho co-founder plans to support the small-scale vendors.How do you plan to support the small-scale vendors.the canteen walas and the bajji-tea stalls who depend entirely on your office footfall? With commercial LPG shortages and price hikes already forcing items like poori and dose off menus, these micro-businesses are struggling to survive. Are you suggesting full remote work like during the pandemic, or WFH within city limits so the local economy doesn't collapse while you save on diesel?," a user that goes by the name Vijay asked on X.Responding to the query, Vembu wrote, the company plans to help people in need with free food. This will be similar to what the company did during remote working times.
"We always support our canteen staff and drivers during work from home times. In the past, we have used our kitchens to distribute a lot of free food to the needy around our offices. We will do likewise now," he posted.

RBI cancels licence of Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank -- What will happen to depositor's money?

Mumbai.(Agency)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Tuesday that it has cancelled the licence of the Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, with immediate effect, as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. "Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on May 12, 2026. The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appointing a liquidator for the bank," the RBI said in a statement.On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive the deposit insurance claim amount of his or her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5,00,000 from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 196, the RBI statement said.According to the data submitted by the bank, about 98.36 per cent of the depositors were entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC as on date of imposition of all inclusive directions. As on March 31, 2026, the DICGC has already paid Rs 26.72 crore of the total insured deposits under the provisions of the DICGC Act, based on the willingness received from the depositors concerned of the bank.
The RBI said that Sarvodaya Co-operative Bank has failed to comply with the Banking Regulation Act and its continuance is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors.The bank, with its present financial position, would be unable to pay its present depositors in full; and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further, the RBI statement said.

Retail inflation at 13-month high, touches 3.48%

New Delhi.(Agency)
Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to an 11-month high of 3.48% in April from 3.40% in March, primarily due to higher food prices, data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Tuesday showed. Rural inflation touched a 15-month high of 3.74%, while urban inflation stood at 3.16%.
Food inflation rose considerably to 4.20% in April. While overall food inflation witnessed a moderate uptick, at the item level, inflation cooled for potatoes, onions, peas and chickpeas. Items such as air conditioners recorded the lowest inflation rates during the month.While retail inflation remained within the tolerance band of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), economists cautioned that inflation could rise further if retail fuel prices increase in the coming months due to the West Asia crisis.
Debopam Chaudhuri, chief economist at Piramal Finance, said: "If retail fuel prices are revised upward in the coming months, the inflation trajectory could change meaningfully. The second-order effects of higher transport and logistics costs tend to transmit rapidly across a broad section of the inflation basket. Under such conditions, it appears unlikely that the overall cost of funds will ease materially anytime soon."However, there has been sharp inflation in precious metals due to rising global prices and rupee depreciation against the US dollar. Inflation in silver prices surged 144.34% year-on-year, while gold, diamond and platinum jewellery inflation rose 40.72%.Rajni Thakur, chief economist at L&T Finance Ltd, said inflation in April was "better than expected across the board". She noted that while food prices had increased by around 30 basis points, overall transportation prices had eased due to softer services inflation.She added: "While food prices have nudged higher by around 30 basis points, overall transportation prices have actually eased.

From Thailand to Dubai: How your next foreign trip could weaken the rupee

What does a Europe honeymoon, Thailand getaway or Dubai shopping spree have in common? Beyond memories and Instagram pictures, they all mean more dollars leaving India. Let's understand here.

New Delhi. (Agency)
A family excitedly planning a Thailand escape. A newly married couple dreaming of Paris or Switzerland. A destination wedding in Italy straight out of a Bollywood film. For many Indians, foreign holidays are no longer rare luxuries — they are aspirations, celebrations and hard-earned rewards. But there is another side to this story, one

that rarely makes it into holiday albums or Instagram captions.Each flight ticket. Every hotel booking. Every swipe at a cafe abroad. Small expenses individually, perhaps. But together, they add up.Rupees are exchanged for dollars, euros or pounds. One trip may not matter much. But when lakhs of Indians travel overseas around the same time, the economic effect quietly starts building. Most of the time, nobody notices.But these are not exactly ordinary times.Crude oil prices have crossed \$105 per barrel. Tensions in West Asia continue to unsettle global markets. And India, which imports more than 80% of its oil needs, suddenly finds itself needing far more dollars to pay rising bills.That is partly why Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently urged Indians to avoid non-essential foreign travel for a year.At first glance, it may sound unusual. But look closer, and the message becomes less about holidays, and more about

economics.
THE HIDDEN ECONOMICS OF FOREIGN HOLIDAYS



An overseas trip may feel like personal spending, but at a larger level, it becomes part of India's foreign exchange story. When Indians travel abroad, they spend in dollars, euros and pounds. That naturally increases demand for foreign currency. Siddharth Maurya, Founder and Managing Director of Vibhavangal Anukulakara Pvt. Ltd., said rising foreign travel can slowly add pressure on the rupee,

especially during uncertain economic periods."With foreign travel by Indians, they end up spending in foreign currency like dollars, euros, or pounds. There will be increased foreign exchange demand and increased dollar flows out of India as well," Maurya said.He clarified that travel alone may not sharply weaken the rupee, but it becomes relevant when paired with expensive oil imports and global uncertainty."Although foreign travel is unlikely to lead to rupee depreciation all by itself, it still adds to the overall current account equation," he added.WHY PM MODI'S MESSAGE COMES NOW
The Prime Minister's message is not just about travel habits. It comes against a larger economic backdrop.India imports more than 80% of its oil requirement, and oil is paid for in dollars. So, when crude prices rise, India's dollar demand automatically increases.

Customs duty rises on gold, silver: Will buying slow or stay strong

Gold and silver have turned costlier after the government raised customs duty. The move has immediately sparked questions in bullion markets. Will higher prices cool demand, or will buying continue to stay strong despite the hike

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Government of India has increased the effective import/customs duty on gold and silver from around 6% to 15% (10% Basic Customs Duty + 5% AIDC). Since India imports most of its gold and silver requirements, this directly increases the landed cost of bullion in the domestic market. IMPACT ON MCX GOLD AND SILVER PRICES
The rise in the import duty on gold and

silver immediately impacted on MCX gold and silver prices. MCX prices usually rise sharply because imported bullion becomes costlier, domestic prices start trading at a bigger premium over international COMEX/LBMA



prices and futures contracts on MCX quickly adjust to reflect the higher import cost.Today's reaction itself showed that MCX gold futures surged more than 6-7% while silver futures jumped around 6-8% after the

announcement.WHY MCX RISES MORE THAN COMEX
MCX pricing formula roughly works like: International Price + USD/INR + Import Duty + Taxes + Premium so even if COMEX gold remains stable, a customs duty hike alone could push MCX prices higher. IN THE SHORT-TERM IMPACT ON GOLD AND SILVER
Strong domestic premium, short covering rally and arbitrage widening between MCX and COMEX.On the other hand, profit booking can emerge and demand destruction may happen at higher prices, jewellers may reduce purchases and physical premiums can cool down later.MEDIUM-TERM EFFECTS ON DUTY HIKE
Higher customs duty can reduce official bullion imports, and this may support the Indian rupee and current account

Some Japanese snack packages are turning black-and-white as Iran war depletes ink supply

TOKYO.(Agency)
The packaging on some snacks in Japan is turning a somber black-and-white, as the war in Iran disrupts the supply of an ingredient used in colored ink. Tokyo-based Calbee Inc., which makes potato chips and cereal, said what's inside remains the same. Calbee's popular snacks are available in Japan's omnipresent convenience stores and shipped to the US, China and Australia. "This measure is intended to help maintain a stable supply of products," it said in a statement this week.The change on 14 products in its lineup will start May 25, limiting ink colors to just two, the company said, noting it was necessary to respond flexibly to changing geopolitical conditions.How long the change might last remains

unclear, according to Calbee, founded in 1949, and employing more than 5,000 group workers.The move is the latest caused by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz because of the war in Iran. The war has sent prices of oil and other products higher, as well as



caused supply crunches.Japan relies almost entirely on oil imports. A key oil-related product called naphtha is used in various items like plastics and

ink. Japan has so far ridden out the worries relatively calmly, as the government has worked to allay such fears by noting the nation's oil reserves. But there's no mistake in the stark change on the chips packaging.Calbee's lightly salted chips, known as "usu shio," originally came in a bright-orange bag with an image of yellow chips and a potato-man mascot wearing a hat. The new packaging just has monochrome lettering.The company, which also makes shrimp chips, or "kappa eisen," had just announced an ambitious growth strategy in March."Calbee will continue to respond flexibly and promptly to changes in its operating environment, including geopolitical risks, and remains committed to maintaining a stable supply of safe, high-quality products," it said. "We ask for your understanding."



led the Sensex gainers, rising 3.22%. It was followed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, which gained 2.00%. Tata Steel Ltd moved up 1.39%, while Bharat Electronics Ltd added 1.04%. Bharti Airtel Ltd also opened higher, rising 0.95%.
Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd saw the sharpest fall, dropping 2.35%. Titan Company Ltd declined 1.49%, NTPC Ltd was down 1.18%, Bajaj Finance Ltd slipped 0.94%, and State Bank of India Ltd fell 0.89% in early trade."With the AI trade still intact, FIIs are likely to continue on the sell-mode. The derivatives data indicate this. Investors should opt for safety now. Better to remain in cash till there is clarity on the crude price," said Vijaykumar."Pharmaceuticals seem to be the safe sector now. Long-term investors can slowly accumulate large banking stocks on declines," he added.

Air India cuts flights to major global destinations as fuel costs surge

Air India has suspended and reduced several international services from June as fuel prices rise and airspace restrictions bite. The cuts underline growing pressure on long-haul operations, with the airline warning that more routes could turn unviable.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Air India has suspended and reduced flights on several international routes as soaring jet fuel prices and airspace restrictions continue to increase operating costs for airlines.The Tata-owned airline has made major cuts across its international network for three months starting June, reported The Economic Times.The report said Air India has fully suspended flights from Delhi to destinations including Chicago, Newark, Singapore, and Shanghai.The airline has also reduced flight frequencies to several major international cities such

as San Francisco, Paris, and Toronto. Overall, around 100 daily flights have reportedly been cut from the network. WHY AIR INDIA IS CUTTING FLIGHTS
The move comes at a time when global jet fuel prices have surged sharply due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia and tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. According to the report, global average jet fuel prices rose to \$162.89 per barrel for the week ending May 8, 2026, compared to \$99.40 per barrel at the end of February. Fuel is one of the biggest expenses for airlines and can account for nearly 40% of total operating costs.Higher fuel prices directly affect airline profitability and often force carriers to either increase ticket prices or reduce flights. PAKISTAN AIRSPACE CLOSURE ADDING TO PRESSURE
The report said Air India is facing greater pressure than rival IndiGo because the closure of Pakistani airspace has forced many of its Europe- and North America-

bound flights to take longer routes. This has increased fuel consumption, crew costs, and travel time.Some flights to North America are now making technical stops at cities such as Vienna or Stockholm, adding further operational



costs. AIR INDIA MAY CUT MORE FLIGHTS
Last week, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson reportedly told employees that the airline would continue reducing international services because higher fuel prices and airspace restrictions had made several routes unprofitable. According to the report, people aware of the

matter said further cuts may happen if fuel prices remain elevated. A senior airline official quoted in the report said, "We are not recovering even the operating cost on most flights. A sustained increase will force us to cut more." GOVERNMENT YET TO OFFER RELIEF
The report said the Federation of Indian Airlines, which represents airlines including Air India and IndiGo, had recently warned about possible service suspensions unless the government steps in to ease cost pressures. While India rolled back a domestic aviation fuel price hike in April, airlines have reportedly not received relief for international operations.Jet fuel prices in Delhi are now said to be nearly double March levels.The report also linked the situation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks urging Indians to reduce fuel usage and avoid unnecessary travel amid the global energy shock caused by the Iran conflict.The Prime Minister had also appealed to citizens to conserve foreign exchange as global crude oil prices remain elevated.

Convoy cuts, no Cannes, metro rides: BJP ministers swap VIP optics for austerity

Days after PM Modi urged Indians to embrace Covid-era restraint, BJP-ruled states began sharply reducing the size of ministerial convoys. Several ministers also cancelled foreign trips. Here's a look at the measures announced by different states as part of the austerity drive.

New Delhi.(Agency)
They say charity begins at home. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians to embrace Covid-era restraint amid economic pressures stemming from the protracted Iran conflict, the BJP was called out for hypocrisy as its own ministers held roadshows and travelled in large convoys. As the criticism snowballed and outrage grew, several BJP-ruled states — along with PM Modi himself — walked the talk. While PM Modi and several BJP chief ministers sharply reduced the size of their convoys, Maharashtra directed ministers to avoid unnecessary flights and switch to virtual meetings. Ministers Kapil Mishra and Ramdas Athawale were seen taking the metro to office on Wednesday, while Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar cancelled his visit to France for the Cannes

Film Festival.
PM MODI'S AUSTERITY APPEAL
The writing had been on the wall for quite some time now. The prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz — the global energy corridor — has affected oil and LPG supplies to India. India imports over 85% of its crude requirements, making it the second-largest oil importer. Several countries like China, Pakistan and Bangladesh had already announced fuel rationing and WFH measures. India, however, held back. It was only on May 11, after elections to four states were over, that PM Modi called for "collective sacrifice", urging Indians to shift to public transport and revive work-from-home practices to conserve fuel. To preserve foreign exchange reserves, he



urged citizens to delay gold purchases for a year and avoid foreign holidays and destination weddings. Reduction in edible oil use and cutting down on imported

fertilisers also featured in PM Modi's speech.
FOLLOW LIVE UPDATES
However, the opposition was quick to flag

the gap between PM Modi's appeals and his extravagant political activities in Gujarat and Assam. Visuals of Madhya Pradesh BJP leader Saubhagya Singh Thakur's massive 200-vehicle convoy quickly went viral on social media, sparking further outrage. Amid the criticism, several BJP-ruled states announced austerity measures. PM Modi led the charge himself, with sources saying that he has ordered a 50% reduction in the size of his convoy and urged the use of Evs. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was also seen travelling with just five cars in his convoy - down from the 10-11 vehicles that usually accompany him. The chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Delhi also issued similar directives.

MLAs were offered cash: EPS's big claim as AIADMK infighting becomes public



Chennai.(Agency)
High drama unfolded inside the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during Chief Minister Vijay's floor test on Wednesday when the rumoured AIADMK feud broke out in the open after party General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami made a big claim that his MLA were offered cash to vote in favour of the TVK chief. While Palaniswami declared that the 47 AIADMK MLAs would oppose the motion backing Vijay, party leader SP Velumani, who is said to be leading the 'rival' faction, openly vowed support for Vijay. Vijay, the newly sworn-in chief minister, was facing a trust vote to prove his majority in the House days after he took oath. The TVK chief had the support of 119 MLAs before the test, without the backing from any of the AIADMK MLAs. He eventually won the floor test with the support of 144 MLAs.

However, things went haywire inside the House during the debate on the confidence motion when EPS rose to speak and alleged that many of the AIADMK MLAs were offered cash in a horse-trading attempt, persuading them to vote in favour of the TVK chief.

"There have been horse-trading attempts to poach AIADMK MLAs. I have got information that some might get ministerial births and take part in the ruling government. You said you want to run a pure and transparent government and we hope so," EPS said.

Prateek Yadav, Mulayam Singh's younger son and Akhilesh's half-brother, dies at 38



Prateek Yadav was the son of the late Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and his second wife Sadhana Gupta. He had been unwell for some time. A few weeks ago, he was admitted to a hospital in Lucknow, where Akhilesh Yadav had also visited him.

Lucknow.(Agency)
Prateek Yadav, the younger son of late Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and half-brother of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, died on Wednesday in Lucknow, sources said. He was 38 years old and married to BJP leader Aparna Yadav. According to sources, Prateek was brought to Lucknow's Civil Hospital at around 6 am on Wednesday for treatment, where doctors declared him dead. Hospital officials later said that Prateek showed no signs of life when he was brought in, with no pulse and fixed, dilated pupils. Sources said only members of his household staff were accompanying him when he was taken to the hospital. Sources added that Prateek Yadav had been unwell for some time. A few weeks ago, he was admitted to a private hospital in Lucknow, where Akhilesh Yadav had also visited him. After his condition showed some improvement, he was brought back home. Following his death, Prateek Yadav's body was shifted to the postmortem house at King George's Medical University (KGMU), where a panel of doctors conducted the autopsy under videography surveillance. The Samajwadi Party condoled his death in a post on X, saying, "The passing of Prateek Yadav is deeply saddening. May God grant peace to the departed soul." Akhilesh Yadav also mourned the death of his half-brother in a post on X. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and paid tributes to Prateek Yadav.

From despair to determination: Students try to cope as NEET UG gets cancelled

New Delhi.(Agency)
When the notification of reports of cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 over paper leak flashed across his phone on Tuesday morning, over a week after he had appeared for his second attempt, 20-year-old Shubh Vardhan tried to stay calm.

After months in Kota, Rajasthan, where he was enrolled at ALLEN Career Institute preparing for India's fiercely competitive medical entrance examination, he had recently returned to his home in Ghaziabad.

More than 22 lakh aspirants across the country like him had appeared for the entrance test this year. Unlike many devastated by the announcement, Shubh said, "It's valid. If the people have cheated then the exam will be cancelled," he said, adding, "There

will be an opportunity for people who earlier had zero chances as they get more time." In this attempt, Shubh, who is the son of a government officer and a homemaker, was expecting a score



of 400. He said he has been working hard to become the first doctor in his family. For nearly two years, his life had narrowed into the rhythms familiar to lakhs of NEET aspirants with continuous test series, life in hostel rooms.

Across Delhi-NCR on Tuesday, scenes of despair and determination could be witnessed following the announcement.

An 18-year-old student of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in South Delhi said, "My honest reaction was a mixture of frustration and resolve. I was disappointed that this uncertainty and administrative incompetency has revived the stress I had finally overcome."

She added, "It is especially difficult for those who were expecting high scores. It's a shock beyond comprehension. Nevertheless, I'm hopeful that this unexpected opportunity will allow me to improve and return better prepared. Even as the situation is far from ideal, we have to navigate through it with steady preparation."

Rape & murder of IRS officer's daughter: 'Accused waited for victim's parents to step out before entering house'

New Delhi.(Agency)
Twenty-three-year-old Rahul Meena, accused of killing the daughter of an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer in Southeast Delhi last month, deliberately chose a time when the victim was alone. This is among a key detail investigators are treating as central to establishing his criminal intent, official sources said. On April 22, the 22-year-old victim was allegedly strangled with a mobile phone charger at their home by Meena, a former domestic help, who is facing charges of rape and murder.

"As part of the probe, we have to establish whether there was criminal intent or a guilty mind. If someone waits outside a house and commits the crime when the victim is alone, it clearly shows there was an intention to kill," a source said. "The CCTV evidence and disclosure statements show that the timing of the crime was between 6:30 am and 7:30 am. The probe and disclosure statement of Meena has now revealed that he



waited for the IRS officer and his wife to leave for their morning walk before entering the house," the source also said.

Sources further said that the murder investigation is in its final stages. "We are aiming to file the chargesheet at the earliest. It may be filed within a week," a source said.

Sources also said that the statements of other domestic workers living in the building have also been recorded. This, they said, was done to corroborate his addiction and mental state in the run-up to the crime. "They have disclosed that he was addicted to online gaming. When he would win money, he would call women and spend it on

them. We are also preparing a detailed report on his medical condition," the source said. Police sources earlier had said that the crime was driven primarily by financial distress due to losses incurred during online gambling sessions — with the situation escalating into a brutal assault inside the victim's home.

Vijay wins Tamil Nadu trust vote with 144 MLAs voting in favour; DMK walks out

With the backing of at least 25 AIADMK faction MLAs led by Shanmugam and SP Velumani, Vijay comfortably crossed the majority mark in the trust vote despite one supporting legislator being barred by the Madras High Court from participating in the floor test.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Vijay on Wednesday passed the motion in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly with flying colours, with 144 MLAs backing his government against the majority mark of 118. The floor test, however, unfolded amid empty Opposition benches after DMK and DMKD legislators staged a walkout, while four PMK MLAs and one BJP MLA abstained from voting.

The rival AIADMK camp led by 'rebel' leaders Shanmugam and SP Velumani, which has the backing of 30 out of the party's 47 MLAs, also appeared to support Vijay. Going by the numbers, at least 25 MLAs from the AIADMK faction voted in favour of the Chief Minister. Vijay already had the support

of 120 MLAs, minus one legislator who had won by a margin of a single vote and was



barred by the Madras High Court from participating in Wednesday's trust vote. As the number of legislators present and voting

dropped following the walkout by the DMK and its allies, along with the abstention of five MLAs, only 22 legislators from the EPS camp voted against the TVK government.

Now that the dust over the trust vote has settled, the bigger question is the split within the AIADMK, with 25 MLAs breaking ranks. Defying AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami's directive, the rebel legislators signalled where their loyalties now lie, leaving EPS with only 22 MLAs in his camp. However, to bypass the anti-defection law and formally merge with the DMK, the rebel camp would need the support of at least two-thirds of the AIADMK legislature party -- 31 of its 47 MLAs -- a mark it still falls short of.



villages and runs the nonprofit Centre for Youth Culture Law and Environment (CYCLE), said. Tyagi pointed out that while Bijwasan remains a rural village, Rajokri next door was declared urban in 2019. Batches of villages were declared urban from the 1960s to 1994, Tyagi said. Thereafter, 174 villages got the urban tag in 2018 and 2019. Once the ongoing process is complete, these 48 villages will be the last batch of villages to be declared urban in Delhi.

What changes after a village becomes urban? First, the villages are no longer governed by the agricultural land-use norms of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 (DLR Act) which prohibits landowners from using agricultural land for housing, commercial and industrial activity. Rural groups have long demanded changes in the Act, arguing that farming is not viable. Second, the village comes under the purview of the DMC Act and DDA Act.

Gram Sabha land is transferred to DDA.
This is also the first step towards implementing the Green Development Area (GDA) policy, which seeks to permit commercial development in the outermost villages of Delhi, said Bhubender Bazard, leader of the Dilli Dehat Vikas Manch.

What has happened in villages declared urban before?
The promise that rural areas will benefit from municipal governance has largely remained on paper, experts and rural groups complained.

NEWS BOX

China-US trade talks start in South Korea

BEIJING. (Agency)
Delegations from China and the United States met for trade talks in South Korea, Chinese state media reported Wednesday, hours before US President Donald Trump is due to arrive in Beijing.The talks were taking place at Incheon International Airport, near Seoul, Xinhua news agency said, without providing further details.US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had said he would be meeting Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, both of whom have led previous rounds of negotiations.The officials are likely to put the finishing touches on any announcements made during Trump's summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.Washington and Beijing last year slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's exports, with levies exceeding 100 percent.Trump and Xi agreed on a year-long trade truce at their October meeting in South Korea."Economic security is national security," Bessent said as he announced his South Korea trip on social media.Bessent will then travel to Beijing for the Trump-Xi summit, he added.
More than a dozen business executives including Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Tesla boss Elon Musk are also travelling to China with Trump.

At Tech Trial, Sam Altman Says Elon Musk Wanted 90% Stake In OpenAI

World.(Agency)
Elon Musk was obsessed with trying to control OpenAI, the artificial intelligence company's CEO Sam Altman said Tuesday at a blockbuster trial pitting some of the world's wealthiest tech titans against each other.Altman is the latest in a parade of Silicon Valley megastars to take the stand in the case brought by Musk over OpenAI's pivot away from scrappy non-profit into the \$850 billion juggernaut behind ChatGPT.Musk -- the richest person on the planet -- claims Altman and co-founder Greg Brockman improperly used a \$38 million injection he had hoped would sustain OpenAI as a research lab, developing the technology for the good of humanity.
"It does not fit with my conception of the words 'stealing a charity' to look at what has actually happened here," Altman told the court in Oakland, California.OpenAI was founded as a non-profit in 2015, but established a for-profit subsidiary in 2019 as the AI race heated up.Altman and others insist this was necessary to raise the vast sums of money from investors, including Microsoft, required to compete in a costly and difficult field.Musk's legal case demands that OpenAI revert to non-profit status, a move that would impact its position in the global artificial intelligence race against Anthropic, Google and China's Deepseek.OpenAI counters that Musk -- who is now also an AI competitor with his xAI -- is motivated by petty revenge, having failed to seize majority control of the commercial entity.
The court has heard how, in 2017, the company's co-founders discussed the creation of the subsidiary with Musk.Altman said Tuesday that the Tesla boss demanded a huge controlling stake.
"An early number that Mr Musk threw out was that he should have 90 percent of the equity to start," he told the jury.

Saudi Arabia launched secret retaliatory airstrikes on Iran during regional war: Report

World.(Agency)
Saudi Arabia carried out a series of unpublished airstrikes on Iran in late March in retaliation for attacks inside the kingdom during the Middle East conflict, according to sources cited by Reuters.
The strikes marked the first known case of Saudi Arabia directly conducting military action on Iranian soil, underscoring a major shift in the kingdom's approach toward its main regional rival.
The conflict began after the United States and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran on February 28. In the weeks that followed, Iran targeted all six Gulf Cooperation Council states with missiles and drones, striking US military bases, civilian sites, airports and oil infrastructure, while also closing the Strait of Hormuz and disrupting global trade.
Saudi Arabia, despite its close military relationship with the US, found itself vulnerable as attacks pierced the US security umbrella during the 10-week war.The Saudi Air Force strikes were carried out as "tit-for-tat strikes in retaliation for when Saudi (Arabia) was hit," one Western official said.
The strikes reflected the widening scope of the conflict across the Middle East and revealed a regional confrontation that had largely remained out of public view. The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that the United Arab Emirates had also carried out military strikes on Iran.Together, the Saudi and Emirati actions showed Gulf monarchies responding militarily after coming under Iranian attack. However, their approaches differed.The UAE adopted a more hawkish position, seeking to impose costs on Iran and engaging only rarely in public diplomacy with Tehran. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, sought to contain the conflict and remained in regular contact with Iranian officials, including through Tehran's ambassador in Riyadh, who did not respond to a request for comment.
According to the Iranian and Western officials, Saudi Arabia informed Iran about the strikes, leading to intensive diplomatic engagement and Saudi warnings of further retaliation. The exchanges eventually produced an understanding between the two countries to de-escalate.Ali Vaez, the Iran Project Director at the International Crisis Group, said retaliatory Saudi strikes followed by de-escalation would "show pragmatic recognition on both sides that uncontrolled escalation carries unacceptable costs."

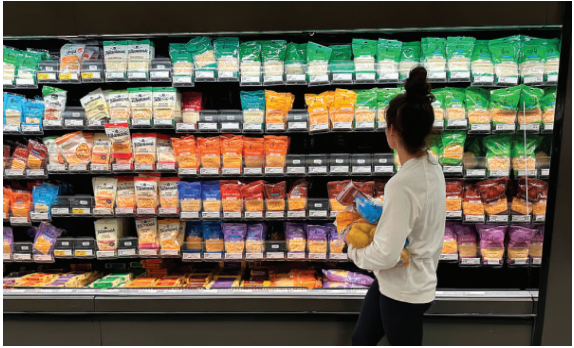
US Inflation surges as Iran war drives energy prices sharply higher

The Labor Department's consumer price index rose 3.8% from April 2025, the biggest jump in three years, and up from a 3.3% year-over-year gain in March.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
U.S. consumer prices climbed sharply again last month as the 10-week war with Iran delivered higher gasoline prices and more pain for Americans.The Labor Department's consumer price index rose 3.8% from April 2025, the biggest jump in three years, and up from a 3.3% year-over-year gain in March. On a month-to-month basis, April prices rose 0.6% from March as gasoline prices rose 5.4%, according to the data released Tuesday. The month-over-month gain was down from a 0.9% increase in overall prices from February to March,

when the initial financial shock from the war hit the U.S. economy.Labor Department figures showed that gasoline prices are up more than 28% compared with a year ago. However, the AAA motor club listed the average regular gallon of gasoline above \$4.50 on Tuesday, about 44% more than it cost last year at this time.Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called consumer core prices rose 0.4% last month from March and 2.8% from April 2025, relatively modest readings that suggest the energy price burst has yet to spill over more broadly into prices for other goods.Grocery prices rose 0.7% from March to April as meat prices rose after they had declined slightly in the month before.Prices are rising at a time when Americans are already frustrated by the high cost of living. Affordability is likely to be a key issue when voters go to the polls Nov. 3 to determine whether President Donald Trump's Republican Party maintains control of the U.S. Senate and House of

Representatives.Inflation is the key drag on the U.S. economy now," Heather Long,



chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, wrote. "There is a real financial squeeze underway. For the first time in three years, inflation is eating up all wage gains. This is a setback for middle-class and lower-income households and they know it. They are having to cut back on spending and stretch every dollar."In April, average hourly wages fell 0.3% from a year

earlier after accounting for inflation -- the first year-over-year drop in three years.Inflation had been dropping more or less steadily since peaking with a 9.1% year-over-year spike in June 2022, a surge caused by supply chain bottlenecks at the end of COVID-19 lockdowns and a jolt for energy prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But inflation has remained above the Federal Reserve's 2% target.Then, the United States and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, and Tehran responded by shutting off access to the Gulf of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes. That has sent oil prices, and most visibly gasoline, racing higher.The Fed, which had been expected to cut its benchmark interest rate in 2026, has turned cautious as it waits to see how long the conflict lasts and whether higher energy prices spill over into other products and cause a broader inflationary outbreak.

How Google Is Moving The Needle On AI, Tony Stark-Style

World.(Agency)
Google is moving the needle on artificial intelligence, quite literally. And in classic Google fashion, it is doing so by reimagining something most people stopped thinking about decades ago: the humble computer cursor.
In a blog post published last night, Google DeepMind unveiled experimental demos of what it calls an "AI-enabled pointer," a cursor powered by Gemini that does not just track where users are pointing, but also understands what they are pointing at and why it matters.It feels quite Tony Stark-ish. Remember how the Iron Man movies showed Tony Stark using ambient and intuitive AI all those years ago? His fictional AI assistants, principally J.A.R.V.I.S. and later F.R.I.D.A.Y., operated as always-on, contextual, and conversational partners rather than just command-based tools. All this is not some distant

sci-fi dream anymore. Imagine hovering over a paragraph and simply saying "summarise this." Or pointing at a couch online and asking AI to place it inside your living room. Or circling a restaurant in a paused travel video and instantly pulling up booking information.No copying, no pasting, no opening a separate chatbot window. Just point and speak.For decades, the mouse pointer has largely remained unchanged. It understood coordinates, not context. Google now wants to change that. "Our goal is to address a common frustration: because a typical AI tool lives in its own window, users need to drag their world into it," DeepMind wrote in its blog. "We want the opposite: intuitive AI that meets users across all the tools they use, without interrupting their flow." That seemingly small shift could end up becoming one of the biggest interface changes of the AI era.The Cursor Is Becoming Intelligent

If chatbots represented the first major AI interface revolution, Google appears to be betting that the next phase will be far more ambient and invisible.
Instead of typing elaborate prompts into dedicated AI apps, users may increasingly interact with AI through gestures, voice and context-aware interfaces woven directly into everyday computing.And according to AI educator and founder of The Cutting Edge Group, Ansh Mehra, this is very much in line with Google's long history of quietly laying the foundations for the modern internet. "If you look at Google's history, you'd realise that almost every important app we use today is built on foundations laid by Google," Mehra told NDTV. "Every other browser you use today is built on Google's Chromium framework. Their 2017 Transformer paper gave birth to OpenAI, Anthropic and Meta Llama, and now they're about to change the cursor."

Trump Downplays Differences With Xi Over Iran Ahead Of Beijing Summit

WORLD.(Agency)
President Donald Trump on Tuesday downplayed differences with President Xi Jinping over the U.S. and Israel's conflict in Iran as he headed to Beijing for a high-stakes summit with the Chinese leader.Trump has been unsuccessfully pressing Xi to use China's considerable leverage to prod Iran to agree to U.S. terms to end the more than 2-month-old war - or, at the very least, reopen the Strait of Hormuz.
But just before he left the White House on Tuesday for his flight to Beijing, Trump sought to downplay differences with Xi over Iran and the shadow the conflict is casting on global oil markets."We're going to have a long talk about it. I think he's been relatively good, to be honest with you," Trump said of his plans to discuss the conflict with Xi. Minutes later, he added, "We have a lot of things

to discuss. I wouldn't say Iran is one of them, to be honest with you, because we have Iran very much under control."But Trump over the course of



the conflict has veered between venting that China, the world's biggest buyer of Iranian oil, hasn't done more to get the Islamic Republic in line and acknowledging that Xi's government helped de-escalate the conflict last

month by nudging Tehran back to ceasefire talks when negotiations wobbled.Ahead of the visit, Trump sought to minimize the need to persuade Xi to change China's posture on Iran.Instead, Trump's Republican administration seems determined not to let differences on Iran overshadow efforts to make headway on other difficult matters in the complicated relationship - ranging from trade to further Chinese cooperation to block exports of fentanyl precursors.
"I don't think we need any help with Iran," Trump said when asked by a reporter if he would press Xi to pressure the Islamic Republic.
Beijing publicly insists that it wants to see the war end and has been working diplomatically behind the scenes to help its ally Pakistan push to broker a peace agreement.

Kash Patel Denies Allegations of Drinking During Senate Budget Hearing

WORLD.(Agency)
FBI Director Kash Patel angrily lashed out at a Democratic lawmaker at a budget hearing Tuesday, calling allegations that he drinks excessively on the job and has been unreachable to his staff at times "unequivocally, categorically false.""I will not be tarnished by baseless allegations and fraudulent statements from the media," Patel told Sen. Chris Van Hollen during a testy exchange that began when the Maryland Democrat confronted him about a recent article in The Atlantic magazine that painted an unflattering portrait of his leadership of the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency.
Patel has filed a \$250 million lawsuit over the story. The Atlantic has said it stands by its reporting and would vigorously defend against the "meritless lawsuit."
Patel shouted over Van Hollen and sought to turn the tables by accusing him of "slinging margaritas on the taxpayer dime" in El Salvador, a reference to a visit the Democrat paid last year to Kilmar Abrego Garcia while he was jailed there following his mistaken deportation to the country."The only person who has been drinking during the day on the taxpayer dime was you," Patel said."Director Patel, come on," Van Hollen said. "These are serious allegations that were made against you."
He at one point asked Patel if he was willing to take a test meant to measure whether an individual has a drinking problem, prompting Patel to shoot back, "I'll take any test you're willing to take."The senator called Patel's claims of margaritas in El Salvador "provably false." After last year's meeting, Van Hollen publicly accused El Salvador's government of having misrepresented the nature of his encounter with Abrego Garcia, saying officials there had staged the meeting with drinks appearing to be alcohol and angled to set the meeting by a hotel pool.The testy exchange occurred at an annual Senate subcommittee budget hearing featuring Patel and other senior law enforcement leaders. The director used the forum to tout what he described as major crime-fighting achievements since he took the position and received a friendly reception from Republican senators who praised his leadership.
Democrats, by contrast, pressed Patel on headline-generating travel that has blended his professional duties with private leisure - including a trip to the Winter Olympics in Italy, where he partied with the U.S. men's hockey team after their gold medal win - as well as the mass terminations of agents who worked on investigations into President Donald Trump.

Russia Tests Nuclear-Capable 'Satan II' Missile With 35,000 km Range

WASHINGTON.(Agency)
Russia on Tuesday test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile as part of efforts to modernize the country's nuclear forces, a launch hailed by President Vladimir Putin just days after his claim that the fighting in Ukraine is nearing an end.
Putin said that the nuclear-armed Sarmat missile would enter combat service at the end of the year. It was built to replace the aging Soviet-built Voyevoda."This is the most powerful missile in the world," Putin declared, adding that the combined power of the Sarmat's individually targeted warheads is more than four times higher than that of any Western counterpart.The Russian leader has repeatedly brandished the nuclear sword after sending troops into Ukraine in February 2022 to try to deter the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.After overseeing a military parade on Red Square on Saturday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, which for the first time in nearly two decades didn't include heavy weapons, Putin declared the

conflict in Ukraine is coming to an end.Since coming to power in 2000, Putin has overseen efforts to upgrade the Soviet-built components of the Russian nuclear triad - deploying hundreds of new, land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, commissioning new nuclear submarines and modernizing nuclear-capable bombers.Russia's effort to revamp its nuclear forces pushed the United States to launch a costly modernisation of its arsenal.The last remaining nuclear arms pact between Russia and the US expired in February, leaving no caps on the world's two largest atomic arsenals for the first time in more than a half-century and fueling fears of an unconstrained nuclear arms race.The Sarmat - designated "Satan II" in the West - is meant to replace about 40 Soviet-built Voyevoda missiles. Its development began in 2011 and before Tuesday, the missile had only one known successful test and reportedly suffered a massive explosion during an abortive test in 2024.Putin said Tuesday that the Sarmat - part of a slew of new weapons that Putin

revealed in 2018, claiming they would render any prospective US missile defenses useless - is as powerful as the Voyevoda but with a higher precision. It is capable of suborbital flight, he said, giving it a range of more than 35,000 kilometers



(21,700 miles) and an extended capability to penetrate any prospective missile defenses.Moscow's new weapons include the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, capable of flying 27 times faster than the speed of sound. The first vehicles have

already entered service.
Russia has also commissioned the new nuclear-capable Oreshnik intermediate-range ballistic missile, and used its conventionally-armed version twice to strike Ukraine. Oreshnik's range of up to 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles) makes it capable of reaching any target in Europe.
Putin also announced Russia was in the "final stages" of the development of the nuclear-armed Poseidon underwater drone and the Burevestnik cruise missile powered by miniature atomic reactors.The Poseidon is designed to explode near enemy coastlines and cause a radioactive tsunami. The Burevestnik has virtually unlimited range thanks to nuclear propulsion, allowing it to loiter for days, circling air defenses and attacking from an unexpected direction.Putin has described those new weapons as part of a Russian response to the US missile shield that Washington developed after its 2001 withdrawal from a Cold War-era US-Soviet pact that limited missile defenses.

NEWS BOX

Why Bhuvneshwar Kumar is right to ignore India comeback hysteria

New Delhi. (Agency)

There is usually a familiar pattern to Indian cricket’s comeback conversations. One strong IPL season, a few match-winning performances, television panels begin debating possibilities, former cricketers start backing the player publicly and social media turns every squad announcement into a referendum on selectors. It happened with Mohammed Shami after the Champions Trophy. It has happened with several senior players over the years. And now, as IPL 2026 reaches its business end, the spotlight has shifted firmly towards Bhuvneshwar Kumar.Only this time, the man at the centre of the noise seems completely detached from it. Imagine leading the Purple Cap race, producing match-winning spells against some of the best batting line-ups in the tournament and hearing respected voices openly push for your India return—yet refusing to turn it into a personal mission. That has been the most striking part of Bhuvneshwar Kumar’s resurgence this season.While the cricketing world keeps building the comeback narrative around him, Bhuvneshwar himself has stayed



grounded.“I am not thinking about India’s comeback. It has been many years since I stopped keeping or making long-term goals, because whenever I did that, it never worked for me,” Bhuvneshwar said in a video posted by RCB.It is not the usual answer modern cricket produces. Careers today are built around constant planning — the next ICC event, the next squad, the next opportunity. Every strong IPL season immediately gets tied to a larger international conversation. Bhuvneshwar, though, sounds like a cricketer who has stopped measuring fulfillment through selection alone.And perhaps that is exactly why he has looked so good this season.

THE SECOND WIND

At 36, Bhuvneshwar is bowling with the freedom of someone who no longer feels the need to prove anything.

Is Hardik Pandya really injured? MI captain dazzles in late night net session



NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Is Hardik Pandya really injured? Well, this will be the question that everyone will have after seeing the Mumbai Indians skipper sweat it out in the nets during a late-night session. Hardik posted a couple of videos on his official Instagram account, where he was seen taking the bowlers apart.

Hardik has been out of action since MI’s El Clasico loss to CSK on May 2 and he didn’t travel with the initial group of Mumbai players to Dharamshala for their next match against Punjab Kings on May 14. Hardik has missed the last two games due to back spasms.But the Indian all-rounder has now hinted with his intense training session that he is fit and ready to return if needed. Hardik was seen training at a Reliance facility and showed no mercy towards the bowlers as he took them on. The MI captain trained alone at the facility and didn’t show any signs of discomfort while batting. You can see the full video below:MI coach Mahela Jayawardene issued a fitness update on Hardik right after their loss to RCB. The Mumbai coach said that Hardik is having a back issue and the medical team was still working on him in a bid to get the all-rounder back on the field.Jayawardene said that they weren’t willing to take a risk with the all-rounder and go about things on a day-to-day basis."Yeah. Hardik had a back issue which we were trying to rectify, but it hasn’t settled in yet. So the medical guys were working on him. He couldn’t train the last few days, so we didn’t want to take a risk without knowing exactly. So we’ll see. It’s on a day-to-day basis. See how he feels."

And then we’ll make a decision on that," said Jayawardene.MI are already eliminated from IPL 2026 as they have just six points from 11 matches.

Preity Zinta, Punjab Kings slam fake stories on team as social media scrutiny grows

Preity Zinta and Punjab Kings have publicly denounced the false stories circulating about the team and its players, as social media scrutiny of the franchise continues to intensify. PBKS have suffered a sharp drop in form after their latest losses in IPL 2026.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Punjab Kings owner Preity Zinta and the franchise issued a stern statement on Tuesday, May 12, amid social media scrutiny surrounding the team and its players. While they did not address any of the rumours, Zinta and PBKS urged people to refrain from spreading fake stories about the franchise and its stars. Punjab had a dream start to the 2026 campaign, remaining unbeaten in the first seven matches, winning six of them. This included breaking their own record for the highest successful chase in IPL history.



But the last few weeks have seen the team’s performance take a nose-dive as they have lost four matches on the bounce and slip out of the top two. Along with the struggles on the field, PBKS courted controversy over Yuzvendra Chahal’s alleged vaping incident. At the same time, there are social media

discussions about Prabhsimran Singh’s fitness and reported weight gain along with comments about the general attitude of the players.During the chaos, both Zinta and PBKS decided to draw a line and urged people to not make comments without verifying the facts first. The PBKS owner

said that while she welcomed healthy debate, fake narratives to damage players and the franchise’s reputation will not be taken lightly.There’s a difference between criticism & calculated misinformation. Healthy debate around the game is welcome, but the deliberate spread of fake narratives to damage individuals, the team, or the brand should not & will not be taken lightly. I urge everyone including verified voices & media professionals to exercise responsibility before amplifying unverified information. Thank you," said Zinta on X.PBKS echoed the same sentiment in their statement, asking people not to drag the team in the mud for attention or traction."Criticism, banter, and opinions are part of sport. Fake stories and made-up narratives for cheap engagement are not. We urge everyone to verify facts before spreading misinformation for attention or traction," said PBKS on X.Despite their poor run of form, PBKS remain in contention for making it to the playoffs this season. They will next face MI on Thursday, May 14 in Dharamshala.

Chettan's day out: CSK's Sanju Samson plays beach cricket with locals in Chennai

Dharamshala. (Agency)

Sanju Samson has already made himself the chettan of Chennai after making the switch from RR to CSK ahead of the IPL 2026 season. Now, the wicketkeeper-batter is putting in efforts to connect with the local fans of CSK as he joined in for some beach cricket with them.

Samson arrived with no security personnel and quickly mingled with the Chennai fans as he showed no superstar attitude and decided to play cricket with them as a part of the gang. The CSK opener even batted left-handed and hit a big shot as the fans were happy to mingle with him.Samson shared some light-hearted moments with the fans as the video quickly went viral on social media. You can see the clip below:SAMSON FEELING THE LOVE FROM CSK

Samson talked about how he felt the love from the CSK fans right before he even played a game for them and how the support has made him become more responsible as a player.

Right when the trade discussions were going on, like always the media picks it up and say Sanju might come to CSK. From that time I could feel some insane love for me. Whenever I came to Chennai or whenever a local guy is meeting



me, he would say 'hey Sanju, come to CSK.'""I was just telling in a meet and greet they was asking like what do you have to say about the fans of CSK, like when you're playing in a match for them, you don't feel like making a mistake. You think twice before playing a shot. That's how responsible I have become after joining CSK," said Samson on the Super Kings podcast.

Samson has repaid the faith put in him by CSK, by being their highest run-getter so far this season. The wicketkeeper has scored 430 runs from 11 matches at an average of 53.75 and a strike-rate of 169.29.He has hit two centuries this season, making him the franchise’s first Indian and only the fourth player overall to register multiple IPL centuries in the same season. CSK are currently in the race for the playoffs and will bank on Samson to get them over the line.

IPL 2026: RCB close in on playoffs, but revival-hungry KKR stand firmly in the way

Raipur. (Agency)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders head into Raipur carrying completely different pressures, but both teams know this clash could shape the rest of their IPL 2026 season.

RCB are sitting on top of the table with 14 points and another win would almost lock in a playoff spot while also keeping them firmly in the hunt for a top-two finish. KKR, meanwhile, are still stuck in eighth place with nine points from 10 matches, but four straight wins have suddenly pulled them back from the edge after what looked like a dead campaign not too long ago.Raipur’s surface did not exactly scream batting paradise during the previous game. Even RCB struggled to chase 167 against Mumbai Indians, needing a cramp-fighting 73 from Krunal Pandya and a wild final-over six from Bhuvneshwar Kumar to somehow get over the line.That sluggish pitch now awaits two teams whose biggest strengths are currently very different.RCB still relies heavily on batting momentum and

individual game-breakers. KKR, on the other hand, have rebuilt their entire season around strangling teams through spin and middle-over pressure.And that immediately



puts the spotlight on two men before the first ball is even bowled: Virat Kohli and Varun Chakravarty.

WILL VIRAT KOHLI TURN HIS FATE AROUND?

For most of IPL 2026, Kohli looked locked into another classic Kohli season.

He scored 379 runs in his first 11 matches, stitched together nine straight double-digit

scores and quietly became the stability behind RCB’s rise to the top of the table.

Then suddenly, the last two games happened.

Back-to-back ducks. Three balls faced combined. And now, for the first time this season, there is genuine noise around Kohli’s form heading into a massive fixture.The interesting part though is that RCB have actually continued winning despite Kohli’s quiet patch. Earlier versions of Bengaluru often collapsed emotionally whenever Kohli failed. This season feels different.Krunal Pandya dragged them through against MI. Devdutt Padikkal has chipped in consistently. Even Tim David and Rajat Patidar

have had moments through the season.Still, RCB know exactly what a locked-in Kohli changes in games like these.

KKR certainly do.

Assistant coach Shane Watson admitted before the game that Kolkata’s plans still revolve around getting Kohli early because once he settles, he completely controls the tempo of a match.

IPL Play of the Day: Rabada, Siraj unleash powerplay hell to stun Hyderabad

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Earlier in the season, Rashid Khan candidly admitted that Gujarat Titans did not possess the most intimidating middle order in the IPL, a weakness that could eventually hurt them. But he also pointed out that GT’s bowling attack was superior to most teams in the competition. On Tuesday night in Ahmedabad, Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj delivered a chilling reminder of exactly what Rashid meant.GT vs SRH, IPL 2026: Scorecard| Highlights

The Titans’ batting may not always overwhelm opponents with brute force, but their bowlers have repeatedly found ways to suffocate teams under pressure. Sunrisers Hyderabad became the latest victims as Rabada and Siraj unleashed absolute havoc in the powerplay, scripting an 82-run demolition that pushed SRH to their lowest total in IPL history.Defending 168 on a surface that has heavily favoured teams batting first this season, Gujarat knew early wickets would tilt the game

decisively in their favour. Rabada and Siraj ensured there was no escape route for Hyderabad, reducing them to 34 for three in



the powerplay with relentless pace, movement and hostility. From that point, the chase felt less like a contest and more like survival.The victory also carried huge significance in the playoff race. Gujarat surged to 16 points, historically the magic number in a 10-team IPL season, with no side ever failing to qualify for the playoffs after reaching that mark. With their fearsome pace attack peaking at the right

time, the Titans are beginning to look like a side no team would want to face in the knockout stages.

HOW SIRAJ, RABADA ROCKED

They say the morning shows the day, and for the Titans, the signs were clear from the very first over. Mohammed Siraj set the tone with a fiery wicket-maiden, removing the dangerous Travis Head and instantly putting the Sunrisers on the back foot. Remarkably, Siraj has now picked up four wickets in the first over of innings in IPL 2026, underlining how often he has given the Titans the perfect start.

Then came Rabada, charging in with menace and intensity. Abhishek Sharma welcomed him with a towering six off the very first ball, but Rabada responded like elite fast bowlers do, with hostility and a wicket in the same over.Abhishek’s dismissal had an element of fortune as the ball hit inside edge and then ricocheted off the pads and rolled back onto the stumps as the SRH opener looked in dismay.

SRH head coach stands by batters after hitting new low in loss vs GT

Daniel Vettori backed Sunrisers Hyderabad's batting unit after their record-low 86 against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad. He called the collapse a one-off blip and said the side could bounce back quickly.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori refused to turn on his batting unit despite a crushing collapse against Gujarat Titans, insisting the franchise’s record-low total in a losing cause was nothing more than a rare blip in an otherwise outstanding IPL 2026 campaign.SRH were blown away for just 86 in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, their lowest-ever total in IPL history in a defeat, as

Gujarat Titans produced a ruthless bowling display to storm into the playoffs as the first team to secure qualification.Defending 169 on a lively black-soil surface, GT’s pace attack dismantled Hyderabad from the outset. Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada ripped through the top order, removing four batters early to leave SRH’s chase in tatters before it had a chance to settle. Jason Holder then maintained the squeeze with immaculate lengths, while Prasidh Krishna and Rashid Khan ensured there was no route back for the visitors.Despite the scale of the collapse, Vettori made it clear that one poor outing would not change his view of a batting group that has been one of the most dangerous units in the competition.“But as always, you have to start well, and we didn’t tonight. That’s what happens,” Vettori said after the match.

“I don’t put any blame on the batting unit. They’ve been exceptional this year. Every team throughout the IPL is going to have

their small blips once in a while, and ours was tonight. I don’t see any reason why they won’t bounce back.”Vettori admitted Hyderabad’s chase effectively unravelled in



the powerplay, with GT’s relentless pressure making recovery nearly impossible.

We always want to get off to a good start. That’s our M.O. through the powerplay. Today, even though they bowled exceptionally well, there were a couple of fortunate dismissals with

the first two wickets,” he said.

“From there, it was tough to really regroup, and they just kept putting pressure on.”

While the batting collapse grabbed attention, Vettori also defended his own bowling unit, pointing out that restricting a powerful Gujarat side to 169 had initially left SRH believing they were firmly in the contest.

“We don’t expect our bowling unit to be perfect,” he said.“I thought Sakib’s last over was brilliant. Pat front-ended himself because we wanted to keep trying to take wickets, and that’s what he was able to do. He had an exceptional spell.”“Maybe one over from Malinga was slightly expensive, but once again, he’s been absolutely amazing for us this year. Restricting them to 170 was a very good job.” That optimism lasted only briefly, as Gujarat’s fast bowlers turned the chase into a demolition.





Palak Tiwari

Celebrates Emotional Bond With King, Calls Him Her 'Veera'

King has made his acting debut with Lukkhe, and his performance as MC Badnaam has become one of the talking points of the crime drama. The rapper, singer and songwriter steps into a fierce and emotionally layered role in the series, which is currently streaming on Prime Video across more than 240 countries and territories. Set against the backdrop of Punjab's underground music and crime scene, Lukkhe has been appreciated for its stylised storytelling, immersive world-building and high-energy characters. Among the many equations in the series, one bond that has especially connected with viewers is the sibling dynamic between King's MC Badnaam and Sanobar, played by Palak Tiwari.

Palak Tiwari Calls King Her 'Veera'

Palak recently took to social media to share a heartfelt note for King, celebrating their bond both on and off screen. Referring to him affectionately as her "Veera," she expressed gratitude for sharing this special journey with him through Lukkhe. Her caption read, "Nihal to me and badnaam to the world, similarly Arpan to me and king to the world. There has been no greater joy than being your younger sister. Tujhse accha koi nahi. I'm always your sanno and you'll always be my Veera. Lukkhe was a first for both of us and I'm so happy it gave me you!! Meri jaan bhi kya, rooh teri kadam kare. But on a side note to everyone please watch Lukkhe on @primevideo in heh ."



Their on-screen relationship, rooted in fierce protection, love and emotional vulnerability, has struck a chord with audiences. The warmth between the two actors appears to have translated naturally into their performances, making MC Badnaam and Sanobar's bond one of the emotional highlights of the show.

King's Acting Debut As MC Badnaam

Known primarily for his music, King makes a strong shift into acting with Lukkhe. His character MC Badnaam is placed in a world where rap, ambition, loyalty and crime collide. The role allows him to bring both intensity and emotional depth to the screen.

'Deepika Padukone Is Being Overly Scrutinized': Amrita Puri Backs Actress' 8-Hour Shift Demand



Actress Amrita Puri, known popularly for starring in 'Aisha', has weighed in on the ongoing debate around working hours in the Hindi film industry, linking it to the wider discussion sparked by Deepika Padukone's reported demand for an 8-hour work shift. Amrita reflected on her own experiences in the industry over the years, revealing that she has often worked extremely long schedules, including 16-hour shifts and all-nighters, without additional compensation. She defended Deepika, and said that she has raised a "very important issue" with her demand for fixed working hours.

Amrita Puri Backs Deepika Padukone Amid 8-Hour Shift Controversy

In a recent chat with Rediff, Amrita Puri spoke about the controversy surrounding Deepika's reported 8-hour shift demand, and expressed that the issue has been subjected to unnecessary scrutiny. She said that the reaction would likely have been very different if the same demand had come from a male actor, and called out the gender bias.

"There are times where I have done 16 hour shifts or all-nighters, you know. And I have not got paid for it, which is problematic, right? If you go beyond your 12 hours and are not paid. I think Deepika has brought up a very important issue. I think that she is being overly scrutinized. The thing with this whole Deepika thing is, I promise you, if it was a man, it wouldn't be in the papers," she said.

Amrita Puri Says Nobody Would Question a Male Actor Over 8-Hour Shift Demand

She further said that it is not uncommon for some male actors in the industry to have fixed working-hour clauses in their contracts, but these arrangements rarely become public discussion points. "I know of a male actor who is extremely successful commercially, who has had that 8-hour clause in their contract for years.

Mouni Roy And Husband Suraj Nambiar Unfollow Each Other On Instagram, Spark Divorce Rumours



Actor Mouni Roy and businessman Suraj Nambiar have sparked fresh divorce rumours after fans noticed that the couple unfollowed each other on Instagram. Social media users also pointed out that Suraj seems to have deleted or archived wedding photos with Mouni, leading to speculation about trouble in paradise. The rumours quickly gained attention online because Mouni and Suraj have often shared holiday pictures and romantic moments on social media since their wedding in 2022. Fans are now wondering if the couple is going through a rough phase after noticing their sudden online distance.

Fans Notice Social Media Changes

Mouni Roy is known for regularly posting updates from her personal life, including pictures with Suraj Nambiar from vacations, parties and family celebrations. However, followers recently noticed that the two have stopped posting pictures together.

The speculation grew stronger after fans realised that Mouni and Suraj no longer follow each other on Instagram. Neither Mouni nor Suraj has reacted to the rumours publicly so far. The couple has also not released any official statement regarding the reports circulating online.

Fans React Online

The social media activity sparked mixed reactions from fans. While some expressed concern about the couple's relationship, others asked people not to jump to conclusions based only on Instagram activity. One user wrote, "Looks like there's some problem in their marriage. Hope it's not serious," while another commented, "Maybe they just want privacy."

Many requested others to avoid assuming the worst until Mouni and Suraj address the speculation themselves.

Mouni And Suraj's Wedding

Mouni Roy and Suraj Nambiar got married in Goa on January 27, 2022. The couple had both Malayali and Bengali wedding ceremonies and shared several photos and videos from their big day online. Their wedding pictures received a lot of love from fans and celebrities.

Karishma Tanna

Says Walking Helps Her During Pregnancy, Urges 'Mamas-To-Be' Not To 'Completely Stop Moving'

Actress Karishma Tanna, who is all set to welcome her first bundle of joy, has shared a message for all expecting mothers that daily walks have helped her stay physically and mentally active during pregnancy. Karishma shared a video of herself from the gym, where she is seen walking on the treadmill. Tagging pregnancy as "beautiful" yet challenging, the actress asked all "mamas-to-be" to stay gentle with themselves but not completely stop moving.

In the clip, Karishma is heard saying: "Hi guys, just a small reminder to all the mamas to be out there. One thing that genuinely helps me during pregnancy is walking. Even a simple daily walk makes such a difference physically and mentally." She says the body changes during pregnancy.



Karishma added: "And trust me, pregnancy is beautiful but yes, the way the body changes, tiredness, it's all real. And that's exactly why movement becomes very very important. I mean no pressure but just stay active, strong and connected to your body."

"Like even 20-30 minutes of daily walking will help you with swelling, stiffness, mood swings, sleep, digestion and honestly it just makes you feel better."

She asked all expecting mothers to be gentle on themselves, but asked them not to stop moving. "So all the preggio women watching this, please please be gentle to yourself. But don't completely stop moving. Your body will thank you later. And I will thank you later. Lots of love." Karishma wrote in the caption: "Hey preggos!!! let's do this." A fitness enthusiast, Karishma started dating a Mumbai-based real estate businessman Varun Bangera in 2021. In the same year, they got married in 2022.

It was in April, when the actress announced that she's all set to welcome her first bundle of joy in with her husband Varun. In a collaborative post, the two announced the news. They shared multiple pregnancy photoshoot pictures of Karishma along with Varun.

