

EYE SECRETS

English Daily

Spy in every blink

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AP govt. implements Ebola precautionary measures amid African outbreak

Andhra Pradesh State Minister for Medical and Health, Satyakumar Yadav, announced that precautionary measures have been put in place due to the Ebola outbreak across several African nations. He expressed concern over rising transmission rates in Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan. The Minister assured that the Medical and Health Department is fully prepared to combat the virus, following WHO warnings and instructions from the Central Government. He highlighted ongoing coordination with Airport Authorities at Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Vijayawada, focusing on screening travellers from affected countries. Symptomatic individuals will be quarantined, and immediate medical checks will be conducted for those nearby. The Minister also directed measures at Visakhapatnam Port and land routes, with the



Central Government monitoring incoming travellers. A comprehensive 'Action Plan' is being drafted, and 15-bed isolation wards are being established in key teaching hospitals. Adequate PPE and testing kits are available. The Minister urged the public to avoid travel to Congo,

Uganda, and South Sudan unless necessary, and to report illness after arriving from Ebola-affected regions. Symptoms include fever, weakness, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, eye redness, and loss of appetite.

Book on former governor Bandaru Dattatreya launch in Visakhapatnam

A grand event was held today (Sunday) at the Kakatiya Convention Centre in Maddilapalem, Visakhapatnam, to mark the launch of the book Prajala Kathe Na Atmakatha (The People's Story is My Autobiography). The book details the life and political journey of former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, highlighting his dedication to public service and his strong connection with the common people. Politics Odisha Governor Kambhampati Haribabu attended as the Chief Guest, while several BJP leaders, including MLC Somu Veerraju and GVL Narasimha Rao, also participated in the event. The book was formally unveiled during the ceremony. Haribabu praised Dattatreya's rise from humble beginnings to become Governor, calling his journey an inspiring



example for the youth. Dattatreya expressed that his political experiences and the blessings of the people are the true sources of strength in his life. He explained that this sentiment was the core reason for naming the book 'Prajala Kathe Na Atmakatha', reflecting his deep bond with the common people.

Leopard spotted in Srisailam Mandal



The animal was seen early this morning (Sunday) near Sunnipenta GENCO Colony, where it was observed roaming in front of a house. A leopard sighting in Srisailam Mandal has caused concern among local residents. The animal was seen early this morning (Sunday) near Sunnipenta GENCO Colony, where it was observed roaming in front of a house. The leopard caused panic as it approached a metal-caged chicken, attempting to prey on it. After several failed attempts to catch the chicken, the leopard eventually moved away from the area. The residents of the house managed to record a video of the incident on their mobile phones and shared it on social media. Locals have reported that leopards are frequently seen on the outskirts of Sunnipenta, sparking fears among the community. They have appealed to the Forest Department to take appropriate measures to ensure their safety and prevent further sightings.

No fuel shortage in country, PSU oil firms managing supply smoothly: BPCCL Marketing Director

Amid concerns over fuel availability in some areas, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Marketing Director Sukhmal Kumar Jain on Sunday said there is no shortage of petrol or diesel in the country, adding that public sector oil marketing companies are fully managing fuel consumption and supply. Speaking exclusive to IANS, Jain said that public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) operate around 85,000 retail outlets out of the nearly one lakh fuel stations across the country, ensuring steady fuel availability. "I don't think there is any shortage because as far as the consumption part is concerned, it is being fully managed by the public sector oil marketing companies," he said. "At least I can say that since they hold the larger share -- out of 1 lakh-odd retail outlets, around 85,000

are from public sector oil marketing companies," he added.

So stray cases may be there due to various other reasons, but otherwise there is no shortage, whatever I understand in this area, Jain told IANS. Commenting on the current market situation, Jain said global crude oil prices and other associated costs remain highly volatile. He noted that shipping costs, insurance expenses, and fluctuations in exchange rates have significantly impacted oil companies. "See, again I'll put it this way -- the situation is very volatile, and there are various components. If you have really seen crude oil, then shipping costs, insurance, and even exchange rates, the way they have moved," he said. According to Jain, exchange rates that were earlier around 89-90 are now hovering near



96, increasing the burden on oil marketing companies. He said that due to the combined impact of these factors, oil companies are currently absorbing losses in the range of Rs 600 crore to Rs 700 crore per day. Despite the pressure on margins, Jain maintained that PSU oil companies continue to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply across the country.

Foundation laid for Vishram Sadan at Kurnool GGH

The facility being constructed at Rs 14.67 crore by Power Grid Corporation of India will provide accommodation for patients' attendants. Industries, Commerce and Food Processing Minister TG Bharath Gupta on Saturday laid foundation stone for a 150-bed 'Vishram Sadan' at Kurnool Government General Hospital (GGH), to be constructed at a cost of Rs 14.67 crore through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from Power Grid Corporation of India. The facility is being developed to provide accommodation for attendants and family members of patients visiting the hospital. Power Grid



Corporation Chairman and Managing Director Vamsi Rama Mohan Burra, Panyam MLA Gowru Charitha Reddy and senior officials participated in the bhoomi puja ceremony held at the hospital

premises. Minister Bharath said the government was committed to transforming Kurnool Government General Hospital into the leading healthcare institution in the State by providing corporate-level med-

ical infrastructure and patient facilities. He urged the National Buildings Construction Corporation to complete Vishram Sadan within ten months, as all required approvals had already been obtained. He also appealed to Power Grid Corporation to continue extending support for the hospital's future development needs. Power Grid Corporation CMD Vamsi Rama Mohan Burra said the company had so far spent nearly Rs 100 crore on various CSR initiatives across the State. He recalled that the corporation had earlier funded CT scan facilities at Kurnool Government Hospital. Panyam MLA Gowru Charitha appreciated the contribu-

tion of Power Grid Corporation and stressed the need to complete the building at the earliest so that people from seven districts, along with patients from Telangana and Karnataka, could benefit from the facility. Hospital Superintendent Dr Venkateswarlu noted that the lack of accommodation for attendants had long been a concern, hence allocated 60 cents of land for Vishram Sadan project. A battery-operated transport vehicle worth Rs 6.35 lakh was also inaugurated, donated by Sneha Sri Welfare Society for cancer patients. Senior medical officials, Power Grid executives and members of the hospital development committee attended the event.

Rozgar Mela generated employment for 1.25 million people so far, says Union Min Kishan



Union Minister Kishan Reddy announced that the Central Government has provided jobs to 51,000 individuals through the Rozgar Mela (Employment Fair) held across 47 locations nationwide. The Union Minister participated in the 19th Rozgar Mela, held at the Rail Kalarang in Bhoiguda. He noted that 220 new recruits were joining their posts on this day. He revealed that since its inception on Diwali in 2022, the Rozgar Mela initiative has generated employment for 1.25 million people to date. He emphasized that this is not merely an employment generation program,

but a massive mission launched by the Modi government to secure the future of the nation's youth. He added that, alongside government jobs, millions of employment opportunities are also emerging within the private sector. Training Youth through Skill

Development... The Union Minister stated that, thanks to the rise of startups and unicorns, the youth have transitioned from being job seekers to job providers. He noted that employment opportunities are witnessing a massive surge through infrastructure projects such as roads, airports, railways, metro systems, and industrial corridors. He explained that infrastructure development works worth ₹12 lakh crore are being undertaken across the country every year. He further pointed out that every ₹1 lakh crore invested in infrastructure generates between 1.4 to 1.5 million jobs. He remarked that Prime Minister Modi views the youth as the

"superheroes of a Developed India" ("Viksit Bharat"). He mentioned that millions of young people are currently receiving training through skill development programs. He also highlighted that modern technologies—such as AI and IoT—are being taught to rural youth in their respective mother tongues. Kishan Reddy asserted that India's youth are excelling on the global stage. He stated that India is making strides in the fields of semiconductors, space, and drone technology. He highlighted that India is the first nation to successfully reach the Moon's South Pole. He noted that during Operation Sindoor, indigenously developed drones successfully

intercepted enemy missiles. He emphasized that the youth play a pivotal role in achieving the goal of a 'Developed India' by 2047. He mentioned that the number of universities, colleges, and PM-SHRI schools has been increased. He stated that India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy. He pointed out that while there were only a few hundred startups prior to 2014, there are now over 120,000 of them. He advised the youth that excellent job opportunities are also available in the mining and coal sectors. Union Minister Kishan Reddy urged the youth to focus their attention on courses such as mining and engineering.

Hyd police launches AI-powered multilingual complaint recorder



The Hyderabad City Police on Saturday launched AI-CopWriter, a first-of-its-kind AI-powered mobile app that allows officers to record, transcribe, and translate complaints in 10 major Indian languages in real time at every police station. Any citizen can now lodge a complaint in their mother tongue. The app transcribes and translates spoken words into a complete, accurate FIR within seconds—removing language barriers and making police services more accessible to all, including migrants and non-Telugu speakers, a release from the police said. Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar unveiled the AI-CopWriter and reviewed its functionality. The tool is designed to assist police personnel in streamlining documentation and report-writing through

AI technology. "Language should never stand between a citizen and justice. With AI-CopWriter, it no longer will," Sajjanar said while launching the app. The app would increase operational efficiency, standardise record-keeping across over 80 police stations, reduce dependency on human interpreters and provide legally admissible transcripts. The application is scalable and its records are audit-ready and digitally archived, the release further said. Bluecloud Softech Solutions, along with an intern Chandu, worked closely with the city police IT Cell in developing the app.

Girls outshine boys in TG POLYCET

An overall 82.94 per cent of students have passed for admission into diploma engineering (polytechnic) courses after the Telangana Polytechnic Common Entrance Test (TG POLYCET) 2026 results were announced on Saturday, May 23. Girls outdid boys with 86.38 per cent pass percentage as against 79.92 per cent. A total of 98,029 candidates appeared and 81,307 candidates qualified in the MPC (Maths Physics Chemistry) stream. Eleven students shared first rank. These are – Namala

Lokesh (Warangal), Banothu Hemanth (Suryapet), Alwiya Shifali (Mancherial), Mohammad Mahaboob Arfaaz Ali (Khammam), Kotla Apoorva (Mahabubnagar), Annam Hari Krishna (Sangareddy), Jangala Avinash Goud (Nalgonda), Chilaka Nanda Vardhan Reddy (Suryapet), Kanduri Aditya Souri (Khammam), Rudroju Sajjan (Siddipet) and Dureddy Vanmay Reddy (Nagarkurnool). In MBIPC (Maths Biology Physics Chemistry) stream, 98,029 students appeared and 79,652 qualified. Kotla Apoorva (Mahabubnagar) and Rudroju Sajjan (Siddipet) shared the top rank.

Student dies at Gandhi Hospital after two surgeries, family alleges negligence



A second-year BSc student of Gandhi Medical College died at Gandhi Hospital here after two successive surgeries failed to stop internal bleeding, with her family alleging that the doctor's negligence cost their daughter her life. Pallavi Goud, a BSc second-year student at Gandhi Medical College, was admitted to the hospital on May 16 with a chest-related ailment. Doctors performed surgery on May 17 to remove a tumour. When the first surgery failed to produce the desired results, doctors performed a second procedure. However, bleeding could not be controlled even after the second

surgery, following which Pallavi died. Pallavi's parents alleged that inexperienced doctors and medical negligence were responsible for their daughter's death. They filed a complaint at the Chilkalguda police station. The family's grief was compounded by an initial refusal to hand over the body, according to family members present at the hospital. Pallavi's parents and relatives staged a protest outside the hospital, stating they would not take the body until justice was assured. Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Six held for transporting ganja from Hyd to Odisha



Six persons were arrested at Chapel Road for allegedly transporting 16.230 kg of ganja worth Rs 16 lakh from Odisha to Hyderabad. The arrested persons were identified as Gulam Rasool, 32, Mahmood Khan, 48, Chand Bai, 45, Bismilla Khan, 46, SK Mujahid, 32 and Tajuddin Khan, 45. Rasool supplied tea, coffee, and snack stalls at Chapel Road. All six were arrested in a surprise raid, said excise officials. Out of the six accused, five are residents of Nampally, while one hails

Lawyer dies after being hit by car at home

A lawyer died after being hit by a car outside his residence here in a suspected case of pre-planned murder, police said on Saturday. The 63-year-old victim was about to get into his car when the car hit him at his residence at Masab Tank here. He was rushed to a hospital but he breathed his last while undergoing treatment, police added. Visuals of the man being hit by car has since gone viral.

Heatwave: Taking toll on brain, eye health

Doctors advise caution amid soaring temperatures



With heatwave conditions intensifying across several parts of the country, doctors are warning that prolonged exposure to high temperatures may adversely affect not only physical well-being but also eye and neurological functioning, especially among children, senior citizens and people with pre-existing medical conditions. Health experts say soaring temperatures, dehydration and prolonged exposure to sunlight can disturb the body's internal balance and trigger fatigue, dizziness, severe headaches, migraines, heat exhaustion and even neurological complications in vulnerable individuals. Hospitals across Delhi-NCR are witnessing a rise in patients reporting heat-related ailments, including eye irritation, dehydration-induced headaches and heat-

triggered neurological symptoms, doctors said. "The ongoing heatwave is beginning to show an impact beyond routine heat-related illnesses, with a noticeable increase in neurological complaints in our OPD," Dr Vinit Suri, Senior Consultant Neurology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, said. "We have seen nearly a 20 per cent increase in OPD patients over the past few days, with more people

coming in with symptoms such as severe headaches, dizziness, disorientation, fainting episodes, worsening of existing neurological conditions, and especially migraine flare-ups," he said. Heat exposure and prolonged exposure to bright sunlight can act as triggers for migraines in some individuals, Dr Suri said. Extreme heat and dehydration can also affect blood flow to the brain, alter electrolyte balance and place

significant stress on the nervous system, particularly in vulnerable individuals, he explained. Symptoms such as persistent confusion, slurred speech, unusual drowsiness, seizures or loss of consciousness should not be ignored, as they may indicate a serious neurological emergency and require immediate medical attention. Dr Sushma Sharma, Director, Neurology, at Marengo Asia Hospitals, said people suffering from migraine, epilepsy and other neurological disorders may face worsening symptoms during periods of extreme heat and poor sleep caused by hot nights and power cuts. "During extreme summer heat, it is important to avoid stepping out during peak afternoon hours whenever possible. If going outdoors is necessary, people should protect themselves by using umbrellas, sunglasses, and covering their heads.

Traffic diversions on Hyderabad-Mumbai Highway from today

Traffic will be diverted from May 24 on the Hyderabad-Mumbai Highway (NH-65) due to the ongoing construction of retaining (RE) walls, the Hyderabad Traffic Police said on Saturday, May 23. The road construction is a part of the vehicle underpass project at the Novopan Junction. Vehicles travelling from ORR and Sangareddy towards Patancheru will be diverted at Pocharam Kaman onto the left-side service road up to Patancheru Vegetable Market Road, where the traffic will rejoin NH-65. Traffic from Patancheru towards Sangareddy will be diverted onto the right-side service road near Incoor Lake City Apartments up to Ramky Infra Tower before merging back onto NH-65.

Raheja, Ramky and Yashoda groups announce CSR funds for construction of schools



The Raheja Group, Ramky and Yashoda Foundations have come forward to support the government in the construction of the schools in different parts of the state. The three organizations joined as partners with the government to construct the educational institutions under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The representatives of the 3 corporate companies signed an agreement with the government in the presence of Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat today. Neel C. Raheja (President, Raheja Group), Alla Dakshayani (Managing Trustee, Ramky Foundation), and Gorukanti Devender Rao (Director, Yashoda Group) handed over the agreement documents to CM Revanth Reddy.

As part of the agreement, Ramky Foundation will contribute 40 per cent of the total cost, amounting to ₹19.66 crores, towards the construction of a new campus in Jawahar Nagar, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The campus will accommodate facilities from primary to intermediate level classrooms. As part of the agreement, the Raheja Group will bear the entire cost of ₹50.50 crores required for the construction of facilities for classes ranging from primary to intermediate levels in Kondapur, Ranga Reddy district. The Ramky Foundation will also spend 40 per cent of the total expenditure - Rs 10.4 crores for the construction of facilities for primary to 5th-grade classes and also intermediate classes.

Disproportionate assets case booked against govt official



A disproportionate assets case was registered against a government official who allegedly acquired assets by indulging in corrupt practices and dubious means during his service, the Telangana ACB said on Friday. The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) said in a release that preliminary searches were conducted on Friday at the office, residence and 11 other places belonging to Marri Vamshi Mohan, Special Grade Deputy Collector, ULC, at the office of district collector, Medchal Malkajgiri district, and his relatives and others. During the searches, several property documents were found, including 19 open plots worth Rs 4.46 crore, an independent house and two flats all worth Rs 1.12 crore and a farmhouse worth Rs 10 lakh. The market value of these

properties is expected to be much higher than the official value, the release said. Further, net cash of Rs 2.10 lakh, gold ornaments weighing about 122 grams, two vehicles, among others, were found. The total assets are estimated at about Rs 6.22 crore. He will be arrested and produced before a competent court for judicial remand. A further probe is in progress, it added.

Indian mountaineers who died after scaling Mt Everest were passionate climbers: Relatives



Sandeep Are and Arun Kumar Tiwari, who died while descending from Mount Everest, were passionate mountaineers who loved adventure, friends and relatives recalled on Saturday. While Are, a US-based IT professional, is a native of Hindupur in Andhra Pradesh, Tiwari, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, is settled in Hyderabad. According to Shyam, brother-in-law of Are, he scaled Mount Everest on May 20, but succumbed to health complications on May 21. "We are working towards repatriating his body, so the family can catch his last glimpse," he told PTI. Though Are is an avid mountaineer who scaled many peaks across continents such as Kilimanjaro, his parents were against his adventures, Shyam said. Tiwari and Are were trained by Boots and Crampon, an Indian

company organising expeditions and treks all over the world. Tiwari (53), a senior professional in an IT company, is an accomplished mountaineer. He had climbed Mt Elbrus (Russia), Mt Denali (US) and Mt Aconcagua (Argentina), besides multiple peaks, sources in Boots and Crampon said. Bringing the body down from high altitude is an expen-

sive affair, they said. Tiwari and Are might have exhausted while they were coming down from the peak and could not be saved despite the best efforts of their guides, said Rishi Bhandari, secretary general of the Expedition Operators Association of Nepal. It appears that Are summited on Wednesday and Tiwari on Thursday around 5:30 pm, Bhandari said.

The guides "worked really hard" but were not able to save them, he said. Boots and Crampon sources said Tiwari had two experienced Sherpa guides (Rinzi and Aseem) and they were trying to descend together. But, he was exhausted at the Hillary Step and the guides were not able to bring him back. He had attempted Mt

Everest in 2025 but withdrew after climbing about 7,200 metres owing to health issues, they said. Tiwari is survived by wife and two daughters. Tiwari died near the Hillary Step, just below the summit, after falling ill during his descent on Thursday evening while being assisted by four Sherpa climbers, according to Nivesh Karki, Director at Nepal-based Pioneer Adventures, which organised the expedition. Are (46) summited on May 20 but became unwell during the descent. He was rescued by Sherpa guides from the South Summit and died shortly after arriving at Camp II early May 22. IFMGA (International Federation of Mountain Guides Association) guide Dandu Sherpa and other Sherpas tried to help Are, the sources added. Are had climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, Mt Lobuche East and Mt Aconcagua in the past.

Airline miles may not go as far as the Iran war drives up fuel costs and summer fares

Users of credit cards that accrue airline miles and points toward various travel perks are likely to find their balances won't take them as far this summer.

As jet fuel prices have jumped during the Iran war, so have the cost of airline tickets and fees for checking bags. Airfares in April were 21% higher than a year earlier, the Labor Department reported last week. Flights already are more expensive during the summer since there's more demand.

That means travellers who wanted to use an airline-branded credit card or a travel rewards card from a bank with a specific trip or a first-class seat in mind may have to shell out some cash, choose a different destination or fly at inconvenient times to get the most out of their accounts, travel experts say.

Frequent flyers

In the early years of frequent flyer programs, airlines published tables that showed customers how much a higher class of service or flying a certain distance would cost in miles. Nearly all airlines now continuously adjust their airfares, an algorithm-powered strategy known as dynamic pricing.

Flights priced in points are based on overall demand, just like regular fares. The cash value of those seats often will roughly equal the same in points. Higher airfares typically translate into needing more miles or points to buy a ticket. Long before the current disruption to global oil supplies, consumers, a pair of US senators and former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg cried foul over the airline practice of increasing the number of points or miles needed to earn a free flight or offering fewer redeemable seats before people could cash in their loyalty stockpiles.

"There's no question that dynamic award pricing, higher redemption rates on some domestic routes, and added fees have made it harder to find the outsized deals that travelers enjoyed a decade ago," said Brian Kelly, the travel and credit card rewards expert better known as The Points Guy.

"But that doesn't necessarily mean points have lost value. It just means consumers need to be more strategic about how they redeem them."

Earning loyalty

Now, the better news. There are a lot of ways



FLIGHTS PRICED IN POINTS ARE BASED ON OVERALL DEMAND, JUST LIKE REGULAR FARES. THE CASH VALUE OF THOSE SEATS OFTEN WILL ROUGHLY EQUAL THE SAME IN POINTS. HIGHER AIRFARES TYPICALLY TRANSLATE INTO NEEDING MORE MILES OR POINTS TO BUY A TICKET. LONG BEFORE THE CURRENT DISRUPTION TO GLOBAL OIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS, A PAIR OF US SENATORS AND FORMER TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG CRIED FOUL OVER THE AIRLINE PRACTICE OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF POINTS OR MILES NEEDED TO EARN A FREE FLIGHT OR OFFERING FEWER REDEEMABLE SEATS BEFORE PEOPLE COULD CASH IN THEIR LOYALTY STOCKPILES

to accrue airline miles, and most don't come with an expiration date. Signing up for an airline's frequent flyer program is the simplest method and usually doesn't cost anything. Depending on the carrier, members can earn miles when they fly with the airline or its partners and can redeem them for perks like discounted flights, seat upgrades or checked bags. Higher tiers of loyalty programs can also unlock benefits like priority boarding or waived baggage fees.

Major airlines also partner with banks to market co-branded credit cards that carry an annual fee. The cards earn users miles whenever they buy something.

"When you're going to spend money anyway, you might as well get something back for it," said Adam Morvitz, a credit card miles expert and CEO of point.me, a travel loyalty platform. "If you're

already buying groceries, paying for gas or booking a hotel, a travel rewards card turns that everyday spending into points that can fund your next trip."

This is where being a frequent flyer or having an airline credit card might yield summer savings. To offset their jet fuel costs, some U.S. airlines have raised the checked baggage fees for domestic flights and many short-haul international flights. United Airlines raised the price of the first checked bag from \$40 to \$50. Delta Air Lines' first checked bag fee went from \$35 to \$45.

The airlines still are allowing customers in the upper tiers of their loyalty programs or who hold credit cards like the Delta SkyMiles Card from American Express or United's card with Chase to check a bag for free.

Extra miles

Financial institutions like American Express, Chase Bank and Citibank issue their own travel credit cards that supply points with purchases. Travelers that want the option of flying with more airlines tend to favor these. Depending on the card, perks can include airport lounge access, travel insurance, no foreign transaction fees and TSA PreCheck or Global Entry credits.

"For those who spend responsibly, the value is incredible as you're able to get more in value from the perks, even if there is an annual fee," he said. For beginners, Morvitz recommends flexible points cards over airline-specific options because they can be transferred across loyalty programs and provide more redemption options if an airline changes its award pricing. He said consumers should match a card to their actual

spending habits — such as choosing cards with bonus categories for groceries or dining — while also considering whether annual fees are justified by the benefits they'll actually use.

A lot of banks are promoting sizable sign-up bonuses while people make summer plans, such as offering 100,000 miles or even 150,000 miles or points to new customers who qualify and spend a certain amount of money within a specific period — usually the first three months. Kelly said the bonuses make it a good time to get one of these cards, which might make trips more affordable for people needing extra points.

Those sign-up offers also can be among the most valuable features of rewards cards, sometimes worth more than \$1,000 in travel, Morvitz said. But consumers should carefully track minimum spending requirements to qualify. He also recommends using category bonuses and shopping portals to maximize rewards and always attaching a frequent flyer number to airline reservations.

Pay as you go

The important thing to remember is that the value of a bank travel card or an airline loyalty card evaporates if you carry a balance. The average credit card interest rate is between 21% and 24%, so even carrying a \$1,000 balance can quickly wipe out any savings from a complimentary checked bag.

"Travel rewards cards are one of the best financial tools available to responsible cardholders, but they're designed for people who treat them like a debit card," Morvitz said. "Spend what you'd spend anyway and always pay the balance in full each month. The moment you start carrying a balance and paying interest, the math works against you."

Hotels are another place where travelers may not get as much from their rewards points this summer. Hyatt overhauled its loyalty program this week to take it from three tiers to five. While some lower-cost hotel stays will require the same number of points, the same might not be true for Hyatt's more upscale properties.

The travel blog One Mile at a Time estimated that some of Hyatt's most elite properties would cost as much as 67% more with points under the new system. "If you're sitting on hotel points, don't sit and hoard them. ... They quickly seem to be getting less valuable," said Sally French, who covers credit cards and loyalty programs for Nerd Wallet.

"From Hindenburg to Hyper-Scale: Inside Adani's Reinvention of Power, Capital, and Corporate Survival"



ARJA SRIKANTH
SENIOR BUREAUCRAT

The Adani story is no longer merely the story of a conglomerate defending itself against allegations. It has evolved into one of the defining case studies of modern global capitalism—where corporate resilience, political economy, financial engineering, institutional navigation, and reputational warfare collide in real time. What began in January 2023 as one of the fiercest attacks ever mounted against an Indian business empire has, by 2026, transformed into an equally dramatic story of recalibration and survival. In many ways, the Adani episode now reflects something much larger than one corporation. It reveals the changing architecture of Indian capitalism itself: a system increasingly defined by giant infrastructure ecosystems, concentrated capital, geopolitical risk, and the brutal speed of digital-era scrutiny.

When the short-seller Hindenburg Research released its explosive 106-page report accusing the Adani Group of stock manipulation, offshore opacity, governance failures, and accounting irregularities, the shockwaves were immediate and global. Markets erased nearly \$150 billion in value within weeks. International investors panicked. Analysts questioned not only the future of the conglomerate, but also the credibility of India's regulatory institutions and the sustainability of politically connected infrastructure capitalism. For a brief period, the crisis appeared existential. The narrative hardened quickly: a rising corporate empire had been exposed, global confidence had cracked, and one of India's most ambitious industrial expansions seemed trapped in reputational freefall. Yet capitalism, especially at scale, rarely collapses in straight lines. It adapts, absorbs shocks, and reinvents itself under pressure.

Three years later, the landscape looks dramatically different. The group not only survived but emerged operationally leaner, financially more disciplined, and strategically more adaptive. Regulatory pressures gradually softened. Liquidity improved. Debt structures were recalibrated. Billions of dollars in borrowings were prepaid. International investors cautiously returned, with firms such as QG Partners signaling renewed confidence in the conglomerate's long-term viability. What initially appeared to be a near-fatal reputational collapse ultimately became a stress test that forced restructuring at extraordinary speed. The crisis accelerated internal reforms that may otherwise have taken a decade to implement. In a strange irony, the attack that threatened the empire may have strengthened its institutional survival instincts.

But the real significance of the Adani episode lies beyond balance sheets and market capitalization. It exposes the deeper mechanics of India's econom-



WHEN THE SHORT-SELLER HINDENBURG RESEARCH RELEASED ITS EXPLOSIVE 106-PAGE REPORT ACCUSING THE ADANI GROUP OF STOCK MANIPULATION, OFFSHORE OPACITY, GOVERNANCE FAILURES, AND ACCOUNTING IRREGULARITIES, THE SHOCKWAVES WERE IMMEDIATE AND GLOBAL. MARKETS ERASED NEARLY \$150 BILLION IN VALUE WITHIN WEEKS. INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS PANICKED

ic transformation in the 21st century. India is no longer merely nurturing standalone companies; it is building infrastructure ecosystems of continental scale. Ports, airports, renewable energy corridors, logistics chains, mining networks, transmission grids, industrial parks, and data infrastructure require unprecedented concentrations of capital and coordination. In such sectors, success depends not only on operational efficiency but also on the ability to simultaneously manage finance, regulation, geopolitics, technology, state relationships, and public perception. Modern infrastructure capitalism is no longer simply industrial—it is systemic. And systemic corporations increasingly behave less like businesses and more like parallel governance architectures embedded inside the economy itself.

The group's post-crisis response reflected this emerging reality. Rather than retreating into defensive conservatism, it reportedly accelerated restructuring and organizational redesign. Analysts increasingly compare this shift to an "orchestrator model" similar to the ecosystem architecture associated with companies like Apple. Under such a framework, the corporation retains strategic command over finance, standards, integration, branding, and long-term direction while outsourcing execution-intensive activities to special-

ized operational partners. This represents a profound shift away from the older Indian conglomerate philosophy of complete vertical ownership. In the modern economy, scale is no longer achieved merely by owning everything. It is achieved by controlling networks, coordinating systems, and accelerating execution through strategic integration. The future belongs less to industrial empires of possession and more to institutional empires of coordination.

The crisis also revealed a harsher truth about corporate survival in the digital age: reputation itself has become infrastructure. Financial strength alone is no longer enough. ESG credibility, governance standards, cyber resilience, disclosure systems, regulatory engagement, and institutional trust now influence valuation almost as much as profitability. The Hindenburg episode demonstrated how rapidly global narratives can damage legitimacy in interconnected capital markets. But it also forced Indian conglomerates to recognize that compliance is no longer a legal checkbox—it is strategic armor. In the age of algorithmic finance and instant information warfare, credibility compounds like capital, and distrust spreads faster than infrastructure can be built. A corporation may spend years constructing ports and power plants, yet a single global narrative can vaporize billions in valuation within days.

Ultimately, the Adani saga is neither a simple story of corporate victimhood nor merely a tale of excess and controversy. It is the story of a rising economy wrestling with ambition, governance, global scrutiny, political proximity, and institutional maturity all at once. It exposes both the strengths and vulnerabilities embedded within India's development model. India's future will inevitably produce giant corporate ecosystems competing globally across infrastructure, energy, logistics, technology, and finance. The real question is whether these empires evolve into institutions respected not only for their scale and execution speed, but also for their transparency, resilience, and public legitimacy. The Adani crisis may therefore be remembered not as the moment Indian capitalism was exposed, but as the moment it was forced to evolve under the unforgiving pressure of global visibility.

How scientists identified hantavirus on a cruise ship thousands of miles away

When South African infectious disease specialist Lucille Blumberg checked her email on the morning of May 1, while the country was celebrating the Labor Day holiday, an urgent message caught her attention.

A U.K.-based colleague had written about a passenger from a cruise ship sailing thousands of miles away in the Atlantic Ocean who had been evacuated and admitted to a Johannesburg hospital with suspected pneumonia. Others aboard the vessel were also sick.

The colleague, who monitors diseases in remote British overseas territories in the South Atlantic Ocean, asked Blumberg to follow up on the passenger, who had been evacuated from the ship in one of the territories, Ascension Island.

Blumberg and other experts at South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases were suddenly thrown into the race to identify the cause of an outbreak aboard the Dutch cruise ship MV Hondius.

"Even though it was a public holiday, we moved, we moved really fast," Blumberg told The Associated Press. "It was busy. There were many conversations. There were online discussions, and there was laboratory testing happening at the time."

Within 24 hours, they had determined that the man's illness was caused by hantavirus, a rare rodent-borne virus.

A process of elimination to identify the disease

The elderly British man had arrived at a private hospital in Johannesburg days earlier and was seriously ill, but health workers weren't sure of the underlying cause.

By the time he was evacuated from the ship, two elderly Dutch passengers who had been on board the MV Hondius cruise liner had already died, but there had been little alarm. Ascension Island health authorities had reported a cluster of illnesses on the ship that appeared to be pneumonia

to the World Health Organization.

At first, Blumberg and her colleagues thought it might be Legionella, a bacterium that causes a serious form of pneumonia, Legionnaires' disease. Or maybe bird flu.

"I called my infectious disease colleagues, and we had a caucus, and we discussed the usual ones," Blumberg said. "Legionella is well described in outbreaks in hotels and on cruise ships, and influenza certainly is. These people had visited islands where avian influenza is well documented."

Tests on all those were negative. The experts also ran an extensive panel of tests for other respiratory diseases. Also, all negative.

The team then began looking more closely at where the ship came from — Argentina — and the fact that passengers on board were avid bird watchers and had reportedly been to parts of South America where there were birds, but also rodents.

Collaboration with experts in South America and the US

That pushed the South African disease experts toward another theory: the rare, rodent-borne hantavirus infection, which is found in parts of South America.

"It's a well-described, not common, but it's a well-described virus in Chile and Argentina," Blumberg said. She added that their work was aided by collaboration with hantavirus experts from South America and the United States, facilitated by the WHO, the U.N. health agency.

"You can get onto a Zoom (call) online and ask your questions and get advice. This is not something every day. So that was quite extraordinary," Blumberg said.

By then, it was Saturday morning. Blumberg called the head of the only laboratory in South Africa that can test for hantavirus. "I said, we want to do hanta, and she said, yeah, I'm coming."



TWISTS TO POLITICS

The defeat of some major political establishments in the recent round of assembly polls is bound to reshape the nation's political landscape in curious ways. This will have far-reaching implications for the BJP behemoth. Its writ presently runs on three-quarters of the population. This, thus, is the Saffron age. The disciplined manner in which the BJP functions, mainly due to the Sangh Parivar orientation among major sections of its leadership structure, is to its advantage. Without much fuss in the streets, it manages governance, with the RSS providing it the backup in ideological and organisational terms. This discipline also makes the BJP and its ministers less corrupt. Governance takes place quietly. This would make it difficult for the anti-BJP political bandwagon, principally the Congress, to easily neutralize the Saffron influence on politics. The BJP is linked to the religious mindset of Hindus, who form the larger majority. These are reasons why the BJP governments in states are able to run for more terms than one.

Add to this the present scenario in which the INDIA bloc led by the Congress party suffered serious jolts. A major partner of this national alliance, the DMK, lost Tamil Nadu. The opposition in the state as a whole disintegrated. The AIADMK split further and one segment reached out to the ruling TVK for political rehabilitation in government. Regional satrap MK Stalin ran for cover after his personal defeat in Kolathur constituency and the epic Dravidian political formation itself is humbled. The politics in the state will now be in a state of flux. TVK founder and chief minister Joseph Vijay made clear the new party is secular and would ally with the Congress and the Left. He's not willing to side with the BJP. In other words, the Secular platform of Tamil Nadu remains intact. Now, both the DMK and the TVK with their strong mass followings would be a boost to the non-BJP opposition at the national level. The presence of Rahul Gandhi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and the Left leaders at Vijay's swearing in ceremony was significant. The Congress and the Left, till a part of the DMK-led alliance in the state, sided overnight with the TVK. This is bound to strengthen the INDIA-bloc at the national level, also as DMK cannot ideologically side with the BJP.

More important is the scenario in Bengal. Mamata Banerjee as TMC founder and chief minister for the past 15 years fought with the BJP and the Modi government at the Centre. Banerjee however had kept a distance with the Congress and the INDIA bloc; as, in any future eventuality, she wanted to hoist herself to the PM post with backing from the national opposition. Today, having fallen flat, having seen her party ousted from power, and defeated herself in her Bhabanipur-Kolkata constituency, she could be a chastened lot. The only way left for her in the near future is to solidly stand with the INDIA-bloc to take on the BJP. Take also the present plight of the Left into consideration. It has been ousted from power from its last bastion - Kerala - and powerful Pinarayi Vijayan has been neutralized. Yet, the Left may have difficulty allying strongly with INDIA bloc against the BJP, as the Congress that wrested power from it in the state is its main rival. Yet, ideologically, it will keep away from the BJP.

Rice feeds billions of people - but its role in fueling climate change is growing

Rice feeds more than half the world. From terraced paddies in Southeast Asia to irrigated fields in China and India, it underpins daily meals for billions of people. But the same flooded soils that help rice thrive also create ideal conditions for microbes that release climate-warming gases.

In a new study, our team of environment and agriculture scientists found that greenhouse gas emissions from rice paddies have nearly doubled globally since the 1960s, averaging about 1.1 billion tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions per year in the 2010s. That's roughly equal to the annual emissions of 239 million cars.

This makes rice-growing the largest emissions source in agriculture outside of livestock, and rice demand is expected to keep rising.

Farmers have ways to reduce their rice crops' emissions without lowering their yields. If every grower used the best currently available "climate-smart" options, we found that global rice emissions could be reduced by about 10% by midcentury. However, greater reductions are needed to slow climate change, which would require developing additional, more effective strategies.

Why rice emissions have increased

Rice emissions have risen for two reasons: the expansion of rice cultivation area and the intensification of management practices.

Just over half of the global increase is from the expansion of rice-growing areas. In Africa, for example, the rice-growing area has roughly doubled since the 1960s, helping drive a twofold rise in methane emissions in the region.

At the same time, rice farmers are using more fertilizers and organic amendments, such as straw and manure, planting more productive rice varieties and growing the plants closer together. The result is more rice but also more greenhouse gas emissions.

We found that one practice in particular - leaving rice stalks in the field after harvest and then plowing them into the soil to improve soil fertility - was responsible for about 18% of rice's increase in overall net emissions since the 1960s. The reason: It increases the organic matter in the soil, which microbes then decompose, creating more methane emissions.

Rising global temperatures further accelerate microbial activity in the soils, meaning even more emissions.

Fertilizer is another major contributor to emissions. Use of synthetic nitrogen increased by about 76% after 2000, boosting nitrous oxide - another powerful greenhouse gas. It contributed about 9% of the increase in total global net emissions from human activities.

Irrigation practices also affect emissions. In the past, irrigated rice paddies were kept flooded throughout the growing season, resulting in constant greenhouse gas emissions produced by microbes that thrive in the wet environment. Over the past two decades, however, more farmers have used intermittent flooding - draining their fields periodically.

This change has lowered methane emissions compared with keeping the paddies continuously flooded. However, we found a slight increase in nitrogen oxide emissions as soils cycled between wet and dry, which induces microbes to transform nitrogen in organic matter into nitrogen oxide gases, particularly nitrous oxide.

Climate impact of rice production



JUST OVER HALF OF THE GLOBAL INCREASE IS FROM THE EXPANSION OF RICE-GROWING AREAS. IN AFRICA, FOR EXAMPLE, THE RICE-GROWING AREA HAS ROUGHLY DOUBLED SINCE THE 1960S, HELPING DRIVE A TWOFOLD RISE IN METHANE EMISSIONS IN THE REGION. AT THE SAME TIME, RICE FARMERS ARE USING MORE FERTILIZERS AND ORGANIC AMENDMENTS, SUCH AS STRAW AND MANURE, PLANTING MORE PRODUCTIVE RICE VARIETIES AND GROWING THE PLANTS CLOSER TOGETHER. THE RESULT IS MORE RICE BUT ALSO MORE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Putting a full climate price tag on rice production is harder than measuring one greenhouse gas at a time.

Rice paddies emit methane and nitrous oxide from wet or flooded soils. They also remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as rice grows, and they lose carbon from their soils between crop seasons.

A credible global estimate requires consistently accounting for different gases and soil carbon changes, as well as the uncertainty involved in tracking data across space and time.

To do that, we combined three approaches

An ecosystem computer model allowed us to simulate crop growth, water conditions and soil processes to estimate changes in methane, nitrous oxide and soil carbon together.

An artificial intelligence-powered machine learning model improved estimates where measurements were sparse to cover all rice regions in the world.

And a meta-analysis of more than 1,200 field experiment sites provided direct evidence of how practices such as irrigation, fertilizer use and management of crop residue affect emissions.

Together, they allowed us to quantify emissions from 1961 to 2020, determine what drove those emissions, and test the potential of mitigation techniques under future climate conditions.

What works and doesn't for climate mitigation

There are ways to reduce emissions from rice production without sacrificing yield.

Our study found that reducing fertilizer use and residue applications, managing irrigation to allow dry periods in between flooded ones and reducing tillage could, together, reduce global greenhouse gas emissions from rice by about 10% by midcentury.

We were surprised to find that replacing chemical fertilizers with more organic choices is not always better from a greenhouse gas perspective, although it is valued in organic farming.

Maintaining moderate amounts of straw and other crop residue in the field can help boost soil fertility, but too much can increase methane emissions and accelerate the loss of carbon from the soil. Another option is to convert part of the residue into biochar - burning it under low-oxygen conditions before mixing it into flooded soils. Biochar can help stabilize soil carbon and reduce methane emissions.

Improving water management can be a powerful tool for reducing emissions. Periodically draining fields reduces methane production, though it may slightly raise nitrous oxide emissions. This strategy is particularly effective in regions with reliable irrigation infrastructure, including large parts of Asia. Managing fertilizer use is also an effective mitigation strategy, particularly in highly fertilized systems, including parts of China and South Asia. Excess nitrogen increases nitrous oxide without a clear increase in crop yields and increases water pollution. Reducing overapplication of nitrogen reduces emissions and water pollution, and it saves farmers money in the process. The effects of tilling, the practice of plowing the soil between crop seasons, have large regional differences. Reducing tilling is often promoted as climate-friendly, but we found that it does not always minimize net emissions in flooded systems.

In rice fields in temperate zones, including much of the U.S. and China, cooler conditions can limit methane production, allowing the soil carbon benefits of reduced tilling to outweigh the methane risk. In warmer, persistently flooded systems, however, low-oxygen conditions can boost microbial activity, increasing methane production and accelerating soil carbon loss.

An SNL 'All Drug Olympics?' Not quite. But these Enhanced Games are no joke

The first, best and most hilarious rendition of the "All Drug Olympics" came courtesy of "Saturday Night Live." It was 1988 when Soviet weightlifter "Sergei Akmudov," geeked up on anabolic steroids, Nyquil and "some sort of fish paralyzer," tried to clean and jerk 1,500 pounds - three times the existing world record - only to have his arms snap off at the shoulders.

Blood and gore gushed from where his arms used to be. Laughter cascaded as the on-site reporter, Kevin Nealon, threw it back to Dennis Miller in the studio.

It took almost 40 years, but finally, the event that tackles that age-old bar question, "What would happen if we just let them all take drugs?" has arrived.

"The Enhanced Games," featuring 50 athletes who have been free to use performance enhancers of their choice and will compete in track, swimming and, yes, weightlifting, is set for Sunday in Las Vegas.

Is it just a bad joke? Depends on who you ask. "A big success for us would be the athletes being healthy, safe, better paid and happier than they've ever been before," said Max Martin, the CEO and co-founder of Enhanced.

Mainstream sports ignoring Enhanced - they're not the only ones. The Associated Press spoke with a handful of leaders in the Olympic and anti-doping world, most of whom would not agree to speak on the record, even to denigrate the Enhanced Games, lest they lend oxygen to an idea they largely portrayed as a cynical money grab for washed-up athletes.

Benjamin Cohen, director general of the International Testing Agency that spearheads testing for the Olympics along with dozens of individual sports, was among those who would comment.

"I've heard some people calling it the 'Doping Olympics,' but even using the word Olympics' (is a stretch)," Cohen said. "At the end of the day, it's a one-day event, it's 2,000 people eating popcorn and there's a music concert. It's (50) athletes. It's not right to put it on the same level."

The germ of the idea for the Enhanced Games formed in 2022. Then, the event was largely seen as a disruptive, potentially paradigm-shifting sports event meant to poke at the mainstream anti-doping world's troubled enforcement efforts and Olympic sports' inability to pay a living wage to a disturbingly large percentage of their athletes.

It has since evolved into a new-age online pharmaceutical company, which describes itself as a



MAINSTREAM SPORTS IGNORING ENHANCED - THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SPOKE WITH A HANDFUL OF LEADERS IN THE OLYMPIC AND ANTI-DOPING WORLD, MOST OF WHOM WOULD NOT AGREE TO SPEAK ON THE RECORD, EVEN TO DENIGRATE THE ENHANCED GAMES, LEST THEY LEND OXYGEN TO AN IDEA THEY LARGELY PORTRAYED AS A CYNICAL MONEY GRAB FOR WASHED-UP ATHLETES

"global movement that develops scientific insights, medical discoveries and record-breaking sports events to unite humanity and inspire innovation."

Enhanced, which became a publicly traded company May 8 and has seen its initial stock price drop by around half to \$5.24 as of Friday afternoon, made some of its biggest headlines early by touting its \$250,000 first prizes and bonuses of up to \$1 million for those who break world records in top events like the 100-meter sprint.

Those marks, of course, would not count in any real sports record book. They have to come in events sanctioned by, say, World Athletics or World Aquatics, both of which require athletes to pass drug tests for any result to count.

Another number that might or might not be real is the \$12 million that sprinter Fred Kerley says he's making. Arguably the biggest name among the 50 athletes competing, Kerley, the 2022 world 100-meter champion whose personal best is 9.76 seconds - .18 short of Usain Bolt's world record - has been doing live streams leading up to the event. In one exchange about how much it would cost a shoe company to sign him, he said: "My contract was \$12 million altogether, so if they're not

willing to pay 12-plus, they can kiss my ass."

Experts debate what an enhanced record, or no record, would mean. All the 2,500-or-so tickets for the specially built venue on the Strip that includes a pool and track are going to people chosen by the organization. The Vegas betting line? Inside the sports book attached to the venue, there was no mention of Enhanced and the ticketwriters didn't know what the Enhanced Games were.

What would it mean if somebody breaks a record? What would it mean if nobody does?

"For me, it will be difficult to draw conclusions from one race this weekend," Cohen said. "For Usain Bolt to have broken a world record at the Olympics, it means he had to perform at a certain level for a number of months in the lead-up to qualify to get to that stage. It's not the same as a one-day competition where you had a six-month doping regimen."

Earlier this year, an Enhanced swimmer, Kristian Gkolomeev of Greece, set an unofficial record (20.89 seconds) in the 50 meters and received the \$1 million bonus from the group. He was using performance enhancers and a speed suit that has been banned by world swimming authorities.

Good dog! More children's hospitals turn to furry caregivers to help kids heal

The first time 5-year-old Calvin Owens went outside in more than a month, he met up with his canine friend Hadley on a hospital patio. Despite being tethered to equipment with wires and tubes, the little boy managed to stand up near his wheelchair long enough to toss her a ball.

He smiled as she ran to fetch it. Caregivers cheered.

"Look how good you're doing!" said Hadley's handler, Schellie Scott.

Such small victories and moments of joy are common whenever Hadley or one of the other three facility dogs at Cincinnati Children's Hospital show up. These furry caregivers aren't the typical therapy dogs volunteers bring to hospitals to comfort patients. They are specially trained, full-time working dogs that provide emotional support during stressful procedures, motivate kids to move around and make hospitals seem less scary. And experts say their ranks are growing at children's hospitals across the nation.

A mounting body of research shows that even short interactions with facility dogs can improve children's overall well-being, decrease the pain they feel and reduce signs of stress, like cortisol levels and blood pressure.

"These dogs are making a real difference," said Kerri Rodriguez, director of the Human-Animal Bond Lab at the University of Arizona. "They can provide a little bit of normalcy, a little bit of comfort, in a really stressful, sterile environment that kids might not feel comfortable in."

How hospital facility dog programmes work

Although no one tracks the number of facility dogs in children's hospitals, Rodriguez points to the continual growth of the annual Facility Dog Summit, where handlers and other participants network and where attendance nearly doubled from 2024 to 2025. Other types of hospitals also have full-time dogs, but experts say children's hospitals account for most of the expansion in programs. One large nonprofit, Canine Assistants in Georgia, has a specific children's hospital initiative through which it has placed more than 80 dogs nationally.

Dogs have been on the job for years at places such as Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital in New York, Norton Children's in Louisville, Kentucky, and St. Louis Children's Hospital. And new programs keep sprouting up. In March, Johns Hopkins Children's Health in Maryland introduced its first two facility dogs.

Hospitals generally get the dogs from nonprofits. Organizations such as Canine Companions, where Cincinnati Children's gets its dogs, breed, raise and train them, then place them with hospital staff members, but still own them. Dogs and handlers live and work together.

Although hospitals don't pay for the dogs, they're responsible for costs such as food and veterinary care, which can add up, especially since most are larger breeds like Labradors or golden retrievers. Hospitals usually fundraise or seek grants to cover the costs.



Hip replacement surgeries rise 40 pc among younger Indians post-COVID: Experts

New Delhi: Orthopaedic experts on Sunday raised concerns over a sharp rise in hip arthritis and avascular necrosis (AVN) cases among younger and middle-aged Indians in the post-COVID period, warning that severe hip damage linked to steroid use during the pandemic is driving a surge in total hip replacement surgeries across the country. Speaking at the 2nd Delhi HIP 360 Conference here, leading orthopaedic specialists said hospitals are witnessing a growing number of patients in their 30s and 40s suffering from advanced hip joint damage, stiffness, limping, and difficulty in walking. The conference was organised by the Delhi Orthopaedic Association in association with the Indian Arthroplasty Association and brought together orthopaedic surgeons, arthroplasty specialists, fellows, and residents from across the country to discuss advancements in total hip arthroplasty, robot-



ic-assisted surgeries, rehabilitation, and management of post-COVID hip complications.

Dr. L. Tomar, Organising Chairman of DELHI HIP 360 and Director of the Department of Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement at Max Hospital, said doctors are observing nearly a 40 per cent rise in hip replacement surgeries among younger patients. "Steroids played a life-saving role during the COVID pandemic,

but indiscriminate or prolonged use in some patients has been associated with a rise in osteonecrosis and early degenerative changes in the hip joint. We are now seeing relatively younger patients coming with severe hip damage, collapse of the femoral head, and advanced arthritis requiring early hip replacement surgeries," he said. Dr. Karun Jain, Organising Secretary of the conference, said many patients ignore early signs such as groin pain and

stiffness, often mistaking them for muscular discomfort. "One of the biggest challenges with AVN is delayed diagnosis. By the time patients seek medical advice, the hip joint may already have undergone irreversible collapse. Awareness, timely MRI evaluation, and early intervention can help reduce disability," he said. Dr. Gaurav Govil said total hip replacement has become one of the most successful procedures in modern orthopaedics due to improvements in surgical planning, implants, and rehabilitation methods. "With better implants, advanced surgical planning, and faster rehabilitation techniques, patients are able to return to normal life much earlier than before. However, the focus must remain on early diagnosis and evidence-based treatment to prevent avoidable disability," he said.

India better placed among top 10 economies in managing retail inflation: Assocham

New Delhi: India is better placed to manage retail inflation among the top 10 economies, according to an analysis by leading industry chamber Assocham on Friday, suggesting the RBI to maintain the repo rate status quo while introducing liquidity, interest subvention and moratorium support measures. India's inflation stood at 3.2 per cent in February 2026 and rose to 3.5 per cent in April, a 0.3 percentage-point increase. This performance is better than the significant increase in the US, where inflation rose from 2.4 per cent in February to 3.8 per cent in April, a 1.4 percentage-point increase. India also performed significantly better than the inflation

trajectory of France, Italy and Germany, where inflation increased by more than 1 percentage point in their respective inflation numbers between February and April. India is also better placed than Brazil in managing inflation.

"As India's headline inflation still prevails in the benign conditions, we suggest RBI to maintain a status quo on repo rate in the forthcoming review of RBI monetary policy in the 1st week of June 2026," said Nirmal K Minda, President, Assocham. Though some increase in headline inflation can't be ruled out, given the recent rise in energy prices, "it will be a transitory phase in the inflation trajectory,

and we are hopeful that inflation will return to benign territory", Minda noted. Assocham appreciated the Central Bank's decision to conduct a \$5 billion USD/INR buy-sell swap auction on May 26, to inject long-term liquidity into the banking system and strengthen forex reserves. "This will help manage liquidity conditions and stabilise rupee volatility amid global pressures and recent currency depreciation driven by geopolitical tensions and oil price shocks," said Minda.

The industry body proposed an 'On-Tap LTRO' scheme to provide Rs 1 lakh crore in liquidity support at the Repo Rate to banks and NBFCs for lending to export-oriented

and energy-related MSMEs. It will primarily support working capital loans of up to Rs 10 crore, thereby ensuring easier access to credit and business continuity. Assocham also proposed an interest subvention to reduce borrowing costs for MSMEs reliant on exports to the MENA and EU regions. Under the scheme, eligible units should be provided a 2 per cent interest subsidy on working capital loans of up to Rs 5 crore. Additionally, RBI may consider a six-month loan moratorium or interest support for energy-intensive MSMEs, helping businesses manage rising costs and maintain financial stability, said the industry chamber.

Komatireddy's birthday celebrated across Nalgonda



Nalgonda: Birthday celebrations of Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy were held at the Minister's camp office in Srinagar Colony of Nalgonda on Saturday. The programme was organised under the leadership of Town Congress President Gummula Mohan Reddy. MLC Kethavath Shankar, Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy, and Deputy Mayor Mohammed Ashraf Ali Ameer participated and cut a cake during the celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders praised the Minister for his continuous efforts towards the welfare of poor people and appreciated his services for the development of the district. As part of the celebrations, corporators, supporters, and members of the Fruit Association distributed fruits and bedsheets to patients. Birthday celebrations were also held in several villages across the Nalgonda constituency.

Bangladesh measles outbreak death toll climbs to 499 after 11 more fatalities



Dhaka: As many as 11 children died from measles and similar symptoms in Bangladesh in the 24 hours till 8 am on Friday, raising the death toll since March 15 to 499, local media reported. Among the latest fatalities, nine deaths were suspected as measles-related while two were confirmed as measles-related, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported. Health Of the latest deaths in Bangladesh, the highest number of deaths linked to the outbreak reached 414 suspected and 85 confirmed cases. As many as 1,261 suspected measles cases were reported in Bangladesh in the past 24 hours, raising the overall suspected cases to 60,540, according to the DGHS. During the same period, 54 new confirmed measles cases were recorded in Bangladesh, taking the total number of cases to 8,329.

Since March 15, 47,511 suspected measles patients were admitted to hospital. Among those, 43,411 people have recovered, UNB reported. As Bangladesh grapples with an escalating measles outbreak, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) said that it had repeatedly warned the country's earlier interim government led by Muhammad Yunus - both through written communication and meetings with health ministry officials - about vaccine shortages that could trigger a major health crisis. Addressing a press briefing in Dhaka, Rana Flowers, UNICEF representative to Bangladesh, said that the UN agency sent five to six letters to the health authorities on the issue and raised the matter in 10 meetings during the tenure of the interim government, Bangladesh's leading newspaper The Daily Star reported. Breaking news alerts "From 2024, we were warning the government that the shortage of vaccines could lead to an outbreak. From 2024 to 2025 into 2026, we sent letters, and we had 10 different meetings signalling this was a problem and that orders for vaccines needed to be given. They could not," The Daily Star quoted Flowers as saying. According to Flowers, Ted Chaiban, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, raised concerns over vaccine shortage at a meeting with the foreign ministry during his visit to Bangladesh in August last year. She added that the UN agency would provide evidence to assist the investigation launched by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led government on the measles outbreak.

Ice apples become summer lifeline as heat wave grips district

Karimnagar: With summer temperatures soaring across Karimnagar, ice apples, locally known as "ThatiMunjala", have witnessed huge demand in the city markets. From the end of March till the second week of June, vendors line up along busy roads and footpaths selling the seasonal fruit, which is considered a natural coolant during the harsh summer season. As the blistering heat intensified, residents were seen searching for refreshing and hydrating foods such as watermelons, coconut water, sugarcane juice, lemon juice and ice apples to protect themselves from dehydration, sunstroke and heatstroke. Among these, ice apples have emerged as one of the most preferred summer fruits because of their high water content and cooling properties.



Vendors said the business has been exceptionally good this year due to the unusually high temperatures. Speaking to Hans India, Thipparaboina Chandhu, an ice apple vendor from Thangallapalli village, said that earlier they used to sell a dozen ice apples for Rs 100 and earned around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200 daily during the

summer season. He added that this year profits have increased significantly as demand for the fruit has risen sharply.

Residents also noted that the fruit has become more visible on city streets this summer. Vinaya, a resident of Saphthagiri Colony in Karimnagar city, said that although ice apples are available in large

quantities on roadsides, it is still difficult to find the nutritious fruit in regular city markets. Medical experts highlighted the health benefits of consuming ice apples during summer. Dr DharamRaghuraman, MD Physician, told Hans India that ice apples naturally cool the body and help regulate body temperature during extreme heat conditions. He said the fruit quenches thirst, provides instant energy and helps people stay active throughout the day. The doctor further explained that ice apples contain an ideal combination of minerals and natural sugars required for the body during summer. He added that the fruit also contains fibre, protein, vitamins C, E, A, K and B7, along with iron, which provide several health benefits.

Tridha Chaudhary reveals which Bollywood star she would love to work with



Mumbai: Actress Tridha Choudhury revealed the one Bollywood actor she would love to work with. Speaking exclusively to IANS, the 'Aashram' actress revealed that she is a big admirer of Ranveer Singh and hence would love to share screen with the 'Dhurandhar' actor. Tridha was asked, "If you are offered a large-scale historical or mythological film in the future, what kind of role would excite you the most?" Responding to the question, she expressed her desire to be a part of the cinematic adaptation of the Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi. For those who do not know, Ranveer has acquired the rights to the trilogy. "I recently heard that Ranveer Singh has acquired the rights to the Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi. I would absolutely love to work with Ranveer Singh because I am a huge fan of both Lord Shiva and Ranveer himself. I have read the Shiva Trilogy, and being a part of a mythological film like that would be a dream for me," the 'Bandish Bandits' actress shared.

Tridha further shared that for her, critical acclaim is more important than the look of her character. "For me, critical acclaim matters more than glamour because no matter how glamorous you look, if you fail to justify your character, the performance ultimately falls flat," she explained. Work-wise, Tridha was recently seen essaying a crucial role in Sanjay Dutt-fronted "Aakhri Sawal". When asked if the drama acts as a social mirror for the audience, Tridha pointed out that "Aakhri Sawal" is not made for entertainment alone. "It carries a strong social message. A lot has happened in history that people often try to bury or avoid discussing", she added. She said, "My responsibility was to portray my character honestly, and I believe I have done my best. Many people have contributed to making this story meaningful." "Of course, some viewers have called the film propaganda or said it attempts to clean the image of certain organizations like the RSS. But I feel that whenever a film is made around any ideology, organization, or belief system, people will naturally have divided opinions because everyone's ideology is different," concluded Tridha.

Beginner's Guide to the Gym: The Ultimate Fitness Journey for First-Time Gym Goers

Baramulla: Starting your fitness journey can be one of the most exciting decisions of your life. For many people, walking into a gym for the first time feels both inspiring and intimidating. The loud workout music, rows of machines and experienced fitness enthusiasts can make beginners nervous. However, every fitness expert once started as a beginner, and the key to success is simply taking the first step. This beginner's guide to the gym will help first-time gym goers understand workouts, fitness routines, gym etiquette, nutrition and motivation. Whether your goal is weight loss, muscle gain or improving overall health, the gym can completely transform your lifestyle when approached with dedication and consistency. Health Why Joining a Gym is Important for Beginners A gym is more than just a place to lift weights. Regular exercise improves physical health, mental wellbeing and self-confidence. Gym workouts strengthen the body, increase stamina, reduce stress and improve sleep quality.

For beginners, joining a gym also creates discipline and healthy habits. Consistent workouts help improve heart health, build stronger muscles and maintain a healthy weight. Exercise releases endorphins, often called "happy hormones," which naturally boost mood and reduce anxiety. Set Realistic Fitness Goals Before beginning your gym journey, it is important to set realistic and achievable fitness goals. Your goals will determine your workout routine and motivation level. Some common beginner fitness goals include: Weight loss Muscle building Social Sciences Fat reduction Improving stamina Increasing flexibility Building confidence Maintaining a healthy lifestyle Setting small milestones helps beginners stay



motivated and track progress effectively. Best Gym Workouts for Beginners

Many first-time gym goers feel confused about which exercises to start with. The best approach is to focus on simple and effective workouts that build strength and endurance gradually. Strength Training Exercises Strength training helps beginners build muscle and improve metabolism. Basic exercises include: Squats Push-ups Lunges Deadlifts Dumbbell presses Fitness Equipment & Accessories Shoulder presses Planks These workouts strengthen major muscle groups and improve overall fitness. Importance of Cardio for Beginners Cardio exercises are essential for improving heart health and burning calories. Beginners can start with: Walking on the treadmill Cycling Rowing machine workouts Skipping rope Jogging A balanced routine combining cardio and strength training delivers the best fitness results

Learn Proper Form and Technique One of the biggest mistakes beginners make is using incorrect form while exercising. Poor technique can lead to injuries and slow progress. It is always beneficial to seek guidance from a gym trainer during the initial days. Learning the correct posture and movement patterns ensures safer and

more effective workouts. Consistency is the Key to Fitness Success Many beginners expect quick transformations, but real fitness results take time. Consistency matters more than intense workouts. Experts recommend beginners work out three to five times per week. Even short workouts done regularly can produce excellent long-term results. Avoid overtraining and allow your body enough time to recover. Healthy Diet for Gym Beginners Nutrition plays a major role in fitness success. Exercise alone cannot deliver the best results without a balanced diet.

A healthy gym diet should include: Protein-rich foods such as eggs, chicken, fish and lentils Complex carbohydrates like oats, rice and whole grains Healthy fats from nuts and seeds Fresh fruits and vegetables Plenty of water Avoid excessive junk food, sugary drinks and processed snacks. Proper nutrition helps improve energy, muscle recovery and overall health. Importance of Hydration and Sleep Hydration and sleep are often ignored by beginners, but both are essential for recovery and performance. Drink enough water before, during and after workouts to prevent dehydration. Proper sleep helps repair muscles and restore energy levels. Most fitness experts recommend at least seven to eight hours

of sleep every night. Gym Motivation Tips for Beginners Staying motivated can sometimes be difficult, especially during the early stages of fitness. Here are some simple tips to remain consistent: Track your progress regularly Take fitness photos Listen to motivating music Follow a workout schedule Celebrate small achievements Avoid comparing yourself to others Remember that fitness is a personal journey and every small improvement matters. Gym Etiquette Every Beginner Should Follow Understanding gym etiquette helps create a positive workout environment. Important gym rules include: Clean equipment after use Return weights to their proper place Respect personal space Avoid unnecessary distractions Use headphones for music Good gym manners make workouts comfortable for everyone. Common Mistakes Gym Beginners Should Avoid Many beginners make avoidable mistakes during their fitness journey. These include: Skipping warm-ups Using heavy weights too early Ignoring nutrition Comparing progress with others Inconsistent workouts Not resting properly Avoiding these mistakes can improve results and reduce injury risks. Starting your gym journey as a beginner may feel challenging, but it can also become one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. The gym is not only about building muscles or losing weight — it is about becoming healthier, stronger and more confident. With patience, discipline and consistency, every beginner can achieve their fitness goals. Remember, progress takes time, and every workout brings you one step closer to a healthier future. The most important thing is to start today and never give up on yourself.

Karachi faces water crisis due to consistent lack of care shown by successive rulers: Report

Pakistan's Karachi is facing a chronic water shortage, creating a situation where access to this basic necessity is increasingly determined by either personal connections or financial capacity. Those with means often turn to the so-called tanker 'mafia', paying inflated rates for additional supply, while others struggle to secure the limited government-supplied water tankers available each day, a report said on Saturday. "In areas still privileged to receive piped water, neighbours compete with each other to pull more than their fair share into their own water tanks. Meanwhile, the friendless and economically destitute must line up overnight at public pumps or 'black market' dealers stealing

from water mains for a bucket or two for their daily use. It is a pitiable situation, made galling by the consistent lack of care shown by successive rulers and administrators of the city towards its long-suffering residents," an editorial report in Pakistani daily Dawn detailed.

The report highlighted that Pakistani lawmakers from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) on Wednesday raised the issue of Karachi's water shortage in the National Assembly, holding the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)-led Sindh government responsible for the delays in the completion of the K-IV water supply project. While the federal minister for water



resources assured that the federal government and Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) contribution to K-IV would be completed within the current year, an MQM

leader countered, saying that he feared the project may still not be completed by 2030. "Interestingly, no credible solution seems to have been proposed or discussed during the

session. Sadly, this is quite typical of the political leadership's general response to the difficulties Karachiites routinely face. They drop a few headline-worthy quotes here and there, make empty promises, and then return to usual business," the report noted. "The script is rinsed and repeated year after year, to be put into play the moment the citizenry starts crying out in distress. This is admittedly a rather bleak view, but what else can be said? The progressively deteriorating state of the country's commercial engine cannot be denied, and it seems Karachi is fated for worse unless its leaders and representatives can be brought to see some incentive in improving its state," it added

The importance of pistachios in reducing hypertension

California grown American pistachio, known for their delightful taste and satisfying crunch, are not just a treat for the palate but also a powerhouse of nutrition. Emerging from the seeds of the *Pistacia vera* tree, these emerald gems are packed with healthy fats, protein, fiber, and antioxidants, making them a versatile ingredient that can enhance both sweet and savory dishes. On this World Hypertension Day, American Pistachio Growers (APG) along with Dr. Varun Katyal, Nutritionist and health expert elaborates the role of pistachios in reducing hypertension along with additional health benefits. Dr. Varun Katyal, a Nutritionist & Health Expert, explains, "Pistachio nuts contain fiber and substantial amounts of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, all associated with maintaining healthy cholesterol levels and reducing the risk of heart disease. Furthermore, research indicates that consuming pistachios, particularly in comparison to other nuts, leads to reduced blood pressure. Several studies have investigated the impact of pistachio consumption on various heart health risk factors." Numerous studies have looked



at the effects of eating pistachios on various risk factors for heart health. These studies suggest that eating pistachios daily (one to three ounces or as 10%-20% of calories) may help to improve heart health in five ways: Health Lowering total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and non-HDL cholesterol Increasing antioxidants in the blood and decreasing oxidized-LDL Decreasing small dense LDL and increasing phytochemicals levels in the blood Providing beneficial anti-inflammatory properties. Reducing acute stress by lowering blood pressure, heart rate and peripheral vascular responses. Here

are some additional and important health benefits associated with including pistachios in your diet: High In Antioxidants: American pistachios have many different forms of antioxidants, including vitamin E, polyphenols and the carotenoids lutein and zeaxanthin. The antioxidant capacity of pistachios rivals that of foods most commonly thought of as high in antioxidants, including blueberries, pomegranates and red wine.

Source Of Complete Protein: Researchers recently looked at the protein quality of American-grown pistachios and found that it qualifies as a complete protein.

Pistachios contain all nine essential amino acids needed for growth and development for those ages five and older and are one of the few plant-based sources of complete protein. Weight Management: American pistachios contain healthy fat and are a good source of fiber. Research suggests that people on a weight loss plan can eat pistachios as a calorie-controlled snack and still lose weight. Additionally, a PREDIMED cross-sectional study on over 7,000 people found that those who ate more than three servings of nuts per week, including pistachios, had a lower incidence of obesity. Recent studies have also shown that snacking on pistachios does not lead to weight gain and instead results in an increase in some key nutrient intakes.

Promotes Heart Health: Scientific evidence suggests that integrating 1.5 ounces of most nuts, including pistachios, into a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may potentially reduce the risk of heart disease. Numerous studies examining pistachios' impact on heart health suggest that daily consumption (1 – 3 ounces) may mitigate risk factors associated

with heart disease, such as high blood pressure and arterial stiffness. Diabetes: Research has shown that women with prediabetes and gestational diabetes had a lower increase in blood sugar after eating pistachios when compared to eating whole wheat bread. A research review found that 50-57 grams of pistachios daily for 1-4 months may lead to improved fasting glucose, fasting insulin and insulin resistance. Heart Health: Scientific evidence suggests that eating 1.5 ounces per day of most nuts, such as pistachios, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may lower the risk of heart disease. Numerous studies have looked at the effect of pistachios on heart health and found that eating pistachios daily (1 – 3 ounces) may help to reduce risk factors for heart disease, including blood pressure and arterial stiffness. Sports Nutrition: Research suggests that pistachios may reduce delayed onset muscle soreness while maintaining muscle strength. Anti-Microbial Properties: In vitro research has shown that pistachio extracts have a strong antibacterial and antiviral activity. Fruits & Vegetables

'Swayambhu' post-production work in full swing

Nikhil Siddhartha is stepping into uncharted territory with *Swayambhu*, touted as the most ambitious project of his career so far. Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, the grand-scale period action drama is being produced by Pixel Studios' Bhuvan and Sreekar, with Tagore Madhu presenting the film. The makers have now unveiled a special behind-the-scenes video offering a glimpse into the gigantic post-production process currently underway. The video highlights the extensive VFX work being carried out at Phantom FX, where hundreds of artists are meticulously building the visual world of the film frame by frame. What makes *Swayambhu* even more special is the staggering



scale of its visual effects. The film reportedly includes more than 2700 VFX shots, handled by a team of over 750 technicians, making it one of the most technically demanding projects in recent Indian cinema.

The newly released footage features Nikhil

Siddhartha, director Bharat Krishnamachari, and acclaimed cinematographer K. K. Senthil Kumar personally supervising the VFX process. From massive war sequences to expansive ancient landscapes, every detail is being carefully crafted to ensure cinematic grandeur and authenticity.

The teaser of the film had already created strong buzz among audiences, while the first single, "Ra Ra Dhevara," turned into a chartbuster for its energetic portrayal of warrior spirit and heroism. The makers appear determined to deliver a visually stunning Pan-India spectacle packed with action, emotion, and scale. The film stars Samyuktha and Nabha Natesh as the female leads opposite Nikhil. Music is composed by Ravi Basrur, while production design is handled by M Prabhakaran and Raveendra. With breathtaking visuals, large-scale world-building, and an ambitious technical vision, *Swayambhu* is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Pan-India releases in the coming months.

'Lenin' teaser: Akhil impresses with rugged rural makeover



The makers of *Lenin* have finally unveiled the much-awaited teaser with the catchy tagline "Manodu Vasthunnadu," and it is already grabbing attention for its rustic atmosphere and emotional storytelling. After delivering chartbuster songs during promotions, the team has now raised expectations further with an impressive teaser cut. Set against the backdrop of the Chittoor region, the teaser presents an authentic rural world filled with emotion, relationships, and village drama. Akhil Akkineni appears in a completely transformed avatar, sporting a rugged look and speaking in the local dialect. His raw makeover and natural body language indicate the amount of effort he has invested in the role. The teaser strongly hints that *Lenin* will showcase Akhil in a more grounded and performance-driven character compared to his earlier films. His emotional expressions and rustic screen presence have already started receiving positive reactions from fans on social media.

Adding further charm to the teaser is the chemistry between Akhil and actress Bhagyashri Borse. Their on-screen pairing looks fresh and appealing, bringing warmth and emotional depth to the village-based narrative. The visuals stand out with rich rural aesthetics, while S. Thaman elevates the teaser with an energetic and emotionally charged background score. The film also stars Sivaji and Brahmaji in important roles. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, *Lenin* is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on June 26. The film is jointly produced by Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainment, while Annapurna Studios is presenting the project. With strong rural emotions, authentic storytelling, and Akhil's refreshing transformation, *Lenin* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the season.

Salman's mega project to have both Anirudh and Thaman music!

The buzz around director Vamshi Paidipally and Salman Khan's upcoming biggie is getting hotter with every passing day. Tentatively titled *SVC63*, the high-budget entertainer backed by Dil Raju is already creating massive curiosity in both Bollywood and Tollywood circles. Now, the latest gossip from the industry has caught everyone's attention. Reports suggest that the makers are planning a rare double-composer strategy for the film. If the ongoing buzz is to be believed, Anirudh Ravichander and S.

Thaman have both been approached for the project. Interestingly, Anirudh is said to be handling the background score while Thaman may compose the songs. This unexpected combo has already triggered debates among fans online, with many wondering whether the makers are trying to blend Bollywood mass appeal with South-style musical energy. Though there's no official confirmation yet, the speculation alone has created huge hype. Adding to the excitement, Nayanthara is reportedly playing the



female lead, while Rajpal Yadav is expected to appear in a crucial role. The makers are said to be targeting a grand Eid 2027

release, making this one of the most awaited cross-industry projects in the pipeline.

'I am taking this as a challenge to change history': Nigar Sultana confident ahead of Women's T20 WC

Skipper Nigar Sultana said Bangladesh are determined to rewrite their record at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup as they prepare for this year's tournament in England. Bangladesh heading into the competition carrying one of the toughest records among Full Member nations in Women's T20 World Cup history, having managed just three wins in 25 matches across previous editions. Their only victories before 2024 came against Sri Lanka and Ireland during the 2014 tournament, and they finally ended a prolonged winless streak with a victory over Scotland in Dubai last year. Despite the numbers, Nigar insisted the squad views the upcoming tournament as an opportunity rather than a burden. "We were coming from a long winless road (in the T20 World Cup). But I am not seeing this as a pressure. Rather, I am taking this as a challenge to change history," Nigar told reporters during the pre-tournament media interaction at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

The Bangladesh captain believes the side has grown significantly over the last year, particularly in terms of balance



and contributions across the squad. "Winning that match in Dubai in the last T20 World Cup gave us a great feeling, even though we couldn't win the rest of our games. However, since last year, I feel we have developed a much better team combination, and we need to increase our win count. In T20s, more players are stepping up now compared to before. We want to play better on the global stage and win more matches consistently," she said. India news analysis Questions surrounding Bangladesh's pace-bowling resources ahead of the England conditions have also followed the team selection, especially with only two specialist seamers included in the squad. Nigar, however, backed the current combination and defended the

decision to rely on continuity. "There is a pace bowling allrounder (Ritu Moni) with two pacers and these days I am always facing this question why there are only two pacers in England. The reason behind it is that they (the two pacers) are continuously playing with the team for the last six months so we were thinking that we need to carry those cricketers who are ready to play in the World Cup," she said. Nigar also expressed confidence in the form and readiness of the pace unit led by Marufa Akhter and Fariha Islam. "Marufa is consistently performing well for the team and Trishna is almost proven. I saw her performance in the last series and in the two or one matches where she got the opportunity she

made her mark," Nigar noted. "So more or less we are taking those two pacers who are ready to play. It's high time we maintain these two cricketers and make sure that they are available for the World Cup," she added.

The Bangladesh skipper also dismissed concerns regarding her own fitness after speculation surrounding a long-standing thumb injury resurfaced in recent weeks. Nigar had skipped the latest edition of the National Cricket League to manage her workload and focus on recovery. "I don't know why this question is always coming up. Let me tell you the truth, I don't have a ligament in my right thumb, as it was torn, so I have been playing for so many years. Did anyone know about it? I am hundred percent fit and I have been selected in the World Cup team and the most important thing is that every cricketer carries some kind of niggle, and no one in the world can say they don't have any injury and everyone plays by managing those issues. "We are at the same place and there are few small things that can be managed, and I am doing that, and it won't have any effect on the ground," she added.

Uttar Pradesh crowned champions of National Divyang T20 Cricket C'ship 2026

Uttar Pradesh PD (UPDACA) emerged as the national champions after defeating defending champions Mumbai by 4 wickets in an exciting final encounter as the 5th Elite National Divyang T-20 Cricket Championship 2026 concluded on a grand note. The championship was organised under the aegis of the Karnataka State Divyang Cricket Association (KSDCA), which is the state body of the Physically Challenged Cricket Council of India (PCCAI). PCCAI is also a founder member association of DCCI. India news analysis Batting first, Mumbai posted a competitive total of 171/7 in 20 overs. Ravindra Sante played a brilliant unbeaten knock of 71 runs, while Vikrant Keni contributed 54 runs. For Uttar Pradesh, Mo. Sadik delivered an impressive bowling performance, taking 2 wickets for 24 runs in his 4-over spell. Chasing a target of 172, Uttar Pradesh displayed fearless and aggressive batting. Captain Rahul Singh provided a flying start with a quickfire 31 runs off just 13 balls. Vintoo Yadav scored a crucial 35 runs,



while Deependra Singh anchored the innings with an unbeaten 54 runs to guide Uttar Pradesh to victory at 173/6 in 18.5 overs. With this victory, Uttar Pradesh established itself as one of the strongest teams in national divyang cricket. The team showcased discipline, determination, and exceptional cricketing skills throughout the tournament. As a special initiative to encourage young talent, three players below the age of 15 years who participated in the championship were honoured with appreciation awards and awarded Rs 5,000 each. Out of the 12 participating teams, eight teams

received encouragement awards of Rs 20,000 each. In addition, both semifinalist teams were awarded Rs 50,000 each. Runner-Up Team (Mumbai) got Rs 1,25,000 while champions Uttar Pradesh received a cash reward of Rs 2,50,000. DCCI General Secretary Ravi Chauhan felicitated the players and extended his best wishes for their future. He appreciated the dedication and spirit of the divyang cricketers and said that such championships are playing a vital role in promoting inclusive sports in India. KSDCA president Hemachandra played a significant role in successfully organising the nation-

al championship. Under his leadership and with the efforts of the organising committee, the tournament was conducted smoothly and professionally. Players, officials, and spectators praised the excellent arrangements and hospitality throughout the event. Several players and teams were honoured during the closing ceremony for their outstanding performances throughout the championship: Man of the Match (Final): Vintoo Yadav (Uttar Pradesh) – Rs 7,777/- Best Wicketkeeper: Deependra Singh (Uttar Pradesh) – Rs 10,000/- Best Bowler: Ravindra Sante (Mumbai) Best Batsman: Deependra Singh (Uttar Pradesh) – Rs 10,000/- Player of the Tournament: Vintoo Yadav (Uttar Pradesh) – Rs 25,000/- Brief Scores: Mumbai 171/7 in 20 Overs (Ravindra Sante 71*, Vikrant Keni 54; Mo. Sadik 2 wickets) Uttar Pradesh PD (UPDACA) 173/6 in 18.5 overs (Deependra Singh 54*, Vintoo Yadav 35, Rahul Singh 31; Aakash Patil 2 wickets) Result: Uttar Pradesh PD (UPDACA) won by 4 wickets

KKR rope in Luvnith Sisodia as replacement for injured Matheesha Pathirana



Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have signed wicketkeeper-batter Luvnith Sisodia as a replacement for injured Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana for the remainder of IPL 2026. Sisodia, who represents Karnataka in domestic cricket, has previously featured for the franchise and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL. The 25-year-old has played 15 T20s, scoring 124 runs, and joins the franchise for Rs 30 lakh. The addition of Sisodia bolsters KKR's squad depth, especially with Angkrish Raghuvanshi ruled out due to concussion and finger fracture. Pathirana, bought for an astonishing Rs 18 crore at the auction, has been ruled out due to a hamstring injury after bowling just 1.2 overs on his KKR debut against Gujarat Titans on May 16, where he was introduced into the game as an Impact Player. He missed the side's win over Mumbai Indians on May 20 and will not recover in time for KKR's final league fixture against Delhi Capitals, to be played at the Eden Gardens on Sunday evening. Pathirana's IPL 2026 stint was delayed due to recurring fitness concerns. In the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, Pathirana had to abandon his spell midway against Australia and subsequently missed the remainder of the tournament. India news analysis For his IPL 2026 participation, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) insisted on Pathirana going through a fitness clearance test on recovering from a calf injury before issuing a no-objection certificate (NOC). The approval came only after four matches of KKR's campaign happened, a phase in which the franchise had lost all their games. Even after joining the squad, Pathirana remained on the bench until KKR's 12th game of the season against GT. KKR's playoff hopes remain slim despite winning their last three matches at Eden Gardens. With 13 points from 13 games and a net run rate of 0.011, they trail Punjab Kings, who boosted their NRR to 0.309 after beating Lucknow Super Giants by seven wickets on Saturday. The equation is straightforward but daunting for KKR – they must not only defeat Delhi Capitals but also secure a victory by a heavy margin to surpass PBKS on NRR. KKR's record at Eden Gardens this season stands at three wins from five matches, including a 29-run victory over GT after posting 247 and a successful chase of 148 against MI.

Protected ranking is merit, says Devvarman; raises concern over lack of Indians in Top 200 singles

Former India No. 1 Somdev Devvarman has defended the use of protected rankings in professional tennis, calling it a system built strictly on merit, while expressing deep concern over the absence of Indian singles players in the world's top 200. India's Karman Kaur Thandi had secured her spot in the women's singles qualifying draw for this year's French Open, officially ending India's recent drought of representation in Grand Slam singles events. However, her return to the Grand Slam stage ended in a tough opening-round defeat, falling to local favourite Harmony Tan in the first round of qualifying. Speaking to IANS, the former player explained that protected ranking is not a handout but something a player earns through prior performance. "I mean, just to be clear, protected ranking is merit," Devvarman said. "Essentially, Karman would have been eligible to participate in the French Open maybe a few years ago had she not been injured."

