

EYE SECRETS

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Spy in every blink

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Bharat Bhushan takes oath as APSFTVTDC chairman

Amaravati: P Bharat Bhushan assumed charge as chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation (APSFTVTDC) at the corporation office here on Sunday. Chikkala Meher Ramesh Kumar also took oath as the vice-chairman during the ceremony attended by film personalities, public representatives and officials. Speaking after assuming office, Bharat Bhushan said he would work towards the development of cinema, television and theatre arts in Andhra Pradesh. He thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Tourism and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna for giving him the opportunity to serve the industry. Andhra Pradesh travel He recalled that a full-fledged committee for the film sector was earlier formed in 1984 under the leadership of former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao



and said the coalition government has now revived similar efforts for the welfare of the industry. Minister Kandula Durgesh said the film, television and theatre sectors were neglected between 2019 and 2024, but the coalition government is now committed to reviving arts and culture in the state. He announced that the government plans to restart the prestigious Nandi Awards and Nandi Natakotsavams. Durgesh stated that Andhra Pradesh possesses world-class shooting locations such as Araku Valley, Maredumilli, Tirupati and Amaravati, which are attracting not

only Telugu films but also Tamil and Bengali productions. MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna emphasised the need for a 'single-window system' to facilitate film shootings by providing permissions and police protection under one platform. He said Andhra Pradesh contributes nearly 65 to 70 percent of Telugu film revenues and stressed the importance of reviving the industry for the benefit of theatre owners, distributors and film workers. Actor Suman Talwar, who was appointed as a director on the board, said Andhra Pradesh has excellent coastal, hill and rural locations suitable for

multilingual film shoots. Actress Jhansi said the new board would play a key role in strengthening cinema and theatre arts in the state. The new Governing Body (Board of Directors) of the Andhra Pradesh State Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation (APSFTVTDC) includes P. Bharat Bhushan as Chairman. The Directors are Chikkala Meher Ramesh Kumar, Suman Talwar, S Shivaji, Chandalarwada Srinivasa Rao, Burra Sai Madhav, Y Jhansi, Kuchibhotla S u b r a h m a n y a Vivekananda (Vivek Kuchibhotla), V Samudra, K Umamaheswara Rao, Meer S, Kandimalla Sambasiva Rao, S Venkata Krishna Reddy, G Raj Venkateswara Yadav and D Satyanarayana. The Ex-Office Directors include Additional Secretary of Government Public Enterprises Department, Joint Secretary of the Government Finance Department and Managing Director of APSFTVTDC.

Solar power is solution to energy problems: Minister



Addanki: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that non-conventional energy sources are the only solution to the country's energy problems. As part of his tour of the Addanki constituency on Sunday, he launched the PM Suryaghar scheme in Bandivaripalem village and dedicated a BT road, built at a cost of Rs 3 crore, to the public. He said that PM Modi is implementing the Suryaghar scheme with one crore connections across the country, and that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has taken steps to secure 20 lakh solar connections for the state. Of these, six lakh connections will be given to SC and ST communities. SC beneficiaries will get free solar power plants up to two kilowatts. BC communities will receive a subsidy of Rs 98,000, and OC communities Rs 78, 000 for three-kilowatt plants. The minister also urged people to plant trees to reduce rising temperatures. He inaugurated a village health clinic built at a cost of Rs 18 lakh at Minnekallu village and said that 48 such clinics will be ready soon. He also said that new pensions and houses will be sanctioned for eligible beneficiaries shortly.

Sarasvati ntyapushkaras continue with spiritual fervour at Kaleshwar



Jayashankar Bhupalpally: The Sarasvati Antyapushkaras continued in a deeply spiritual atmosphere at Kaleshwar in Mahadevpur mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Saturday, with devotees participating in large numbers in the sacred rituals and prayers. Advaitananda Bharati Swamiji arrived at Kaleshwar and performed holy ritual baths in the Sarasvati River. Amid the chanting of Vedic mantras, he conducted special pujas for the river goddess and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being across the country. Following the rituals at the river, the Swamiji visited the Sri Kaleshwar Mukteshwar Swami Temple, where temple officials and Vedic scholars accorded him a grand welcome with Poorna Kumbham honours. Special abhishekas and archanas were performed for Lord Kaleshwar and Lord Mukteshwar inside the temple. Priests also offered special haratis to Goddess Parvati and Maha Sarasvati. The temple premises echoed with devotees chanting the name of Lord Shiva, adding to the devotional atmosphere. Later, in the blessing hall, temple authorities honoured the Swamiji by presenting ceremonial garments and fruits. Addressing devotees, Advaitananda Bharati Swamiji stressed that protecting Sanatana Dharma is the responsibility of every individual and urged people to uphold spiritual and cultural values. The programme was attended by Additional Commissioner M. Krishnaveni, RJC Ramakrishna Rao, Endowments Department advisor Govind Hari, EO Mahesh, Chairman Mohan Sharma, trustees and temple staff members.

Pawan Kalyan orders audit of pollutants entering Godavari River

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Monday directed officials to conduct a comprehensive audit of polluting waste and effluents flowing into the Godavari River and review their current management protocols. Andhra Pradesh travel

After a visit to parts of the Godavari River affected by pollution, he asked officials of the East Godavari district to submit a detailed report, outlining measures taken thus far and a clear and concrete plan of the works to be undertaken. Pawan Kalyan, who also holds the environment portfolio, emphasised that the Coalition Government is firmly resolved to organise the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams scheduled next year under the central theme of a pollution-free Godavari. As part of his visit to Rajamahendravaram, Pawan Kalyan embarked on a boat journey at 6 a.m. on Monday, traveling from the Rajamahendravaram Pushkar Ghat to the Kotilingala Ghat to personally inspect areas of the Godavari River affected by pollution.

He also reviewed the progress of the works currently underway for the Pushkarams, as well as the plans for the works sched-



uled to be undertaken shortly. Officials explained to him the progress of the beautification works along the banks of the Godavari. At Chintalamma Ghat, Pawan Kalyan personally inspected the location where sewage from Rajamahendravaram flows into the Godavari River via the Nalla Channel. He witnessed firsthand the nature of the pollution occurring along the riverbank. He gathered details regarding the methods being employed to treat the water. He also interacted with the staff present at the site and observed the waste segregation process. "Statistics indicate that approximately 55 MLD (Million Liters Per Day) of sewage flows into

the Godavari River daily. The process of treating this sewage must be conducted in a scientifically sound manner. We are receiving complaints that the river water is becoming contaminated due to the direct discharge of untreated sewage into the Godavari. We must focus our attention on this issue," he said.

The Deputy CM said a comprehensive audit regarding the sources of pollution must be conducted to focus on strategies to mitigate these issues later. He noted administrative approval has been secured for Rs 95 crore out of the Rs 416 crore allocated under the NRCP (National River Conservation Plan)

through the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. "These funds must be utilised to construct new treatment plants equipped with modern technology. We must take full responsibility to ensure that only completely treated water -- free of any sewage -- is discharged into the Godavari." Pawan Kalyan also inquired into the issue regarding the discharge of polluted effluents from the Andhra Paper Mills into the Godavari River. He sought detailed information on this matter from Krishnaiah, the Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board. The Deputy CM visited the treatment plant site and inspected the waste materials being segregated there. He sought information regarding the disposal methods employed for this waste. Pawan Kalyan later reached the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation office to conduct a review of the ongoing Pushkaram-related works. Ministers Nandendla Manohar and Kandula Durgesh; Government Whip in the Legislative Council Pidugu Hariprasad; MLC Somu Veerajulu; MLAs Adireddy Vasu, Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary, Bathula Balaramakrishna, and Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy, and others were present.

Minister's call to prevent fires in palm date, toddy groves

In light of the series of fire accidents occurring across the State - where wild date palm and toddy palm groves are being gutted due to high summer temperatures and sparks - Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnambal Prabhakar has urged members of the Goud community to remain vigilant.



Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that date palm and toddy trees serve as the primary source of livelihood for toddy tappers, and therefore, their preservation is the collective responsibility of everyone. He noted that recent fire accidents in Madipalli village (Jammikunta mandal), Metla Chittapur (Metpally Mandal,

causing immense financial loss to Goud families.

To prevent such fire accidents, the Minister advised removing dried leaves and debris from beneath the trees and maintaining cleanliness in the surrounding areas. He suggested that toddy tappers at the village level should collaborate to undertake tree conservation initiatives; he stated that taking measures such as watering the trees and clearing away dry waste could significantly reduce the risk of accidents.

Furthermore, he issued a warning against smoking 'beedis' or cigarettes in the vicinity of the groves, urging everyone to exercise caution and strictly avoid negligently starting fires. He requested that the Fire department be informed immediately should any flames be spotted anywhere.

The Minister also mentioned that he has instructed Excise department officials to organise awareness programmes across the State to educate toddy tappers on fire prevention measures. Minister Ponnambal reiterated that by safeguarding the palm date and toddy groves, the livelihoods of Goud families can be effectively protected.

TG Police set up special IPS team for AI-driven policing



Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand has constituted a special five-member IPS officers' Core Team with a target of completing key Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based platforms within six months. Addressing the officers at a review meeting on Saturday, DGP Anand advised departments to adopt cutting-edge technologies and AI in policing to strengthen crime investigation law and order management and overall efficiency. Hyderabad Joint Commissioner of Police N Shweta has been assigned responsibilities related to the

(Social Media and Information Technology) Chennuri Rupesh will supervise social media, video analytics and AI-based drone technology initiatives.

Superintendent of Police K Apoorva Rao will overview data intelligence, training programmes and system design. Avinash Mohanty will monitor traffic and road safety modules. He suggested TS-COPS, a unified mobile platform which integrates existing systems Telangana Police official website, Hawkeye, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS), and Human Resource Management System (HRMS), under a unified framework.

Ahead of Bakrid, police warn gau rakshaks against taking law into hands

With just four days for Bakrid (May 28), the Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police, B Sumathi, warned gau rakshaks of strict action against vigilantism or attempts to spread a communal hate-filled atmosphere. The warning was issued during a meeting held with Muslim and Hindu communities on Saturday to discuss security arrangements ahead of the festival.



Sumathi appealed to the two communities to cooperate with the police and celebrate the festival peacefully. "Sensitive areas are being continuously monitored through CCTV cameras to prevent untoward incidents during Bakrid. Legal action will be initiated against those spreading fake news through social media," she said.

Addressing the gau rakshaks, the Commissioner said no individual or group should apprehend vehicles transporting cattle, nor conduct forceful inspections or assault people on suspicion. "Inform the local police immediately if you notice any suspicious activity and let the law take its course," she said. The Malkajgiri police urged people to conduct sacrifices only in government-authorized areas and maintain cleanliness during the festival. Residents should not dump animal waste in public places and cooperate with sanitation workers for proper disposal and hygiene management.

if you notice any suspicious activity and let the law take its course," she said. The Malkajgiri police urged people to conduct sacrifices only in government-authorized areas and maintain cleanliness during the festival. Residents should not dump animal waste in public places and cooperate with sanitation workers for proper disposal and hygiene management.

Inter exam rescheduled due to holiday for Bakrid

In view of the holiday announced for the Bakrid festival, the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) has rescheduled the Environmental Education exam for inter students in the State. Earlier, the examination was scheduled to be held on May 28. However, the board has now postponed it to May 29. As per TGBIE, there is no change in the examination timings, and the test will continue to be conducted from 10 am to 1 pm.



The board has instructed colleges to inform all students appearing for the Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations about the revised Environmental Education exam date.

The Telangana government has declared May 28 as a holiday on the occasion of Eid-Al-Adha. As per the Telangana calendar, the government had

declared the holiday on May 27. However, as the crescent moon marking the beginning of Dhul-Hijjah 1447 AH was not sighted in Hyderabad or other parts of Telangana on Sunday, May 17, the festival will be celebrated on May 28

and, accordingly, the government made changes to the holiday. The beginning of Dhul-Hijjah marks the start of the annual Hajj pilgrimage and the countdown to Eid al-Adha, one of the most significant festivals in Islam.



Bus-car collide in Chevella, two passengers injured

At least 25 passengers travelling in a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) bus escaped unhurt after the vehicle collided with a car in Rangareddy district on Sunday.

The accident occurred in Chevella at 7 AM, when the car was making a U-Turn. The bus belonging to the Mehdiapatnam Depot was travelling from Mehdiapatnam to Chevella. The accident left two people travelling in the car injured. They were saved by the airbags present in the car. A video shared on social media showed the car severely damaged following the collision.

After being alerted, the Chevella police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to a hospital. The Chevella police registered a case under 125 (A) BNS for causing hurt through rash and negligent driving.



Techie held for attacking home guard during helmet check

A software employee was arrested on Sunday, May 24, at Abids General Post Office (GPO), Hyderabad, for allegedly attacking a home guard when he was pulled over for not wearing a helmet during a vehicle check.

The accused, Yashwanth, was riding on his bike along with his father and pet dog when Home Guard Kumar stopped him.

When on-duty Traffic Sub-Inspector Anil questioned Yashwanth, he became furious and started abusing the officer. Home Guard Kumar, who was recording the incident, was allegedly attacked on the face by the software employee.

Love story ends in tragedy after woman refuses marriage

A love story ended in tragedy in Hyderabad as a 24-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after a woman he was reportedly in a relationship with refused marriage.

The incident took place in Nagole on Thursday. It all began around three years ago when the deceased,



identified as P Tirumal from Thatti Annaram, met the woman on Instagram.

Over a period of time, their friendship developed into a relationship, and even their family members agreed to the marriage proposal. Recently, the woman reportedly refused to marry him. Tirumal's father, Subbarao, alleged that the woman had

been avoiding his son for the past three months.

Upset over the refusal of marriage, the Hyderabad man allegedly died by suicide by hanging, putting an end to the love story that began on Instagram. After receiving the complaint, the Nagole police registered a case and started an investigation.

6 injured after pvt bus rams lorry on NH-65

Six passengers were injured after a private travel bus travelling from Kakinada to Hyderabad rammed into a lorry from behind on National Highway 65 near Kodad town in Telangana's Suryapet district early on Sunday. The bus, belonging to Yolo Travels, was carrying 36 passengers at the time of the accident. According to police and passengers, the bus allegedly crashed into the lorry after the driver reportedly fell asleep while driving.

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UP man held for bid to join crime syndicate 'backed' by ISI

A 22-year-old man was taken into custody for allegedly attempting to join a crime syndicate "supported" by Pakistan's spy agency ISI and trying to procure weapons through them, police said here on Sunday.

Zayed Khan, from Uttar Pradesh, came to Hyderabad two months ago and was working in a hotel in Medchal area, they said. He was allegedly in contact with a Pakistan-based person and his associates through online which was supported by Pakistan's intelligence



agency Inter-Services Intelligence.

The group was running an organised criminal gang (in Pakistan) and he allegedly wanted to join with them, a police official said.

"He was in touch with associates of the group through social media. He expressed strong desire to join the crime syndicate," a release from police said.

Police said they seized two fake pistols and one mobile phone from the possession of the accused. The phone contained reels, chats, voice call records and screenshots.

A case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section 152 (acts endangering the sovereignty or unity and integrity of India) was registered at Medchal police station, the official said.

732 people booked for drunk driving over the weekend

A total of 732 people were booked for drunk driving in Hyderabad and Cyberabad Police Commissionerates on May 22 and 23.

While 438 people were caught by the Hyderabad Police, 294 were booked in Cyberabad. Among the 438 offenders, 365 were two-wheeler drivers, 25 were three-wheeler drivers, 47 were four-wheeler drivers.

Most of the offenders, 191, to be exact, recorded blood-alcohol levels between 51 and 100. In Cyberabad, 255 offenders were two-wheeler drivers, five were three-wheeler drivers and 34 were four-wheeler drivers. A total of 244 offenders recorded blood alcohol levels between 36 and 200. All the



offenders will be produced before the court. Police have warned that if anyone causes a fatal accident while driving under the influence, they will be liable for up to 10 years' imprisonment under

section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. In the past week, that is between May 18 and May 23, a total of 156 drunk driving cases booked by the Cyberabad police were disposed by the courts.

Out of these, 10 people were awarded a fine along with imprisonment, one person was given a fine and a social service sentence, while 145 were let off with only a fine.

Student among four booked for dangerous driving, stunts

A case was registered against a 19-year-old degree student and three others for alleged dangerous driving and performing stunts using a modified car, police said on Sunday.



The incident happened on Saturday night in an area under Raidurgam Police station limits.

The car carrying four people was driven at a high speed while performing stunts-like racing with the vehicle fitted with altered silencer creating loud noise, police said.

A police team tried to stop them, but the vehicle rider refused to comply and sped away, a police official said. The police personnel chased

and caught the driver while three occupants in the car ran away, he said.

During the incident, one constable sustained minor injury on his left hand when the car driver attempted to escape, he said.

"The person driving the

vehicle has been taken into custody. He was found to be driving the car without proper license," the official further said.

He has been booked on charge of dangerous driving, causing injury to the government official while discharging duty, alteration of vehicle, police said.

A case was registered against the car driver, a second-year degree student along with three occupants, police said adding they were causing disturbance to the public.

The police also booked the car owner under relevant sections of MV Act for allowing an unauthorised person to drive his vehicle, police added.

Traffic curbs for skywalk construction at Mehdiapatnam

The Hyderabad police announced traffic restrictions at Mehdiapatnam for the construction of a skywalk and installation of CCTV cameras at PVNR expressway.

The restrictions will remain in place from 4 PM on Sunday to 6 AM on Monday. From evening 4 PM onwards, traffic coming from Masab Tank, NMDC, SD Eye Hospital towards Rethibowli-Nanal Nagar will be diverted at PVNR Expressway pillar numbers 2 and 3 at Azizia Mosque via Meraj Cafe and take a right turn at Mehdiapatnam at pillar number 15 and will be merged in the regular route.



Commuters moving from Tollichowki, Langer Houz, and Attapur via Nanal Nagar-Rethibowli towards Masab Tank will be diverted at PVNR

Expressway pillar number 23 'u' turn to the opposite direction and will be allowed to merge in the same direction at pillar numbers 4 and

5 in the regular route. Traffic coming from Masab tank towards RGIA will be diverted at S.D Eye Hospital towards Laxminagar Ramp at

TRAFFIC COMING FROM MASAB TANK TOWARDS RGIA WILL BE DIVERTED AT S.D EYE HOSPITAL TOWARDS LAXMINAGAR RAMP AT PILLAR NUMBER 77. COMMUTERS MOVING FROM THE HYDERABAD AIRPORT TOWARDS MEHDIAPATNAM WILL TAKE EXIT AT LAXMI NAGAR RAMP AT PILLAR NUMBER 88

pillar number 77. Commuters moving from the Hyderabad airport towards Mehdiapatnam will take exit at Laxmi Nagar Ramp at pillar number 88. Vehicles will take exit at respective down ramps according to the work progress on PVNR Expressway.

Shivakumar voices concern over SIR exercise in Karnataka

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday expressed concern over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that poor voters across the country were at risk of losing their voting rights if they failed to complete documentation requirements.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said governments and political parties had a responsibility to ensure that economically weaker sections were not excluded from the electoral process due to lack of awareness or migration for work.

"Look, because of SIR, a lot of harm is happening in this country. Poor people still do not fully understand this process. In some states, they are removing 50 lakh, 60 lakh, even 90 lakh names like this," Shivakumar, who is Congress Karnataka unit president, said.

Noting that the issue transcended party lines, Shivakumar said, "Whether they are Congress Party supporters or BJP supporters, we do not care -- all poor voters must individually submit applications for this. If they do not submit applications, they will lose their voting rights."

He warned that losing voting rights could have wider implications for welfare entitlements.

"Once they lose their voting rights, how will they be recognised in any way? Tomorrow it could affect pensions, the five guarantee schemes,



housing, sites, land — they could lose everything," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister was referring to the five guarantees the Congress government has started.

They are 'Gruha Jyothi' offering 200 units electricity free to every household, 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme promising Rs 2,000 to every woman head of a family and 'Anna Bhagya' offering 10 kg rice to every member of the BPL family a month.

The Yuva Nidhi' promises Rs 3,000 dole to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders for two years (in the 18-25 age group) and 'Shakti' scheme permits free travel for Karnataka women to travel within the state in government non-luxury buses. Shivakumar said governments must help citizens obtain the required documents and ensure no eligible voter was excluded.

"As a responsible government, we must provide all the documents they (people) require. Nothing should go wrong from our side, and nothing should go wrong from the govern-

ment's side. Justice must be done to everyone," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister said migrant workers and elderly voters were especially vulnerable to exclusion. "Poor old people, what would they know? They may be working somewhere else. Nowadays people have migrated everywhere, to Goa, Mumbai, Bengaluru and other places," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said people feared removal of their names from voter lists for procedural lapses. Shivakumar said political parties would also mobilise booth-level workers to spread awareness and help voters retain their franchise.

"Within our party too, we will appoint BLAs and everyone will work on this," he said.

Warning against linking welfare benefits with electoral exclusion, he said, "Tomorrow morning, if all those schemes disappear -- rice through ration cards, Gruha Lakshmi money, Gruha Jyothi benefits -- what will they say? The moment they are told they have no vote, their benefits will also be taken away."

Development means improved living standards, not big buildings: Kerala CM

Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Sunday said that development does not mean construction of big buildings, rather it envisages improving the living standards of the people, and outlined a slew of plans to modernise and transform the port city, Ernakulam district and the state.

Speaking at an event organised to felicitate the CM, ministers and MLAs from Ernakulam district, Satheesan said the UDF plans for the state primarily include improving the economic situation of Kerala and the living standards of the people. He said that improving the economic situation of the state was a challenge and so was taking charge of the Finance Department.

"If we can improve our economic situation, then the next thing to be done is equitable distribution of wealth. We need to examine what all we can do to improve the living standards of the people.

"Development is part of it. But it does not mean acquiring land and constructing huge buildings. It comes when there is a visible improvement in the living standards of the people," he contended.

He said that UDF was the first opposition in the country which not only criticised the ruling government, but carried out studies on what can be done in the areas in which the administration had failed. Satheesan said he will be presenting the first budget of the new government in the assembly on



June 19 and it will contain numerous projects for all the sectors, including health, education and basic infrastructure.

Without going into details, the CM said that the plans include turning the entire state into a seaport city, initiating in Kerala the highest number of aviation projects in Asia and transforming Kochi city into a model for

the country by making it one of the most modern cities.

He said that Kochi should grow beyond its current limits to become a 'twin city' with administrative offices located away from its heart.

"Such an urban planning of the city is a priority for us. It will not only help the city populace, it would also benefit the people living in the nearby villages. We

expect to achieve this as Ernakulam has a CM, three ministers, competent MPs and several MLAs," he said.

The CM said he was confident "we can make a change." "But, no one can do anything on his own in these times. We need to build a team in all fields. We need people with expertise," he said. Satheesan also hinted at a plan to transform the district into the 'capital' of Kerala's film industry.

He made the statement in the presence of filmstars Mammootty and Kunchako Boban who also attended the event. "Similar to the movie industry in Hyderabad and Chennai, this government will place its signature in the film sector. I promise that we will leave our mark," he asserted.

Mann under fire over ASI murder, Kapurthala jail violence

Opposition demands resignation

Opposition parties in Punjab on Sunday lashed out at the AAP government over the killing of a Punjab Police assistant sub-inspector and the Kapurthala jail incident, alleging that it has lost the "moral" authority to continue amid "complete lawlessness and anarchy."

Leaders from the Congress, the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal targeted the Bhagwant Mann government over the law and order situation, claiming that nobody was safe.

An assistant sub-inspector was shot dead by two



unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants in Amritsar on Sunday. The body of ASI Joga Singh was found near the Fatehgarh Churian-Majithia road.

In another incident, inmates ran amok in the Kapurthala jail following a clash. The police authorities

lobbed teargas shells and resorted to a cane-charge to restore order late Saturday night. Three inmates were injured in the incident.

Reacting to these two incidents, Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring claimed that the AAP lost the "moral authority" to continue, claiming "prevailing anarchy" across the state.

"This is high time that the government either starts to act or decides to abdicate, sooner the better," he said.

Warring said the AAP government has clearly "abdicated" its authority, allowing the criminals and gangsters

to have a free run. "There is no fear of law", he said.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh also hit out at the AAP government, calling these incidents "glaring examples of total administrative collapse".

He demanded the resignation of Mann, who also holds the home portfolio.

"The cold-blooded murder of a Punjab Police ASI has exposed the shocking insecurity prevailing across the state. If Punjab Police personnel themselves are not safe, what security can ordinary citizens expect under the Bhagwant Mann government?" he asked.

Centre pushed country into economic crisis: Akhilesh Yadav

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday accused the BJP-led central government of failing to control inflation and unemployment, claiming that it has pushed the country into a "serious economic crisis".

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also attacked the Centre over rising prices of petrol and diesel and asked who was accountable for the state of the economy after 12 years in power, according to a Samajwadi Party (SP) statement.

Yadav made the remarks while addressing SP leaders and workers from different UP districts at the party's state headquarters here. He also targeted the Yogi Adityanath government and alleged that the BJP was following the "path of falsehood" and had pushed UP "into darkness", claiming that inflation, unemployment and corruption had reached their peak under the present dispensation.

Attacking the state government over power supply, Yadav said the BJP was responsible for the electricity crisis in UP and alleged that people were suffering due to unannounced power cuts amid severe heat.

He further claimed that no new power plant had been established during the BJP government's tenure and that the electricity currently being supplied in the state was being generated from power projects set up during the SP government.

Yadav further alleged that the BJP government in UP had done the "maximum injustice" to the PDA community during its two terms in office.

'Cockroach protests' held in Madurai, Villupuram against unemployment

In a novel and emotionally charged protest, hundreds of unemployed youth took to the streets of Madurai on Sunday, staging a first-of-its-kind 'Cockroach Rally' in Tamil Nadu. The demonstration was organised to voice opposition against severe unemployment and recent remarks made by a senior Supreme Court judge comparing jobless youth to cockroaches.



The rally was jointly organised by the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI). It also received strong backing from supporters of the 'Cockroach Janata Party', a satirical social media handle that recently took the internet by storm.

The march commenced from the Gandhi Museum premises and culminated in a massive demonstration in front of the Tamil Annai statue at the Thamukkam Grounds. The controversy erupted after Supreme Court judge Surya Kant reportedly

remarked that unemployed youth are turning into cockroaches and attacking everyone. The comment triggered widespread outrage among jobless youth across the country, prompting the creation of the satirical 'Cockroach Janata Party' page on social media. The page rapidly gained over 10 million followers within just four days before it was reportedly blocked by the central government.

During Sunday's protest, hundreds of educated, unemployed graduates marched carrying placards that read "We Want Work,

We Want Life, We Want Respect". Many also held posters reading 'Rally of the Unemployed Cockroaches'. The protestors raised slogans against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government, condemning its failure to deliver on the promise of creating 20 million jobs annually.

They also slammed the government over skyrocketing prices of petrol, diesel, and essential commodities.

Meanwhile, echoing the Madurai agitation, a signature campaign was launched near the New Bus Stand in Villupuram under the leader-

ship of DYFI District Organiser Arivalagan.

Demanding immediate employment opportunities, a large number of local residents and youth joined the drive to protest against the central government's unfulfilled promises.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the protest, one of the key organisers, Selvam, said, "Youth of India have united online to fight against rampant corruption, severe unemployment, and Prime Minister Modi's unfulfilled promise of providing 20 million jobs a year. We are taking to the streets today to demand that the Modi government immediately provide employment opportunities." Criticising the judge's remarks, Selvam added, "Comparing the hardworking youth -- who are the pillars of this nation -- to cockroaches and tarnishing their dignity is completely unacceptable. We vehemently condemn the Supreme Court judge's statement."

No power shortage in TN, certain individuals 'sabotaging' supply: Minister

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister R Nirmal Kumar on Sunday firmly denied allegations of any power shortage in the state, attributing recent power outages to deliberate acts of "sabotage" instigated by "certain individuals".

Speaking to reporters here, the minister claimed that 99 per cent of the department's workforce is performing exceptionally well, but a microscopic minority of "black sheep" is undermining the government's efforts.

"There is absolutely no shortage of electricity in Tamil Nadu. The rumours regarding a power deficit are baseless. It has come to light that certain individuals are disrupting the power supply, acting under the instigation of vested interests. We are actively investigating and rectifying these issues," Kumar said. Admitting that the state's power infrastructure requires major overhaul, he alleged that the



department had been systematically neglected for the past two decades.

"The Tamil Nadu electricity department has been lagging and is in a dilapidated state for the last 20 years. The previous regimes have squeezed out and exhausted all resources from this institution. While complete restructuring and transformation might take a few years, I assure you that visible, step-by-step improvements will be seen on a daily basis very soon," Kumar asserted. The minister's remarks come amidst sharp criticism from the

opposition and reports over power cuts. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami had earlier demanded immediate war-footing measures to address the blackouts, warning the ruling administration not to hide behind the excuse of being new to governance. Responding to queries about internal disciplinary action, Kumar added that the department is thoroughly validating the conduct of the suspected one per cent of employees who are believed to be acting as "black sheep" to tarnish the state's administration.

After court order, SP corporator administered oath five months later in UP

SP leader Lalit Kishore Tiwari was finally sworn in as a corporator at the Lucknow Municipal Corporation on Sunday, days after the Allahabad High Court froze Mayor Sushma Kharkwal's powers over a five-month delay in administering the oath. Mayor Sushma Kharkwal said, "As per the High Court's directions, the oath-taking ceremony was held today related to Ward Number 73, Faizullaganj."

Explaining the delay, she said, "Our programme was already fixed a month ago. Suddenly, on 'Bada Mangal', I fell ill and was admitted to the Command Hospital. I was discharged from the hospital yesterday evening, and today we administered the oath to Lalit Kishore Tiwari." The dispute relates to

the Ward Number 73 Faizullaganj municipal election in 2023. In the local polls, BJP candidate Pradeep Kumar Shukla defeated SP candidate Lalit Kishore Tiwari.

Later, Tiwari alleged that the BJP candidate provided incorrect information regarding his marital status in the nomination papers' affidavit and demanded the cancellation of his election. The court, in its December 19, 2025, order, annulled Shukla's election and declared the runner-up, Tiwari, as the elected councillor of ward number 73.

10 months on, locals rely on boats as washed-away bridge leave Jammu villages cut off

Nearly ten months after flash floods washed away a crucial bridge over the Tawi river connecting several villages and the famous Raja Pad Devta shrine on the outskirts of Jammu, hundreds of residents of the Katal Batal area in Nagrota continue to rely on boats for their daily commute, with the impending monsoon season triggering fresh fears of prolonged isolation. The bridge was the sole road link for several hamlets with populations of 4,000 to 5,000 and a major access route to the revered temple. It was swept away during devastating floods last year. Since then, villagers, students, government employees, labourers, traders and pilgrims have been forced to

cross the river in boats to reach schools, workplaces and markets. Residents said their lives come to a virtual standstill whenever the Tawi swells during the rains, as boat services are suspended for safety reasons. "We are facing the most difficult period of our lives. For more than ten months, we have remained disconnected after our bridge, the only road connectivity to several villages, was washed away in flash floods. The government has done nothing during this period," said Rajesh Kumar, a resident of Katal Batal.

The villagers alleged that repeated assurances from ministers, political leaders and government representatives have failed to translate into action, leaving the area cut off and its residents struggling with daily hardships.



"For the first several months after the bridge collapsed, there was only one boat available for students, employees, labourers and traders. Now there are three boats, which cater to hundreds of people from several villages every day," said Santosh Singh.

He said MLAs promised to connect the bridge here on

the Tawi, but did nothing till now. "We are ignored and isolated. It is a shame from this government," he added.

The boat service, currently the only viable means of connectivity, was introduced to ease the daily commute and prevent the complete isolation of the affected villages after the

bridge was destroyed. However, residents fear the arrangement will become ineffective once the monsoon rains intensify and water levels rise in the Tawi River.

"The bridge is broken, there is water everywhere, so there is no way to go. We request the authorities to look into the matter. Many people have visited the area and made promises, but no one has done anything," said Anju Gupta, a pilgrim from Jammu, who had come to the Raja Pad Devta shrine for a ceremony. Another pilgrim, Devika, demanded better facilities for visitors and locals alike.

"We came here to perform the munda ceremony of my grandson, but we got stranded because of the lack of proper connectivity. We have small children with us. There should be better arrangements, including safer boats, for locals and pilgrims," she said.

Residents said the issue affects not only locals but also thousands of devotees visiting the shrine, particularly during religious occasions.

WRITING ON WALL

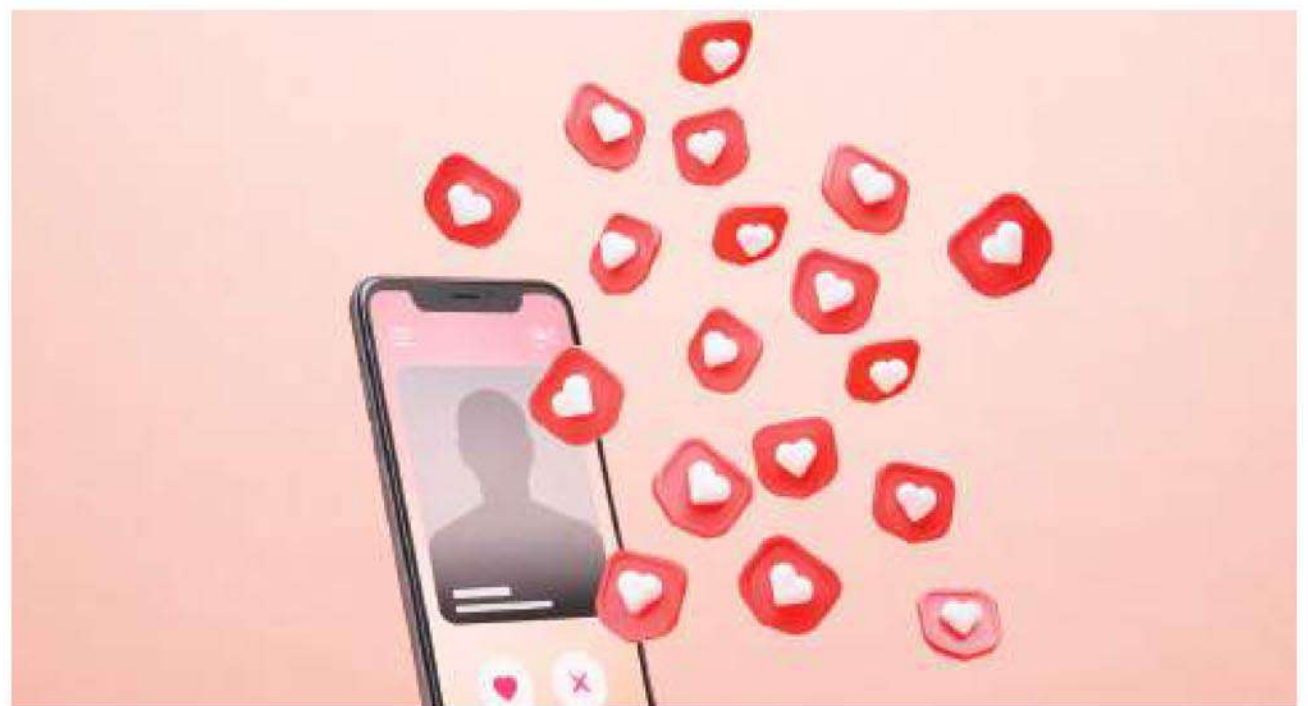
Social media is abuzz, the established media is cautious, and political establishments are obviously jittery about the way the US-based Indian activist on social media, Abhijit Dipke, unleashed a storm - half in jest and half serious by way of a satirical outreach against the establishment. Youths, mainly techies, have sprung up in cities to cheer the online political movement -- the Cockroach Janata Party -- on ground and on online platforms. The implications of a new political movement have been discussed threadbare. That a young lad at age 30 has managed to create such a stir in a short span of a few hours - to start with - is awesome, even as this is reflective of the huge potential of social media in the present age. Little wonder then that the police establishment in Maharashtra thought it fit to spread a ring of security around Dipke's house, in the guise of extending its protection but palpably to browbeat the social activist into submission.

Union minister Kiran Rijju, suggesting obliquely that much of the Cockroach Janata Party's followers could be Pakistanis, shows how rattled the establishment is. That the satirist could catch the fancy of millions of youths in this country with one swift swoop is indicative of the extent of frustration welling up in the minds of our youths, which remains unaddressed by the establishment. The established political formations have been caught unawares. Leaders are increasingly forming into a class of their own and are divorced from the realities of daily life. The ruling politicians, comprising the saffron brigade and their apologists in the media were game till a few days ago, hailing India's "huge" economic growth, figuratively outwitting Japan and the UK, and the nation's aspirations to be a 5-trillion dollar economy. The sudden degradation of India by IMF to the sixth rank, below Japan and the UK too, should drill some sense into their minds about India's economic super power status under the Modi dispensation. The ground realities remain the same: as is also reflected in the per capita income, wherein there has been only marginal progress for this country in terms of the people's living standards.

The BJP, rather, is used to playing such gimmicks. During the fag end of the AB Vajpayee dispensation, it fought a general election on the plank of India Shining and was miserably defeated by the UPA in 2004. Any economic growth for a nation must get itself reflected in the living standards of its people. A deficit on this front presents its own problems. Democracy's problem, thus, is that the disenchantment of the people gets reflected easily. This cannot be swept under the carpet. The people, fed up with the Congress rule, rallied under JP's Total Revolution movement, an offspring of which was the Janata Party that ousted the tricolour party from power in 1977. Half a century later, conditions are ripe for a refashioning of national politics. Who gains or who loses is anybody's guess. The run-of-the-mill politicians of various hues could sooner or later be put on notice. The Cockroach Janata Party, for one, might or might not be just a storm in a teacup. But, the writing on the wall is loud and clear.

Would you trust AI to help you find 'the one'?

● Dating apps are betting it can



BUMBLE IS THE FIRST MAINSTREAM DATING APP TO OVERHAUL ITS DESIGN TO CENTRE AI. BUT ITS NOT THE FIRST APP TO USE IT. VARIOUS DATING APPS HAVE ROLLED OUT AI FEATURES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. HINGE, FOR INSTANCE, HAS INCORPORATED GENERATIVE AI TOOLS TO HELP USERS WITH CONVERSATION STARTERS, AND TO GIVE THEM FEEDBACK ON THEIR PROFILES, BUMBLE ITSELF INTRODUCED AN AI DETECTIVE FEATURE IN 2024 TO HELP BOOST USER SAFETY BY IDENTIFYING FAKE AND SCAM PROFILES

In the relatively short time they've been around, online dating apps have transformed how we hook up, date and fall in love. These apps have long been characterised by "swipe logic": users are shown profiles of others and must swipe left or right to decide whether they like them or not.

When Match Group first introduced this feature through Tinder in 2012, it fundamentally changed the dating scene.

Now, another transformation may be on the horizon, as Bumble has announced plans to shift to AI-powered online dating and retire the swipe. The move raises concerns about the future of intimacy and dating.

A Bee to find you love

Chief executive Whitney Wolfe Herd recently announced that, at some point later this year, Bumble will be introducing an AI powered dating assistant named "Bee" which is expected to replace the swipe format.

Bee will first chat to users to "get to know them", before suggesting potential matches, and thoughtful date ideas.

Bumble is the first mainstream dating app to overhaul its design to centre AI. But it's not the first app to use it.

Various dating apps have rolled out AI features over the past few years. Hinge, for instance, has incorporated generative AI tools to help users with conversation starters, and to give them feedback on their profiles. Bumble itself introduced an AI detective feature in 2024 to help boost user safety by identifying fake and scam profiles.

The decline of dating apps

Dating apps have become a key part of modern dating. They provide access to larger dating pools, especially for those experiencing "thin" dating markets due to their age, sexuality or location.

Despite these benefits, however, research suggests individuals using these apps become increasingly burnt out and frustrated over time. Most major apps are now facing declining numbers in users and downloads - a shift characterised by swiping fatigue, safety concerns, and experiences of online racism and sexism.

When it launched in 2014, Bumble was branded as the "feminist Tinder" because women had control over initiating the conversation.

But it has faced various criticisms since then. For example, research published in 2018 argued the app was optimised to work best for straight, white, cisgender women - meaning they were likely to have smoother or more positive experiences than others. The app's "women message first" feature also reinforces the traditional idea that there are two genders (men and women) and each one should play a certain role in relationships.

The commodification of love

Academics have been writing about the commodification of intimacy and dating since the late 1990s. Sociologist Zygmunt Bauman theorised we are living in an era of "liquid love", in which we are "shopping for love", and looking for shorter, more flexible relations.

Another scholar, Eva Illouz, argued in her 2011 book *Why Love Hurts* that modern dating is shaped by an abundance of choice, and the pressure to compare and evaluate potential partners can make commitment feel more uncertain.

Dating apps intensify these dynamics. They "platform" intimacy through a market-like system, where profiles (rather than people) are browsed, evaluated and selected. In this environment, it's common to experience ghosting, stalled conversations, and ambiguity over what the other person wants.

AI matchmaking might reduce the uncertainties of modern dating, by narrowing choices and recommending more "compatible" matches. Or, it might just shift the source of the uncertainty.

Users will still have to navigate concerns around chemistry, intention and commitment - and now they'll also have to decide if they trust the algorithm. They may not want to use AI at all, but will have no choice unless there's a way to opt out.

AI also introduces potential for bias in how users are "assessed" and matched. Although we don't know exactly how Bee will work, a plethora of research has shown AI can perpetuate inequalities and lead to discrimination in various contexts. As American social scientist Safiya Umoja explains in her book *Algorithms of Oppression*, algorithms are not neutral systems; they can reflect and amplify existing social inequalities.

On a dating app, this could look like reinforcing gendered dynamics and heteronormativity in who is shown to whom, reproducing racial biases already documented in online dating, and privileging certain lifestyles and markers of class in determining "compatibility".

Not to mention that if the algorithm is effective in finding matches "like you", it could be closing you off from a variety of unique people

and meaningful experiences.

Is AI dating the way forward?

In a society in which loneliness is on the rise, and love is in (apparent) crisis, do people want to use AI dating apps?

It seems unlikely. Research indicates individuals are increasingly looking for more "organic connections", and we have seen a boom in in-person dating events, from run clubs to social nights and speed dating.

Outsourcing matchmaking to AI risks further reducing love and intimacy - a universal human experience - into something to be quantified and calculated, stripping it of its humanness.

At the same time, we should remember people have a long history of getting external help to find love, whether that's through paying a local matchmaker, posting a newspaper ad, getting advice from an agony aunt, or going on a dating show. AI could be the next iteration of how we manage the emotional toll of dating.

So the question remains: would you trust AI to find you a partner?

Post-Covid hip damage fuels 40 pc rise in surgeries among young Indians: Experts

A worrying post-pandemic orthopaedic trend has emerged across India, with doctors reporting a significant rise in cases of hip arthritis and avascular necrosis (AVN), a painful condition caused by disruption of blood supply to the hip bone, particularly among younger and middle-aged adults.

Experts at the 2nd DELHI HIP 360 Conference, held at Crowne Plaza New Delhi on Sunday, warned that the post-Covid era has accelerated hip joint damage and increased the demand for Total Hip Replacement (THR) surgeries across the country.

The Delhi Orthopaedic Association organised the conference in association with the Indian Arthroplasty Association.

The conference brought together leading orthopaedic surgeons, arthroplasty specialists, fellows, and residents from across India to deliberate on the latest advances in Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA), complex hip reconstruction, robotic-assisted surgery, rehabilitation, and management of post-Covid hip complications.

Experts at the conference said that hospitals are witnessing a notable increase in patients presenting with severe hip pain, limping, stiffness, and difficulty in walking due to AVN and early hip arthritis.

Several recent studies globally have suggested a correlation between high-dose or prolonged steroid use during COVID-19 treatment and osteonecrosis of the femoral head, especially among patients who already had underlying vascular or metabolic risk factors.

Medical experts noted that AVN, once largely seen in older adults or trauma patients, is now increasingly affecting individuals in their 30s and 40s. In many cases, delayed diagnosis allows the disease to progress silently until the hip joint collapses, eventually requiring total hip replacement surgery to restore mobility and quality of life.

Dr L Tomar, organising Chairman



of DELHI HIP 360 and Director, Department of Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement at Max Hospital, Delhi, said, "We are observing a 40 per cent rise in hip replacement surgeries in younger people. Steroids played a life-saving role during the Covid pandemic. Still, 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 Tomar further stated that early diagnosis is critical because if AVN is detected in the initial stages, joint-preserving procedures may still be possible before complete destruction of the hip occurs.

Research published in international orthopaedic journals has shown that steroid-induced AVN may develop within months after exposure, with the hip joint being the most commonly affected site.

Dr Karun Jain, Organising

Secretary of the conference and a senior orthopaedic surgeon at Pushpanjali Medical Centre in Delhi, said that one of the biggest challenges with AVN is that patients often ignore early symptoms such as groin pain or stiffness, assuming it to be muscular pain.

"By the time they seek medical advice, the hip joint may already have undergone irreversible collapse. Awareness, timely MRI evaluation, and early intervention can help reduce disability," Dr Jain said.

The conference featured extensive scientific discussions on complex primary and revision hip arthroplasty, robotic and navigation-assisted hip surgery, infection prevention, difficult hip reconstructions, dysplasia management, and enhanced recovery protocols.

Surgeons also discussed how advancements in implant design, minimally invasive approaches, and precision-based technologies are improving surgical outcomes and reducing recovery time.

Dr Gaurav Govil, Associate Director, Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement at Max Hospital

Patparganj, said, "Total Hip Replacement today is among the most successful surgeries in modern orthopaedics. 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." Experts at the conference stressed that India could see a substantial increase in demand for hip replacement surgeries over the next decade if early screening and preventive orthopaedic care are not strengthened. They emphasised that continuous academic collaboration, surgeon training, and adoption of modern arthroplasty techniques are essential to improve long-term patient outcomes.

The conference concluded with a strong call for greater public awareness regarding persistent hip pain after COVID recovery, responsible steroid use, and timely orthopaedic consultation to prevent severe joint damage and preserve mobility in younger populations.

How do I know if my electric blanket or heated throw is safe?

As temperatures drop across Australia, many households are pulling electric blankets and heated throws out of storage. For many, they're among the cheapest and most energy efficient ways to stay warm during winter.

But some of us are understandably worried about fire risk. So how do you know your electric blanket is actually safe to use?

Is it compliant?

Modern electric blankets are generally considered safe when they comply with Australian electrical standards, as long as you follow the instructions.

But damaged, ageing or poorly manufactured blankets really can create serious fire and burn risks. According to Australian fire authorities, we should treat electric blankets like any other electrical appliance and inspect them regularly for damage.

The good news is there are several simple checks you can use to determine whether an electric blanket is safe.

The first thing to check - ideally before you buy - is whether the blanket complies with Australian safety requirements. Electric blankets sold in Australia must comply with the Australian and New Zealand Standard 60335.2.17, which applies to flexible heating appliances such as electric blankets and heated throws.

How do you know it's compliant? The tag won't necessarily list the standard. Look for the regulatory compliance mark - it looks like a checkmark in a triangle. This symbol indicates the supplier has declared the product complies with applicable Australian safety requirements.

The mark is especially important when buying products online - some imported electrical goods may not comply with Australian safety standards. A blanket may appear normal on the outside while containing poor-quality internal wiring or unsafe electrical components.

Is it old?

Another important factor is the age of the blanket. Many Australians continue using electric blankets for far longer than recommended. Most manufacturers and safety organisations generally recommend replacing electric blankets after about five to ten years, depending on their condition and frequency of use.



Older blankets may lack many of the safety protections now common in newer models, including overheat protection systems and automatic shut-off technology. These safety features are worth considering when purchasing a new blanket.

Is it stored properly?

One of the most common mistakes people make is folding blankets tightly during summer storage. This can damage the internal heating elements and weaken insulation around the wires.

Electric blankets should ideally be stored flat or loosely rolled rather than tightly folded. Don't put anything heavy on top when storing them, either.

That's because over time, the internal heating wires can weaken at the points where they were folded and under pressure. In some cases, damage may not even be visible from the outside.

There are several warning signs that may indicate internal wire damage, which means the electric blanket is unsafe and should no longer be used. You should immediately unplug and replace a blanket if you notice:

- hot spots or uneven heating
- scorch marks or burn smells
- frayed fabric or exposed wires
- stiff or lumpy sections inside the blanket
- flickering heat
- a controller that feels unusually hot, loose, or damaged.

Use general caution
Certain groups of people may need extra caution when using electric blankets. Older adults, people with diabetes and individuals with reduced heat sensitivity or nerve-related medical conditions may not notice overheating or burns quickly enough.

Pets can also create hidden hazards. Cats and dogs may scratch, chew, or puncture the fabric, potentially damaging the internal wiring without you noticing.

Border village Lachen cut off for 16 months, residents protest in Gangtok

Residents of the strategically important border village of Lachen in north Sikkim on Monday gathered in Gangtok demanding urgent restoration of road connectivity and greater government accountability, alleging prolonged hardship and economic devastation after repeated disruptions since the October 2023 South Lhonak Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). Villagers who travelled through difficult terrain to reach the state capital expressed disappointment after Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang did not meet them during the protest. Residents said Lachen had remained effectively cut off for nearly 16 months, with repeated road damage leaving the tourism-dependent border village isolated and economically crippled. "We have risked our lives just to demand better connectivity for our village," said a resident, Sangay Lachenpa, alleging that deteriorating road conditions had made even access to essential supplies hazardous.



He claimed the prolonged disruption had severely hit livelihoods, with tourism activity in the region almost collapsing. According to residents, more than 120 hotels in Lachen alone were collectively suffering losses exceeding Rs 30 lakh daily, apart from losses faced by taxi operators, shopkeepers and other businesses. Villagers also warned of growing migration from the strategically sensitive border area due to a lack of connectivity and economic opportunities. "Government

policy has always been to keep border areas populated, but because of poor connectivity, especially the younger generation is now moving out," Sangay said. Another resident, Dathup Lachenpa, described the journey to Gangtok as an ordeal, saying people were forced to construct makeshift bridges and cross washed-out stretches on foot. "Life has never been smooth for us after the October 3, 2023, GLOF," he said, alleging that repair work on a damaged 20-metre road stretch, cut off

since April 5, had progressed too slowly.

He said residents were now walking nearly 20 kilometres downhill to collect LPG cylinders and carry them back home during the monsoon. Responding to the protests, Lachen-Mangan MLA Samdup Lepcha acknowledged that the situation was serious and said the government was closely monitoring restoration work. He said residents currently had to use a 241-kilometre bypass route to reach Gangtok due to repeated disruptions on the Taram Chu Road. Lepcha said Border Roads Organisation (BRO) officials had assured the government that the road would be made motorable by July 16. He added that alternative solutions, including a temporary riverbed road and a long-term tunnel project, were also being explored. "The public's frustration is understandable," he said, while urging opposition parties not to politicise the issue.

Hanumakonda Congress leaders laud Mahesh Goud's grassroots work

Hanumakonda DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy said TPCC Chief and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud had played a key role in strengthening the Congress party from the grassroots level. The 60th birthday celebrations of Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud were held grandly at the DCC Bhavan in Hanumakonda on Sunday, with district Congress leaders and party workers participating enthusiastically. Hanumakonda DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy, Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, TPCC General Secretary Palle Srinivas Goud, Batti Srinivas Rao, Kisan Cell District President Pingili Venkatram Narasimha Reddy, senior party leaders, former corporators, district



committee members, affiliated wing leaders and women leaders jointly cut a cake and extended birthday wishes to Mahesh Goud. Speaking on the occasion, Inagala Venkatram Reddy wished Mahesh Goud a long and healthy life and expressed confidence that the Congress party would achieve greater success under his leadership. He described Mahesh Goud's political journey as an inspi-

ration to party workers, noting that he began his career as a committed grassroots worker during his student days and rose to become TPCC President through dedication to Congress ideology. He praised Mahesh Goud's efforts in strengthening the party at the grassroots level and said the Hanumakonda district Congress cadre would continue to stand firmly in support of his lead-

ership. He also stated that Mahesh Goud remained accessible to party workers and leaders at all times, effectively coordinating the organisation and guiding the party forward. Leaders present at the celebrations lauded Mahesh Goud's services and said his leadership would play a crucial role in further strengthening the Congress party across the state.

Former minister Malla Reddy participates in Sarasvati Antyapushkaras at Kaleshwar

Jayashankar Bhupalpally: Former minister Chamakura Malla Reddy participated in the Sarasvati Antyapushkaras being held at Kaleshwar in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Saturday. He was accompanied by a large number of his followers during the visit. On the occasion, Chamakura Malla Reddy performed the sacred Pushkar bath in the holy waters and later visited the Sri Kaleshwar Mukteshwar Swami Temple to offer prayers and perform special pujas to the presiding deities. Temple officials and Vedic scholars welcomed the former minister with traditional Purna Kumbham honours. Following the darshan and rituals, temple priests offered Vedic blessings to him. Meanwhile, a large number of devotees continued to flock to Kaleshwar to participate in the Sarasvati Antyapushkaras. Temple authorities made special arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of rituals and provide facilities for visiting pilgrims.



Odisha Guv releases Bandaru Dattatreya's autobiography



Visakhapatnam: Bandaru Dattatreya's efforts to protect democratic values remain an inspiration for future generations, underlined Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu. Speaking at the launch of the autobiography 'Prajala Kathe Naa Atmakatha' of former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya in Visakhapatnam on Sunday, the Odisha Governor, who attended as chief guest, commended Dattatreya's services during the Diviseema cyclone. "When Dattatreya was Union Minister, he provided necessary funds for Visakhapatnam. While serving as Governor, he lived among the people and did not confine himself within the walls of Raj Bhavan," he recalled, highlighting that Bandaru Dattatreya is a great person and insults, hardships and pain could not stop from succeeding.

Heaping praise on Dattatreya, MLC Somu Veerajulu said the Bharatiya Janata Party is an organisation that emerged for the nation and that Bandaru Dattatreya's life story is an ideal for everyone. "Living in a very small house, he conducted himself as a man of the people. Dattatreya has been extremely loyal to his work and to the people," the MLC stated. Sharing his views, former MP GVL Narasimha Rao said, "Bandaru Dattatreya served in various capacities. Former minister Gudivada Amarnath, former MLA Karanam Dharmasri and BJP leaders participated in the book launch.

'Mahanadu' to be hosted in a hybrid mode



Anakapalli: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Sunday asserted that development and welfare initiatives are moving at a rapid pace in Payakaraopeta constituency. Highlighting that key infrastructure and administrative projects, including the establishment of a revenue division and court sanctions, are being actively pursued, the Home Minister reviewed arrangements for the Telugu Desam Party's ensuing 'Mahanadu' scheduled for May 27 and 28 in a hybrid format and urged party cadres to ensure its grand success. Anitha informed that 'Mahanadu' will be hosted at the cluster-level across the state. Terming 'Mahanadu' as the biggest festival celebrated by the TDP family members, Anitha recalled that the party had successfully organised the annual event online even during Covid-19 pandemic. The Home Minister stated that the decision to conduct this edition in a hybrid mode was in tune with the measures advocated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Anitha informed that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh voluntarily reduced the number of convoy vehicles by 50 per cent, with ministers and MLAs also taking similar measures to curb expenditure. According to the Home Minister, 'Mahanadu' will be organised in 1,840 clusters across Andhra Pradesh, with 10 centres identified in the Payakaraopeta constituency. Programmes will be conducted for six hours each day during the two-day-long event. Andhra Pradesh travel Responding to recent political criticism, Anitha alleged that YSRCP leaders were attempting to tarnish her image over the past two days by politicising an incident involving a 11-year-old Dalit girl. She mentioned that an investigation was ordered immediately after receiving information from the Payakaraopeta Circle Inspector and asserted that no one involved in the crime would be spared. The Home Minister questioned the YSRCP leaders whether the police or medical authorities had officially confirmed allegations related to the case and underlined that society's mindset must change when dealing with sensitive issues involving children and women. Later, the Home Minister unveiled the 'Mahanadu' poster along with the party leaders.

'Whitathon' builds awareness about eye cancer among children



Aimed at raising awareness about retinoblastoma treatment, LV Prasad Eye Institute's flagship programme focused on building awareness about the early detection of retinoblastoma (eye cancer) among children. Organised from Kali Mata Mandir to YMCA at RK Beach Road, the event was organised to mark the 'World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week', observed from May 10 to 16. Ocular oncologist of the institute Suneetha spoke about the need to create awareness about the symptoms of retinoblastoma among the public as early detection and treatment can save the child's vision and life. Head of GMR Varalakshmi campus Virender Sachdeva exhorted people to spread awareness about the symptoms of retinoblastoma in their circles as it would make a huge difference to ensure cases are detected early. Demonstrating strong community support for the event, around 280 enthusiastic participants joined the cause this year.

Ahmedabad lead India's CWG Day celebrations as Fit India Sundays on cycle unite the nation

The 75th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle on Sunday witnessed massive participation across more than 8,000 locations nationwide, commemorating Commonwealth Games Day and building momentum toward the historic 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. Leading the national celebrations from the iconic Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviya, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghvi and Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana joined 5,000 cyclists, athletes, youth volunteers and fitness enthusiasts in a vibrant showcase of community participation and sporting spirit. The Ahmedabad edition, themed "A New Icon for a Fitter India - Pedalling to 2030," featured a grand 5-kilometre cycling rally alongside Yoga and Zumba demonstrations, turning the Sabarmati Riverfront into a celebration of fitness, culture and India's sporting development.

A major highlight of the event was the inauguration of a special Commonwealth Games-themed exhibition by Mandaviya, showcasing India's sporting achievements, the growth of sports infrastructure under the Khelo India Mission and the country's expanding sports ecosystem in the lead-up to the centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030. The event also featured a wide range of engaging activities, including pickleball, box cricket, volleyball, tug of war and several



interactive community games, creating a festival-like atmosphere for participants across all age groups. Actor Ayushmann Khurrana joined former Commonwealth Games medalists and Olympians including Gurjit Kaur, Rajani Etimaru, Sonika Tandi, Anjum Moudgil, Ankur Mittal and Trupti Murgunde, inspiring young participants and reinforcing the growing culture of fitness and sports among India's youth.

The event also witnessed the presence of several distinguished dignitaries and sports leaders including Ajay Patel, Senior Vice President, Indian Olympic Association; Olympic shooter and CWG medallist Gagan Narang; Mayank Srivastava, Deputy Director General, Khelo India; and Olympian and Athletics

Federation of India President Adille Sumariwalla. A special cultural highlight of the event was a unique showcase blending the traditional spirit of Garba with the science of Yoga, presented by renowned artist Shri Anish Rangrej. Additionally, Pawan Kumar from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga engaged with participants through wellness consultations and guidance sessions, promoting holistic fitness and healthy living. As part of the larger build-up to the historic centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) will continue organising grand, interactive and community-driven initiatives across the country to deepen public participation and strengthen India's sporting ecosystem.

The nationwide celebrations

aim to create greater awareness around the Commonwealth Games movement while inspiring youth to embrace fitness, sports and active lifestyles as Bharat prepares to host the CWG in 2030. Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment Mandaviya said, "Today is a very special occasion as we celebrate both the 75th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle and Commonwealth Games Day. It makes me proud that Gujarat will host the Commonwealth Games in 2030, and even happier to see thousands of people come together early in the morning for fitness and nation-building. "A fit society can build a prosperous nation. If we truly want to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of Viksit Bharat, every citizen must prioritise fit-

ness and healthy living. Cycling is not just exercise, it is a movement. It keeps us fit, reduces pollution and helps save fuel, while also aligning with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's appeal for reduced fuel consumption. By adopting cycling in our daily lives, even for short distances, we contribute towards a healthier and more sustainable India."

Harsh Sanghvi, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister, said, "Today, the entire city of Ahmedabad came alive for Fit India Sundays on Cycle, and I am extremely happy to see such an overwhelming response from the people of Gujarat. The fact that thousands of citizens stepped out early in the morning for fitness and sports reflects the growing awareness and enthusiasm around healthy living." Across the country, similar celebrations unfolded simultaneously at SAI Regional Centres, National Centres of Excellence, Khelo India Centres and public venues, with Olympians, Commonwealth Games medallists and sporting icons joining citizens in their respective regions. Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse led the celebrations in Guwahati, former wrestling star Babita Phogat participated in Dharamsala, while former Indian hockey player Saba Anjum — one of the inspirations behind the iconic film Chak De! India — joined the festivities in Mumbai, adding to the nationwide spirit of Sports Jan Bhagidari.

Parineeti Chopra gives a glimpse of her healthy homemade 'litti chokha' meal



Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra on Monday morning, gave fans a delicious peek into her healthy homemade meal as she shared a picture of traditional litti chokha. The actress shared a picture of her scrumptious meal on her social media account where a white plate was seen filled with perfectly roasted 'littis' paired with a bowl of 'chokha'. The actress revealed that the litti was made using "jowar aata" and stuffed with "sattu goodness," while the side dish consisted of a simple aloo-baingan chokha. Sharing the picture, she wrote, "Homemade litti chokha. Jowar aata, filled with sattu goodness. And a simple aloo/baingan chokha." The actress has been eating healthier and following a disciplined lifestyle especially after she embraced motherhood in October last year. Parineeti, recently marked 14 years of her superhit movie "Ishaqzaade". At an event, the actress was captured talking about how time flew so fast. "Oh my God, hum log sab buddhe ho gaye (We are all old now)," she said. Made under the direction of Habib Faisal, "Ishaqzaade" has been produced by Aditya Chopra under the banner of Yash Raj Films. With Parineeti and Arjun Kapoor as the lead pair, the romantic actioner also saw Gauahar Khan, Natasha Rastogi, Anil Rastogi, and Shashank Khaitan as the supporting cast. "Ishaqzaade" was Parineeti's second project after her debut with "Ladies vs Ricky Bahl" in 2011. On the personal front, Parineeti is married to politician Raghav Chaddha. The couple married in September 2023 at an intimate yet lavish wedding in Udaipur.

Delhi Gymkhana Club eviction: Congress questions move, BJP hits back

The Union government's plan to reclaim the 27.3-acre land of the Delhi Gymkhana Club sparked a political duel on Sunday, with the Congress questioning the need for acquiring the big swathe of land for "PM residence" and the BJP criticising it for doubting the public security purposes behind the move.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Amit Malviya posted a video on his X account featuring Congress leader Surendra Rajput. In the video, Rajput is seen alleging that the Club's land was being reclaimed to expand Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence at Lok Kalyan Marg. Rajput is also seen in the video asking a question: "How much space does the Prime Minister need to live in? The BJP-led government will have to explain this." Malviya hit back saying, "Sonia Gandhi, who occupies 10 Janpath spread across 15,181 square metres, larger than 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, at 14,101 square metres, has apparently sent a note to Surendra Rajput. It reads: sit down."

"The entitlement and hypocrisy in the Congress ecosystem never cease to amaze," Malviya said, In-Charge of BJP's National Information and Technology Department, on X. The imperial-era Club, frequented by the high-heeled and the influential in the power corridors, is located close to the Prime Minister's official residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, in the heart of Lutyens Delhi. The Club management was issued an eviction notice by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on May 22, informing that the



premises would be taken over by the Union government on June 5. India news analysis The land at 2, Safdarjung Road, was given to the exclusive Club, started in the Colonial era, on a perpetual lease in 1918 and the current process for reclaiming the land would vest the parcel with President Droupadi Murmu.

The government notice referred to Clause 4 of the lease deed, noting that the lessor has the authority to re-enter the premises if the land is required for a public purpose. "Exercising those powers, the President of India, acting through the Land and Development Office, has determined the lease and ordered

immediate re-entry of the property," the notice said. In response, the Club's management has sought an urgent meeting with Ministry officials to seek clarity on issues in the interests of member and the employees. The Club functionaries are also reportedly considering a legal challenge to the Ministry's land reclaim notice. The Centre has also issued eviction notice to the Indian Polo Association opposite Prime Minister's official residence. In this case, as well, the Ministry linked the reclaiming of land as a necessity to strengthen and secure "Defence infrastructure and other vital public security purposes".

Chiranjeevi and Bobby film goes to sets in Hyderabad

The much-awaited collaboration between Chiranjeevi and director Bobby Kolli has officially gone on floors. After creating a sensation with Waltair Veerayya, the blockbuster duo has reunited for the massive project tentatively titled #ChiruBobby2 / #Chiru158, produced by KVN Productions under producer Venkat K Narayana. The film was grandly launched recently in the presence of Pawan Kalyan and Nagababu, creating huge excitement among Mega fans. As promised by the makers, the regular shoot officially commenced today in Hyderabad. The first schedule is currently filming important talkie portions featuring Chiranjeevi and



Malayalam actress Anaswara Rajan. Sources close to the team reveal that these scenes

the-scenes video introducing the film's core technical team.

The BTS video quickly grabbed attention as Chiranjeevi appeared in an energetic mood and delivered the line, "Let's set the bloody benchmark," hyping up fans even further. In a fun interaction, the Megastar teasingly questioned Bobby Kolli about the film's title. When the director tried to avoid revealing it, Chiranjeevi jokingly responded that he himself might leak the title at the right time. Their light-hearted exchange has now become a major talking point on social media. India news analysis Director Bobby Kolli is said to have prepared an even bigger

and more intense story this time. Chiranjeevi will reportedly be seen in one of the most powerful roles of his career, backed by a striking physical transformation. The film boasts a strong technical crew with S. Thaman composing the music, Vijay Kartik Kannan handling cinematography, and Avinash Kolla leading production design. Screenplay duties are handled by Kona Venkat and K. Chakravarthy Reddy, while Bhanu-Nandu are penning the dialogues. The makers are expected to announce the remaining cast and official title very soon.

Paul Rudd recalls being a DJ before becoming a star

Los Angeles: Actor Paul Rudd took a trip down memory lane and looked back on the time he spent working as a DJ before he became a Hollywood star. "I was in school. I could work on the weekends — Bat mitzvahs and weddings and birthdays. I did that for about a year," the actor said before an advanced screening of his new movie, Power Ballad, at 92NY in New York City on Monday, May 18. "If I wanted the kids to get out there, I knew that 'Can't Touch This' (by MC Hammer) was a big one," he continued. "But if I wanted the grandparents to dance — Glenn Miller," he added, referring to the famous WWII-era musician. "Swear to God." Rudd has previously spoken candidly about working odd jobs in the '90s while pursuing his dream of being a working actor. He claimed, while speaking to PEOPLE in April 2025, that nothing about his life had changed after starring in a Nintendo commercial in 1991.



"I didn't really feel so famous," Rudd recalled at the time. "I was a working actor and I still had a regular job when I was doing (the) commercial. And then as it slowly started to — as I started getting more work — occasionally someone would say, 'Hey, Clueless!' or whatever," referring to his role in the 1995 classic teen comedy, reports people.com. "But it wasn't — nothing felt so different, really." "And, you know, I think just the very nature of the time when there was no social media, there was no internet — everything just went by just a little bit slower," the Ant-Man actor

added. While speaking at the screening event in New York City, Paul opened up about his latest project, Power Ballad, in which he stars alongside Nick Jonas. During the conversation, the actor said that he was wildly impressed by his costar's acting chops and ability to make others feel at ease. "He's such a great actor [and] great musician, but boy, he made me feel comfortable right away, and we clicked day one. We really got on," Rudd said of Jonas. She continued to sing the singer's praises while exclusively speaking to PEOPLE at the film's offi-

cial premiere in NYC on Tuesday, May 19. "I can't say that I was surprised because I've seen him act, but he did things that were kind of so subtle and really deft, the stuff that was going on behind his eyes," Rudd said. "He'd be going through these dilemmas, and he's not saying anything, but you can read his mind. It's such good acting, and I was just amazed at some of the stuff he was doing." "When I saw the movie, it was like, 'Oh my God.' There were scenes that I wasn't there to film, and yeah, he knocked me out," he continued. "So, not much of a surprise, but I kept thinking, 'Oh, I need to remember this.' And he's just cool. Like he just plays everything cool because he is cool." In the film, Jonas and Rudd play a famous singer and a wedding band musician, respectively, who come into conflict after Jonas' character steals Rudd's idea for a song and turns it into a hit.

Vaishnavi looks graceful

After facing back-to-back setbacks with Jack and Love Me, young actress Vaishnavi Chaitanya is gearing up for a fresh start with an exciting new project. Despite the recent disappointments at the box office, the actress appears determined to bounce back stronger and regain her momentum in Telugu cinema. Vaishnavi is now reuniting with her Baby co-star Anand Deverakonda for an upcoming romantic drama titled Epic — First Semester. Alongside the film buzz, Vaishnavi is also grabbing attention with her latest glamorous photoshoot. Draped in an elegant off-white organza saree featuring rich golden embroidery, the actress looked graceful and radiant. Her stylish appearance and confident screen presence have once again become a talking point among fans online. Industry circles believe Vaishnavi still has strong potential, thanks to her natural acting abilities and relatable screen presence. With Epic — First Semester carrying youthful romance and emotional drama, many feel the film could mark an important turning point in her career. For now, the actress seems fully focused on making a solid comeback — both on screen and in the hearts of Telugu audiences.



'Balance across departments one of the main reasons RCB qualified early': Vinay Kumar

Former India pacer Vinay Kumar said Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have a strong chance of winning the IPL this season if they continue their current form, adding that a back-to-back triumph in the ten-team tournament by the men's team would be wonderful after the women's side won two titles, adding one of the main reasons RCB qualified early for the playoffs is their balance across all departments

Table-toppers RCB will face 2022 winners Gujarat Titans at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala on Tuesday, with the winner set to seal their ticket to the final, to be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on May 31. "RCB have played outstanding cricket this season and, unlike previous years when they were heavily dependent on batting, they are now playing as a team; they look



like a complete side. Their middle order, with players like Tim David, Jitesh Sharma and Rajat Patidar, has added stability and power, which is crucial in T20 cricket. The biggest difference, though, has been their bowling.

"Josh Hazlewood,

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the rest of the attack have brought discipline to the attack, which was key at a batting-friendly venue like Chinnaswamy. They stick to the basics and bowl stump-to-stump. Krunal Pandya's inclusion has also given balance to the side. "That

balance across departments is one of the main reasons RCB qualified early. If they continue to play this way and on finishing in the top two, they have a strong chance of reaching, and even winning, the final this year. Women have won two titles, so if men can do the same and win back-to-back, nothing like it," said Vinay to JioStar. On Bhuvneshwar Kumar's role in leading RCB's charge with the ball, Vinay added, "Bhuvneshwar Kumar's role is extremely important for RCB, both as a bowler and as the leader of the attack. He has bowled brilliantly alongside Josh Hazlewood and Rasikh Salam, maintaining a disciplined, almost Test-match-like approach and lengths.

"With so much experience, I don't think Bhuvneshwar or the bowling attack will take any pressure in the playoffs. They will

look to treat the playoffs like any other game and focus on executing their basics." Vinay also described Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as a "fearless prodigy" and advised bowlers to rely on their strengths to counter the Rajasthan Royals teenaged batter's aggressive approach. "Vaibhav Suryavanshi is a tremendous talent and has been playing phenomenal cricket. But against an aggressive batter like him, bowlers need to stick to their basics and trust their strengths. If he is attacking hard, bowling wider lines or cramping him for room can be effective, along with using your variations. "At times, batters go through a purple patch where everything falls into place, and Vaibhav has enjoyed some of that momentum as well. But whenever bowlers get an opportunity against him, they need to capitalise on it and stick to their strengths," he added.

India's top names set for high-stakes battle at Indian Open of Surfing

Indian surfing will once again turn its attention to the waves of Karnataka as the seventh edition of the Indian Open of Surfing 2026, a key stop in the national surfing series, is set to take place from May 29 to 31 here at the Blue Bay Tannirbhavi Eco Beach. With surfing preparing for its historic debut at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games later this year, this year's Indian Open arrives at a crucial stage in India's Asian Games selection cycle, with several of the country's leading surfers looking to strengthen their position in the national rankings and ongoing evaluation process ahead of the continental showpiece. India has secured two quota spots each in the Men's Open Shortboard and Women's Open Shortboard events for the Asian Games, significantly increasing the stakes surrounding this year's domestic season. As one of the final major events in the national championship calendar before the continental event, the Indian Open is expected to play an important role in shaping discussions surrounding Team India selection. With the battle for Asian Games selection intensifying, much of the spotlight in Mangalore is expected to centre around a small



group of surfers who have emerged as the leading contenders for Team India selection. Ramesh Budihal enters the championship as one of the most accomplished surfers in the country following a landmark period in his career on the continental stage. He produced one of the defining performances in Indian surfing history at the Asian Surfing Championships 2025 in Mahabalipuram, where he became the first Indian surfer to reach the Open Men's final before eventually securing a historic bronze medal for the country. Sivaraj Babu arrives at the Indian Open carrying strong momentum after clinching the Men's Open title at the inaugural Little Andaman Pro 2026, a result that further reinforced his standing as one of the country's leading surfers heading into a pivotal year for Indian surfing.

With only two places available in the Men's Open Shortboard event for the Asian Games, performances in Mangalore could prove decisive in strengthening his selection credentials. Widely regarded as one of the brightest young talents in Indian surfing, Kishore Kumar has rapidly established himself through a series of impressive performances on the domestic circuit. His rapid rise through the domestic ranks has included several strong performances at major national competitions, including previous editions of the Indian Open of Surfing where he emerged among the standout surfers of the tournament.

Kishore has also represented India internationally and recently created history by becoming the first Indian surfer to reach the semifinals of the Asian Surfing Championships in

the Under-18 category held in the Maldives in 2024. India news analysis Srikanth D continues to establish himself as one of the more technically refined surfers in Indian competition, balancing speed and control effectively during high-pressure heats. A consistent presence on the national circuit over the last few seasons, Srikanth has built a reputation for his disciplined approach, clean execution, and ability to remain composed in tightly contested conditions. The women's competition is also expected to command significant attention with Kamali P entering the championship as one of the most recognisable names in Indian surfing. Emerging from Tamil Nadu's thriving surfing ecosystem around Mahabalipuram, Kamali has consistently performed at the highest level domestically while also representing India internationally. Representing Goa, Sugar Shanti Banarse has steadily emerged as one of the strongest competitors in Indian women's surfing through a series of impressive performances at national championships. Her presence adds further depth to what is expected to be a highly competitive women's field, especially with Asian Games selection positions at stake.

Buse breaks new ground as ATP Rankings see major clay-season shake-up



The latest ATP Rankings update has delivered one of the most significant reshuffles of the clay-court season, headlined by a breakthrough run from Peru's Ignacio Buse and a series of career-best movements across the tour following the Hamburg Open and Geneva Open. The standout story belongs to Ignacio Buse, who surged 26 places to World No. 31 after a sensational title run at the Hamburg Open. The 21-year-old became only the fourth Peruvian player ever to enter the Top 50, joining an elite national group and etching his name alongside Pablo Arraya, Jaime Yzaga, and Luis Horna. Buse's path to the trophy was marked by remarkable consistency, dropping just two sets across qualifying and main draw matches, while defeating multiple Top-30 opponents, including Flavio Cobolli, Jakub Menšik, and Tommy Paul.

Elsewhere, Australia's Alex de Minaur climbed to World No. 7 after a strong Hamburg campaign that ended in the semi-finals. The 25-year-old snapped a three-match losing streak with wins over Francisco Cerúndolo, Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, and Luciano Darderi, underlining his growing consistency on clay ahead of Roland Garros. One of the most dramatic leaps came from American left-hander Learner Tien, who rose two places to a career-high World No. 18 after capturing the Gonet Geneva Open title. Tien's breakthrough week included wins over former Top-10 player Stefanos Tsitsipas, Alex Michelsen, and Alexander Bublik before a comeback victory in the final against Mariano Navone. The result marks a rapid rise for the 19-year-old, who has improved by nearly 50 ranking spots over the past year.

Another notable mover was fellow American Tommy Paul, who climbed five places to World No. 21 following a runner-up finish in Hamburg. Paul's run included a dramatic second-round win in which he saved seven match points against Tomás Martín Etcheverry, before recording a significant semi-final victory over De Minaur. The tournament also produced one of the week's biggest shocks, as Aleksandar Kovacevic jumped 27 places to World No. 67 after a remarkable lucky-loser run to the Hamburg semi-finals. The American stunned top seed and World No. 5 Félix Auger-Aliassime en route, marking the biggest win of his career. Among other Top 100 movers, Ben Shelton rose to World No. 5 (joint career high), while Jiri Lehecka reached World No. 12, also a career best. Casper Ruud edged up to No. 16, Mariano Navone moved to No. 38, Daniel Altmaier climbed to No. 57, and Camilo Ugo Carabelli advanced to No. 59. With the French Open having commenced, the rankings shake-up reflects a clay season increasingly defined by breakthrough performances, surprise finalists, and shifting momentum across both established stars and rising talent.

"There's Nothing 'Raw and Undekha' in Updated Dhurandhar OTT Release, Say Disappointed Fans"

When Netflix and JioHotstar announced the "Raw & Undekha" version of Dhurandhar 1, fans expected something new. Viewers hoped for deleted scenes, extended action sequences, and a darker, uncensored cut. However, the updated version disappointed many users. Fans noticed that the just major change was un-muted abusive language. Despite that, the film looked almost identical to the previous OTT release. Dhurandhar OTT release review also noted that the film's runtime is still the same as the prior OTT version — 3 hours and 25 minutes - sparking criticism online. They questioned why the release was promoted as "undekha" when there looked to be no new footage or main additions. The raw and undekha Dhurandhar controversy has now gained key attention on social media.



There are several viewers expressing disturbance over the updated version. Soon after the release, fans started comparing scenes from both OTT versions. It is about the claim; there was hardly any sort of the fresh content added to the film. Different users hope for never before seen sequences, longer action scenes, and a more detailed storytelling practice. Despite

this, audiences noticed just small audio changes, mainly the enclosure of previously muted abusive words. It led to disapproval of the marketing campaign utilised for the release. The Dhurandhar movie OTT news soon started trending online as disappointed viewers' sarcastic posts, shared memes, and negative reactions. There are fans argued that the "Raw & Undekha" tag created needless hype without giving anything considerably different from the earlier version. At the same time, Ranveer Singh Dhurandhar updates continued to control entertainment discussions. However, the viewers praised Ranveer Singh's performance and screen presence in the film. It also felt that the streaming platforms missed a chance to provide truthfully unseen content for loyal fans.

Australia pacer Megan Schutt confirms 2026 T20 WC will be her final ICC event

Australia pacer Megan Schutt on Monday confirmed that the upcoming 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup will be her last major tournament. Megan made her international debut in 2012 and has picked 309 wickets in 240 games across the three formats. "Hungry is one word and for me it's revenge, or spite ... it's definitely one I want to go and win. I'm competitive in everything I do, which is a good and a bad thing, the last two have stung and, after being part of a lot of success, it stings even more. But then you think of the kids that haven't won a World Cup; it's a good reminder I've been lucky and want to restart that with the next generation," Schutt told AAP on Monday. Though Megan admitted that she has not mapped

out her retirement date, she acknowledged the packed cricketing calendar would eventually force her to step aside. "I'm not much of a planner; I like to go with the flow. But with how often World Cups are, and everything in between, there's always a carrot that gets dangled and eventually you have to make a decision. "I don't see myself getting to another ICC tournament, that's for sure. I've had my time and it's about letting that next generation take over. I don't want to be that person that stays longer than I should and drag the team down without realising. I like to think I'm pretty self-aware; I can physically keep up but there are people coming through capable of doing what I do," she added. Australia are

aiming for a record-extending seventh Women's T20 World Cup crown and will begin their campaign against South Africa on June 13 in Manchester. They will also play three practice matches against South Africa in England, starting from May 31, before taking on hosts England and West Indies in warm-up games in Cardiff ahead of the competition.

