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PM Modi takes stock of work on mega projects worth Rs 30,000 crore

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that projects worth over Rs 30,000 crore were reviewed at the PRAGATI session held on Wednesday. "The works covered sectors like railways, power and road connectivity. Aspects relating to ports, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and other social sector schemes were also discussed," PM Modi said in a post on X. India news analysis The Prime Minister chaired the 51st meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled, multi-modal platform aimed at fostering Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation by seamlessly integrating efforts of the Central and state governments. During the meeting, he reviewed seven critical infrastructure projects across the railways, power, and road sectors covering nine states. He also reviewed the Ken-Betwa Link Project. While reviewing power sector projects, the Prime Minister emphasised the need to accelerate rooftop solar adoption across urban



areas, with a special focus on cities, residential clusters and public institutions. He underlined that rooftop solar should be taken up in mission mode to reduce electricity costs, improve energy security and promote clean energy at the household and community level.

While reviewing road and port connectivity projects, it was

emphasised that Vadavan Port should be developed as a model of port-led, multi-modal development, where every major mode of transport is seamlessly integrated to create a future-ready logistics ecosystem. The project should not be seen merely as a port, but as a national gateway connected through coastal shipping, inland waterways, dedicated freight corridors, high-speed

rail connectivity, highways and airport linkages. The Prime Minister emphasised the need for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and underlined that the mission should move beyond infrastructure creation and ensure measurable outcomes through regular monitoring, citizen participation and convergence between various stakeholders. He asked the states to expedite the completion of solid waste management-related infrastructure, including waste processing plants and GOBARdhan plants

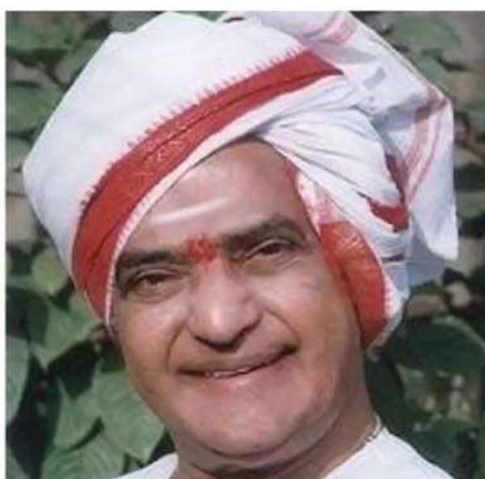
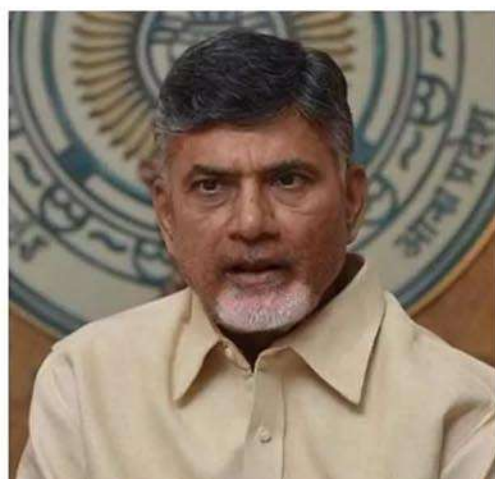
While reviewing the Ken-Betwa River Inter-linking Project, the Prime Minister observed that it should serve as a model for other states to resolve inter-state water issues through cooperation, timely clearances, technology-based monitoring, and mission-mode execution. States were encouraged to identify similar opportunities where river-linking, water conservation, groundwater recharge, and effi-

cient irrigation can be taken up in an integrated manner to ensure long-term water security. PM Modi underlined that the delay in the implementation of public projects leads not only to cost escalation but also deprives citizens of timely access to essential facilities and development benefits. He observed that every delay has a direct impact on people's lives, regional growth and public resources. He stressed that ministries, departments, and states must adopt a more proactive and time-bound approach to resolve pending issues, remove bottlenecks and ensure faster execution. He also emphasised that innovative use of canal networks should be explored, including the installation of solar panels along canals and over canals for clean electricity generation. This would help optimise land use, reduce evaporation losses, generate renewable energy and create additional economic value from water infrastructure.

AP CM Chandrababu Calls for Bharat Ratna for NTR at Mahanadu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu paid heartfelt tribute to the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) during the second day of Mahanadu celebrations at the TDP office in Mangalagiri. He remarked that NTR symbolises the very spirit of the Telugu people and announced his intention to request the Central Government to confer the Bharat Ratna upon him. India news analysis Today, during the Mahanadu proceedings held to mark NTR's birth anniversary, CM Chandrababu, Minister Lokesh, along with senior TDP leaders and ministers, paid floral tributes to NTR's statue. Leaders and party workers from 1,875 clusters attended the event in large numbers. In his speech, Chandrababu delivered a resolution to honour NTR during the programme, proposing formally that NTR be awarded the country's highest civilian award. He described NTR as a beacon of hope for the poor and a true friend to farmers, emphasising that he was a leader cherished by all sections of society.

He highlighted NTR's remarkable journey—from an ordinary employee to a film star, founding a political party for the people, and finally becoming Chief Minister—stating that such a feat was only possible for him. Chandrababu noted that NTR never compromised on his self-respect or dignity, and that his core philosophy was that society is the temple and the people are God. *NTR's Birth Anniversary: A Festival for the Telugu People* Chandrababu Naidu asserted that as long as Telugu people exist, NTR will remain eternally enshrined in their hearts. He described NTR's birth anniversary as a festival for all Telugu people, praising his rise from a farmer's



son to a cinema star and then to the Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh. He remarked that only NTR could be reborn to match his discipline and renown.

He stated that wherever NTR was, he served solely for the self-respect of the Telugu people. Chandrababu outlined NTR's historic contributions—from his cinematic roles as Lord Rama and Lord Krishna to founding the TDP and leading as Chief Minister—saying that merely invoking his name inspires determination and self-confidence. He added that no other leader in the country's politics matches NTR's stature, noting he began his career as a Sub-Registrar and entered the film industry with integrity before becoming Chief Minister just nine months after founding the TDP. Chandrababu also emphasised that the Telugu Desam Party played a significant role in national politics, including in the formation of central governments. Political commentary blog *A Guiding Light for the Youth* Chandrababu remarked that NTR's governance served as a pillar of support for farmers, a source of assurance for women, and a guiding light for youth. He recalled that in 1983, NTR created opportunities for

young people to enter politics, granted property rights to women, and initiated future-focused policies to nurture capable leadership.

During the previous day's Mahanadu, Lokesh proposed that all should take the initiative to implement a 33% reservation policy for women and urged the Central Government to grant this reservation. He reaffirmed that conferring the Bharat Ratna on NTR—who represented Telugu pride—is a collective demand, and that NTR was a great leader and a renowned "Emperor of Actors" who symbolised the self-respect of the Telugu people. He further stated that NTR remains forever enshrined in the hearts of the Telugu populace, having made decisions prioritising the welfare of the common man. Chandrababu observed that NTR's contributions to Indian political history are unique and unparalleled. He announced that the Mahanadu is unanimously passing a resolution urging the declaration of the Bharat Ratna for NTR, in recognition of the deep sentiments of the Telugu people. He appealed to the Central Government to bestow the honour on this towering leader, who brought significant changes to the country's political landscape.

CBI Arrests Twisha Sharma's Mother-In-Law After High Court Cancels Anticipatory Bail



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested Giribala Singh, the mother-in-law of 33-year-old model and actor Twisha Sharma, in connection with her death case in Bhopal. The arrest came hours after the Madhya Pradesh High Court cancelled the anticipatory bail granted to Singh. A three-member CBI team visited Singh's residence in the morning and questioned her as part of the ongoing investigation. Sources said the agency also conducted digital mapping of the house to gather additional evidence. Twisha Sharma was found dead at her in-laws' residence on May 12. Following growing public attention around the case, the CBI recently took over the investigation from the Madhya Pradesh Police. The agency is reportedly planning to establish a camp office in Bhopal and has requested office space and secure storage facilities from the city police to manage documents and evidence related to the probe. In its order cancelling the anticipatory bail, the Madhya Pradesh High Court observed that the allegations and factual details of the case required reconsideration of the relief granted earlier by the sessions court. India news analysis Giribala Singh and her son, Samarth Singh, are facing allegations related to dowry harassment and evidence tampering. The CBI informed the court that custodial interrogation of Singh was necessary due to serious accusations linked to the investigation. According to the agency, Twisha suffered multiple injuries, including wounds on her wrist and elbow, which were allegedly not explained by her in-laws. The CBI also claimed that WhatsApp chats recovered during the investigation suggested that Twisha's character was questioned after she became pregnant. The agency further alleged that Twisha was forced to terminate her pregnancy after accusations were made regarding the paternity of the child. Investigators also accused the family of attempting to influence the case by selectively leaking CCTV footage on social media. Earlier this week, Samarth Singh was sent to CBI custody for further questioning. Investigators later took him to the family residence in Bhopal as part of the ongoing probe. The case has sparked widespread attention due to the serious allegations surrounding dowry harassment, evidence tampering, and abuse of influence.

Action must be take against BJP Central District Secretary K. Narsing Mudiraj for collecting money by issuing fake land title deeds.

Hyderabad, May :28,

A victim has appealed to the police and the government to take action against the BJP leader who committed fraud by collecting money under the pretext of providing land titles, and to ensure justice for the affected families. Speaking at a meeting organized at the NSS in Hyderguda, Hyderabad, the victim, Karishma Jaiswal, demanded that strict action be taken against BJP leader Narsing Mudiraj for deceiving the poor in the name of housing plots. She alleged that K.Narsing Mudiraj—the BJP Central District Secretary hailing from Vithalwadi in the Himayatnagar division—collected crores of rupees from over a thousand poor families by promising to secure them housing plots in Survey Number 58 of Chengicherla village in the



Medchal-Malkajgiri district. She expressed deep anguish, stating that he deceived the destitute with smooth talk, collecting anywhere between ₹50,000 and ₹3 lakhs from each individual for a housing plot ranging from 60 to 100 square yards, thereby leaving the poor in the lurch. When the poor families who had received these title deeds visited Survey Number 58 in Chengicherla to inspect the site, it was revealed

that the land actually belonged to the government. Taking the issued title deeds with them, the victims approached the office of the Commissioner of Land Administration to seek redressal. Upon conducting an inquiry, officials at the office confirmed that the issued title deeds were indeed fake. She expressed her anguish, stating that the victims—small-scale vendors—had incurred debts to pay the

required amounts in the hope of securing a residential plot, only for an official inquiry to subsequently reveal that the land titles issued to them were fake. The victims further alleged that when they demanded a refund of their money, the accused resorted to intimidation, claiming to have the backing of a senior BJP leader and former MLA, Chintala Ramachandra Reddy. Describing their families as hand-to-mouth households that survive solely on daily wages, they earnestly appealed to the government to deliver justice to them. Responding to this matter, BJP State President Ramchander Rao demanded that action be taken against the individual involved. Announced that they would soon meet with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and State DGP CV Anand to lodge a formal complaint.

Kakatiya Seva Samiti celebrates NTR's birth anniversary in a grand manner.....



The founders of the Telugu Desam Party celebrated the birth anniversary of the late former Chief Minister NTR in a grand manner on Thursday under the auspices of Kakatiya Seva Samiti. As per the invitation of the Seva Samiti members, former MLA Venepalli Chander Rao participated in the program as the chief guest and along with former DCCB Chairman Muttavarapu Panduranga Rao, they garlanded the statue of NTR at Khammam Cross Road and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, they said that NTR has remained in the hearts of the Telugu people forever and that NTR is the pride of the Telugu nation. They praised the services they have rendered to the poor and the weaker sections and the Telugu people. They said that he is a great man who has given opportunities to many people in politics along with himself. Later, they cut a cake and wished NTR a happy birthday. They distributed snacks to the poor. Kakatiya Seva Samiti President Pedanati Venkateswara Rao, General Secretary Vemuri Suresh, Treasurer Potu Ranga Rao, Seva Samiti elders former DCCB Chairman Muttavarapu Panduranga Rao, Ravella Seetharamaiah, Ganta Satyanarayana, Vice Presidents Madhavarao, Gullapalli Suresh, Kanagala Nageswara Rao, Battineni Hanumantha Rao, Kotha Rambabu, Kakarla Venkateswara Rao, Janapaneni Krishna and others participated in this program.....

NT Rama Rao is a great actor



- Madhusudanachari at the NTR Spurthi Awards ceremony held at the Gana Sabha

Telangana Legislative Council Opposition Leader Sirikonda Madhusudana chari said that NT Rama Rao is a great actor who has taken the fame of Telugu cinema to the world level. He praised that he is not just an actor, but the diversity

and acting he has shown in an era, mythological, folk and social roles have taken the level of Telugu cinema to the world level. On Thursday morning, under the auspices of Pinakini Youth Welfare Association, a poetry gathering on NTR's life history and cultural performances were held at the Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in Chikkadapally on the occasion of his 103rd birth anniversary. The program began with



the lighting of the lamp. Later, the recipients of the NTR Spoorthi Award.. Vinjam Venkata Narayana, Srilatha Dhawan, Dubba Bhaskar Rao, Dr. Balijepalli Nagaratnam, Dr. Nannapuraju Vijaya Sri, Dr. Cheedarala Chennaiyya, Pramod Kumar, Ankuri Sivakumar were felicitated with the award and addressed the gathering. He said that NT Rama Rao will remain a pillar of self-respect for the

Telugu people. He said that no matter how much we say, write or praise such a great person, NTR, it will be less. Sevarathna Vadlakonda Venkat Rao, Dr. Medidi Venkateswara Rao, Lion Nirmala Prabhakar, Aude Srinivasulu, Dr. Radha Kusuma, organizers K. Murali Mohan Raju, Sambasiva Rao, Anjali Natyalayam organizer Hamsaveni, poets, artists and others participated in this program.

NTR is the pride of the Telugu nation.....

Sarpanch Dr. Vemuri Satyanarayana.....

Narasimha Puram village Sarpanch Dr. Vemuri Satyanarayana said that NTR is the pride of the Telugu nation. On the occasion of NTR Jayanti on Thursday, leaders of all the parties in the village, along with the villagers, paid homage to the statue of NTR in the premises of Sri Kodandarama Swamy Kalyana Mandapam in the village. Later, a cake was cut and sweets were distributed to the villagers and fans. Speaking on this occasion, Sarpanch Satyanarayana praised NTR as a great man who has won unwavering admiration despite the change of generations. He reminded that he, who



spread the fame of the Telugu people worldwide, achieved a landslide victory and became the Chief Minister within nine months of founding the party. He said that he is a political stalwart who turned the wheel of national politics and ruled Delhi as the



Chairman of the National Front. He praised his services as a statesman who not only provided a suitable place in politics to the poor and the weaker sections, but also provided shelter, shelter and clothing to the poor. He called on the youth of today to take the ideals of NTR, who

believed that society is the temple and people are the gods, as an example. In this program, Deputy Sarpanch Reddaboyina Prashanth, BRS Party Village Branch President Bomma Chinna Venkanna, TDP Village Branch President Keshaboyina Nagaraju, BJP Mandal Vice

President Veeraboyina Vinod, NTR fans Veeraswamy, Srinu, Venkanna, Veerababu, Pullaiah, Picchiaiah Narayah, Anjaiah, Lingaiah Yadagiri, Nares, Murali, Lingaiah Ramaswamy, Poornaiah, Venkateswarlu, Lakshmaiah, Karunakar and others participated....

"Invited to Delhi, don't know agenda": Siddaramaiah confirms meeting with Congress top brass; slams Centre over fuel price hikes



Bengaluru : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday confirmed that he has been invited to New Delhi for a meeting with the Congress leadership on Tuesday at 11 am, adding that he was not aware of the agenda of the discussions amid renewed political speculation in the state. "I have been invited to Delhi. There is a meeting tomorrow at 11 AM; I do not know the agenda. Mr Venugopal called me to inform me about the date and time of the meeting." Siddaramaiah told the reporters after holding a press conference. On speculation over leadership changes in the state, he said, "Speculations are always there." State Deputy CM DK Shivakumar however is unlikely to attend the same meeting. When questioned on being summoned to Delhi DK Shivakumar said, "I will go if called." Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah also launched a sharp attack

on the Centre over repeated fuel price hikes, alleging that the promises made by the BJP-led government at the Centre had not been fulfilled and accusing it of "fooling" the people of the country. While addressing a joint press conference with Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, Siddaramaiah, on fuel price hike, he said, "When Narendra Modi came to power... when the BJP came to power, they promised 'Achhe Din' (Good Days) would come. But instead, they have done the work of 'putting a cap on' (fooling) the people of this country." He further said the BJP had made multiple promises before coming to power, including implementing the "Gujarat Model" at the national level, but failed to deliver on them.

"They had promised to bring the 'Gujarat Model' of governance to the Centre and said better days would come, making several such assurances," he said, adding that

people are aware of how Narendra Modi, as Chief Minister of Gujarat, had reacted to fuel price hikes during the UPA government. "You have all seen those statements," he added, after showing a video of the Prime Minister's speech. Referring to fuel price revisions, the Chief Minister said petrol, diesel and gas prices had been increased four times in the last 11 days. "In the last 11 days--over these 11 days--they have increased the prices of petrol, diesel and gas four times. As it was already mentioned, after these four hikes, the price of petrol in Bengaluru has reached approximately 110 rupees and 93 paise per litre. Never before has the price of petrol or diesel reached this high," he said.

He added that diesel prices in Bengaluru had also risen sharply. "Additionally, the price of diesel in Bengaluru is now 98 rupees and 89 paise, and it will likely cross 100 rupees soon," Siddaramaiah said. "Due to this hike, the cost has increased by a total of 7 rupees and 52 paise per litre of diesel and petrol," he added. Accusing the Centre of misleading the public on fuel pricing over the years, Siddaramaiah said, "You must understand how the country is being looted since Narendra Modi came to power. This is my feeling, and it is our duty to inform the people about this." He

also compared current fuel prices with those during the previous UPA government. "In May 2014, the price of petrol was 71 rupees and 41 paise per litre. The price of diesel was 56 rupees and 71 paise. Look at what it has become today: 110 rupees and 93 paise for petrol and 98 rupees and 89 paise for diesel," he said. On LPG prices, he added, "Back then, the price of gas was 412 rupees. Today, it is 915 rupees and 50 paise."

The remarks come amid a fresh round of fuel price hikes across the country, with petrol and diesel rates being increased again on Monday, marking the fourth hike in less than two weeks amid volatility in global crude oil markets and geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Following the latest revision, petrol prices in Delhi crossed the Rs 100-mark, rising by Rs 2.61 to Rs 102.12 per litre, while diesel prices increased by Rs 2.71 to Rs 95.20 per litre. Similar increases were recorded in Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, further adding to the burden on consumers and transport operators. The latest revision follows three earlier hikes on May 15, May 19 and May 23. The sustained rise in fuel prices is being attributed to elevated global crude oil rates, currency fluctuations, and supply concerns linked to tensions in West Asia, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil shipping route.

Kolkata Police Makes Surprise Visit To Abhishek Banerjee's Residence

Kolkata: Kolkata police in civil uniform on Monday made a surprise visit to Trinamool Congress (TMC) national secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee's house at Harish Mukherjee Road residence in south Kolkata.

Though the police officers of Kolkata police headquarters at Lalbazar remained tight-lipped about the exact nature of the visit, sources revealed that a computer monitor which might be a part of the security equipment that was provided to Banerjee earlier. Notably, soon after the poll debacle, security arrangements including guard-rails, dedicated bomb dis-



posal squad post outside Banerjee's residence 'Shantiniketan' was scaled down immediately. Recently, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) had issued notices to 17 properties, some

of which are associated with Banerjee and his parents, regarding alleged building violations. Replying to the notices, Banerjee had sought 10 days' time from the KMC as the KMC had instructed

demolition of the illegal construction. Incidentally, illegal construction has been bulldozed across the city after the new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government came to power.

Massive Crowd Gathers At BJP Office During Suvendu Adhikari's Janatar Darbar

Kolkata: Huge crowd including elderly people on Monday had gathered outside Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office to share their grievances with Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari during the second 'Janatar Darbar'.

The grievance-hearing initiative was started by the BJP government to hear from the public about their problems directly. Since morning complaints were accepted through a registration process at the party office and after the registration the people who got selected were allowed to meet Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari to discuss their problems.

Candidates allegedly affected by recruitment irregularities by the former Trinamool Congress (TMC) government and members among the 26,000 teaching



and non-teaching staff who lost their jobs following a Supreme Court order demanded immediate induction in jobs and also stated that they and their families are suffering. A senior citizen who has been allegedly

duped by TMC and TMC supported promoter Joy Kamdar also visited the BJP office and requested that if he can get back his house which was allegedly taken by the TMC supported promoter. The senior citizen also

complained that he was kept at gunpoint while his ancestral property was getting transferred. My siblings also have a share in the house. I have requested that I want the roof back above my head," said the senior citizen.

Last 11 days have been catastrophic for common people's pockets: Surjewala slams BJP over fuel price hikes



Bengaluru : Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the latest fuel price hike, alleging "massive loot" of the common man and accusing the government of repeatedly increasing petrol and diesel prices despite a fall in global crude oil rates. Surjewala began his address by playing an old video clip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which he is seen criticising rising fuel prices during the previous UPA government and promising relief from inflation. Reacting to the fresh fuel price revision, Surjewala said the burden on citizens had increased significantly in a short span of time. "Today, as we got up in the morning, we were increased by Rs 2.71 a litre. The second news was that the price of crude oil has gone down drastically, from USD 100 a barrel to USD 98.6 a barrel," he said.

He further said that petrol prices in Bengaluru had crossed Rs 110 per litre for the first time in decades. "These are the two lines that attracted the attention of my Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, as also every single brother and sis-

ter of Karnataka, every single Kannadiga and every single country. So, the petrol crosses Rs 110 for the first time in Bengaluru after 78 years of independence," Surjewala said. He alleged that the BJP government had "looted" the public over the past 12 years through fuel pricing. "There is a total of 57 lakh crore loot by the BJP in the last 12 years. Every day, fuel loot is pickpocketing the pockets of the common man, the

common Kannadiga," he said.

Surjewala also claimed that the last 11 days had been particularly difficult for consumers due to repeated hikes. "The last 11 days have been catastrophic on the pockets and budget of the salaried class, farmers, businessmen, homemakers, small businessmen and common persons. With the Union BJP government unleashing fuel loot by raising the price of petrol and diesel four times in 11 days and now raising it total by Rs 7.52 per litre in the last 11 days," he said. He termed the price hikes "unpardonable" and blamed the Centre for burdening the public. "This backbreaking, fleecing and defrauding of Kannadigas by the BJP is unpardonable," Surjewala said. He also alleged that the additional burden extended beyond petrol and diesel to LPG,

CNG and PNG prices, claiming it was pushing up the cost of daily essentials. The remarks come amid a fresh round of fuel price hikes across the country, marking the fourth increase in less than two weeks amid volatility in global crude oil markets and geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Following the latest revision, petrol prices in Delhi crossed the Rs 100-mark, rising by Rs 2.61 to Rs 102.12 per litre, while diesel prices increased by Rs 2.71 to Rs 95.20 per litre. The latest revision follows three earlier hikes on May 15, May 19 and May 23. The sustained rise in fuel prices is being attributed to elevated global crude oil rates, currency fluctuations, and supply concerns linked to tensions in West Asia, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil shipping route.

Fourth fuel price hike in less than two weeks pushes petrol above Rs 100 in Delhi, diesel at Rs 95.20

New Delhi : Petrol and diesel prices were hiked once again on Monday, marking the fourth increase in less than two weeks amid continued volatility in global crude markets and on-going geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Following the latest revision, petrol prices in Delhi crossed the Rs 100-mark, rising by Rs 2.61 to Rs 102.12 per litre, while diesel prices increased by Rs 2.71 to Rs 95.20 per litre. Similar hikes were witnessed across major metropolitan cities, including Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, adding to the burden on consumers and transport operators. In Kolkata, petrol prices increased by Rs 2.87 to Rs 113.51 per litre, while diesel rose by Rs 2.80 to Rs 99.82 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol became costlier by Rs 2.72 and is now priced at Rs 111.21 per litre, whereas diesel climbed by Rs 2.81 to Rs 97.83 per litre. In Chennai,



petrol prices rose by Rs 2.46 to Rs 107.77 per litre and diesel increased by Rs 2.57 to Rs 99.55 per litre.

Reacting to the repeated hikes, a buyer said, "We are very upset. They are not even giving diesel in many

places. This should be discussed. Taxi drivers will face more problems. The rate of diesel should be decreased."

Another buyer said, "It is fine. The government should do whatever is required to save the country. It is because of Israel war."

A third commuter added, "It is tough for the common man. This impacts everything. We will see what the government can do regarding this." The latest revision comes after three successive hikes in recent days. On May 15, petrol and diesel prices were increased by Rs 3 per litre each. This was followed by another increase on May 19, when fuel prices were raised by 90 paise per litre. On May 23, petrol prices rose by 87 paise per litre, while diesel prices were increased by 91 paise per litre, making the current revision the fourth hike in less than two weeks. Meanwhile, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) prices in Delhi were also increased earlier on Saturday by Rs 1 per kg, marking the third hike in just 10 days. Following the latest revision,

CNG now costs Rs 81.09 per kg in the national capital, further adding to the financial burden on daily commuters and transport operators. The repeated fuel price hikes come amid sustained pressure on oil marketing companies due to elevated global crude oil prices, fluctuations in currency exchange rates and concerns over supply disruptions linked to the ongoing tensions in West Asia. A major concern remains the instability in the region and its impact on global oil supply routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime corridor through which a substantial share of global crude oil shipments pass. Any disruption or perceived threat in the region generally leads to a sharp rise in international oil prices. The continued hikes in petrol, diesel and CNG prices are likely to increase logistics and transportation costs further, potentially triggering a cascading effect on retail inflation and impacting household budgets as well as commercial transport sectors across the country.

NEET-UG 2026 paper leak: SC says NTA hasn't learned its lesson; issues notice on pleas to bring wide changes in testing body

New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) on a batch of pleas, including one filed by the United Doctors Front (UDF), seeking the dissolution of the NTA over allegations of paper leaks in the NEET-UG 2026 examination and a direction for re-examination under the supervision of a panel headed by a former Supreme Court judge. Verbally observing that the NTA appeared not to have "learned its lesson" despite the Supreme Court's earlier intervention in the NEET controversy, a bench

led by PS Narasimha directed the agency to place on record the present status of compliance with reforms and monitoring mechanisms earlier mandated by the Court.

"It's sad that they have not learned their lesson," the bench orally observed during the hearing. The Court noted that following the NEET-UG 2024 controversy, a high-powered committee had already been constituted, its recommendations accepted, and a monitoring committee established to oversee implementation of reforms in the examination system. Ac-

cordingly, the bench directed the NTA to file an affidavit clarifying the status of compliance with the monitoring mechanism constituted pursuant to the Court's earlier directions. "We also direct K. Radhakrishnan, appointed as the Chairman of the monitoring committee, to file an affidavit indicating compliance with the Court's directions. List this matter on Thursday," the Court ordered. The petitions seek wide-ranging structural reforms, including replacing the NTA with a new statutory body constituted through an Act of Parliament, in light of recurring allega-



tions surrounding irregularities in national-level entrance examinations. The Court also directed that copies of the petitions be served

upon Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta (representing the Centre) and the other respondent-authorities in the matter.

Another war would be a disaster

At a time when hopes are rising that a peace deal between the US and Iran is almost certain, US President Trump's readiness to attack Iran again is worrying the world. On the one hand, Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir arrived in Tehran on Friday night to discuss key issues with senior Iranian leaders, while a Qatari diplomatic team, which is working in coordination with the US, also arrived in Tehran. The United Arab Emirates has entered the field to convince Trump to stop the war. Saudi Arabia is trying to hold diplomatic talks with Qatari representatives. The United Arab Emirates is expressing concern that if resistance starts again from Iran and hostilities escalate, the economic situation of the Gulf countries will plunge into a serious crisis. All three of America's allies are warning that America has not achieved its goal through military action.

The UAE has now changed its stance after realizing how much it has suffered in the past due to Iranian attacks. When Israel and the US launched attacks on Iran last February, Iran provoked militants in Iraq to launch drone attacks on Gulf countries. Several thousand people lost their lives. Port cities and power plant facilities suffered damage worth several trillion dollars. That is why these countries are requesting Trump not to let such a situation happen again this time. Although the US talks with Iran are going on as usual, they are not reaching a conclusion. The talks are being incomplete due to the US condition that Iran completely abandon its nuclear weapons and stockpiles. Iran is resisting, saying that it will not abandon its nuclear weapons and stockpiles under any circumstances and that they are necessary for its national security. With this, Trump is expected to launch a single decisive major military operation to end the war. Trump, who had been inclined to find a solution through talks until Tuesday, has been leaning towards attacks since Thursday night. He has abandoned his plans to attend his son's wedding and is staying in the White House, holding talks with military and intelligence officials. Although Iran says it is considering American proposals, the United States is on alert knowing that Israel is preparing for another attack. It is putting forward demands for the release of its frozen assets, the lifting of restrictions on ports, and its control over the Strait of Hormuz. It has also closed its airspace over the western part of its country.

It has announced that it will suspend all flights until the 25th of this month. Iran has warned that if there are further attacks, the war will not be limited to West Asia. Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister held talks with Pakistan's foreign minister on Friday to end the war. It is noteworthy that on Friday, US ally Oman held talks with Iran on charging fees for its ships through the Strait of Hormuz. On this occasion, Iran's newly established Persian Gulf Strait Authority revealed that it had discussed with Oman the issue of boundaries regarding the supervision of the Strait of Hormuz. However, the United States is seriously considering Iran's charging fees for ships through the Strait of Hormuz. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on Iran to implement a toll system in the Strait of Hormuz as illegal, and that no country has the right to determine the flow of traffic in international shipping lanes, and no country should accept this. Such actions will further complicate US-Iran peace talks, he said. Iranian state media reported that Iran has started collecting fees of Rs. 18 crore from ships transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran says it is collecting this toll to gain control of Hormuz and to cover the huge losses it has suffered due to the war. In these circumstances, there was a conspiracy to assassinate US President Trump's eldest daughter Ivanka Trump, and the terrorist was arrested in Turkey before the conspiracy was implemented, which caused a sensation. The investigation revealed that Iran and Iraq were behind this. If the US-Israeli attacks on Iran resume or Iran intensifies its attacks, the global oil crisis will worsen, oil prices will rise to record levels, and stock markets will collapse. Moreover, the prices of food grains and shortages of fertilizers will put a heavy financial burden on the common man in the domestic market. Exports of electronics, technology, and agricultural products to the Gulf countries will be severely hampered. These developments will push international trade, especially the economies of developing countries like India, into a deep recession.

The Great Chinese 'Miracle' Is Quickly Turning Into A Debt Nightmare

China will overtake the US to become the world's largest economy by 2028, a British think tank predicted in December 2020, after the first Covid wave. The Centre for Economics and Business Research said China's "skilful" management of the pandemic would boost its relative growth compared with the US and Europe in the coming years. Five years later, the think tank said China is unlikely to overtake the US economy for another 15 years. Other analysts doubt that Beijing will ever achieve that, given the structural problems and roadblocks facing its economy. The latest economic data released in Beijing last week confirms that the world's second-largest economy has lost momentum. Industrial production rose by just 4.1% year-on-year in April, the weakest since mid-2023. Retail sales grew by just 0.2%, the worst since the country's economy reopened after the pandemic in December 2022. Fixed asset investment contracted by 1.6% in the first four months of this year, driven by a 13.7% year on year decline in property development. Property investment in China has nearly halved since its pandemic-era peak in 2021. The real estate bubble burst soon after the pandemic ended, depleting the savings of millions of ordinary Chinese. This has severely hit demand for consumer products, as people are stuck with loans on flats they can't sell. After buying a house, owning a car used to be another major investment for Chinese people, but most can't afford one now. Earlier in May, China's car makers reported a 25.5% year-on-year decline in

passenger car sales, marking the sixth consecutive month of year-on-year declines. China's electric car giant, BYD, has built up a large stock of unsold cars. Its profits in the first quarter of this year were down 55%, to a three-year low.

The Broken Model

China has made significant economic progress and has become a superpower as a result of the reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping in 1980 and later carried forward by his successors, making the country the world's factory. This helped lift tens of millions of people out of poverty and created millions of jobs. The current leader, Xi Jinping, has focused on self-reliance and innovation in high technology to make China the global leader in many fields, including shipbuilding, solar panels, wind turbines, robotics and electric vehicles. It is also a world leader in AI and semiconductors. But China's growth story is based on exports, an economic model that now appears broken. Demand for its products at home has shrunk because people can't afford them, even though they're cheap. Domestic consumption drives more than 80% of growth in the US and UK, and about 70% in India. China's share last year was just 52%; this year, it must be even lower. In February, the IMF said that "domestic demand has been subdued, in part because the protracted property

slump, combined with a weak social safety net, hurt consumer industries. Overcapacity in factories has already caused deflation, where prices continue to drop, discouraging customers from buying in the hope that goods will be even cheaper later.

Time Bomb?



The unsustainable export model is just one indication of the ticking time bomb staring at the Chinese economy. The country also has two other serious issues that are slowly killing its economy: budget deficits and a population crisis. China's official budget deficit is 4% of its GDP. That doesn't look too bad compared to the US, which

has a deficit twice as large. But China's complex system has three other national budgets. The Government Funds Budget, the State Capital Operations Budget, and the Social Insurance Fund Budget. An analysis by China Power, a branch of the US-based Centre for Strategic Studies, has found that if all these budgets are also accounted for, China's total deficit climbs to a record-breaking 9.1% of GDP. China's total debt-to-GDP ratio has topped 300%, according to Mark Williams, Chief Economist at Capital Enterprises, as reported by Fortune earlier this month. If his analysis is correct, it would surpass that of the US, the

ers' willingness to spend". The IMF cut China's 2026 growth rate to 4.5% from 5% last year. In March, the Chinese government also set its annual growth target to a range of 4.5%-5%, the lowest goal since 1991. But China is still building new factories and plants for export, continuing to make the world dependent on Chinese products. Last year, its trade deficit hit \$1.19 trillion, fuelling more resentment against Beijing and prompting countries around the world to demand that China increase imports. If the war in Iran leads to a global recession, as is likely, demand for Chinese products will fall, hurting its plants and

industries. Overcapacity in factories has already caused deflation, where prices continue to drop, discouraging customers from buying in the hope that goods will be even cheaper later.

Eurozone and other major economies. India's debt-to-GDP ratio last year was 82%. China's interest payments on debt have skyrocketed by 341% between 2013 and 2025, outpacing any other major budget category. Private companies are also borrowing heavily. Business debt has doubled since 2019, while revenue growth has been only 30%. The main driver of any nation's economy is its human capital. But China is increasingly at a disadvantage in this area. A shrinking population of young people and an ever-growing number of elderly people are set to become a major stumbling block. The birth rate has now fallen to the lowest level since 1949, when Mao Zedong came to power after leading the communist revolution. Last year, only 7.92 million new babies were born, a 17% decline from 2024. With the death rate also rising, China will lose nearly 60 million people in the next decade - almost the size of Gujarat. This loss will worsen the crisis of under-consumption.

Iran War Impact

With 1.4 billion barrels of oil reserves, the largest in the world, China is better placed to handle the energy crisis caused by the war in Iran. Its investment in the domestic gas industry over the years and its status as the global leader in renewable energy have insulated it from the worst effects. The war has helped boost exports. According to official figures, China's exports in April rose 14.1%, sharply beating estimates of 7.9% growth - mainly due to surging overseas demand from buyers stockpiling goods after the war.

A New Sunni Bloc Is Taking Shape, And Pak May Be Its Biggest Winner

At a recent press briefing to commemorate the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, publicly identified Turkey as a direct adversary, referring to Turkish military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Militarily, at least, India perceives Turkey to be a threat of almost the same magnitude as Pakistan. This military support, in fact, led to a major downturn in bilateral relationships, which included the government cancelling contracts to Turkish firms and a downturn in Indian tourism to Turkey. Now, ironically, the war between Israel-US and Iran has led to the ascendancy of two of India's major adversaries - Pakistan and Turkey. Already locked in a close embrace militarily, they are now ideologically pushing for an 'Islamic NATO'. Recent reports that Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, told a local news outlet that Turkey and Qatar could join the defence pact signed last year between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, have caused a stir, setting off speculation about an Islamic NATO taking shape.

A Concept Long On The Cards

To be fair, the term 'Islamic NATO' is not new. It has been around for more than a decade, when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the formation of an Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) to fight "terrorism". This was in 2015. A year before that, the Saudis had astonished the international community with their decision to militarily intervene in Yemen, whose capital, Sanaa, had fallen to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. This marked a paradigm shift in Saudi politics as the Kingdom had usually kept a low profile until then, preferring to leverage its elevated position in the Muslim world and its oil wealth, pulling strings behind the scenes. The Arab Spring put paid to that. Along with the ascendancy of its main and tradi-

tional rival, Iran, it also engendered Sunni terror groups, such as the Islamic State. A perceived indifference on the part of the Obama administration to these threats convinced the Saudis that they needed to act. Since Pakistan had initially refused to perform its duties as the traditional Saudi client state, the Kingdom had to convince the Muslim world to take collective action. Though Yemen produced a stalemate, a number of countries, mostly all members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), joined in. In January 2017, the Former Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, General Raheel Sharif, was named the IMCTC's first commander. However, intra-Arab rivalry, a downturn in Saudi-Turkish relations, and the refusal of military support by some member states, such as Bangladesh, hamstrung the coalition from taking any action.

Why The Sudden Revival Of Interest

Talks around an Islamic NATO have now once again been revived, beginning with sudden Israeli strikes on Qatar last year, allegedly targeting Hamas leaders. The strikes highlighted the vulnerabilities of the regional countries, already grappling with both Iran's Shiite emboldenment and Sunni terrorism, to the new threat of Israeli unilateralism. Moreover, Qatar hosted the US's largest overseas military base and had been designated a "major non-NATO ally". The Arab street already harboured great resentment against Israel because of its military action in the Gaza Strip. The Gulf monarchies could not allow themselves to look weak in the face of attacks by Israel. At an emergency summit organised by the Arab League and the OIC soon after, it was Egyptian officials who suggested a NATO-

style, joint task force for Arab nations. Egypt has the largest military in the Arab world.

The most concrete action that occurred in the aftermath, how-

ever, was the conclusion of the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement. A clause in it says an attack on one would be considered as an attack on the other, mirroring Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on collective defence, the core principle of the organisation.



Soon after, Turkey evinced an interest in joining the partnership, giving traction to both the term and idea of an 'Islamic NATO', which more accurately should be called a Sunni NATO, given that all these countries are Sunni-majority countries. For Turkey, there was a sound reason for participating in such a pact for its deterrence value. Israel, once a friend, has come to represent its greatest security challenge over the past few years. The strikes on Qatar spooked it, too. In fact, when the first direct Israel-Iran 12-day conflict had broken out, Turkish colleagues had voiced apprehension that Turkey would be the next Israeli target. Soon after the current war broke out, Turkey again amplified this apprehension.

Turkey's Advantage

However, there is another sound reason for Turkey to want

to be part of such a grouping. With its largest standing army in NATO, access to the organisation's cutting-edge technology and its own burgeoning

defence industry, Turkey wants to achieve both defence autonomy and self-sufficiency, as well as be amongst the world's foremost defence exporters. With a good defence partnership already in place with Pakistan, proximity to Riyadh would ensure a lucrative defence market as well as resources for developing its defence industry. Nevertheless, the lingering differences with the Saudis did not allow for any forward movement along this track.

Until now! Under the former Obama administration the Arab Gulf felt that its concerns were no longer a priority for the USA, then the war with Iran under the current Trump administration has confirmed two unpalatable truths: one, expensive defence procurement from the US was no guarantee of security against Iran, and two, the US would prioritise Israel's security over that of the Arabs. Given that Iran battered Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, many had expected Pakistan to be drawn into the conflict. The news that Pakistan deployed around 13,000 troops, together with a squadron of JF-17 fighter jets, drone units, and Chinese-

made HQ-9 air defence systems in Saudi Arabia, does not come as a surprise.

This may be sufficient cause for the Saudis to paper over differences with Turkey, as well as with Qatar. Meanwhile, Egypt, another potential member of such a grouping, was already beholden to the Saudis for helping to overthrow the Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohammed Morsi and replace it with the government headed by President Abdel Fatah El Sisi.

Growing Cooperation

Since then, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan and Turkey have met three times, including in Islamabad, while their deputy foreign ministers have met once. And now, Khawaja Asif has also referred to Qatar as one of the potential members. If the idea does come to fruition, then such a bloc would have been a long time in making. And it would have a formidable spread, going all the way from the Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean, controlling strategic ports, shipping and maritime routes. Both Pakistan and Turkey have battle-hardened, large standing armies and a formidable military arsenal - between 2019 and 2023, Turkey accounted for 1.6% of global arms exports. While the most famous of commodities offered by Turkey are its drones, it also offers a variety of other weapons systems, including armoured vehicles and corvettes. Saudi Arabia and Qatar also have enormous oil and gas revenues at their disposal for financially supporting such an alliance. Pakistan has an army of approximately 650,000 troops. Its biggest leverage, however, is its nuclear arsenal, being that it is the only nuclear-armed Muslim state in the world. So, Pakistan would be the biggest winner in such a grouping.

TDP workers stood firm against five years of YSRCP oppression: MLA Sunitha

Anantapur: Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha on Wednesday stated that despite alleged cases, threats, and harassment during the previous five years under the YSRCP government, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers remained steadfast and loyal to the party. Addressing party workers during the Mahanadu celebrations conducted across Rapthadu constituency, Sunitha said the strength of the TDP had been demonstrated during the 2024 elections. She participated in Mahanadu programmes held across seven locations in the constituency and interacted with party leaders and cadre. Mahanadu events were organised in all 12 clusters of the constituency with large participation from party workers and supporters. Sunitha first attended the programme held in Cluster-1 at Atmakur mandal headquarters along with constituency observer Padmalatha Reddy. A rally was organised by party workers before the formal inauguration of the programme at the party office.



Following the hoisting of the TDP flag, floral tributes were paid to party founder N.T. Rama Rao and former minister Paritala Ravindra. Party members also paid homage to deceased TDP workers and supporters. Cultural and patriotic programmes were conducted as part of the celebrations.

Later, the MLA attended programmes held in Papampeta, Syndicate Nagar, Rapthadu, Chennakothapalli, Tagarakunta, and Kanaganapalli cluster areas. Party workers also celebrated Sunitha's birthday in advance by cutting

cakes at various venues. The programme at Rapthadu was attended by Zonal Coordinator Reddeppagari Srinivas Reddy, who felicitated the MLA and extended birthday greetings to her. Speaking on the occasion, Sunitha said the use of technology had enabled the party to organise Mahanadu simultaneously at multiple locations, allowing greater participation by party workers compared to earlier years when the event was held at a single venue. She expressed confidence that the large-scale conduct of the programme could earn recognition in record books.

The MLA said rainfall during Mahanadu celebrations was traditionally viewed by party workers as a positive sign and described it as a reflection of public goodwill and divine blessings. Recalling the political journey of her late husband Paritala Ravindra, she said it was NT Rama Rao who had introduced him into politics and later elevated him to ministerial office. Political commentary blog She also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for supporting and encouraging her after Ravindra's death and for giving her opportunities to serve as MLA and minister. Sunitha thanked party workers for electing her as MLA on four occasions and assured them that the Paritala family would continue to support party cadre during difficult times. She also welcomed the announcement made during Mahanadu regarding 33 per cent reservation for women in the party structure, stating that it reflected the TDP's continued commitment toward women's empowerment.

Gurukul schools must be ready before new academic year: Bhatti



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday directed officials to make Gurukul and welfare residential educational institutions prepared for the upcoming academic year, stressing that there should be no negligence in providing quality education and facilities to students. The deputy CM said all seats in Gurukul schools should be filled and authorities must focus on increasing admissions every year. He instructed officials to conduct a special study on residential schools where admissions remain low and identify the reasons for vacant seats so that corrective measures could be taken immediately.

With the new academic year set to begin on June 12, Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to complete all repair and infrastructure works during the summer vacation and ensure that institutions are fully ready before reopening. Chairing a review meeting at the Khammam Collectorate with district officials, the Deputy CM said diet charges and menu details should be displayed prominently in every residential school and ordered the appointment of a district-level officer as in-charge for each Gurukul institution to conduct regular inspections and submit monthly reports. He also directed district officials to frequently visit schools and maintain inspection records, while doctors were asked to conduct monthly health check-ups for students. Seeking a detailed report on Gurukul institutions functioning in rented buildings, he instructed authorities to take up necessary repairs on a continuous basis. He also asked officials to expedite the construction of five Young India Integrated School buildings currently under progress.

Bhatti Vikramarka said officials should prepare an advance plan on shifting SC, ST, BC and Minority Gurukul institutions currently operating in rented premises to permanent buildings once the Young India schools are completed. Regional coordinators were directed to inspect all schools within the next 12 days based on a checklist and submit comprehensive reports. The Deputy CM stressed that timely distribution of textbooks and uniforms to students should be treated as a top priority. The state government was allocating substantial funds for education and there was no scope for negligence in implementation. He noted that the government was regularly releasing salaries, diet charges, rents and repair funds, and asked officials to work in coordination for speedy execution of works.

Bandi Sanjay inspects Bommakal IKP centre

Bandi Sanjay inspects Bommakal IKP centre, seeks immediate steps on paddy procurement. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar visited the IKP paddy procurement centre at Bommakal on Tuesday along with Mayor Kolagani Srinivas and Deputy Mayor Sunil Rao, where he interacted with farmers and reviewed the ongoing procurement process.



Speaking on the occasion, Bandi Sanjay Kumar expressed concern over the delay in paddy procurement and questioned the State government's handling of the process.

He said the Centre was providing sufficient funds for procurement and asked why the State government was failing to purchase paddy on time. He further questioned whether the government intended to procure the produce at all and suggested that if it was unable to do so, the Chief Minister should formally inform the Centre.

Farmers at the procurement centre showed the Minister paddy that had been soaked due to recent unseasonal rains. They complained that despite bringing their produce to the centre more than a month ago, it had not yet been purchased. The farmers also alleged that deductions of around three kilograms per quintal were being imposed on the grounds of moisture and quality variations.

The Union Minister criticised the State government, attributing the farmers' difficulties to negligence and

lack of planning. He stated that procurement centres were filled with paddy, yet there was no proper monitoring or review. Referring to statements made by Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, he pointed out contradictions regarding the progress of procurement during the Rabi season.

Bandi Sanjay demanded that procurement be accelerated on a war footing and insisted that soaked paddy should be purchased without deductions while ensuring Minimum Support Price for farmers. He also called

for a uniform bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for all paddy varieties and warned that the BJP would intensify its agitation under the leadership of State president N. Ramchander Rao if the issue remained unresolved.

The Union Minister also condemned remarks allegedly made by former BRS MLA Balka Suman, stating that calls for violence and destruction of public property were against democratic principles.

Following heavy winds and rain on Tuesday midnight, several parts of Karimnagar witnessed damage, including uprooted trees and collapsed houses. In Bommakal's Vaddera Colony, the house of Gandikota Rajesh was completely damaged. Bandi Sanjay Kumar later visited the affected area and assured immediate financial assistance for reconstruction. He also announced that a committee would be formed to assess the safety of hoardings in the city to prevent similar incidents.

Telangana Ministers Inspect Progress of Future City Developments

Telangana Ministers Sridhar Babu and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the government has prioritised the development of Future City. Today, the Ministers conducted inspections of the construction works for the FCDA office within Future City, as well as the ongoing progress of the permanent campus of the Skill University. During the visit, they

reviewed the work at ground level and issued directives to officials to expedite construction activities. They provided guidance on both projects, emphasising that all tasks must be completed within the designated deadlines.

Later, speaking to the media, Sridhar Babu and Ponguleti highlighted that Future City is taking shape with modern infrastructure facilities. The



Ministers expressed confidence that Future City will

emerge as a shining beacon for the nation.

Pawan Kalyan Pays Tribute on NTR's Birth Anniversary



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan paid heartfelt tributes on the 103rd birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and founder of the Telugu Desam Party, Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR). Andhra Pradesh travel In a message shared on the social media platform 'X', Kalyan described NTR as a leader who, after gaining popularity as a film star, entered politics to serve the people. He highlighted NTR's significant contributions during his tenure as Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh, especially his efforts to combat hunger through the 'Rs. 2-a-kilo rice' scheme. Kalyan added that the current coalition government continues to operate the 'Anna Canteens' with the same noble spirit of NTR's vision to alleviate poverty and hunger.

Bharat asserts AP is attracting 25% of national investments



Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing TG Bharath Gupta said the State government is moving steadily on the path of development under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Andhra Pradesh travel Addressing the Mahanadu programme held at Maurya Inn in Kurnool on Wednesday, the Minister said party leaders and cadre have a responsibility to take the government's achievements of the last two years to the people. He paid floral tributes to the statue of TDP founder NT Rama Rao before virtually participating in the Mahanadu proceedings along with local leaders. He said the programme was being organised virtually across all districts and in 12 locations in Kurnool city. Speaking on the occasion, Bharath said the Mahanadu would deliberate on the development works completed over the last two years and the roadmap for future progress. He alleged that while officials remained the same, the change in political leadership had brought a new direction to governance.

Crediting the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for attracting investments, the Minister claimed that nearly 25 per cent of investments coming into the country were being routed to Andhra Pradesh. He said the government was making special efforts to prevent migration from Kurnool district by creating industrial and employment opportunities. The Minister said the previous government had delayed approvals for the Jairaj Steel Company project at Orvakal, causing hardships to the company. Political commentary blog However, after the coalition government came to power, the company had now come forward to invest an additional Rs.6,000 crore, he stated. He further said investments from Agastya and Reliance had already reached Orvakal and added that if the Centre introduced Semiconductor Policy 2.0, investments worth nearly Rs.23,000 crore could flow into the region. TG Bharath said these investments were brought to the State through the combined efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh, while the government was closely monitoring the grounding of MoUs signed with industries. Criticising the YSRCP, the Minister accused the opposition party of spreading misinformation to defame the government. He urged party cadre to counter what he described as "conspiracy politics" and work unitedly for the upcoming municipal corporation elections. He said tickets would be allotted only to leaders with a good public image after conducting surveys.

Referring to ongoing civic works in Kurnool, Bharath said several road expansion and drainage projects were underway and that officials had acted swiftly during the recent heavy rains to prevent inconvenience to citizens. He also announced that a High Court Bench would be established at the government quarters in C-Camp, which, he said, would significantly boost the city's development.

Shakti scheme boosts revenue of Karnataka temples: Muzrai department records 8.6% growth

Bengaluru: Karnataka government's ambitious Shakti scheme has led to a significant rise in revenue at temples managed by the Muzrai department, with officials attributing the increase to the growing number of devotees travelling under the free bus travel initiative for women.

Under the Shakti scheme, women can travel free of cost in ordinary KSRTC buses across the state. The initiative has reportedly encouraged more women to visit temples and pilgrimage centres, resulting in a sharp increase in footfall and temple offerings.

According to officials, several prominent temples, including Banashankari Temple in Bengaluru and Ghati Subrahmanya Temple, have recorded higher donation collections over the past year. Data from the Muzrai department shows that the combined revenue of 15 major temples in Karnataka rose from Rs 613.5 crore to Rs 666.2 crore during the 2025-26 financial year, registering an increase of 8.6 percent.

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the Shakti scheme, launched three years ago, has provided a major boost to religious tourism in the state.



"Women travelling under the scheme often bring along their family members as well. This has increased the number of devotees visiting temples across Karnataka," he said.

The minister added that the income generated from temples is primarily utilised for the development and maintenance of the same temples. He also clarified that government approval is required for transferring

funds from one Muzrai temple to another.

A senior KSRTC official said passenger numbers on routes connecting major temple towns have increased considerably since the implementation of the Shakti scheme.

KSRTC currently operates around 8,900 buses across Karnataka, of which more than 7,000 ordinary buses are covered under the free travel scheme for women.

Officials said additional buses are being deployed on routes linked to major temples, especially during festivals and school holidays, to manage the growing rush of devotees.

The increase in temple visits is now being viewed as one of the indirect economic benefits of the state government's flagship guarantee schemes, particularly in the tourism and religious sectors.

PRP Treatment for Hair Loss: How It Works and Whether It Is Worth It

Discover how PRP treatment for hair loss works, its benefits, procedure, recovery process, costs, and whether this popular regenerative therapy is worth considering for hair regrowth.

Hair loss rarely shows up overnight. It creeps in. By the time most folks start hunting for something that actually works, they've already wasted money on products that did nothing. PRP has grabbed real attention over the last few years. Non-surgical, works with your own biology instead of fighting it. Whether it's worth it comes down to where you are in the hair loss, what you're honestly expecting, and whether your scalp is even in a shape where it'd respond.

What PRP treatment actually involves PRP means Platelet-Rich Plasma. Blood gets drawn, same as any lab test. That blood spins in a centrifuge until it splits into layers. You're left with plasma loaded with platelets. That's what gets injected into the scalp, right where the thinning is. Platelets carry growth factors. Growth factors are repair signals that the body already knows how to use. They wake up tissue, push blood flow, and nudge cell activity. Hit a sleepy follicle with that, and it can start waking up. Anyone curious should book a sit-down with a trust-



ed hair loss specialist first. Scalp check before anything else.

Why does it work better at certain stages? Timing matters way more than people think. PRP hits hardest when follicles are still alive but slacking off. Basically, early to moderate hair loss. Once things have been advanced for a while, follicles dormant or shut down, the results start shrinking fast.

A proper scalp check sorts that out. Tells you which side of the line you're on. For anyone trying to short-list clinics and PRP treatment options before committing, seeing verified clinic profiles and real patient feedback makes the whole thing less of a guessing game.

What a typical course looks like

The first block is usually three or four sessions, roughly four weeks apart. Then the scalp gets checked again. Some patients go into maintenance every few months. Others bolt on mesotherapy or laser light therapy for a stronger pull. That tailoring is what separates solid results from the meh ones.

Results and how long they last

Not a quick fix. Shedding usually drops off in the first two months. That's the first sign something's working. Density and texture show up later, months down the line. The cause isn't going anywhere, though. Maintenance is part of the deal long-term. Done right,

PRP holds hair density and even improves it over time for the right people.

Safety and side effects Blood is yours. Allergic reactions or rejection are off the table. Injections sting a little. Some redness right after, gone in a day. No downtime. People leave the clinic and get on with the day.

Conclusion PRP is a real non-surgical option for early to moderate hair loss. Won't undo severe cases. Won't replace a transplant when that's what someone actually needs. But for the right candidate, at the right stage, it slows shedding and supports real density over time.

FAQs Is PRP treatment painful? Mild discomfort. Numbing cream before the session makes it easier.

How many sessions are needed? Three or four to start, maintenance added later based on scalp response.

Can PRP be combined with other treatments? Yes. Works with mesotherapy, laser light therapy, and sometimes hair transplant surgery.

How soon do results appear? Shedding drops in the first two months. Visible density takes three to six months.

Kabir Duhan Singh: Malayalam cinema has mastered the art of delivering high-quality films

Mumbai: Actor Kabir Duhan Singh, who plays a pivotal role in director Paul George's action entertainer 'Kattalan', has now opined that Malayalam cinema had mastered the art of delivering high quality films. Singh, who attended a special premiere of Kattalan in Mumbai recently along with a number of co-actors including Parth Tiwari, Harishankar Narayanan, and Raj Tirandasu, shared insights about the film. Speaking about the scale of the film, the action, and the effort that went into making it, Kabir Duhan Singh said, "Malayalam cinema has mastered the art of delivering high-quality films on limited budgets, and 'Kattalan' is a great example of that. We truly gave our blood and sweat to this film, and I believe that effort is visible on screen. Whether it's my performance, Parth's, or Antony's, this film stands apart in all our careers. We all got injured while shooting the action sequences, but when you put that level of commitment into a project, you hope audiences appreciate it. Thankfully, that appreciation has come."



Directed by debutant Paul George and headlined by Angamaly Diaries star Antony Varghese Pepe, Kattalan promises a high-octane cinematic experience while also expanding the larger Marco universe. Opening up about how Kattalan differs from Kill and what the experience taught him, actor Parth Tiwari shared, "Kill was raw, rustic, and fast-paced, with long action sequences shot without cuts, while Kattalan is much more style-oriented. The characters are emotionally very different as well, and working on this film taught me new things that are already helping me in my upcoming projects." Talking about the film's USP and his experi-

ence performing in Malayalam, Harishankar Narayanan said, "The USP is the elephants, and we're waiting for audiences to watch the film and tell us what they think. My character comes from Madurai, so there wasn't much Malayalam for me to speak. Once we understood the dialogues, the focus was on delivering the right emotions."

Discussing the film's appeal and working with Malayalam dialogues, Raj Tirandasu, who played one of the villains in Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa' said, "It's all about action. Audiences today want a good film, irrespective of whether it's Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, or Hindi. If the content is good, peo-

ple will come to theatres. Tamil and Malayalam are quite similar, so we were given the dialogues along with their meanings, practised them thoroughly, and came to the set fully prepared." Also, the makers of the film have asked audiences to remain seated after the film ends. The advisory points to three post-credit scenes and sharpens interest in the thriller's final reveal. The cast includes Tamil actor Dushara Vijayan, who is making her Malayalam debut with the film. Others in the cast are Sunil, Jagadish, Siddique, Anson Paul, Baby Jean, Hipster, Hanan Shaah. Produced by Shareef Muhammed under the banner of Cubes Entertainments, the makers of Marco, Kattalan features music by B Ajaneesh Loknath and Ravi Basrur, cinematography by Renadive, editing by Shameer Muhammed, and action choreography by internationally acclaimed stunt director Kecha Khamphakdee. Directed by Paul George, the action thriller is set to release in theatres on May 28.

Peddi: Jagapathi Babu speaks high about his powerful role Appalasuri

As anticipation continues to soar for Peddi, versatile actor Jagapathi Babu has opened up about his intense transformation into the powerful character Appalasuri in Ram Charan's upcoming rural action drama. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film has already created massive buzz with its chart-buster songs and impactful trailer ahead of its worldwide release on June 4. In this exclusive interaction, Jagapathi Babu shares insights about the emotionally layered role, challenging dubbing process, prosthetic makeup, his bonding with Ram Charan, and why Peddi stands out as one of the most special films of his career.

Your look as Appalasuri in Peddi has become a major talking point. How was the character designed? The complete credit goes to director Buchi Babu Sana. He wanted the character to look very unique and realistic. National Award-winning risky scenes without body

worked carefully on the prosthetic look. The moment I wore the getup for the first time, I understood how special the character was going to be. In the entire film, audiences will not see Jagapathi Babu — they will only see Appalasuri.

What makes Appalasuri different from your previous roles? After Legend, I did many films, but only a few characters stayed close to my heart. Among them, Appalasuri from Peddi stands at the top. The role has emotional depth, a unique look, and strong performance scope. It is not about screen time; it is about impact, and this character leaves a lasting impression. How was your bonding with Ram Charan in the film? Ram Charan is one of the most lovable people I know. There is a beautiful emotional connection between our characters in Peddi. Watching his dedication on set was inspiring. He performed risky scenes without body



thing for the film. Since Rangasthalam, he has continuously evolved as an actor. Was dubbing for Appalasuri challenging?

Absolutely. Dubbing was the toughest part of the film for me. Sometimes I spent an entire day recording just two dialogues. The voice and dialect carried a special magic. I wanted audiences to hear only Appalasuri while watching the film. How do you describe director Buchi Babu Sana? Buchi Babu and Sukumar share one quality — complete clarity.

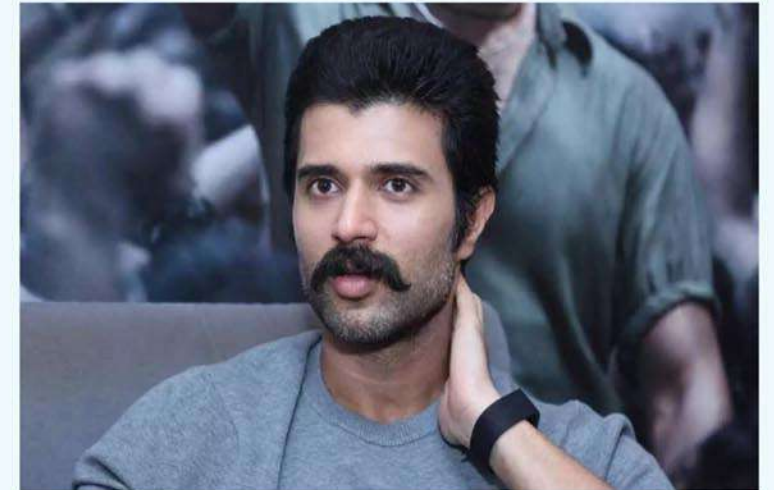
When a director has clarity, the actor's job becomes easier. Buchi Babu is humble, positive, and very passionate. He pushed me to give my best performance. What are your thoughts on the film overall? Peddi is an important film for the industry. AR Rahman's music has already become a huge strength for the movie. The visuals by Ratnavelu are exceptional. This film gave me immense satisfaction as an actor, and I believe audiences will deeply connect with it.

The makers of EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER have released the film's second single, "Priyasakhi," and the romantic melody is already receiving a warm response from music lovers. Packed with emotion and youthful charm, the song beautifully captures the silent feelings of love, admiration, and affection experienced by a young man. Composed by Hesham Abdul Wahab, the track delivers a soothing

and refreshing musical experience. The composer blends soft instrumentation with emotionally rich tunes, creating a melody that feels both calming and memorable. Singer K. S. Harisankar adds depth to the number with his expressive vocals, while lyricist Suresh Banisetty pens simple yet relatable lines that instantly connect with listeners. The song also stands out visually with its picturesque London

backdrop. Lead actors Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya impress with their charming on-screen chemistry, reminding audiences of their popular pairing after Baby. Directed by debutant Aditya Haasan, the film is produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, while Sri Kara Studios presents the project.

Is Vijay Deverakonda's film landing in new production house?



Vijay Deverakonda is currently busy shooting for two ambitious projects — Rowdy Janardhan, directed by Ravi Kiran Kola, and Ranabaali, helmed by Rahul Sankrityan. Backed by top banners led by Dil Raju and Mythri Movie Makers, both films are carrying strong expectations and are expected to hit screens soon. Amid this busy schedule, fresh speculation has now started surrounding Vijay's next collaboration with talented filmmaker Vikram Kumar. Reports suggest that the actor and director have been in discussions for a new project that is currently in the scripting stage. Earlier buzz claimed that UV Creations was likely to bankroll the film. However, recent developments have added a new twist to the speculation. Vijay Deverakonda and Vikram Kumar were recently spotted together at the office of Maddock Films, sparking rumors about a possible collaboration with the Bollywood production house. The unexpected meeting has now triggered discussions about whether the project may shift from a Telugu production banner to a major Hindi studio setup. Fans are eagerly waiting to see if Vijay is planning a stronger Bollywood association with this film. For now, the makers have not made any official announcement, and discussions regarding the project and production house are reportedly still underway.

Raadhya's fierce action look from 'The Red Bag' creates strong buzz



The Red Bag continues to build excitement with the unveiling of actress Raadhya's striking new character poster. Produced by Hari Krishna Somishetti under the Memory Makers banner, the film is directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu and is said to revolve around a mysterious bag with an intriguing storyline and strong content-driven narrative. The newly released poster presents Raadhya in a stylish and action-packed avatar. Dressed in denim and confidently aiming a gun, the actress appears in an intense and fearless role while carrying a suitcase in the other hand. The vibrant neon visuals, colorful motion trails, and edgy design elements add a modern action-thriller feel to the poster. Powerful taglines such as "Dream Big Stay Dangerous," "She's not here to follow rules. She's here to make history," and "New Face. New Fire. New Era" hint at a bold female-centric character with rebellious energy and strong screen presence. Raadhya's transformation and attitude-driven look have already started generating discussion among movie lovers. Earlier released posters from the film, including actress Rashi's character reveal, had also received a positive response from audiences. With every promotional update, expectations surrounding The Red Bag are steadily increasing. The film features an ensemble cast including Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Monika, Sneha Singh, Rashi, Akanksha, Eshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, and Bhargavi in key roles. Despite being producer Hari Krishna Somishetti's debut project, the film is reportedly being mounted on a grand scale with high production values. Music is composed by Shekhar Mopuri, cinematography is handled by Priyesh Guruswamy, and editing is by Shiva Sharvani.

Sooryavanshi is special, but his India debut can wait, says Chopra

New Delhi: Former India batter Aakash Chopra hailed Rajasthan Royals' teenage opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as a 'special' talent after his blistering knock in the Eliminator helped the side beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 47 runs. But at the same time Chopra added that his India debut can wait given he is only 15. Sooryavanshi smashed a breathtaking 97 off just 29 balls, laced with 12 sixes, as he tore into SRH bowling line-up and helped RR post a massive 243/8. Sooryavanshi, who now holds the Orange Cap with 680 runs in this season, narrowly missed out on the record of fastest hundred in the IPL, but left the opposition bowlers shell shocked with his fearless stroke-play. City & Local Guides "We are still two years away from the next World Cup. There is plenty of time. Yes, picking Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for India based on his IPL form is an exciting thought. You can't ignore it because the IPL is India's top T20 tournament. He is breaking records left and right. You have to take him seriously. He is special, no doubt.

"But you don't make changes just for the sake of it. It's simple. For someone to be dropped, they need to fail. If someone is already a topper in the team, why would you replace them just because someone else scored big

runs? Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson are those toppers right now. You don't replace them. If you do, then in two or three years when Vaibhav has a lean patch, the same thing will happen. "The next young batter will be pushed in. So, the selectors, Ajit Agarkar, RP Singh, Pragyan Ojha, will face pressure. But they must do what is best for Indian cricket. They will make the right call. His India debut doesn't have to happen tomorrow. It can wait. He is only 15. There is no rush," said Chopra on Star Sports. Sooryavanshi's stunning blitz also saw him surpass Chris Gayle's 12-year-old record of 59 sixes in a single IPL season. With 65 sixes already, Sooryavanshi's face-off against the Gujarat Titans bowlers will be a mouth-watering contest when the Qualifier 2 clash takes place in New Chandigarh on Friday.

"Bowlers usually have a plan against Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Pat Cummins started with yorkers, which Vaibhav couldn't score off initially. But once he got his eye in, nothing worked. The SRH bowlers looked helpless. It felt like they were hit by a tsunami. And when a batter like Vaibhav is in that kind of form, there is very little you can do except watch. "SRH have an experienced bowling attack. Pat Cummins and



Eshan Malinga are world-class bowlers. One of them is a World Cup winner. Cummins tried his best but was left with no answers.

Forget Sooryavanshi's age for a moment, just look at the quality. "This was one of the best counter-attacking innings by an opener in a long time. Against a good bowling attack, he played with complete control. The bowlers had plans, but those plans failed completely. That is the mark of a special player," added Chopra.

He also explained what makes Sooryavanshi such a destructive opener. "It all starts with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's backlift. That generates immense power. He has a very solid base at the crease. He mostly likes to hit down the ground or on the leg side, where he can use his bottom hand effectively. "But a couple of shots showed his growing maturity, like when he went

over covers off a slower ball from Sakib - he held his pose for a moment, paused, and then unleashed. He is reminding us that if you grow up on a T20-only diet, this is the kind of batter you can become. Fearlessness is in his DNA. We are astonished by what he has achieved. "But in the next five years, we will talk about him breaking his own records. Because he carries no baggage from other formats. Chris Gayle was a phenomenal T20 player, a legend of the game. But he also had a Test triple hundred. "Sooryavanshi has focused only on T20s. This is what he always wanted to be. He has hit 65 sixes this season. He might reach 70 in the next game. Next season, or the one after, who knows? He could even hit 100 sixes in a single IPL season," concluded Chopra.

Maiden India call-up a 'dream come true', says Nandni Sharma ahead of England T20Is

Chelmsford: Young fast bowler Nandni Sharma described her maiden call-up to the Indian women's cricket team for the upcoming T20Is against England and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup as a 'dream come true,' adding that the feeling of making it to the national team finally hit her when she played in the tour game against the ECB Development Women's XI. The Chandigarh-based pacer was the joint-highest wicket-taker in her maiden season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) by picking 17 wickets earlier this year for Delhi Capitals, including picking a hat-trick, coming in via a five-wicket haul. "I called my family first. I spoke to them at home. They asked me why I was crying. Then I told them I had been named in the World Cup squad. It has been like a dream come true. I played a match, and it hit me that I have made it to Team India," said Nandni in a video posted by BCCI's social media on Thursday.

She also said wearing the India jersey for the first time was an unforgettable experience.



rience. "When I wore this jersey for the first time, I was standing in front of the mirror. I had worked so hard for this. It was a dream come true. I was standing in front of the mirror for 2-3 minutes and tried seeing how I looked like. I was even trying to look back to see how I was looking. It was a very good feeling. I can't explain it, but it was very good. Nandni admitted to being caught off guard when her name was announced in the squad for the trip to England and the T20 World Cup. "They were announcing something. I was not even looking. I didn't even think it would come

Then I got a call from my friend about it and I couldn't believe it. I rechecked it again to see if I was really named in the World Cup squad. "Then I video called my family. I was very excited. I even started crying on seeing that I was named in the World Cup squad. My father couldn't express his feelings. He said, you have worked hard, you have achieved the fruit of it and you have to keep doing a good job. My mother was very happy."

Reflecting on how her life has changed in the last few months, Nandni said, "A lot has changed in the last 6-7 months. My life has taught

me a lot. Earlier, I used to learn. Now, I have learned to come down a little after achieving something, especially after I had an injury. I have learned a lot. These 6-7 months have been good and difficult. "A lot has changed in a positive way. People have started to know me. I am thankful to those who have seen me and considered me. I want to learn something good and something good for my team and country. If I get an opportunity, I want to grab it. I want to learn something from here, whether it is good or bad, I think it will help me a lot in life." She signed off by crediting the WPL for boosting her confidence. "WPL has had a big impact on my life. I have seen a lot of positive changes. I have gained a lot of confidence after the performances there. It has helped me a lot. "I have learned from few of my mistakes. Overall, WPL has helped me a lot. I have more responsibilities now. I have to take it to the end. I have to take it to the end as long as I can bowl well. It is a very good feeling."

Singapore Open: Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag begin with wins

Singapore: Indian seniors PV Sindhu and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty started their Singapore Open campaign on a positive note, advancing to the next round after defeating their respective opponents at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore on Tuesday. India news analysis

Sindhu, the two-time Olympic medallist, overcame Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani 21-17, 21-18 in women's singles, while Satwik-Chirag defeated Chen Zhi Yi and Presley Smith 26-28, 21-15, 21-13 in men's doubles.

Sindhu, will next face Japan's Riko Gunji in the pre-quarterfinals. In men's doubles, World No. 4 Satwik-Chirag dropped the opening game despite saving seven game points in a tightly contested battle. The Indian duo responded strongly to force a decider and then dominated the third game, closing it out 21-13 after one hour and 15 minutes of play.

IPL 2026: The biggest positive for Archer this season is his fitness, says Irfan Pathan



New Delhi: Former India left-arm fast bowler Irfan Pathan said the biggest positive for Jofra Archer this season has been his fitness, noting the Rajasthan Royals pacer's ability to play consistently and deliver hostile spells without breaking down has been instrumental in the side's run to Qualifier 2 in IPL 2026. India news analysis After Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hit a stunning 97, Archer then delivered a fiery new-ball spell by claiming three wickets to derail Sunrisers Hyderabad's chase. Archer's hostile lengths and accuracy ensured SRH were bowled out for 196, sealing RR's passage to Qualifier 2, where they will meet Gujarat Titans in New Chandigarh on Friday. So far Archer has 24 wickets from 15 games in IPL 2026 and is the third leading wicket-taker in the competition. "The biggest positive for Jofra Archer this season is his fitness. He has played almost every match without breaking down, which has been his main issue in the past. This year, his pace is back up, and his line has been excellent. "His over to Ishan Kishan went for a few runs, but he kept bowling hard lengths close to the stumps. Eventually, he got his wicket. He also hit the stumps consistently, especially against Travis Head. Archer targeted Head and delivered a magical ball to dismiss him, perfect line. On the New Chandigarh pitch, most of his deliveries were back of a length. "He didn't try to bowl too full - he was in good rhythm, and that is why he picked up three crucial wickets. If those early wickets hadn't fallen, Sunrisers Hyderabad would have gotten much closer. Without Jofra Archer's early breakthroughs, the match could have been very different," said Pathan on Star Sports. Though GT suffered a 92-run defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Qualifier 1, former India opener Aakash Chopra said the Shubman Gill-led side's bowling approach could unsettle RR. "Gujarat Titans should have a clear plan heading into the second qualifier: bat first and put 200-plus runs on the board. They may not have the most glamorous or star-studded lineup, but they are a very disciplined unit. City & Local Guides "Every player knows their role, and they execute it without panic. They don't rely on one or two match-winners. Instead, they win as a team, through smart bowling changes, tight fielding, and calculated batting. "That kind of discipline can be very hard to break. So, there is a real possibility that this Rajasthan Royals juggernaut can be stopped by GT. If any team can do it, it's one that doesn't get overwhelmed by big names and sticks to the basics," he added.