

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

'Put petty politics aside': **Rahul Gandhi** cautions against 'gloating' over TMC's loss in West Bengal

Rahul Gandhi also said he agreed with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, claiming that "more than 100 seats were stolen" in the state.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday described the BJP's victory in the Assembly elections in West Bengal and Assam as a "theft" of the mandate, alleging that it marked a major step in the saffron party's mission to "destroy" Indian democracy. He urged those gloating over the loss of Mamata Banerjee's party to put petty politics aside. "Some in the Congress, and others, are gloating about TMC's loss. They need to understand this clearly - the theft of Assam

and Bengal's mandate is a big step forward by the BJP in its mission to destroy Indian democracy," Gandhi said in a post on X. "Put petty politics aside. This is not about one party or another. This is about India," he said in his post. He also said he agreed with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, claiming that "more than 100 seats were stolen" in the state.



"Assam and Bengal are clear cases of the election being stolen by the BJP with the support of the EC. We agree with Mamata

ji. More than 100 seats were stolen in Bengal," Gandhi posted on X. The Congress leader further alleged that similar patterns had been seen in earlier elections, citing Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, and the 2024 general election.

His remarks came after Mamata Banerjee also made strong allegations against the Election Commission, saying the BJP had "looted more than 100 seats" and calling the EC "the BJP's commission." The BJP ousted Trinamool Congress from power in Bengal and captured power for the third time in a row in Assam in results of assembly polls declared on Monday. The BJP stormed to power in West Bengal with 206 seats in the 294-member Assembly, crossing a two-thirds majority and ending the TMC's 15-year rule in the state. The result marks the BJP's first-ever formation of government in West Bengal and signals a decisive realignment of the state's political and ideological centre.

Vijay's TVK plans talks with Congress, Left parties to form coalition govt: Sources

Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), which won 108 seats in a strong debut in Tamil Nadu, but fell short of a majority, is eyeing talks with the Congress, Left and smaller parties to form a coalition government, sources told.



Chennai.(Agency)

Actor-politician Vijay, whose Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) made a stunning debut by winning 108 seats in Tamil Nadu, but fell short of a majority, is eyeing talks with the Congress, Left and smaller parties to cobble together numbers for a coalition government, sources told. The halfway mark is 118. Vijay is planning to team up with the Opposition bloc and may hold talks with the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India and the Indian Union Muslim League, along with the Congress. An invitation to these parties will be sent soon, sources said. Notably, the Congress, VCK, CPI, CPI (M) and IUML are part of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA). In the April 23 polls, the Congress managed to win five seats, while the IUML, CPI, CPI (M) and VCK got two each, among a total of 234 Assembly constituencies in the state. If the Congress and allies decide to ally with the TVK, the Vijay-led party will comfortably cross the majority mark needed for government formation. The TVK dethroned the MK Stalin-led DMK, which got only 59 seats and emerged as the opposition party. **CONGRESS TO TAKE CALL ON JOINING HANDS WITH TVK**

Amid speculation over a possible TVK-Congress government, Congress MP Sasikanth Senthil told India Today TV that the party would take a considered and collective decision, keeping Tamil Nadu's interests foremost.

A lot needs to be analysed, but the people of Tamil Nadu have given a clear mandate, and we must accept it wholeheartedly," Senthil said. He said that the Congress had maintained its ideological consistency through the election, adding that any future decision would align with its commitment to secular values. On internal differences within the Congress regarding support for TVK, Senthil acknowledged that diverse opinions were part of the party's culture. "We have the space to speak our minds. But we are not opportunistic. We stand by our ideology and promises to the people," he said.

Against Anyone Forcibly Occupying Others' Land: **Yogi Adityanath**

Yogi Adityanath assures prompt resolution of public grievances and strict action on illegal land grabbing in UP.

Gorakhpur (UP).(Agency)
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday assured people that his government would ensure effective resolution of all their problems, as he interacted with citizens during a 'janata darshan' programme held at the Gorakhnath temple here. "Do not worry, the government will ensure that every problem is addressed effectively," the chief minister, according to an official statement, told those who had gathered to present their grievances. Taking note of complaints related to illegal land grabbing, Adityanath instructed officials to take strict legal action against anyone found forcibly occupying others' land. Adityanath met around 200 people during the



programme held in the morning and personally reached out to them as they sat in front of the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhavan premises. He collected their applications and issued

necessary directions to officials standing nearby for prompt redressal. Emphasising transparency and sensitivity, the chief minister directed administrative and police officials to ensure time-bound and impartial disposal of complaints. He referred various applications to the concerned authorities, instructing them to resolve issues without delay. Several people also sought financial assistance for medical treatment. The chief minister assured them that lack of funds would not hinder anyone's treatment and directed officials to promptly prepare estimates for advanced medical care so that financial aid could be released without delay.

MAHANAGAR METRO EXCLUSIVE

Liquor Flows Along Railway Tracks: 'Praveen's Parallel Empire from Vapi to Surat Exposed

Revelation: Alleged police protection and a well-oiled bribery network have turned Gujarat's prohibition into a mockery; 500-800 cartons reportedly unloaded daily.

Pawan Makan (Group Editor)

Valsad/Vapi : Gujarat may officially be a dry state, but on the ground, an illegal liquor network appears to be thriving—running parallel to the railway tracks. The stretch from Vapi to Surat has allegedly become a "green corridor" for smugglers. According to information accessed by Mahanagar Metro, a man identified as "Praveen," described as a key handler, is said to be orchestrating this vast illicit trade, enabling crores worth of business to operate daily under the radar.

Poison in Parcels: Liquor Smuggled Under Cover of Cargo Sources claim that large-scale smuggling of English liquor is being carried out using parcel consignments along the Vapi railway line. Every day, between 500 and 800 cartons are reportedly offloaded at stations such as Vapi, Valsad, Udvada, Atul, and Pardi. Security agencies stationed at these locations are either turning a blind eye or are allegedly complicit. Faces Behind the Syndicate



The illegal operation is said to be run by an organized network: Akash, Vinod, Sagar, and Vijay: Allegedly manage on-ground distribution and operations. Goa Connection: Individuals identified as Babu Majro, Jitu Mallya, and Tinu are said to facilitate supply

links from Goa. At the center of this network is "Praveen," reportedly coordinating payments and protection across multiple levels. **Monthly 'Protection Money' and Systemic Silence** The most serious allegation is that

large sums of money are being collected as "protection payments" in the names of senior officials, including Range IG, Railway SP, RPF, and GRP units. Sources allege that hefty monthly payouts ensure no significant action is taken against the smugglers.

Key Questions Raised by Mahanagar Metro:

1. With CCTV surveillance and heavy security presence, how are hundreds of cartons disappearing daily from stations?
2. Who is providing political or administrative protection to figures like "Praveen"?
3. Are higher authorities aware of the alleged flow of illegal payments to senior levels?

This exposé raises serious concerns about enforcement in a prohibition state. The coming days will reveal whether authorities act against the alleged liquor mafia—or whether this shadow network continues to operate unchecked along Gujarat's railway tracks.

Cong flags 'sluggishness' in private investment, alleges ED-CBI-IT 'raid raj' under central govt

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Congress on Tuesday flagged "sluggishness" in private corporate investment despite tax cuts and claims of improved ease of doing business. The party argued that the expected pickup in investment has not materialised, due to slow consumer demand linked to stagnant real wages as well as the ED-CBI-IT "raid raj", which has instilled fear among businesses.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that for some time now, his party has been drawing attention to a fundamental problem preventing the economy from achieving higher real GDP growth rate: the sluggishness in private corporate investment.

"Tax rates have been slashed and the ease of business has allegedly improved substantially. But the intended consequence of these moves -- i.e., a boost in private investment -- has refused to materialize," Ramesh said on X. "Now the scholarly Chief Economic Adviser (V Anantha Nageswaran), in the Ministry of Finance, has lent his support to our contention by pointing out that post-COVID, India's largest companies saw their corporate profits grow at 30.8% per annum, even as they refused to invest," Ramesh said. "This stubborn refusal to invest is itself motivated by several factors such as slow consumer demand growth due to India's stagnant real wages crisis," he said.

In the absence of consumer demand, there is no incentive for India Inc to invest, Ramesh argued. He said the refusal to invest is also due to the ED-CBI-IT 'raid raj' which has created an atmosphere of business uncertainty and widespread fear among the investing community.

Ramesh further said the refusal to invest is also due to the increasing control of investment-intensive sectors of the economy that the Modi

News box

Dentist dies by suicide after jumping into Agra Canal

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 40-year-old dentist died by suicide after jumping into Agra Canal in Faridabad following a dispute with his wife on Saturday evening. His body was recovered on Sunday after a search operation that lasted more than 20 hours.

The deceased, Sachin, ran Guru Dental Clinic in Faridabad's Ballabgarh, police said. The incident came to light around 8pm when police received information that a man had jumped from the Sector 17 bridge into the canal. A police team rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation with assistance from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

According to an officer, Sachin was returning from his sister's house in Sector 87 along with his wife and two children when an argument broke out between the couple. "He stopped the vehicle on the Sector 17 bridge, got out and started running towards the canal. His wife and children chased him, but he jumped into the canal before they could stop him," the officer said. The exact cause of the dispute is yet to be ascertained, police added. Rescue teams continued the search through the night and into the next day. The body was eventually located around 4pm on Sunday, nearly 5 to 6 kilometres downstream near the BPTP area. "The body was taken into custody and sent for autopsy. After completion of inquest proceedings under Section 194 of BNSS, the body was handed over to the family," the officer said.

Police said no foul play is suspected at this stage, and further details are being examined.

3 die, 5-year-old injured after car rams truck on EPE

Noida.(Agency)

Three people, including a couple, died after their car rammed into a truck from behind on the EPE early on Monday. The couple's five-year-old daughter, who was also in the car, survived the collision and is undergoing treatment at a Greater Noida hospital.

Police said that the family were travelling in a WagonR along with a friend from Rajasthan to Varanasi. Around 2.40am, the vehicle was heading towards Ghaziabad from the Dadri cut when it collided with a truck ahead of it near the Shahpur underpass.

Cops received information about the crash from passersby and reached the spot soon after. All four people in the car were brought to a nearby hospital. Vivek, his wife Mamta and their friend Ram were declared dead on arrival. Vivek and Mamta's five-year-old daughter, who was also injured, survived and is out of danger, doctors said.

Police said the victims' families were informed and post-mortem examinations were initiated. The car and truck involved in the crash have also been taken into police custody. The exact cause of the collision has not been determined yet, but preliminary investigation suggests the driver of the car may have dozed off at the wheel, police added.

An FIR was registered under BNS sections 106(1) (death due to negligence) and 281 (rash or negligent driving/riding), and efforts are underway to trace the driver of the truck, who fled the spot, police said.

Man beats theft suspect to death, arrested

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 30-year-old man was arrested for allegedly beating a 40-year-old man to death in Ghaziabad's Khoda Colony after he caught him stealing. The accused, Ankit Yadav, allegedly dumped the victim's body outside a hospital in the city, triggering a police investigation. A zero FIR was registered in Noida, and the case was later transferred to Khoda police station.

Police said that around 6.40am on April 27, police received information through the emergency helpline 112 that an unidentified body had been found near the entrance of Child PGI in Sector 30. Cops reached the spot and found multiple injuries on the body that were consistent with severe assault.

An autopsy was conducted, and police began combing through CCTV footage from the hospital and nearby areas to identify both the victim and the accused. CCTV footage led cops to the car used to transport the body, whose owner was identified as Ashok Kumar, a resident of Gadhi Chaukhandi village in Noida Phase-3. Kumar informed cops that he had lent his car to his son's brother-in-law, Ankit Yadav, a resident of Khoda Colony, the night of the crime. Yadav had not returned with the car since, he told cops.

A police team went to Khoda and showed locals photos of Yadav. The investigation revealed that on the intervening night of April 26 and 27, Yadav caught the unidentified man stealing from a parked tractor. He thrashed the man to death on the spot and later dumped his body in Noida. The victim was subsequently identified as Anil Kumar (40) a resident of Khoda.

ACP (Indirapuram) Abhishek Srivastava said that an FIR was initially registered at Sector 20 police station under sections 103 (murder) and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offenders) of the BNS. The case was later transferred to Khoda police once it was established the crime took place there.

Water crisis hits NMC wards, affects 600 homes

Nagpur.(Agency)

Nagpur's worsening water crisis flared into a political flashpoint on Monday, as Congress corporators accused the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Orange City Water Ltd (OCWL) of systemic failure over erratic supply, contamination, and stalled restoration works across several wards.

At a review meeting convened by leader of opposition Sanjay Mahakalkar at his chamber in the NMC headquarters, corporators said the crisis has spread across key pockets from north and central to west Nagpur, affecting hundreds of households.

Corporator Dinesh Yadav flagged severe distress in Prabhad 2, where over 600 houses in Sanyal Nagar, Sahyog Nagar and areas along Pili Nadi are dealing with drainage water entering homes alongside irregular supply. "Residents are battling both scarcity and unhygienic conditions," he said.

Prabhad 11 emerged as another hotspot. Corporator Shailesh Pandey cited

Geeta Nagar, Bandhu Nagar, Jai Hind Nagar, Zingabai Takli and Mahesh Nagar as worst affected. In Mahesh Nagar, sewage is reportedly mixing with drinking water. Pandey noted that pipeline restoration work, pending since March 22, has heightened contamination risks.

In Prabhad 8, corporator Wasim Khan described acute shortages in Takiya, Safi Nagar, Bariyarpura and along Hairi Road. "Women are being forced to depend on relatives' homes for basic sanitation," he said.

Complaints also came from Rambagh Colony and non-network areas near Gorewada Lake, where interconnection gaps have disrupted supply.

In Prabhad 14, corporator Abhijeet Jha highlighted prolonged civic neglect, alleging that roads dug up under the AMRUT pipeline project in Ravi Nagar govt colony have remained unrestored

for five months. "Deep craters on the main road have led to frequent accidents, particularly at night, forcing residents onto unsafe internal routes,"

executive engineer Shrikant Waikar, present at the meeting, directed OCWL officials to address the issues promptly. The opposition demanded a ward-wise

audit, immediate restoration of excavated stretches and a time-bound action plan, warning that with peak summer approaching, the situation risks spiralling into a full-blown civic emergency.

Power Tripping in MP hits city water supply A startling reply by superintending engineer Shweta Banerjee sparked concern after Congress corporator Vivek Nikose flagged water supply disruptions due to frequent power tripping.

Banerjee said despite express feeders at Pench and Kanhan, outages in Mansar — under Madhya Pradesh's jurisdiction — are hitting Nagpur's water supply. She added that the issue will be taken up with municipal commissioner Vipin Itankar to find a solution.



he claimed.

Corporators criticised the NMC's Public Health Engineering (PHE) department for poor planning, weak coordination and delayed response. Superintending engineer Shweta Banerjee and

Pools cannot stay open beyond 10pm in Noida

Noida.(Agency)

The district administration has barred late-night operations of swimming pools across Noida and Greater Noida.

As per an advisory issued by the sports department, pools cannot remain open past 10pm, and activities such as DJ parties, dance events and other late-night gatherings have been prohibited.

According to officials, the move was prompted by several complaints from residents over misuse of pool premises, including instances of alcohol consumption and inappropriate behaviour. District sports officer Dr Parvez Ali said that several swimming pools in the district are being

run by private schools, universities, residential societies, hotels and clubs.

"With rising temperatures, footfall at pools increases significantly. We have



received a few complaints of instances where people are consuming alcohol poolside late at night, at clubs. While we

are yet to verify the complaints, an advisory regarding timings has been issued to ensure safety and prevent misuse," he told. As per the advisory, swimming pools can operate between 5.30am and 9.30am and between 4pm and 10pm later in the day.

So far this year, a total of 198 NOCs have been issued to pools across the district. These include residential societies, schools, hotels, clubs and private operators, subject to compliance with the new norms. Enforcement teams will conduct inspections, and strict action will be taken against operators found violating the guidelines, officials added.

No U-turn back on Wardha Road; Ajni Square remains bottleneck

Nagpur.(Agency)

The 'No U-Turn' rule has been reinstated on Wardha Road during peak evening hours, with authorities moving to ease mounting congestion along the busy corridor. The restriction will be enforced daily from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Key junctions such as Ajni Square, Kriplani Square, Rahate Colony, and Lokmat Square have been witnessing frequent snarls, with officials linking the pressure to the city's vehicle count crossing 32 lakh. The situation had worsened in recent weeks due to road concretisation work between Rahate Colony and Lokmat Square, where traffic was reduced to a single lane. To manage that phase, police had temporarily relaxed the No U-Turn

restriction.

With both lanes now operational, the rule has been brought back. "The move is



aimed at ensuring smoother traffic movement and reducing inconvenience to commuters," said Sitabuldi Traffic Zone PI Aniruddha Puri.

Officials expect the measure to ease

congestion at key junctions, particularly Rahate Colony and Kriplani Square, and enable uninterrupted movement for vehicles travelling from Zero Mile Square to Ajni Square via the Sitabuldi flyover during peak hours.

Ajni Square, however, remains a persistent bottleneck. Long queues routinely stretch from the double-decker flyover to the junction, leading to bumper-to-bumper traffic and delays.

Commuters have called for extending the No U-Turn restriction to Ajni Square, but DCP (Traffic) Lohit Matani said

the move presents practical challenges. "Including Ajni Square would require significantly longer diversions for motorists. We have not implemented it for now, but the issue will be revisited to explore feasible solutions," he said.

Illegal connections, pump misuse trigger water crisis in Gittikhadan

Nagpur.(Agency)

A dangerous mix of illegal water connections, rampant use of pressure pumps and leaking sewage chambers has pushed large parts of Gittikhadan into a full-blown water crisis, with residents receiving foul, contaminated supply for over a week amid collapsing pressure. Localities including Telangkhedi, Manavta Nagar, Panchsheel Nagar, Azad Nagar and Gondoli are among worst-hit. Residents say taps are running with "gutter-like" water, while supply pressure is so poor that even basic storage has become a struggle.

Congress corporator Abhijeet Jha, who inspected the area, admitted that a faulty linkage between a newly laid water line and an existing sewer line led to contamination.

"There has been a coordination failure. The sewer line got connected to the water line, allowing dirty water to enter the system. We are rectifying it and expect improvement in two to

three days," he said.

However, officials concede the crisis is rooted in deeper systemic failures. The NMC's public health engineering department has flagged rampant illegal tapping as a key reason behind both contamination and pressure loss. Unauthorised connections have weakened pipelines, creating leak points where sewage seeps into drinking water lines, especially in stretches running parallel to damaged sewer chambers.

Orange City Water Limited (OCWL) deputy director Praveen Sharan said the situation has worsened due to unchecked use of illegal suction or "tullu" pumps. "Because of lack of police protection and public cooperation, the use of pressure pumps has increased significantly. These pumps disturb the pressure balance across the network, and combined with illegal tapping, they are severely affecting supply," he said.

Sharan added that enforcement teams



often face resistance on the ground, making it difficult to act against violators. OCWL has sought police

assistance, but officials say manpower constraints and local opposition continue to hinder crackdowns.

Residents say the crisis is not new. While contamination has intensified recently, low-pressure supply has persisted for months.

"For two hours of supply, we barely get enough water. Now even that is dirty," a resident said. Sharan clarified that water supply hours in this part of the city have been increased, but rampant usage of pressure pumps is ending up with low-pressure water supply adequate to meet demand until 2041.

With peak summer this season, the crisis has exposed a complete breakdown of planning, enforcement and accountability.

Unless illegal connections are curbed, sewer leakages fixed, and strict action taken against pressure pump misuse, the city's water network risks further collapse, leaving thousands dependent on an increasingly unsafe supply.

Surat puts up good show, again: Over 2,500 students in A-1 category

Surat district has been leading in securing the highest A1 grade in the state. In science stream, 459 students in the A-1 grade (247 students in 2025); 2,083 students were in A1 grade in general stream (1,667 students in A1 in 2025).

Surat . (Agency)

AS THE Gujarat Higher Secondary Board results were declared on Monday, students in Surat district once again topped in the state in terms of the highest number of students securing A-1 category in both science (459 students) as well as general stream (2,083 students).

In Surat, 47,091 students appeared in the 12th board general stream this year (41,884 students in 2025). In the science stream, 15,589 students appeared (14,137 in 2025). This year, the overall pass percentage of 12th general stream is 93.46 per cent (93.97 per cent), while in science stream the pass percentage is 87.26 per cent (86.50 per cent in 2025).

Surat district has been leading in securing the

highest A1 grade in the state. In science stream, 459 students in the A-1 grade (247 students in 2025); 2,083 students were in A1 grade in general stream (1,667 students in A1 in 2025).

Similarly, students of Suman Schools run by the Surat Municipal Corporation once again performed well. This year, a total of 15,576 students appeared in 12th general stream, of whom 1,552 passed. Similarly in 2025, a total of 1,469 students appeared, 1,449 passed. This year in 12th science, 61 students appeared and all passed against last year 54 appeared and 47 passed and 7 failed.

This year, the overall pass percentage of 12th general stream students is 98.48 per cent (98.64 per cent in 2025), and this year, the



12th science stream result is 100 per cent (87.04 per cent in 2025). A total of 102 students secured their position in A-1 grade in both general and science streams against 69 students in 2025.

Suman High Schools were started in Surat city by the Surat Municipal Corporation for

children from economically weaker areas. At present, a total of 29 Suman High Schools of different mediums are functioning in Surat city. Education is given in all Suman High Schools in a modern manner with the help of the latest technology by highly qualified teachers. Classes 11 and 12 were started in Suman High Schools since 2021. Within just four years, Suman High Schools have been ahead in the HSC Board results.

Sources said that this year, the state will get two more such schools. Three students from Suman school scored 96 per cent or above, and all three are children of diamond polishers. A student, Dharti Prajapati, daughter of Jayanti Prajapati, secured A1

grade by scoring 96.86 per cent in the 12th general stream, followed by Kush Kadiya, son of Dinesh Kadiya, who scored 95.86 per cent in the general stream. Both students were studying in SUMAN school no. 3 in the Katargam area. Similarly, Hitarthi Vala, a student of Suman School no. 9 in Kapodara area, scored 96 per cent.

Dharti Prajapati said, "Nothing is impossible...Everything can be achieved with the help of positive attitude, consistency and hard work. We stay in a rented house, and in the past few years, my father's monthly salary dipped, so I decided to work hard and set a target to give a better life to my parents in their old age, and for that there is no better option than education."

Short news

Surat bank heist: 2 held from UP

Surat. (Agency)

THE SURAT police on Monday arrested two persons in connection with the Rs 50 lakh heist from a State Bank of India (SBI) branch in the city on April 27. The two were nabbed from Uttar Pradesh, police said.

They identified the accused as Subham Kumar Thakur and Vikash Singh, who were picked up from Ayodhya and Gonda districts of UP. Both the accused were produced before the Gonda district court on Monday that issued a transit remand of four days.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Surat crime branch K I Modi said, "We have been successful in apprehending two main accused involved in the robbery. The other four are still absconding and the looted money is with them. Once we bring them to Surat, we will interrogate and later find out more details about the other absconders, so that we can work on it and get them arrested soon."

Police sources said that the bike, which they had stolen from Telangana and used in the robbery, was a key point which led to their arrest. The accused provided an Aadhaar card and other important documents to the bike owner when purchasing the bike.

Police said that the accused had done a recon of the State Bank of India, Varachha road branch, suspecting that the area is dominated by diamond merchants and they would have more cash. Before committing the robbery, the accused had visited the bank premises showing different reasons and kept an eye on the number of the staff and also the customers.

Union govt notifies South Coast Railway headquartered in Visakhapatnam

Vijayawada. (Agency)

Union government has notified the creation of a new zonal railway, South Coast Railway, with headquarters at Visakhapatnam, effective June 1, 2026. The new zone has been carved out of the existing East Coast Railway (ECOR) and South Central Railway (SCR) zones under sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Railways Act, 1989.

The notification also constitutes a new Rayagada division under East Coast Railway from the same date.

As per the reorganisation, South Coast Railway will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions of South Central Railway and a truncated Waltair division of East Coast Railway, which will be renamed Visakhapatnam division.

East Coast Railway, with headquarters at Bhubaneswar, will retain Sambalpur division, the reorganised Khurda Road division and the newly formed Rayagada division. South Central Railway, headquartered at Secunderabad, will have the existing Hyderabad and Nanded divisions along with a reorganised Secunderabad division.

The existing Waltair division of East Coast Railway will be bifurcated. One part will form the new Rayagada division under ECOR and the remaining portion will be part of SCOR as Visakhapatnam division.

Further, keeping in view operational requirements, the Central Government has also adjusted the jurisdictions of Guntur, Guntakal and Vijayawada divisions of South Coast Railway.

Cries of Innocence, A Sleeping System: We Need Justice Now, Not Endless Delays

Brutal crimes rise as delayed justice fails victims

Mahanagar Metro Beuro

Ahmedabad : At a time when India proudly speaks of becoming a "developed nation" in the 21st century, the horrific reality tells a different story. From some corner of our country, the lifeless body of a 4-year-old child is discovered—another innocent life brutally taken. Amid grand narratives of growth and progress, these cries of helpless children are being buried in silence. Crimes of such brutality against young girls are not just incidents—they are stains on the nation's conscience. Yet, disturbingly, neither society seems shaken, nor the system awakened. Slow Justice: A Shield for Criminals? One of the greatest tragedies of our system is the sluggish pace of justice. When such heinous crimes occur, the legal process often becomes a maze that offers multiple escape routes to the accused. Medical reports, witnesses, evidence, and endless court dates turn into a prolonged game. On one side, the victim's family suffers endlessly, pleading for justice. On the other, the accused often secure bail and roam freely, posing a continued threat to soci-

ety. A direct question to the authorities: What is the value of a justice system that delays relief to victims while effectively granting time and protection to criminals?

Not Paperwork, But Punishment The time has come to instill real fear of the law. Unless punishment is swift and stringent, such crimes will not stop. The country needs more than fast-track courts—we need decisions delivered with urgency and finality. The existing system, where cases drag on for years, must undergo fundamental change.

A Society Losing Its Moral Compass In the age of social media, many have become passive spectators. Instead of raising voices against injustice, people are often distracted by fleeting online engagement. Even more alarming is the mindset that dismisses such crimes as conspiracies for financial gain.

Such thinking is deeply disturbing and contributes to the erosion of collective responsibility. Conclusion: Time to Rise, Not Wait The moment calls for collective awakening. Society must stand united against such crimes and demand accountability. Women's safety cannot remain a



secondary issue—it must be a national priority. This is not a political matter; it is a question of humanity and justice. India must become a place where victims do not wait end-

lessly for justice, but where the fear of punishment deters crime at its root. Wake up—before another innocent life is lost to a system that fails to act.

Settlement mounds from 1,000 BC, Kushan era to colonial buildings: UP adds 39 sites to protected list

Focus on developing 'Kushan trail', decision part of a plan to increase number of state-protected monuments, say officials

Lucknow. (Agency)

From settlement mounds from around 1,000 BC (3,000 years old) and the Kushan period to 18th and 19th century temples and colonial buildings, the Uttar Pradesh government has moved to widen its conservation net beyond marquee destinations, with the Archaeological Advisory Committee clearing inclusion of 39 sites to the list of the state-protected monuments. The decision was taken in a review meeting recently, officials said.

The list spans a wide array of sites — both chronologically and typologically — which also include memorial structures and water systems. However, a special emphasis is being given on developing a 'Kushan trail' across the state, officials said.

The decision is part of a broader plan to increase the number of state-protected monuments from 278 to 300 by 2027,

signaling a shift from a tourism model centred on Ayodhya, Varanasi and Agra to a more distributed heritage network that includes lesser-known clusters across districts, the officials added.

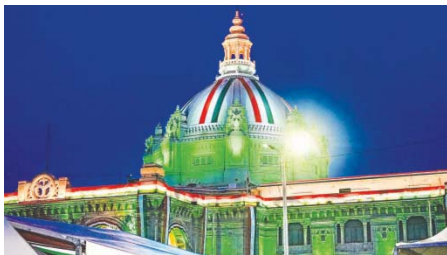
The Kushan period, which broadly dates from the 1st to 3rd-century CE, is known for flourishing trade networks, urban growth and the rise of major cultural centres like Mathura.

Officials said by linking sites with evidence of Kushan-era activities, the government aims to present a more connected narrative of ancient settlement patterns and cultural exchange in the region.

The sites with Kushan-era links in the proposed list include Parewajal mounds in Sitapur and Mahepasi and Mohan mounds in Unnao district.

Archaeological assessments at these locations have revealed pottery fragments, terracotta artefacts, structural remains and

habitation layers, with time lines ranging from around nearly 2,500 to 3,000 years. These sites point to organised settlement patterns, suggesting the region was part of a



wider historical landscape connected to trade routes and urban centres like Mathura, during the Kushan era even as their precise chronological classification is still underway, the officials said.

Also, the other sites in the list for assessment and research with possible Kushan linkage

are the Kiratpur Kheda mound in Mainpuri and the mounds found in the Agra regional archaeology cluster. These sites are expected to further expand the understanding of the Kushan period in the region.

Archaeological assessments of the Parewajal mound in Sitapur, which is spread across over 4.8 hectares and has remains of pottery and terracotta fragments, point to Kushan-era materials, with parts of the site estimated to be around 2,500 years old. Also, a survey of Unnao's Mahepasi mound, spread over more than 3 hectares, has yielded pottery remains, terracotta artefacts and structural evidence of habitation linked to the Kushan period.

The Mohan mound in the district, located near the Sai river, has yielded red and grey ware and other settlement remains, with preliminary findings suggesting habitation layers dating back to 3,000 years.

Vijay's secular win eases BJP's southern push

AS in his countless films, Vijay has emerged as the victorious hero, this time in his electoral debut, vanquishing his rivals. Vijay's party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has decisively trounced the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance and the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance. The Vijay wave did not spare even Chief Minister MK Stalin. He lost in Kolathur, from where he was elected hands down in the previous three elections, to a former DMK worker who joined the TVK earlier this year after being sidelined by the DMK. Powered by votes from the young, women, minorities and Dalits, and the strong anti-incumbency against the DMK government of Stalin, Vijay's historic victory has all the makings of the kind of political shift that Tamil Nadu has seen only twice before: in the defeat of the Congress by the DMK in 1967, and of the DMK by the breakaway MG Ramachandran-led AIADMK in 1977. Unlike the AIADMK that had a pre-election alliance with Left parties, the TVK went solo in this election.

The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, a two-year-old outfit, is poised to win about 107 seats, with 118 required for a majority. The DMK, which in 2021 won 133 seats on its own and 159 along with its SPA partners, was trailing far behind with some 70-plus seats, with the AIADMK at the third place. Other DMK bigwigs, including several ministers, were felled across the state.

The DMK wunderkid, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, has also lost. His constituency houses the famous Madurai Meenakshi temple and was being eyed for its potential for communal polarisation, particularly as it is next to Thiruparankundram, where an old land row between the managements of a temple and a dargah has created communal disturbances in recent months. The saffron party fielded C Sundar, husband of actor Khushboo, the party's Tamil Nadu unit vice-president. But in an ironic twist, the winner is Madhar Badrudeen, a Muslim candidate and a newcomer to politics, put up by the TVK, a party whose secular credentials are a silver lining of this election in which people voted for "change" without knowing what Vijay intends to change and how.

Despite the mega shift away from the two Dravidian parties, the likelihood of a hung Assembly remains high. The TVK's tally is short of the majority mark despite coming tantalisingly close to the magic number of 118 in the 234-seat Tamil Nadu Assembly. The Congress could be a natural partner.

Vijay, whose full name is C Joseph Vijay, is a Christian. In recent times, he has visited churches, mosques and temples, seeking to consolidate various religious communities behind him. He has also broken away a significant chunk of Dalit votes from the traditional representatives of the community, such as the Viduthala Chirthaikal Katchi.

The Congress had reached out to him before the election, but abandoned the effort mid-way. The Pattali Makkal Katchi, which is now led by Anbumani Ramadoss, son of the founder, Dr S Ramadoss, is also a candidate, as it has no big differences with the TVK. A hung Assembly has always been a happy hunting ground for the BJP; so no party should be counted out.

In a state where the ruling party gets voted out every five years, the DMK believed it would be able to repeat what Jayalalithaa had pulled off in 2016 by leading the AIADMK to a second successive win. The DMK thought it could achieve this by side-stepping anti-incumbency and framing this election as a battle to keep intact India's federalism against the BJP's centralising tendencies and as a battle against Hindutva. Schemes. Such schemes are now taken for granted by the Tamil Nadu voter.

India must look beyond UAE's OPEC exit

Remember that Abu Dhabi doesn't make its energy policies to suit India

THE exit of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has a long and chequered history. It renders the rejoicing in India over Abu Dhabi's decision premature and simplistic. Abu Dhabi joined OPEC as an individual emirate in 1967 and continued as a member after the UAE was formed in 1971. The UAE seldom stuck to its OPEC production ceiling from the early years of its membership of the cartel. Unlike today, Dubai was not a tourism destination in the 1970s and oil produced by the Dubai Petroleum Company was an important source of income for the emirate. Dubai sold most of its oil in the spot market and refused to adhere to OPEC quotas imposed on the UAE. The nascent federation was not strong enough then to enforce its collective will on constituent emirates.

Therefore, it is important for those who make India's oil policy to note that within OPEC — or now outside it — the UAE's membership has seldom made much difference to the cartel. Rankings, production percentages and similar parameters are irrelevant in this context. That is why India's notion that OPEC will be crippled because of last week's UAE decision to quit the organisation is not founded in fact.

In 1982, when Mana Saeed Al Otaiba, the UAE's first Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, returned home from Vienna after presiding over the 63rd OPEC Ministerial Conference, he called this writer and two other Dubai-based journalists for a conversation. When we asked about the meeting, he made a shrug-like gesture with both palms open upward, indicating that if the conference had any outcome, he did not comprehend it. He then took out two sheets of the OPEC note paper, which had doodles on both pages. Otaiba, who was a prolific poet even before he became a minister at the age of 25, was known to doodle or write poetry during the OPEC meetings to idle away his time in attendance. Otaiba has to his credit a vast repertoire of poetry, fiction and scholarly books on Arabia's petroleum industry. A year later, returning from the London OPEC Ministerial Conference, Otaiba showed us, the same three journalists, a poem he had written during that long meeting. The poem, in part, read as follows:

"I am truly troubled,
And with OPEC distressed,
OPEC's crisis no longer suppressed,
The market is stagnant,
The price of crude oil depressed.
We called for a London meeting
As the market was explosive,
The solution must be comprehensive,

Strength is now imperative,
Let production have a ceiling,
Since luck is surely offensive."

These anecdotes are important now because Otaiba's doodling and poetry reflected disdain for OPEC. Oil industry historians will aver that the UAE nearly quit the cartel on several occasions.

The path for OPEC was never smooth. It faced bitter break-ups many times. In the first five months of 1986, OPEC held four contentious ministerial meetings to discuss production ceilings for its members. In the preceding 12 months, OPEC ministers met eight times. Otaiba walked out of at least one of these meetings in Geneva. According to records maintained by the US government's Energy Information Administration, OPEC's disagreements pushed down oil prices to \$9.25 a barrel that year from a high of \$24.51 in 1985.



But OPEC did not fold up. There is no reason to believe that the UAE's departure will be a fatal blow for the cartel. And it is unreasonable to expect that unless a day dawns when viable alternatives to oil are in currency, crude prices will ever again go down to \$9.25 because OPEC is at war with itself.

Last week, in the evolving global energy scenario, India appeared to be setting much store by its close friendship with the UAE. Public discourse must dispel any impression that Abu Dhabi makes its energy policies to suit India. It crafts policies that are meant to protect its vital interests. Everything else is secondary.

There is also insufficient understanding in India that Abu

Dhabi's energy organisation sector is not a monolith. It has not been since the mid-1970s, when the Ministry for Petroleum and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) were separated. The ADNOC became responsible for oil and gas operations while the ministry decided oil policies.

In a rare interview in the 1980s, Mahmoud Hamra Krouha, a self-effacing Algerian who set up the ADNOC and was its first General Manager, told me that his mission was to double Abu Dhabi's oil production through new drilling. This did not exactly square with the thinking within the ministry, which worried about overcapacity.

The bifurcation exists to this day. Krouha's successor now is technocrat Sultan Al Jaber, who has the dual titles of Group CEO and Managing Director of the ADNOC. India engages with Al Jaber regularly, but it is imperative that India should be clear about what it now wants from the UAE in the context of its post-OPEC energy policies.

What are the emerging contours of these policies? Until the ongoing military standoff between the US and Iran ends and solutions to sticking points between them are found, the UAE's goodbye to OPEC will not make an iota of difference to energy-consuming countries like India. How long that will take is anyone's guess.

Hardly any crude passes through the Strait of Hormuz now because of the standoff. The only outlet for the UAE's oil exports now is through its constituent emirate of Fujairah that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz. But the pipeline to Fujairah port can handle only 1.8 million barrels per day. How much of this volume will the UAE export to India, which is only one of its global customers? Has

India factored this critical limitation into its calculations about the UAE? Ultimately, the Emiratis and Saudis are "brothers" while the Indians, Chinese or Japanese are their "friends." Despite brotherly bickering, the UAE and Saudi Arabia are conjoined twins. Their latest annual non-oil trade totalled \$41.3 billion, according to UAE government figures. The UAE is the second biggest foreign direct investor in the kingdom while Saudi investments in the UAE are worth \$4.3 billion. Like a sudden boycott of Qatar by three Gulf countries ended unexpectedly, the UAE-Saudi rift will also heal at some point. India must bear that in mind while making its policies.

Alert India: Quick response across states a challenge

Early warning is only the first link in the chain. Its value depends on what follows

INDIA's emergency architecture is entering a new phase. The "Extremely Severe Alert" that rang out across millions of phones on Saturday during a nationwide test by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Department of Telecommunications was more than a technological trial. Using cell broadcast, messages can be pushed simultaneously to all devices in a defined area, bypassing congested networks and even silent modes. In disaster scenarios, that capability can mean the difference between timely evacuation and chaos. But early warning is only the first link in the chain. Its value depends on what follows. Here, the performance of the Himachal Pradesh Police under the 112 Emergency Response Support System is instructive. With an average response time of about three minutes 36 seconds and minimal dispatch delays, it shows how integrated control rooms, GPS-enabled patrols and streamlined call handling can translate alerts into action. Such efficiency is



particularly critical in terrains like Himachal's, where geography often slows intervention. The broader

lesson is about integration. India now has the building blocks of a modern emergency grid: a unified helpline (112), real-time alert capability and improved data-driven policing. Yet, these systems do not operate uniformly. Response times in many states remain significantly higher, reflecting disparities in manpower, training and infrastructure. Equally pressing is the communication gap. The recent alert triggered confusion because citizens were not adequately informed about test protocols or alert categories. Trust in such systems depends as much on public awareness as on technological reliability. The way forward lies in convergence and consistency. Standardising response benchmarks, investing in local capacity and institutionalising public outreach can turn scattered gains into a nationwide safety net. The test alert was a warning bell. It was more about preparedness.

Time to revisit anti-defection law

Defectors must lose their seats even if the breakaway entity qualifies to be recognised as a separate party

THE "transmogrification" of seven Rajya Sabha MPs (Members of Parliament) of the Aam Aadmi Party has reignited the defection debate. While this phenomenon might not be unique to India, it seems a form of "soul-searching" by people increasingly accused of not possessing one. It represents the art of being here today and there tomorrow with the craft of doing it with guile and without guilt. Changing one's political beliefs and affiliation should normally be treated as a process of "growing up" politically due to a change of heart or ideological awakening. Elected representatives are "jolted" by their conscience, smitten by a realisation of their leader's "betrayal", and a desire for betrothal with another party they decried. Elegy and eulogy merge into something hard to define and difficult to understand.

The Constitution guarantees liberty of thought and expression and the right to form associations. Then, why label this "defection" a negative political behaviour necessitating a law to regulate such conduct? The Constitution didn't deal with defection originally in its innocent belief in the strength of character of the political class. I won't venture into the history of defections in India, although I served the state credited with the origin of the species of Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram. Haryana gave a live demonstration of the Bhagavad Gita sermon of the soul never dying but changing form, when the chief minister led his cabinet to mutate by joining another party in 1980. What bears elaboration, however, is while defection is undesirable, to act as per free will is fundamental to the concept of freedom. Many see the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, introduced by the 52nd Amendment Act (1985), and its subsequent modification by the 91st Amendment Act (2003) as a deterrent to elected representatives acting of their free will. The anti-defection law was brought about to ensure political stability by disallowing the UK-style 'free-

seating' in Parliament. However, this merely dissuaded solitary acts of changing political loyalties but allowed wholesale transaction, originally one-third, increased later to two-thirds of the party inside and outside the House. The utilisation in politics of the effective trade practice of "bulk-buying" reflects both a time-tested market formula and a morally resilient political culture. In politics, bulk discount converts into a premium because those who put themselves on offer must ensure being bundled with kindred souls in order to make up the two-thirds. The unique feature of this product is that only two-thirds of the whole is sold; one-third is retained for a possible resale, should circumstances so warrant. The circumstances could be created by the "inner voice" that scriptures exhort us to hear or the scripted "external threat" that the mind is trained to perceive.

Legal luminaries will now delve into the nuances of law and the litany of relevant judgments that the Rajya Sabha Chairman should have kept in view before speedily sanctifying the transmogrified (mortified?) MPs. Honourable courts, persuaded by learned lawyers, might uphold the decision. The days when people in authority disagreed with each other seem passé and morality seems an effete concern.

This is no comment on the courts; this is how laws have been written, enabling the elected representative to act in accordance with the letter while abandoning its spirit. It is an act of hubris where elected representatives presume that their switchover has the endorsement of their voters.

What indeed is the spirit of being elected? Is it in any way affected by such change of loyalties? Most candidates winning elections belong to political parties.

Independent candidates may make promises; they don't write manifestos. Parties do; and candidates winning on their ticket are bound by their manifestos as they contest on a common symbol. Where does it leave defecting candidates who, after elections, discard the support of those who voted for them? They were not the choice of those who didn't vote for them and are technically left without any support in their constituencies but continue



to be their elected representatives. What kind of "representation" is this?

It could be argued that an individual's personal influence, no matter which party, earns him/her popular support. That makes the individual larger than the party, undermining the raison d'être of political parties. After all, parties represent a certain political thinking or ideology; at least they are meant to. While an individual

may suffer "pangs of conscience", parties are not known to suffer this malady, although there have been instances of "mergers and acquisitions". While parties "merge", elected representatives are "acquired" in the Indian political marketplace.

In such an environment, why should we be obsessed with multiplying the number of representatives because of a fictional notion of being underrepresented? Has anyone evaluated whether smaller constituencies are better served by elected representatives than the larger ones? Yet there is a furious debate on delimitation to serve the abstract principle of "One Vote, One Value". A Parliamentary Committee also deliberates on the avoidable alternative of "One Nation, One Election", aimed at minimising the interface between the elector and the elected. What is the sanctity of my vote if the person I elect has the freedom to discard it and embrace the one that I rejected? It is time the anti-defection law is revisited. Let the law not prohibit elected representatives from switching sides, but the MP/MLA must go back to the electors for a fresh mandate, giving voters the opportunity of soul-searching. The splitting of a political party is a different matter and must be governed by the applicable law for the formation of political parties. Even if the party splits and the breakaway entity qualifies to be recognised as

a separate party, the elected representatives must lose their seats. This would entail a 'wasteful' exercise of repeated elections, a cost a healthy democracy must learn to afford. Otherwise, we risk becoming a nation where riches and cunning matter more in politics than being consistent and scrupulous, and value is preferred over values.

Recipe: Vegetable Burger



Vegetable Burgers are one of the most popular fast food dishes in India and around the world. Learn how to make a delicious Vegetable Burger at home with this simple recipe.

Ingredients

Burger Buns - 2 to 4, halved, toasted

Onion - 1, sliced into rings

Tomato - 1, sliced into rounds

Lettuce Leaves (or Fresh Cabbage Leaves) - a few

Cheese Slices - 3 to 4 (or use Crumbled Cheddar Cheese)

Butter (or Mayonnaise or any cheese spread) - as required

Tomato Ketchup

Cucumber - 1/2, peeled, sliced into rounds

For the patty

Potatoes - 2, large, boiled, peeled, mashed

Onions - 2, chopped

Carrot - 2, chopped

Green Peas - 1/2 cup, shelled (thawed if frozen)

Sweet Corn Kernels - 1/2 cup

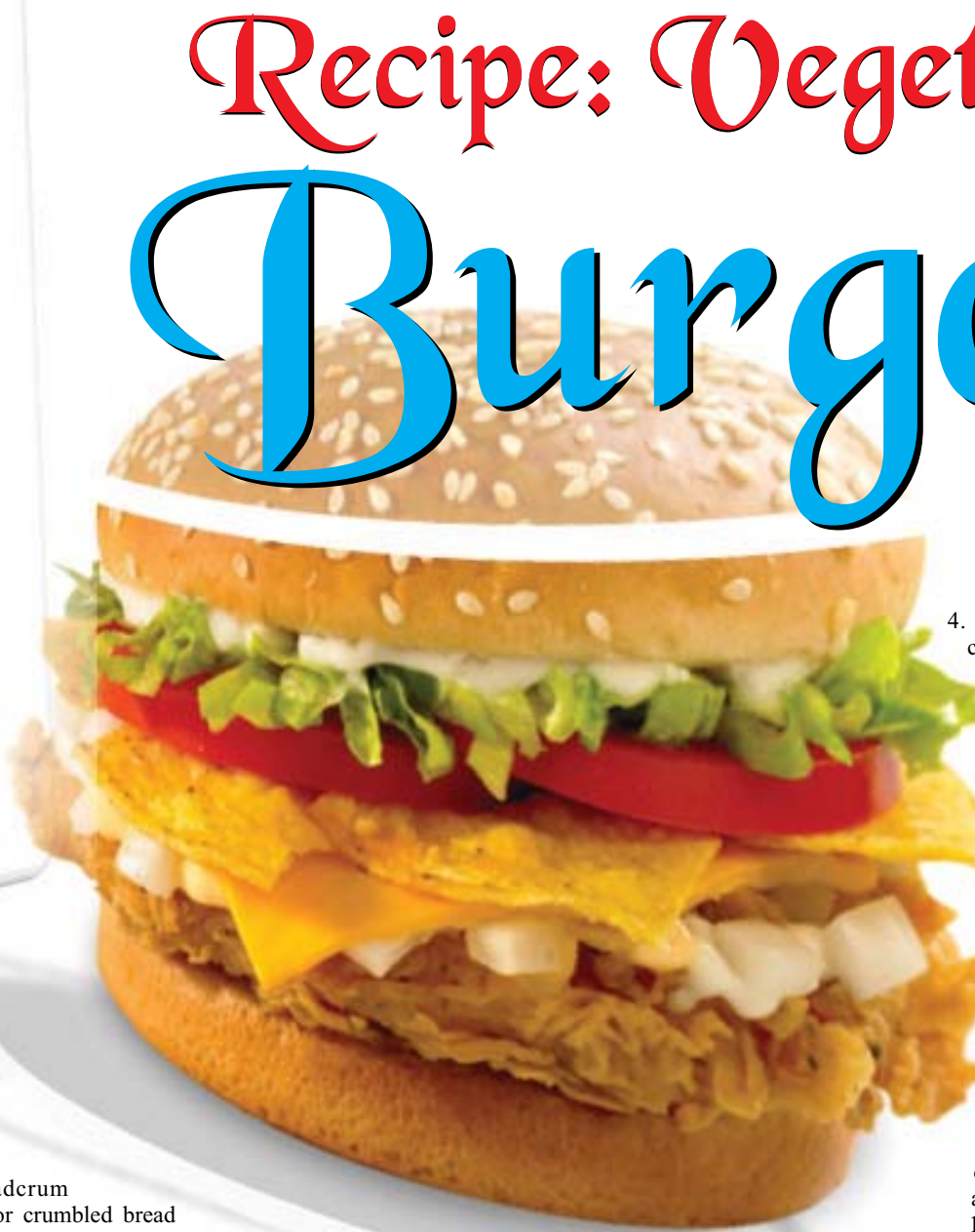
Red Chilli Powder - 2 tsp

Coriander Leaves - handful, chopped

Garam Masala Powder - 1 tsp

Salt as per taste

Oil - 2 tsp



Breadcrumbs (or crumbled bread slices) - 2 to 3 tbsp (optional)

Ginger Garlic Paste - 1 tsp

Lemon Juice - 1 tsp

Method

1. To make the burger patty, pressure cook the carrot, peas and sweet corn for 1 whistle or until soft.

2. Add the cooked vegetables, onions, red

chilli powder, lemon juice, garam masala powder, salt and ginger garlic paste to a large bowl.

3. Add lemon juice and mashed potatoes.

4. Mix well until evenly combined.

5. Shape the mixture into small/medium patties.

6. Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.

7. Roll the prepared patties in the breadcrumbs and shallow fry until golden brown on both sides.

8. Remove and keep aside.

9. Take one half of the burger bun.

10. Spread some butter and place the lettuce on top.

11. Place the prepared vegetable patty on top.

12. Top up with slices of onion, tomato, cucumber and cheese.

13. Cover it with the other half of the burger bun. If desired, add some ketchup on top.

14. Secure it with a toothpick if desired.

15. Serve at once with french fries.

5 ways you can use mint in your kitchen this summer



If you think that mint was meant only for garnishing, then you need to upgrade your kitchen knowledge. This summer you can play around it to create something more interesting, unique and delicious. City's chefs reveal their mint secrets on how to use it and add an edge to the summer platter.

-Chop a few fresh mint leaves and add to your salad with some freshly grated ginger and lemon zest. You may choose to add cubes of watermelon too. The flavour of this combo is beautiful and can impart great



summery flare to any boring salad.

-Chop mint leaves and add them to your ice cube tray. Drop these ice cubes into your guests' drinks or blend them for a minty smoothie.

-Instead of using vinegar for sweet and salty flavour in gravy, use dry mint leaves. Crush them and mix them in half cooked gravy to add flavour.

-Fresh mint leaves boiled with sugar to make mint syrup can be used to sweeten drinks. After boiling, the mint flavour blends well with sugar and can give refreshing taste to any drink.

-Stir yogurt, mint, garlic, lemon juice and cumin in a small bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. This yogurt mint sauce can be refrigerated and used for a couple of days.

Consultant Head Chef of Yauatcha India, Chef Wang Yixuan has spent most of his culinary journey working at renowned restaurants and hotels across China, such as Guangzhou Yalongge, Yuexiu Tian'an Mansion, Haerbin San Diego Hotel, and Wuhan Optical Valley. He is a dimsum expert and specializes in adding exquisite dishes to the menu. He firmly believes in a strong culinary foundation and takes pride in giving a new makeover to Cantonese dishes, without compromising on the flavours. Here are excerpts of an exclusive chit-chat with us.

India's rendezvous with international food began with Chinese cuisine. Where does it stand its chance now, after India's exposure to global food?

Chinese food has been in India for years, and was one of the first foreign cuisines to be tried by the otherwise conservative Indian palate. When it comes to awareness about Chinese cuisine, not too many people know about its diversity. For most people, Chinese food is 'Szechuan noodles' or 'Chicken fried rice', but Chinese food has a rich, vast cultural background and recipes are thousands of years old. Even now Chinese cuisine is sometimes mistaken with pan Asian cuisine. Authentic Chinese food is still an unexplored territory here as it is about hundreds of cooking styles and techniques.

Have you ever tasted Indo-Chinese? What is your take on it?

Yes I have tasted it. It's a good after drink food, to fill the stomach. Though there are no particular flavours that stand out, it's the spiciness and heat in the dish that makes it tasty. I have noticed that no attention is given to the finesse of the dish. It is made to satiate the spicy taste bud of Indians.

What distinguishes Pan Asian cuisine from others?

Yauatcha is known for its modern Cantonese cuisine, which comes under Chinese category which further comes under the pan-Asian umbrella. The basic ingredients, spices and the style of cooking sets the cuisines apart. Pan Asian cuisine involves dishes from Malaysia, China, Burma, Indonesian etc. Cuisines have evolved basis the availability of three elements. In these countries you will find a lot of rice fields, hot spices, citrus fruits and hence the pan Asian cuisine will have a heavy influence of these ingredients, and they will overlap with each other. Similarly other cuisines like Mexican and Japanese, use ingredients that are easily available to them.

What are the few ingredients that Chinese cuisine cannot do without?

Soy sauce, Sichuan peppercorn, mushrooms, rice or noodles, bean curd, vinegar and for some dishes Chinese wine.

Many people have started avoiding Chinese because it is believed to be high on MSG. What is your take on the fact?

At our restaurant, we do not add MSG to our food. We take our Food Safety Policy very seriously, and hence follow guidelines. I am sure all responsible restaurants do so.

Which is your favourite cuisine and why?

Since I come from Guangdong, which is the heart of Canton region, I personally like Cantonese food, especially dim sum. I learnt cooking from my family, and have grown up eating dim sums, and I have some very fond memories of those days.

Name a Chinese/Pan Asian dish that is a weight watcher's delight?

All steamed dim sums are light to eat and are packed with meat and vegetables that are fresh. For example the Vegetable chive dumpling or the Crystal dumpling or even the Har gau at Yauatcha are super healthy.

Salad cakes are hugely becoming popular. Are they really healthy?

Salad cakes are a fad that started in Japan, and just like any other fad, it will generate some curiosity and then fizzle out. I don't see it picking up in India.

Japanese Raindrop cake is the latest fad.

Chinese food is much more than noodles and fried Rice: Chef

Does it taste really well?

I haven't tasted the Raindrop cake, but it looks beautiful, and I would love to try it someday. One food trend that you do not endorse. Molecular gastronomy and molecular cocktails, is a forte which only some chefs can

master. But due to its popularity, it has gone to small cafes who lack the finesse of doing it. Presentation has taken precedence over flavours, which saddens me as a chef.

What is the best thing about being a chef?

It gives me a chance to explore my creative side, experiment with various textures and ingredients, and more importantly, I get to feed people which makes me immensely happy!



Why you must eat Carrots today!

Carrot sticks, carrot snacks and carrot cake - indulge in all things carrot-y on April 4 as it is being celebrated as International Carrot Day. Celebrated in countries like France, Sweden, Italy, Japan and Russia since 2003, the day is dedicated to spread an awareness on the goodness of the vegetable. A root vegetable, carrot belongs to the family of parsley, fennel and dill. Carrots, originally purple in colour, have almost 100 varieties-big and small. Orange coloured carrots appeared in the 17th century, while purple carrots with orange insides, were sold in British stores in 2002. Since the late '80s, baby carrots became a popular ready-to-eat snack option available in major supermarkets.

PUT CARROTS TO GOOD USE

The nutrition in carrots is tightly enclosed in protein sacs that have to be broken by heat so cooking, grinding or juicing increases the availability of carotenoids by 600 percent. Thus carrots when cooked release more nutrition instead of when eaten raw. Almost 39% of improvement can happen when carrots are pulped and cooked in oil. Other ways of eating them is by steaming or boiling them. Mashed and pureed carrots are given to babies who like it for its sweet flavour. The tiny tots also like to nibble on carrots when they have teeth erupting. The taste stays with them when you make carrot soup which they take a liking to immediately. Cut into juliennes, carrots make a simple pulao or vegetarian noodles look all colourful while also adding to the taste. Easily the most colourful vegetable on the salad plate, carrots can also be grated and given a tempering of mustard seeds, green chillies and spices. Add some curds for a tangy flavour. Another way to cook them is to just pressure cook, mash them and mix in fresh onions and spices. With a tempering of curry leaves and mustard seeds, this is more like a carrot bharta. The sweetness of carrots



allows the vegetable to be used to make carrot cakes and carrot puddings which has its origins as an English dish from the early 19th century. Gajar kanji made from the deep red carrots is considered to be a health drink. Carrots used to make mixed vegetables or in soups, juice, jams and preserves make for some other popular dishes. If you have pets, remember rabbits and horses love carrots.

GAJAR KA HALWA - BOLLYWOOD'S MUST-HAVE

Originally from North India, gajar ka halwa has become popular all over India due to the importance given to it by Hindi films. Many a mother in these films make gajar ka halwa to celebrate happy occasions or just to satisfy the cravings of their onscreen children. The simplicity of gajar ka halwa is its main attraction. A totally uncomplicated preparation, the traditional method uses grated carrots cooked over slow fire, along with milk with sugar and dry fruits. An easier and quicker method is if sweetened

condensed milk is used instead of the regular milk. And if you are calorie conscious, it is easy to make it with almost no additional ghee or mawa, but just the milk which will give almost the same consistency.

For those who are lactose intolerant or have gone vegan, it is easy to make gajar ka halwa using almond, soy or coconut milk. Those in a hurry can make it in a

jiffy by using the microwave. Just add all the ingredients as per measurements in a deep microwave safe glass bowl and set it to cook.

ALL ABOUT THE CARROT CAKE

Carrot cake has been made since the Middle Ages, when sugar and other sweeteners were rarely available. People used sweet vegetables such as carrots to flavour their cakes. In fact, carrot cakes are

so popular that they have a day marked for themselves. On Feb 3, International Carrot Day is marked with an carrot cake. With its soft, dense texture, carrot cake resembles a soft bread in a consistency. It can be eaten plain or topped with icing and chopped dry fruits. These days carrot cupcakes are common too. It is a good option for diabetics and a wheat-free carrot cake can be the best bet for those who avoid gluten.

Orange Mocktail Recipe

Beat the heat this summer with this light and super refreshing mocktail recipe that is sure to keep you energized throughout the day. This Orange Mocktail is a mouth-watering blend of fresh oranges with lime juice and soda hence making it a rejuvenating beverage in this scorching heat. Made within minutes, this mocktail recipe is sure to be loved by everyone and is way healthier than the canned juices available on the market. Serve this chilled beverage to your guests on occasions like kitty parties, get-togethers or game nights and we are sure they will go for around two of this non-alcoholic goodness.

Ingredients of Orange Mocktail

2 cup orange juice
2 cup soda
1 lemon slices
2 tablespoon lemon juice
sugar as required

How to make Orange Mocktail

Step 1

In a bowl add orange juice, sugar and lemon juice. Mix all the ingredients well.

Step 2

Pour this mixture in a glass and add crushed



ice cubes over it. Later, top it up with a soda. Your Orange Mocktail is now ready. Garnish it with a lemon slice and serve cold with a straw.

Citrus Strawberry Mocktail Recipe

Citrus Strawberry Mocktail is a light and super-refreshing drink recipe that is sure to keep you energized throughout the day! As refreshing as it sounds, this mocktail recipe can be a perfect tropical

beverage recipe. This cool and soothing drink is an ideal pick for a hot summer day as well as a calm drink during the evenings. All you need to make this mocktail recipe is: strawberries, orange juice, sparkling water, lemon juice and icing sugar. Mix all these ingredients together and transfer to a champagne flute, and garnish with lemon and orange slices. You can make it for occasions such as game nights, kitty parties and get-togethers, and we are sure, this mocktail will rock the evening! Make sure you try out this Citrus Strawberry Mocktail and soothe your soul this summer!

Ingredients of Citrus Strawberry Mocktail

500 gm strawberry
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup orange juice
icing sugar as required
ice cubes as required

lemon slices as required
1/2 cup sparkling water

How to make Citrus Strawberry Mocktail



refreshment for your hot summer days. With the combination of strawberry and citrus fruits, there's nothing that could probably go wrong while trying out this

Step 1

To prepare this beverage recipe, take a blending jar and put strawberries, orange juice, sparkling water, lime juice in it. Blend until you observe a combined mixture.

Step 2

Crush ice in a bowl and add into the



bowl of sparkling water and gently stir.

Step 3

Take a lemon slice for garnish purpose and use the rest of the lemon and wipe around the rim of the glass to create moisture. Pour the icing sugar in a plate and roll the glasses, collecting the sugar onto the lime juice on the glass rim. Hang the lemon slice on the glass.

Step 4

Pour in the pink slush from the blender into the flute glass and serve. Your Citrus Strawberry Mocktail is ready.

Unacceptable: India condemns Iran's attack on Fujairah that injured 3 Indians

India condemned Iran's attack on the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone in the UAE, which injured three Indian nationals, calling it "unacceptable" and urging an immediate halt to hostilities and the targeting of civilian infrastructure.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India on Tuesday condemned Iran's attack on the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone in the UAE, which left three Indian nationals injured, calling it unacceptable and demanded an immediate cessation of the targeting of civilian infrastructure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi voiced similar sentiments, condemning the attack and said that targeting civilians and infrastructure was unacceptable. Amid tensions with the US, Iran launched a fresh wave of missile and drone attacks targeting the UAE, with one strike triggering a fire at Fujairah Oil Industrial Zone on Monday, resulting in injuries to Indians. "The attack on Fujairah that resulted in injury to three Indian nationals is unacceptable. We call for immediate cessation of these hostilities and the targeting of civilian



infrastructure and innocent civilians. India continues to stand for dialogue and diplomacy to deal with the situation, so that peace and stability may be restored across West Asia," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal wrote on X.

"We also call for free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the Strait of Hormuz in keeping with international law. India stands ready to support all efforts for a

peaceful resolution of issues," he said. PM Modi minced no words and said Iran's attacks on the UAE, which injured Indian nationals, were unacceptable.

"Strongly condemn the attacks on the UAE that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals. Targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable. India stands in firm solidarity with the UAE and reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy," he tweeted.

The incident marks a sharp escalation in Middle East tensions and breaks a period of relative calm following a ceasefire between Washington and Tehran earlier this month. Emirati officials confirmed that air defences intercepted multiple incoming threats, even as damage was reported on the ground.

The Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi said it is coordinating closely with local authorities to

assist those affected. "Three Indian nationals have been injured in today's attacks in Fujairah. We are in touch with local authorities to ensure adequate medical care and welfare of the affected Indian nationals," the embassy said in a post on X.

The UAE said Iran launched four cruise missiles during the latest attack. According to the defence ministry, three were intercepted by air defence systems, while the fourth fell into the sea. At the same time, a drone strike sparked a fire at the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone, a critical hub for the country's energy exports. Response teams were deployed to contain the blaze, officials said, adding that the injured individuals were taken to hospital with moderate injuries. Fujairah holds strategic importance as it allows the UAE to export oil through the Gulf of Oman, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

Day after Vivek Vihar fire claims 9 lives, cops say may use 3D mapping to determine cause; building vacated

New Delhi.(Agency)

A day after nine people died in a huge fire, which broke out at a residential building in Shahdara's Vivek Vihar in East Delhi, the entire building was vacated on Monday and an investigation was launched by the Delhi Police to ascertain the exact cause of the blaze.

Police officers said that they might also use 3D laser mapping technology, if required, to understand the circumstances under which the four-storey building caught fire. Police have used similar mapping technologies in major fire incidents earlier, including the Arpit Hotel fire in Karol Bagh and the Anaj Mandi fire in 2019. 3D mapping is a process of obtaining three-dimensional information about the site of an incident, especially when a structure has been severely damaged, with the help of software.

According to a senior officer, the rear portion of the four-storey building was the most affected. The structure, they added, might have been weakened as all three flats on the second, third, and fourth floors were gutted in the fire. The building, located in B Block of Vivek Vihar, has a parking space on the ground floor and two four-bedroom flats both on the front and rear side on each of the other floors. It was built in 2017 on an 800-square-yard plot. The flats were sold for Rs 3.5-4 crore, police sources said.

The fire turned the world of three families — residing on the second, third, and fourth floors — upside down as it cost nine lives. Families living in flats on the front side of the building, however, managed to escape. On Monday, all the families vacated their flats and moved to their relatives' homes for the civic authorities to complete inspections and declare the structure safe. In the afternoon, forensic and crime teams inspected the building and collected samples as part of the ongoing investigation.

Faces masked, clad in undergarments: 6 of notorious gang held for looting jewellery from South Delhi home

New Delhi.(Agency)

After executing a robbery worth lakhs of rupees in South Delhi's upscale Malviya Nagar area, six members of one of the Capital's most notorious robbery gangs — the Kaccha Baniyan gang — were arrested by Delhi Police on Sunday following an exchange of fire in South Delhi, said officers.

On May 1, six men, dressed in undergarments and wearing masks on faces, had allegedly entered a flat in Malviya Nagar's Sarvodaya Enclave. "Members of the family were sleeping in two bedrooms. The accused locked both the rooms, and then took jewellery," the officer said. CCTV cameras in the house captured two of them, roaming around in undergarments, said police.

Officers of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Delhi Police (South) subsequently traced the six accused — alleged members of the Kaccha Baniyan Gang — to Ambedkar Nagar, police said. "When officers reached the area, accused Nirmal Pardi, Devin and Samar opened fire at them. The police team fired in retaliation, and bullets hit the three on legs," an officer said. The accused identified as Kaake, Krish and Shivaji, and their accomplices, were arrested. All of them hail from Madhya Pradesh. Officers suspect the six men were involved in at least four robberies in Delhi last year.

Members of the Kaccha Baniyan gang are largely from the Pardi community, a nomadic tribe originally from parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, traditionally known for their hunting skills. The gang became notorious in the 90s and 2000s after a series of robbery-cum-murders were reported across the country, in which the thieves entered homes wearing only undergarments. Among the prominent cases from Delhi was murder of two people during a robbery in Lodhi Colony in 1991.

India issues NOTAM for long-range missile test in Bay of Bengal

New Delhi.(Agency)

India has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) designating a vast stretch of the Bay of Bengal as a danger zone for a long-range missile test, with the warning active from April 25 to May 6, 2026. The NOTAM covers a corridor extending up to approximately 3,550 km, signaling preparations for an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) launch. Defence sources told India Today that it indicates the flight path and exclusion zone align with the performance envelope of the Agni-IV, an IRBM with a reported range of 3,500–4,000 km. The Agni-IV is a two-stage, solid-fuelled missile capable of carrying a 1,000-kg warhead and is a key component of India's nuclear triad and strategic deterrence posture.



The timing is notable. The test window overlaps with the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, conducted in early May 2025. While the Ministry of Defence has not officially linked the test to the anniversary, strategic analysts suggest the launch would serve both as a validation exercise and as a message of readiness and capability enhancement.

Recent months have seen India step up testing of its strategic missile inventory. The Agni series, along

with the submarine-launched K-4 and the hypersonic LRAShM, form the backbone of India's credible minimum deterrence doctrine.

The extended-range BrahMos cruise missile, with tests underway to push its reach to 800 km, and this potential Agni-IV trial point to a broader modernization drive across both tactical and strategic vectors. Induction of the 800-km BrahMos is expected by end-2027. A NOTAM is issued when authorities need to restrict civilian aircraft from a specific stretch of airspace, usually during sensitive or high-risk operations. Such advisories have been used in the past during periods of heightened military tension, including conflict with Pakistan, to keep commercial flights away from operational zones.

Can't sell, can't take loans: How Gurgaon's 180 sq yard rule is hitting hundreds of families

New Delhi.(Agency)

For 51-year-old private school teacher Richa Bhardwaj, the dream of upgrading to a bigger house as her sons grow up has been a testing one. The hurdle is not a lack of finances, but an administrative circular issued in March 2009 that limits the registration of residential plots to those measuring 180 sq yards and above.

Residing in the F block of Suncity township off Golf Course Road, Bhardwaj can neither sell her 2BHK apartment — purchased in 2003 and measuring less than 180 sq yards — nor avail of a mortgage because it's not registered. "My children are growing up, and they need a separate room. I cannot think of getting my elder son married because of this," she said. She is not alone. For over 70 similarly placed homeowners in Suncity, and hundreds of families across



private plotted colonies in Gurgaon, the dream of undisputed property ownership has turned into a 15-year-long ordeal. Despite paying the full sale consideration, taking possession, and regularly paying municipal taxes, these residents are continually denied property registration.

The legal impasse

At the core of the dispute is the 2009 administrative circular invoked by authorities to deny registrations. Homeowners argued that this circular is obsolete, pointing out that the state government itself amended the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975, in September 2009. The amendment introduced Section 3-C, which explicitly permits the registration of independent residential floors in licensed colonies without prescribing any minimum plot size restriction, while also enabling.

SpiceJet plea on Rs 144-crore pay order in Maran row junked

New Delhi.(Agency)

Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline & Singh and directed them to take immediate steps to deposit the amount of Rs 144 crore with the registry.

The Delhi High Court on Monday junked pleas filed by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order asking the airline to deposit '144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways. Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline & Singh and directed them to take immediate steps to deposit the amount of Rs 144 crore with the registry.

In its January 19 order, the court had directed the airline and Singh to deposit '144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of '194 crore. However, the deadline to make the deposit was later extended by four weeks on March 18.

The petitioners had sought reconsideration of the March 18 direction, citing financial



distress amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Instead of money, the airline offered a commercial property in Gurugram as security. However, Maran and Kal Airways had opposed the petitions, saying the issues arising from financial distress had already been considered and rejected by the Supreme Court.

The matter arises from a dispute regarding the non-issuance of warrants in favour of Maran

following the transfer of SpiceJet's ownership to Singh, the controlling shareholder of the airline. The dispute started after Singh took back control of SpiceJet in February 2015 amid a financial crisis at the airline.

No FIR: Court relief for Abhijit Mitra

A Delhi court on Monday stayed the filing of an FIR against political commentator Abhijit Iyer Mitra for allegedly making abusive remarks against nine women journalists of online media outlet Newslandry. This came as Additional Sessions Judge Purushottam Pathak heard a plea moved by Mitra.

HC protects Arjun's personality rights

The Delhi HC has protected the personality rights of actor Arjun Kapoor and restrained the unauthorised use of his name, voice, image and other attributes by third parties for impersonation, sale of merchandise, creating deep fake images, etc.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw names niece Claire Mazumdar as successor: Report

New Delhi.(Agency)

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has finally shared her succession plan, putting an end to long-standing curiosity around who will lead the company next. She has confirmed that her niece, Claire Mazumdar, is being prepared to take over in the future, according to Fortune India.

Mazumdar-Shaw said she believes Claire is the right person to guide Biocon into its next phase. With no children of her own, she emphasised the importance of handing the company to someone she trusts. She added that Claire has already shown strong leadership skills and the ability to run a business.

The change in leadership will not happen overnight. Mazumdar-Shaw made it clear that she is not stepping down anytime soon. Instead, the transition will be gradual, allowing Claire to slowly take on more responsibility while ensuring stability within the company.

WHO IS CLAIRE MAZUMDAR?

Claire Mazumdar is currently the founder and CEO of Bicara Therapeutics, a company that was incubated by Biocon. She has a strong academic background, with degrees from MIT and Stanford, including a PhD in cancer biology.

Her experience also includes working with global biotech firms. Bicara, which went public in 2024, has already built a solid market presence.

Mazumdar-Shaw also spoke about the wider family's role in supporting the business. Claire's brother, Eric Mazumdar, is an expert in artificial intelligence, while her husband, Thomas Roberts, is a well-known oncologist. Together, they bring a mix of scientific and technological expertise.

BIOCON'S EVOLVING BUSINESS STRATEGY

Alongside leadership changes, Biocon is reshaping its business. The company has combined its generics and biologics units, cut down debt, and simplified its structure. A major focus is on biosimilars, which already make up a large part of its revenue. Several products are in the pipeline.

India's EV penetration climbs in April despite global fuel price concerns: FADA

New Delhi.(Agency)

Electric vehicle (EV) adoption in India's automobile sector continued to gain momentum in April, even as geopolitical tensions in West Asia raised concerns over fuel price stability and future demand patterns, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

FADA data indicates that the shift towards electric mobility is deepening across vehicle categories. The three-wheeler segment led the transition, with EV penetration surging to 60.38 per cent. In passenger vehicles, the EV share rose to 5.77 per cent, while in the two-wheeler category it stood at 7.76 per cent during April.

However, EV penetration in two-wheelers eased from 9.79 per cent in March, a drop attributed to pre-buying ahead of the phase-out of certain incentive schemes. Even so, April's figure remained above the FY26 average of 6.5 per cent, suggesting sustained underlying demand for electric mobility.

Overall, India's auto retail market posted its strongest-ever April performance, with total sales climbing 12.94 per cent year-on-year to 26,11,317 units.

Two-wheelers continued to dominate volumes, registering sales of 19,16,258 units, up 13.01 per cent year-on-year. Passenger vehicle sales rose 12.21 per cent to 4,07,355 units, while commercial vehicles grew 15.02 per cent to 99,339 units. The three-wheeler segment posted 1,06,908 units in sales, a 7.19 per cent increase. Tractor sales saw a sharp jump of 23.22 per cent to 75,109 units. In contrast, the construction equipment segment declined 2.25 per cent year-on-year to 6,348 units.

SWELECT plans to invest in power electronics of BESS

Mumbai.(Agency)

Chennai-based energy solutions company SWELECT Energy Systems plans to invest in a slew backward integrations in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) such as manufacturing power electronics as it plans to take its share in the BESS 10-15% in the next five years.

The initial investment in the power electronics manufacturing would be nearly \$20 million. Currently, most of the products starting from battery are sourced from China. Arulkumar Shanmugasundaram, MD & CEO of SWELECT, said, "We are planning to invest in manufacturing power electronics in India in our Salem factory. However, this exploration in new technology is at early stage." Power electronics is bidirectional power conversion between DC batteries and the AC grid. He added that the company is also exploring options to manufacture wafers, which is also an investment in backward integration in solar cell production, in India.

Shanmugasundaram also said that the company is also aggressively expanding the setting up of solar panels across north Indian markets under the PM Surya Ghar scheme as it has opened sales office and warehouses in UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi-NCR, among other states. "As these states have high incidents of load shedding, we see good opportunity for growth in the states. Solar panels and hybrid inverter solar could see a good demand in these regions. Though the growth in sale of solar panels is insignificant, we have rise in enquires from these states. The revenue conversation is very less for now, but our aim to attain an income of ₹1-2 crore every month." He also rued that the free power scheme in various states has dampened the growth of establishing solar panels across the country. "Most of the states offer free power up to 200 units. This impacted the sale of solar panels to a certain extent. In individual houses, the power consumption goes up to 400 units only in summers. Now, with free power up to 200 units, the demand for solar panels has somewhere dropped."

2% DA hike explained: Only Rs 600 more on a Rs 30,000 basic pay?

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you were hoping for a noticeable jump in your pay packet, this update may feel a bit modest. The government has raised Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees and pensioners, but the increase is on the lower side. Still, arrears for past months could offer a small financial cushion.

DA INCREASED TO 60% FROM JANUARY 2026

Last month, the government announced a 2% increase in DA, effective from January 1, 2026. With this revision, DA as a share of basic pay has gone up from 58% to 60%.

Since the change is effective from January, employees and pensioners will receive arrears for the months already passed. Pensioners will also see a rise in Dearness Relief (DR), which will be reflected in their upcoming payouts.

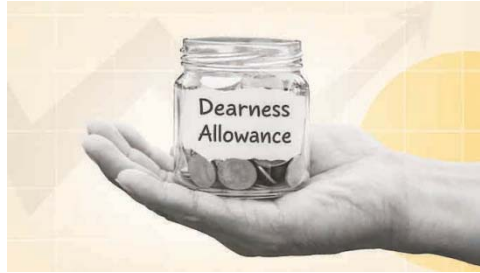
A MODEST INCREASE IN TAKE-

HOME PAY

While the revision offers some relief, the actual increase in monthly income is not very high. For many, it will only add a few hundred rupees to their salary.

Pratik Vaidya, Managing Director and Chief Vision Officer, Karma Management Global Consulting Solutions Pvt. Ltd., said, "Many were expecting a slightly stronger increase given the inflation trend, but the government has gone with a 2% DA hike this time, taking it from 58% to 60% of basic pay."

He further explained, "For a central government employee with a basic pay of Rs 30,000, that translates into an increase from Rs 17,400 to Rs 18,000, which means Rs 600 more per month. The real takeaway is that the increase is modest, but employees will also look at the arrears payable from 1 January 2026."



WHY ONLY A 2% INCREASE?

While there were expectations of a 2% to 4% rise, the final increase came in at the lower end. Experts say this is not a discretionary decision but a formula-based outcome.

Adhil Shetty, CEO, BankBazaar, explained, "The 2% increase in Dearness Allowance is a formula-led outcome linked to the 12-month average of CPI-IW inflation, not a choice within a 2-4% range. The underlying data pointed to a 2-3% movement."

Under the 7th Pay Commission framework, the final DA number is rounded down to the nearest whole number, which is why the increase settles at 2% rather than moving higher."

He added that the revision reflects moderate inflation levels over the past year and is meant to keep incomes aligned rather than significantly increase earnings.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR EMPLOYEES

In simple terms, the DA hike will not dramatically change your monthly earnings. However, the arrears payment and the gradual adjustment to inflation do provide some support. So, while this may not be a headline-grabbing increase, it still ensures that salaries and pensions stay in step with rising costs, even if only gradually.

Sensex, Nifty bounced back in April. What can investors expect in May?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Even as the West Asia conflict and rising crude oil prices kept global markets on edge, April turned out to be a decent month for Dalal Street investors. The benchmark indices — BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 — gained over 3% during the month, recovering from March weakness and largely brushing aside global uncertainty, including tensions around US-Iran negotiations. The rally was broad-based, with several sectors participating. But as markets move into May, the outlook could be very different.

EARNINGS SEASON CHANGES THE GAME

The biggest factor for May is earnings. After a month driven largely by sentiment and broad optimism, the focus is now turning to company performance. This is where the market is likely to become more selective, according to experts. "Stocks that

rallied for genuine reasons like strong fundamentals, improving margins and better earnings visibility are likely to hold their ground," said Dr Ravi Singh, Chief Research Officer, Master Capital



Services. "But those that simply rode the broader wave of optimism without real substance may struggle once the numbers are out." In simple terms, the market is moving from momentum to fundamentals.

THE CRUDE OIL FACTOR

There are also a few factors that could cap sharp gains in the near term. Foreign investors have remained net sellers for much of 2026, while retail participation has been relatively muted despite the rally. At the same time, crude oil prices remain elevated, posing risks to inflation and India's current account.

"These are not alarm bells, but they do create a ceiling on any sharp upward move," Singh said. This combination suggests that while markets are not necessarily headed for a fall, the pace of gains could slow.

CONSOLIDATION, NOT CORRECTION

Given these factors, May is expected to be more of a consolidation phase than a continuation of April's rally. "May is more likely to be a consolidation month than either a sharp sell-off or a straight continuation of April's gains," Singh said.

OnEMI Tech IPO far from fully booked; brokerage flags key risks

New Delhi.(Agency)

The IPO of OnEMI Technology Solutions continues to struggle for traction, with subscription levels remaining well below full coverage on Day 2 and grey market signals pointing to negligible listing gains, even as brokerages caution investors about structural risks in the business.

The issue was subscribed just 0.63 times by the end of the second day of bidding. While institutional interest offered some support, with the qualified institutional buyers (QIB) portion subscribed 1.51 times, demand from other segments remained weak. Retail investors subscribed only 0.17 times, while the



non-institutional investor (NII) category saw a subscription of 0.53 times, reflecting muted broader participation. Grey market trends mirror the lack of enthusiasm. The IPO's GMP stands at around Rs 1.5, indicating an estimated listing price of Rs 172.5, a marginal premium of just 0.88% over the upper price band

of Rs 171. This suggests limited listing upside and cautious sentiment among investors.

WHY BROKERAGES ARE FLAGGING RISKS

Despite acknowledging growth potential, analysts have underlined multiple risks that make the IPO suitable only for investors with a higher risk appetite.

According to a note by Geojit Investments Limited, the company's business model remains exposed to credit risks due to its heavy reliance on unsecured lending. "Unsecured loans form a majority of AUM (94.2% as of December 31, 2025), making the business sensitive to demand fluctuations.

Why Warren Buffett says he doesn't understand markets any more

Warren Buffett said today's market is harder to read, with trading increasingly driven by short-term bets. His remarks underline his unease with stretched valuations, rising speculation and fewer clear opportunities.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Veteran investor Warren Buffett has raised concerns about how today's stock markets are behaving, saying he now understands "fewer of the businesses" than he did a decade ago and warning that a large part of the market has moved away from fundamentals. Speaking in an interview with CNBC, Buffett said the nature of investing has changed so much

that even he finds it difficult to make sense of many valuations.

"I understand fewer businesses as a percentage of the whole than I did 10 years ago," he said, adding that he has not kept up with newer industries in the same way younger investors have.

MARKET NOW LIKE A "CASINO"

Buffett used a strong comparison to explain the current state of markets.

"The market always feels like a church with a casino attached," he said. "The casino has gotten very attractive to people." According to him, trading activity today is increasingly driven by short-term bets rather than long-term investing. He pointed to the growing popularity of one-day options.

"If you're buying one-day options or selling them, that is not speculating. That is gambling. Totally," Buffett said. He added that there are now more people in a "gambling mood" than at any time

in the past.

SHORT-TERM TRADING WORRIES

Buffett's concern is not just about speculation, but about the scale of it. He said many traders are making



decisions based on short-term price movements rather than business fundamentals. This, he warned, can lead to prices that do not reflect the real value of companies. "That doesn't mean the market is terrible," he said. "But it does mean that the prices for an awful lot of

things will look very silly."

WHY HE IS HOLDING CASH

One of the biggest signals from Buffett is his decision to hold a large amount of cash. His company, Berkshire Hathaway, is currently sitting on nearly \$380 billion in cash. Buffett said this is because he does not see enough clear opportunities where he has an advantage.

"I'm not going to have an edge on a whole bunch of younger people that have actually grown up with it," he said.

He also noted that in his long career, only a few years offered truly strong investment opportunities, while most of the time he simply waited.

CONCERNS OVER INFLATION AND THE DOLLAR

Buffett also flagged risks related to inflation and the US dollar. He said the United States is "not immune" to serious inflation problems and pointed to past examples where economies faced repeated financial crises.

Short news

Claims of deer poaching on Aarti Steels premises false: Forest department



CUTTACK.(Agency)

Days after allegations of deer poaching on the premises of Aarti Steels Limited in Ghanatikhal surfaced on social media, officials of the Athagarh Forest Division on Monday refuted such claims, terming it as a rescue operation.

In-charge divisional forest officer (DFO), Athagarh division Chichilichi Biswal said soon after the purported video went viral, the CCTV footages were verified and it was found that there is no veracity of the allegation. The incident occurred on April 24.

“A spotted deer had come out from the premises of Aarti Steels Limited and was moving towards Athagarh-Dhabaleswar road at about 8.10 am. When security personnel noticed it, they feared the deer’s life could be in danger if it strayed on to the road. Hence, they immediately caught the deer and released it inside the mango orchard on the premises of the company. All this happened within three minutes,” Biswal said.

However, she said, a notice has been issued to Aarti Steel Limited as to why the company authorities had not informed the matter to the forest division.

Guntur district earmarks Rs 3.04 crore under SMAM scheme

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

The Agriculture Department has earmarked Rs 3.04 crore for Guntur district under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) scheme to provide farm machinery to cultivators at subsidised rates. Farmers will be able to access power tillers, rotovators, harvesting threshers, pesticide sprayers, milling machines, seed drills, tractor-operated implements, and two- and four-wheel tractors up to 40 HP capacity.

Officials said the government will bear 50% of the equipment cost for SC, ST, small, marginal, and women farmers, while other farmers will receive a 40 per cent subsidy. Applications can be filed through Rythu Seva Kendras and Mee Seva centres. Agriculture Department is preparing to invite applications.

To ensure transparency, a committee headed by the Joint Collector, with representatives from agriculture, horticulture, AP Agros, and scientists, will scrutinise online applications and finalise beneficiaries.

District Agriculture Officer said the initiative is aimed at improving mechanisation, reducing manual labour, and supporting farmers with modern equipment. The scheme is expected to benefit hundreds of cultivators across the district, particularly small and marginal farmers, by lowering input costs and improving productivity.

Nagpur IIIT student jumps to death from 9th floor of hostel over exam stress

Nagpur.(Agency)

A second-year student of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Nagpur died by suicide after allegedly jumping from the ninth floor of a hostel building on campus in the early hours of Monday, police said, adding that he was under stress over incomplete studies. The victim, identified as 20-year-old Shreyash Chandrakant Mane, a native of Kolhapur, was pursuing Computer Science at the institute. According to police, Mane’s semester examinations were scheduled to begin in a few days, and he was reportedly under stress over incomplete studies. The incident occurred between 4 am and 4.30 am while most hostel residents were asleep.

No suicide note was recovered from the scene, police added.

“A case of accidental death has been registered. We are probing all angles, including personal and academic,” assistant inspector Nilesh Chaurse said. Following the incident, a large number of students gathered on campus, expressing shock and anguish. Officials said further clarity on the circumstances leading to the death is expected after examination of the student’s mobile phone. An investigation is underway.

Health Scheme Fraud Worth Crores Unearthed In Rajasthan, 2 Arrested

Jaipur.(Agency)

The Special Operations Group (SOG) has unearthed a major fraud in the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme, involving doctors and a lab operator allegedly causing financial losses worth crores to the state exchequer, police said. Additional Director General of Police (SOG) Vishal Bansal said on Monday that the irregularities came to light during a probe into the implementation of the RGHS, a flagship scheme aimed at providing free and accessible healthcare services to the general public and government employees. According to officials, the fraud was carried out through a nexus between certain doctors and laboratory operators, who allegedly generated fake prescriptions and diagnostic reports to claim reimbursements from the state government.



Two accused -- Dr Kamal Kumar Agrawal, an associate professor (Orthopaedics) posted at SK Hospital in Sikar and Dr Banwari Lal alias B Lal, operator of a private lab in Sikar -- have been arrested in connection with the case, police said.

Police said the accused doctors allegedly prescribed unnecessary diagnostic tests, including expensive MRI scans, without examining patients or even in their absence. Fake reports were then prepared and uploaded to the RGHS portal to claim

payments.

In some instances, normal MRI tests were falsely billed as "contrast MRI" to inflate claims, while in others, multiple reports were generated for a single test to raise additional claims, officials said.

Investigations also revealed that prescriptions were issued on days when the concerned doctors were not present, and report dates were manipulated to process fraudulent claims. In one case, an MRI report dated December 4, 2023, was altered to December 5 to secure reimbursement, even though the patient had not visited Sikar on that day. In another instance, claims were raised in the name of a patient admitted to a different hospital. Officials further said that in several cases, referrals from private doctors were altered as issued by government doctors to make them eligible under the RGHS.

JTC fixes Mahanadi water availability for Odisha, Chhattisgarh

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)

The annual availability of water from the Mahanadi river for Odisha and Chhattisgarh has been fixed by the joint technical committee (JTC) of the two states at 33.17 million acre feet (MAF) and 28.94 MAF respectively. The figures were submitted to the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) during its last hearing on May 2 in New Delhi.

The average annual yield of the Mahanadi river water for the two states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh has also been fixed at 33.17 MAF and 28.94 MAF. Both the states, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, have reached these figures during the meetings of the JTC during the last one year.

Official sources here agreed that Odisha is ahead in availability and yield of Mahanadi river water.

The figure quoted pertains to whole Mahanadi basin including Western catchment and Chilika water body.



According to the document submitted to the Tribunal with the consent of both the states, the availability of Mahanadi water varies with dependability of 50 per cent, 70 per cent and 90 per cent.

The average total availability has been fixed at 62.36 MAF. The water availability at 50 per cent, 70 per cent and 90 per cent dependability has been fixed at 61.12 MAF, 46.62 MAF and 37.25 MAF respectively. Similarly, the total yield of Mahanadi river up to the sea (excluding Western catchment

and Chilika water body) has been fixed at 62.36 MAF.

Annual yields over many years constitute the time series of annual yield. From this the average annual yield, 75 per cent dependable yield and 50 per cent dependable yield are calculated. This means, 75 pc or 50 pc of the times this yield is expected to be carried by the river.

The Tribunal in its May 2 order stated that the assessments of the annual water availability of Mahanadi basin at various locations and state-wise water availability at various dependabilities besides the average, have been carried out by both the states from 1980- 81 to 2018-19. It said that the proceedings have been approved by the chief ministers of both the states, Mohan Charan Majhi and Vishnu Deo Sai.

The Tribunal also appreciated the genuine and serious concern shown by both the chief ministers for resolving the long-pending Mahanadi water dispute which is the lifeline of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Two arrested with gold worth Rs 5 lakh in Andhra's Markapuram

ONGOLE.(Agency)

Markapuram district police on Monday arrested two habitual offenders involved in a series of house burglaries and temple thefts in various police station limits and recovered gold and silver jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh along with Rs 20,000 cash from their possession.

The accused were identified as Bhupani Sai (23), a resident of Jagga mbhotla Krishnapuram village in Bestavaripeta mandal, and Chinna Saida Rao of Cumbum. Markapuram DSP U

Nagaraju, along with Cumbum Circle Inspector K Mallikarjuna, Sub-Inspector A Sivakrishna Reddy and police personnel, addressed a press conference at the Cumbum Circle Inspector’s office and disclosed details

of the arrests and recovery.

Police said the operation was carried out under the directions of Superintendent of Police V Harsha Vardhan Raju and



the supervision of DSP Nagaraju.

As part of the investigation, the Cumbum CI and SI, along with their teams, launched an extensive search operation to trace Bhupani Sai, who was allegedly involved in several house-breaking and temple theft cases

in Cumbum and Ardhaveedu mandals.

Police said Bhupani Sai, an eighth-class school dropout, became addicted to bad habits and allegedly turned to thefts from December 2021 to meet his expenses and lifestyle needs.

Investigators said he committed several house and temple thefts in villages under the limits of Cumbum and Ardhaveedu police stations. A total of five cases were registered against him in the two police station limits. On Monday morning, the Cumbum SI and his team arrested Bhupani Sai near Ankalamma Temple close to the village water tank road in

Cumbum. Police recovered around 20 grams of gold jewellery, 25 tulas of silver ornaments and Rs 20,000 cash from his possession. In a separate case, police arrested Chinna Saida Rao in house theft reported in Ganesh Nagar area of Cumbum.

KSRTC staffers seek pay parity, salary arrears

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Transport employees of Karnataka State Road Transport Employees League and unions intensified their agitation by staging a protest at Freedom Park on Monday, demanding implementation of pre-election assurances, including pay parity with government staff, and clearance of pending dues. In a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the League pointed out that though the government has held multiple meetings over the past three years, no concrete steps have been taken to fulfil promises made in its election manifesto.

Instead, they criticised the continuation of the existing wage revision system with marginal hikes of 3-7 per cent, calling it “inadequate and demoralising”.

The letter also said financial distress has worsened, affecting their ability to meet daily expenses, children’s education costs, and other essential needs.

The League leaders warned of intensified protests if demands remain unmet. They said a decision on a stronger agitation would be taken collectively on Sunday. Key demands include implementation of pay on par with government employees based on the 7th Pay Commission with effect from January 1, 2024; payment of 38 months’ salary arrears since January 1, 2020 (with 26 months already notified).



Instagram healer lured woman, forced her into nude call, then blackmailed for cash

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A cyber fraud case has surfaced in Ahmedabad where a young woman was allegedly lured through a fake astrology profile on social media, coerced into a nude video call, and later blackmailed for money. Police say the accused posed as a transgender spiritual healer to gain the victim’s trust before extorting cash.

According to investigators, the victim contacted an Instagram account named “Astrologer Pooja Kinnar Maa” seeking help for a personal relationship issue. During conversations, the accused offered to perform rituals to resolve her problem and asked for photographs as part of the process. Police said the accused first morphed the victim’s images and

threatened to circulate them. He then allegedly pressured her into a nude video call on the pretext of completing the ritual and recorded the interaction.

BLACKMAIL AND EXTORTION

The victim was subsequently blackmailed using the recorded video and forced to transfer money. She paid around Rs 1.43 lakh before approaching the cyber crime unit when further demands were made.

Investigators said the accused used multiple phone numbers and messaging platforms to sustain pressure and avoid detection.

Ahmedabad Cyber Crime officials have arrested Rajneesh Bhargava from Bikaner in Rajasthan. Two other accused,



identified as Vikas Bhargava and Ravi Bhargava, are currently absconding.

According to police, the trio operated several fake Instagram and Facebook profiles, posing as astrologers, spiritual gurus, and transgender figures to target victims.

WIDE NETWORK, HUNDREDS TARGETED

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Lavina Sinha said the accused are aged between 20 and 25 and have been running the racket for over two years. They reportedly contacted nearly 300 people daily, with dozens falling into their trap. Victims were initially asked to pay 3,000 to 15,000 for rituals. Once engaged, they were manipulated into sharing private content, which was then used for blackmail. Preliminary findings suggest the group has duped hundreds of people and extorted between Rs 40 and 42 lakh. Police added that many victims may not have come forward due.

NEWS BOX

Neymar accused of assault on Santos teammate after heated training clash

New Delhi. (Agency)

Neymar has landed in controversy after an alleged altercation with teammate Robinho Jr. during a Santos training session. The incident has led to serious accusations and forced Santos FC to step in. The clash is reported to have taken place during Sunday's training, with tensions escalating after an on-field moment between the two players. While Neymar has not commented publicly, the matter has quickly gained attention after formal complaints were made.

Santos have since confirmed that an internal investigation has been launched into the incident. With Robinho Jr. reportedly accusing Neymar of physical misconduct and even considering his future at the club, the situation has taken a serious turn ahead of Santos' upcoming fixtures.

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN NEYMAR AND ROBINHO JR?

According to ESPN, the incident began after Robinho Jr. dribbled past Neymar during training, which reportedly did not sit well with the senior player.

Neymar is alleged to have reacted by tripping the youngster, leading to a heated exchange between the two. The situation escalated quickly, with teammates stepping in to separate them as tensions boiled over. Robinho Jr. has accused Neymar of using offensive language, tripping him, and delivering a slap during the altercation. The 18-year-old is said to have been deeply upset by the incident.

Sources also suggest Neymar later attempted to calm things down by reaching out to Robinho Jr. and his family with an apology, though the matter remains unresolved.

WHAT STEPS HAS SANTOS TAKEN?

Santos have initiated an investigation through their legal department into the events of May 3. The club has stated that the matter is being reviewed and that appropriate action will follow based on the findings. Robinho Jr.'s representatives have also sent an extrajudicial notice to the club, demanding action and raising concerns over player safety.

There are also reports that Robinho Jr. could consider terminating his contract if the situation is not handled adequately. Despite the controversy, Neymar is expected to feature in Santos' upcoming Copa Sudamericana fixture against Deportivo Recoleta, with the focus now split between on-field duties and the outcome of the investigation.

Premier League title race out of Manchester City's hands after Everton draw: Guardiola

New Delhi. (Agency)

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has admitted that the Premier League title race is out of their hands following their 3-3 draw against Everton on Monday, May 4. City need a last-gasp equaliser from Jeremy Doku to avoid getting beaten on the night as they had the chance to go level with Arsenal had they won their clash with Everton and the match against Brentford on Saturday.

It was Doku who gave the visitors the lead in the 43rd minute before City capitulated in the second half of the game with some costly mistakes. They gave Everton the chance to get back into the contest as a costly error from Marc Guehi allowed Thierno Barry to get the equaliser.

Jack O'Brien then gave the home side the lead before Barry got his second of the night. City pulled one back through Erling Haaland, before Doku got the equaliser with a thunderous strike, to get the City fans back into the stadium after they started making their exits early. Speaking after the match, as quoted by Reuters, Guardiola said that he expects City's remaining four games to be similar to the Everton test. "It's now not in our hands, before it was, now no," Guardiola said.

"Four games we have (remaining) in the Premier League. They will be quite similar and we'll see what happens."

City are five points behind Arsenal, albeit with a game in hand, but will now have to hope that Arsenal slip up in their remaining three matches, which appear to be easier on paper. The Gunners face relegation-threatened West Ham, already-relegated Burnley and Crystal Palace in the final stretch.

Guardiola said that the point gained was better than a loss in the end. "It's better than losing," he said. "We'd rather win. We play for that and we just showed what a team we are. We tried everything. The players were aggressive." City will be facing Brentford, Palace, Bournemouth and Aston Villa in their final four games and have a FA Cup final with Chelsea to play before the end of the season. Doku rallied his side and refused to throw in the towel just yet, saying that they will fight till the end.

What's wrong with Jasprit Bumrah? Sunil Gavaskar explains MI pacer's IPL 2026 issues

Sunil Gavaskar has said Jasprit

Bumrah is overcomplicating his bowling during a lean IPL 2026

for Mumbai Indians. With Sanjay

Bangar suggesting a short break,

MI must decide how to restore

his rhythm.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jasprit Bumrah is going through an unusually quiet Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, with the MI spearhead managing just three wickets in 10 matches. Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar believes the problem lies not in effort, but in Bumrah trying to do too much and losing his natural rhythm.

The dip was evident again during Mumbai Indians' win over Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede, where Bumrah went

wicketless for the seventh time this season and conceded 45 runs. MI chased down 229 with ease, but Bumrah's spell stood out for the wrong reasons, including a 21-run over and another no-ball that cost him a wicket.

Speaking to Star Sports, Gavaskar pointed out where things are slipping for the fast bowler.

"Bumrah is giving his best, but he seems to be trying too many extra things. He is creating wicket-taking chances, but luck is not on his side. His pace has also dropped he is overdoing things, and that's hurting him. He should go back to his basics and stick to what works best for him. Trying new things is affecting his rhythm and luck isn't helping either." For a bowler known for control and clarity, this phase has been about small things going wrong repeatedly. The no-balls, the drift in line, the slight drop in pace, all adding up, even on nights when MI are winning comfortably.

WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH BUMRAH IN IPL 2026?



Gavaskar's explanation goes straight to the technical details behind Bumrah's dip. "His go-to slower ball length has become fuller. The line that used to target the stumps is now drifting to leg stump. He is not known for bowling many no-balls, but this season he has already bowled six or seven."

That shift has been visible through the season. Bumrah has conceded 329 runs in 37 overs at an economy of 8.89, while using slower balls far more frequently than usual.

Even when he has created chances, things haven't fallen his way. Against LSG, a breakthrough turned into a no-ball, and in

another spell, control came but without wickets. It has been a season where the margins have consistently gone against him.

SHOULD MI GIVE SOME REST TO JASPRIT BUMRAH?

Former India batting coach and all-rounder Sanjay Bangar believes the solution may not be purely technical. "We are in that space that the management can probably honestly sit and have a chat. Ask him: 'are you feeling 100% from within'; 'do you want to take a break for a game or so'," Bangar said. The suggestion comes from the idea that Bumrah might benefit from stepping away briefly, resetting physically and mentally, before returning sharper for the final stretch.

"And if he says 'no, I am good to go, I will play', you will probably see a better version of him, because he will try to push even harder," Bangar added. For MI, it's a delicate balance. They need Bumrah at his best, but right now, the bigger question is whether simplifying his approach, or even taking a short break, is the key to getting him back there.

You should go home: How Ruturaj Gaikwad sparked Overton-Tilak clash during MI vs CSK

New Delhi. (Agency)

Did Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad incite the altercation between Jamie Overton and Tilak Varma during the MI vs CSK clash at the Wankhede? The England all-rounder has revealed the role that Ruturaj played in his war of words with Tilak during a CSK event with kids. The incident between Tilak Varma and Jamie Overton unfolded after the final ball of the 10th over of the Mumbai innings during the match on April 23, when tempers flared briefly.

Tilak nudged the ball to mid-wicket and looked for a second, but was sent back by Suryakumar Yadav. While returning, he had to swerve past Overton at the non-striker's end, triggering a heated exchange between the two. Suryakumar and the umpires quickly stepped in to



calm things down. Did Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad incite the altercation between Jamie Overton and Tilak Varma during the MI vs CSK clash at the Wankhede? The England all-rounder has revealed the role that Ruturaj played in his war of words with Tilak during a CSK event with kids.

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However, both players were later seen embracing during the post-match handshakes, signalling that all was well despite the earlier confrontation.

While attending the CSK event, Overton was asked by a young fan about what actually happened between him and Tilak. The CSK all-rounder quickly put his captain on the spotlight. "No, no, no. Maybe you should ask Rutu.

When will Hardik Pandya return from injury? Rickelton shares update on MI captain



New Delhi. (Agency)

Hardik Pandya's absence raised eyebrows ahead of Mumbai Indians' clash against Lucknow Super Giants, with the MI captain missing yet another IPL 2026 game. The all-rounder's fitness has now become a fresh concern for the franchise as the tournament enters a crucial phase.

In his absence, Suryakumar Yadav stepped in to lead MI, marking the second time this season Pandya has missed a game. While MI did not initially provide full clarity, the situation became clearer as updates emerged during and after the match.

Speaking after MI's win, opener Ryan Rickelton admitted that even the players were not fully aware of the severity of the issue. "I don't know when he's expected to be back. I found out this afternoon that he had back spasms, so I'm unaware of the extent of it. I don't want to call it an injury; I'm unaware of how bad it is or what he's feeling. But I'm sure he'll be with the group again as we head to Raipur this week," Rickelton said.

The update suggests that while the injury is not being treated as a long-term setback, there is still no fixed timeline for Pandya's return.

WHY DID HARDIK PANDYA NOT PLAY MI vs LSG?

Mumbai Indians confirmed before the match that Pandya was unavailable due to a back spasm.

The issue reportedly surfaced close to the game, with MI stating that the all-rounder was "unwell," prompting Suryakumar to take over captaincy duties. This was also the second match Pandya has missed this season, having earlier sat out the game against Delhi Capitals. Back spasms, while not always serious, can be tricky to manage, especially for an all-rounder who contributes with both bat and ball.

Release Rishabh Pant as captain, we're losing him as batter: Pundits tell LSG

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India cricketers Rohan Gavaskar and Manoj Tiwary said that LSG should make the bold call and release Rishabh Pant from his captaincy duties. Both pundits feel that Pant the batter is taking a toll due to being skipper of the team after they lost to MI. Under Pant's captaincy, Lucknow have won just eight out of 23 matches and find themselves rooted to the bottom of the IPL 2026 points table. As a batter, the southpaw has scored just 204 runs in nine matches at a strike-rate of 128.30 and an average of 25.50.

Speaking on Cricbuzz, Gavaskar said that LSG need to take Pant out of the firing line after the season and should be allowed to focus purely on his batting from IPL 2027.

"Sanjiv Goenka had once said in an interview that he wants Pant to create a

legacy, play for LSG for the next 10-15 years and win trophies. But sometimes you've got to put certain players out of the firing line. After this season, LSG



must decide whether they want to keep him as captain. He should be allowed to focus only on his batting, because we all know his capabilities and talent."

"When the team performs badly, that pressure also falls on the skipper. So release him from that and allow him to

play freely," Gavaskar said.

'WE ARE LOSING PANT THE BATTER'

Tiwary chimed in and said that the pressure of captaincy has affected the batting of Pant and play him as a pure batter.

"I feel that, under the pressure of captaincy, we are losing Pant the batter — someone who has performed in international cricket and the IPL previously. He is not getting those runs this season. So release him from the captaincy burden and let him play purely as a batter.

That would be best for LSG," Tiwary added. The comments from Gavaskar and Tiwary echoed the same sentiment from Wasim Jaffer, who told LSG to replace Pant as skipper and give the responsibility to Aiden Markram. The latest loss means that Lucknow are all but out of the race for a playoff spot this season.

Foul play in RR sale? Kal Somani-led group say they were pushed out of deal

The Kal Somani-led consortium has

claimed it was pushed out of the

Rajasthan Royals ownership deal

despite leading the bid for six months.

The statement challenges reports that

it withdrew and raises questions over

how the franchise sale was handled.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Kal Somani-led consortium claimed that they were pushed out of a deal to secure a majority stake in Rajasthan Royals. It was reported on March 24 that Somani, along with Rob Walton of the Walmart family and the Hamp family (owners of the NFL's

Detroit Lions) acquired the inaugural IPL champions in a deal worth \$1.63 billion (approx. Rs 15,000 crore).

However, on May 3, it was confirmed that the Mittal family, headed by Lakshmi N. Mittal and Aditya Mittal, had entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the franchise in a deal worth approximately USD 1.65 billion (around Rs 15,660 crore). There were also reports suggesting that the Somani-led consortium had pulled out of the race for the franchise.

"We are deeply disappointed not to be part of the Rajasthan Royals ownership group, following a long six-month process in which we were the lead bid from start to finish." "Our consortium worked tirelessly to assemble a distinguished group of investors, with ownership experience across the NFL, MLB, EPL, La Liga and TGL. Included in the group were select global superstars from



the top tiers of professional sports. We were all motivated by the opportunity to help take the IPL to new international heights. Throughout the process, we were the strongest group at every stage, competing against some of the most prominent investors across the sports investing landscape," read the statement.

SOMANI-LED GROUP SQUASHES RUMOURS ON RR BID

The group also said that the reports floating around in the media at the moment, they were fully funded and ready to close the deal and never withdrew their bid. They also alleged that it wasn't a level playing field in the end and said such a process needed to be conducted with transparency, consistency, integrity and good faith.

"Contrary to stories that have been planted in the press, our group was and has always been fully funded, prepared to close with certainty, and never withdrew our bid.

We had executed documentation in place and were told that the franchise's board meeting on Saturday was held to approve our consortium. In the end this was never the case. We approached this process with the highest standards of honesty, integrity, professionalism and in good faith, but unfortunately that wasn't enough."

Jacqueline Fernandez

To Return To Cannes Film Festival 2026,
Actress Finalising Red Carpet Looks

Jacqueline Fernandez is set to return to the Cannes Film Festival this year. The actor, who has been a regular presence at the prestigious international film gala over the past few years, is reportedly preparing for her appearance at the 79th edition of the festival.

A source shared, as quoted by Hindustan Times, "The actor is currently in the process of finalising her various looks before heading to France." The 79th annual Cannes Film Festival will be held from May 12 to May 23, 2026.

Jacqueline Fernandez's Cannes Journey

Jacqueline's association with Cannes has grown stronger in recent years. Last year, she was honoured by the Red Sea Film Foundation's Women in Cinema initiative. She was among six global honourees recognised for their contribution to cinema, marking an important moment for South Asian representation on an international platform.

Before that, Jacqueline attended Cannes in 2024, where she represented India and was also present at the premiere of The Substance. Her appearances at the festival have often drawn attention for both her fashion choices and her role in bringing Indian cinema visibility on the global red carpet.

With her return this year, expectations are high around her Cannes looks and appearances.

Payal Kapadia To Head Critics' Week Jury

Apart from Jacqueline's return to Cannes, Indian cinema will also have another important representation at the festival this year. Filmmaker Payal Kapadia has been named president of the jury for the 65th edition of Critics' Week, the independent sidebar of the Cannes Film Festival. Kapadia, who won the Cannes Competition Grand Prix for her acclaimed film All We Imagine As Light, will lead a jury that includes Ama Ampadu, senior production and development executive at the BFI Filmmaking Fund, Quebecois actor Theodore Pellerin, French musician Oklou and Thai journalist Donsaron Kovitvanitcha. Critics' Week 2026 will run from May 13 to May 21. With Jacqueline Fernandez returning to the red carpet and Payal Kapadia taking on a key jury role, India's presence at Cannes 2026 is already shaping up to be significant.



Katrina Kaif And Vicky Kaushal Make FIRST Joint Appearance After Welcoming Son Vihaan



Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif were spotted out and about in Mumbai on Sunday evening, marking one of their first proper public appearances together after welcoming their son. The couple kept it effortlessly stylish in coordinated looks, with Katrina opting for an oversized black coat paired with black pants and chunky sneakers, finishing the look with dark sunglasses. Vicky, meanwhile, kept it casual in a black T-shirt and trousers layered with a brown suede jacket and a cap, completing his look with beige sneakers.

The clips have gone viral as Katrina has largely stayed away from the public eye since becoming a mother, making this one of her first proper appearances post-delivery. The couple welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Vihaan Kaushal, on November 7, 2025, sharing the news with a heartfelt statement.

Katrina and Vicky had earlier announced their pregnancy in September 2025 with a joint post that read, "On our way to start the best chapter of our lives with hearts full of joy and gratitude." The announcement came after months of speculation, and Katrina kept a relatively low profile throughout her pregnancy.

The couple got married on December 9, 2021, in an intimate ceremony at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. On the work front, Katrina was last seen in Merry Christmas (2024), which released on January 12, 2024, marking her most recent on-screen appearance, after which she has not announced a new film and has largely stayed away from the spotlight, especially during her pregnancy and after welcoming her son. Vicky Kaushal, meanwhile, was last seen in the 2025 historical action film Chhaava, which went on to become one of the biggest hits of the year. He is currently working on Love & War, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and co-starring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. The film is one of the most anticipated projects in Bollywood and is currently under production.

Huma Qureshi, Rachit Singh Set To Marry Later This Year, Wedding Prep Begins



Looks like wedding bells might be on the way for Huma Qureshi and this time, it's not just rumours doing the rounds. Something real seems to be quietly coming together behind the scenes. As per a report by Hindustan Times, Huma and her partner Rachit Singh are planning to get married later this year. The couple, who have mostly kept their relationship private, have already begun preparations for their big day.

A source told Hindustan Times, "They are planning an October end or November wedding as of now. The preparations have begun." The celebrations are expected to reflect Huma's personal style — simple, warm, and close-knit. Sharing more details, the source added, "Knowing Huma she will have a good intimate wedding party and then throw a reception for the industry. May be not a lavish wedding but something that only her close friends and family will attend, followed by a big reception. As of now its most probably looking like Mumbai."

Speculation about their relationship had been growing for a while. The two were spotted together at a screening of Thamma and later attended Sonakshi Sinha's wedding, which caught attention. In September 2025, Hindustan Times had earlier reported that the couple got engaged in the US. Speaking about the proposal, a source had shared, "Huma and Rachit have been going strong for a while as a couple and on Sunday, he proposed to her in an intimate proposal and she said yes. It was a close-knit affair that took place in the US. They are yet to decide when they want to make it official by announcing it publicly."

The two were also recently seen travelling together from the Mumbai airport, one of the rare times they've been spotted publicly as a couple.

Rachit Singh, originally from Varanasi, moved to New Delhi in 2012 and briefly explored modelling before shifting to Mumbai in 2016 to pursue a career in entertainment, according to his IMDb profile. Early in his journey, he worked closely with casting director Atul Mongia and helped set up Artist Collective, a platform focused on actor training. Over the years, he has built a strong reputation as an acting coach. Through his initiative, Rachit Singh Workshop, he has conducted more than 100 sessions, working with several well-known names including Ranveer Singh, Varun Dhawan, Vicky Kaushal, Anushka Sharma, Gulshan Devaiah, Imaad Shah, Kunal Kapoor, Pooja Hegde, Harshvardhan Rane, Amruta Subhash, Shahana Goswami, Ahana Kumra, Aneet Padda, and Shanaya Kapoor.

Janhvi Kapoor's

Team Issues Official Note On Her Alcohol Remark:
'Misinformation In This Space Is Harmful'

Janhvi Kapoor recently made headlines when her statement on the Raj Shamani Podcast was taken out of context, with many assuming she had spoken about addiction. Now, Off the Rocks, an initiative by the actress, has issued an official statement clarifying her stand. The official statement was also shared by Janhvi Kapoor on her Instagram story, which reads, "We at Off The Rocks & Amaha have noticed certain media pages



misrepresenting content associated with this initiative and Janhvi Kapoor. This is deeply concerning."

"We want to be clear, Janhvi Kapoor is part of this conversation as a caregiver and ally, not as someone who has had any personal experience of addiction or alcohol dependence. Such misrepresentation not only diminishes her role, but also undermines and disrespects the real, lived experiences of those

battling addiction and those supporting them. Let's not trivialise efforts to lend a healing hand to a critical problem by misleading information for the sake of clickbait," the statement further read.

It concluded with, "We strongly call upon media outlets, digital platforms, and individuals to report with integrity and ensure conversations around addiction are handled with the sensitivity they deserve. Misinformation in this space is harmful, irresponsible, and disrespectful to the very community this dialogue aims to support. Thank you for standing with us."

What did Janhvi say?

Janhvi, on the Raj Shamani Podcast, shared, "I would not say I was addicted or I was abusing alcohol, but I was drinking frequently. And this was after a very traumatic experience in my life. I felt the need to just, like, 'I need to get drunk'." Janhvi also revealed that the realisation did not arrive through a dramatic breaking point. Instead, it came from noticing how



NEWS BOX

**‘Will blow Iran off the Earth’:
Trump warns over attacks on
ships in Strait of Hormuz**

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump has warned that Iran would be “blown off the face of the Earth” if it attacked American vessels providing security to ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz.

Talking to Fox News, Trump added that the United States “can’t let Iran have a nuclear weapon”. His remarks come amid heightened tensions after Iran allegedly targeted some vessels being escorted through the strait under “Project Freedom”, an initiative launched by the US Central Command on the President’s orders.

US targets Iranian boats

Trump said the US military had destroyed seven small boats linked to Iran, further escalating tensions around the strategic waterway. Posting on his social media platform Truth Social, he claimed Iran had attacked several ships, including a South Korean cargo vessel being escorted through the strait, which has effectively been shut since the war with Iran began on February 28.

“If you’re escorting a ship, you’re playing kind of one on one. I think we have a much better defensive arrangement in this process,” he said. “We have a much broader defensive package than you would have ever if you were just escorting.”

The US President also said Iran had targeted vessels from other countries under Project Freedom and urged South Korea to join the mission. “Perhaps it is time for South Korea to participate,” he said.

Trump added that the US possesses advanced weapons and ammunition and maintains a strong global military presence. “We have the best equipment... our bases around the world are fully stocked. We can use them, and we will if necessary,” he said.

‘Can’t let Iran have a nuclear weapon’

Speaking at the White House Small Business Summit, President Trump said, “We can’t let Iran have a nuclear weapon. We hit all new highs, and I said we have to take care of business because we can’t let that happen.”

**Ex-JPMorgan banker Chirayu
Rana faked father’s death to
get paid leave before filing
bombshell lawsuit: Report**

New York. (Agency)

Fresh details have emerged in the high-profile legal dispute involving former JPMorgan Chase banker Chirayu Rana, who has accused a former colleague of sexual misconduct.

According to a report by the New York Post, Rana allegedly misled the bank by falsely claiming his father had died in order to secure nearly three months of paid leave, time he is now alleged to have used to prepare his lawsuit against the bank and former colleague Lorna Hajdini.

Chirayu Rana news

Sources told the publication that Rana informed supervisors in December 2024 that his father, Chaitanya Rana, had passed away and that he needed leave to be with family. The report claims he combined bereavement leave with other paid leave benefits to remain away from work for an extended period. However, the report states that his father is alive. When contacted, Chaitanya Rana reportedly said, “I don’t know anything about it. He didn’t talk with us or anything. He’s my son. He’s a good guy.”

Chirayu Rana case

Rana filed a lawsuit in April under the pseudonym “John Doe”, accusing executive director Lorna Hajdini of drugging him and coercing him into sexual acts while threatening his career. The lawsuit includes allegations involving Rohypnol and Viagra. However, the bank has denied the claims.

**Elon Musk settles SEC lawsuit
over Twitter disclosures, \$1.5
million fine imposed**

World. (Agency)

Elon Musk settled the US Securities and Exchange Commission’s civil lawsuit accusing the world’s richest person of waiting too long in 2022 to disclose his initial purchases of Twitter, now known as X.

A trust in Musk’s name will pay a \$1.5 million civil fine, under the settlement disclosed on Monday in the Washington, DC, federal court. Musk did not admit wrongdoing, and won’t have to give up any of the \$150 million he allegedly saved from the delay.

The settlement requires approval by US District Judge Sparkle Sooknunan, who in February rejected Musk’s bid to dismiss the case. It ends more than seven years of fraught battles between Musk and the regulator, starting in September 2018 when the SEC charged him with securities fraud for tweeting he had “secured” funding to potentially take his electric car company Tesla private.

Musk settled that case by paying a \$20 million civil fine, letting Tesla lawyers review some Twitter posts in advance, and giving up his role as Tesla’s chairman. “Musk has now been cleared of all issues related to the late filing of forms in the Twitter acquisition, as we said from the outset he would be,” his lawyer Alex Spiro said in a statement. The SEC declined to comment.

**21 killed in China fireworks factory blast; 500
rescuers lead massive relief effort****At least 21 people were****killed and over 60 were****injured in a powerful****explosion at a fireworks****factory in China's Hunan****province.**

World. (Agency)

A powerful explosion at a fireworks manufacturing unit in central China’s Hunan province killed 21 people and injured around 60, triggering a massive rescue operation, state media reported on Tuesday. Nearly 500 rescuers were deployed to the scene and evacuations were conducted in danger zones.

Officials were also evacuating residents within a 3-km radius of the plant, where two warehouses storing black gunpowder continue to pose a significant risk.

The blast happened at a workshop of the Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company in Liuyang, a major hub for firework production, according to reports by Xinhua.

Footage circulating on Chinese social media showed thick plumes of white smoke billowing from the site. The impact of the explosion shattered doors and windows in nearby villages, with residents reporting debris, including large rocks, strewn across roads. Some villagers evacuated the area over safety concerns.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident,



directing authorities to intensify efforts to locate missing persons and treat the injured.

He also urged stricter risk screening and

hazard control across key industries, alongside improved public safety management to safeguard lives and property, the South China Morning Post reported.

China’s Ministry of Emergency Management has dispatched a team to oversee rescue and relief efforts.

Meanwhile, police in Liuyang have detained senior executives of the company as part of an ongoing investigation into the cause of the blast. To prevent secondary explosions during rescue operations, firefighters have been using water cannons to douse the site, while three rescue robots have been deployed to assist in search efforts.

The incident comes less than three months after a separate explosion at a firecracker store in China’s Hubei province killed 12 people.

**If you target US ships near Hormuz, you'll be
blown off Earth: Trump warns Iran**

World. (Agency)

Donald Trump said Iran would be “blown off the face of the earth” if it attacked US vessels involved in a bid to reopen a route through the Strait of Hormuz, as Washington began an operation on Monday to assist hundreds of ships stranded with their crews in the Gulf.

The move has once again pushed the region to the brink of escalation, as Tehran sought to reassert its dominance over the strait — a key route for global trade — and maintain the blockade imposed by it.

The US military said it had destroyed six Iranian small boats and intercepted Iranian cruise missiles and drones, a claim denied by Iran. More than 800 ships and about

20,000 crew members remain stuck in the energy chokepoint in the Gulf.

In an interview with Fox News on Monday, Trump described the US naval effort as “one of the greatest



military manoeuvres ever done” and said Iranian officials had been “far more malleable” in recent talks than before.

Addressing concerns over American weapons stockpiles, he told Fox

News: “We have more weapons and ammunition at a much higher grade than we had before. We have the best equipment. We have stuff all over the world. We have these bases all over the world. They’re all stocked up with equipment. We can use all of that stuff, and we will, if we need it.”

Trump’s latest threat echoed remarks he made in April, when he warned that a “whole civilisation will die” if Tehran did not comply with his demands over the Strait of Hormuz. Those comments drew widespread domestic and international backlash.

His remarks also cast doubt on the fragile ceasefire brokered by Pakistan last month, which halted hostilities but did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of global oil supplies typically pass.

**White House briefly locked after Secret
Service shoots armed person nearby**

World. (Agency)

An officer-involved shooting near the White House on Monday triggered a temporary lockdown and heightened security across central Washington, authorities said.

The US Secret Service confirmed its personnel responded to an incident at 15th Street and Independence Avenue, where one individual was shot by law enforcement. The person’s condition was not immediately known. In an initial statement, the agency said its officers were on the scene of the shooting. It later clarified that the

incident stemmed from a confrontation between an armed individual and Secret Service



Police. The Metropolitan Police Department said officers were assisting at the scene and have secured the area.

Authorities urged the public to avoid the vicinity, warning that road closures would remain in place for several hours.

The White House complex was briefly placed under lockdown as a precaution, though officials did not report any threat to protected individuals.

Security agencies in Washington, DC have been on heightened alert in recent days following a separate shooting incident late last month at the White House Correspondents’ Association Dinner, for which a suspect has already been taken into custody.

**Hormuz flashpoint, US
intercepts drones as Iran
challenges mission**

World. (Agency)

The United States military said it destroyed six Iranian small boats and intercepted multiple cruise missiles and drones as Iran attempted to disrupt a new naval initiative aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

The operation, named “Project Freedom,” was launched on Monday under orders from US President Donald Trump to restore shipping through the strategic waterway, which Iran had effectively shut following the escalation of conflict involving the US and Israel on February 28. According to Reuters, the US Admiral Brad Cooper, head of Central Command, confirmed that Iranian forces, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), had launched coordinated attacks involving missiles, drones, and fast boats targeting vessels under US protection. He said all threats were neutralised. “The IRGC has launched multiple cruise missiles, drones and small boats at ships we are protecting. We have defeated each and every one of those threats through the clinical application of defensive munitions,” Cooper said.

The operation involves around 15,000 US troops, supported by Navy destroyers, over 100 aircraft, helicopters, and undersea assets. US forces have also deployed electronic warfare systems as part of a multi-layered defence strategy. Cooper warned Iranian forces to stay clear of US assets, adding that commanders on the ground have full authority to defend both military units and commercial shipping. In a key development, the US said it had successfully cleared parts of the Strait of Hormuz and demonstrated safe passage by escorting two US-flagged commercial ships through the corridor.

**Russia and Ukraine declare competing
ceasefires to mark Victory Day****The announcements on Monday come****as Russia prepares to celebrate its most****important secular holiday with a****traditional military parade on Moscow's****Red Square pared down due to what****officials say are concerns over possible****Ukrainian attacks.**

World. (Agency)

Russia’s Defense Ministry declared a unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine for Friday and Saturday to mark the 81st anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, but it threatened to strike back at Kyiv if it tries to disrupt the Victory Day festivities.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in response said his country would observe a truce beginning at 12

a.m. on Wednesday and respond in kind to Russia’s actions from that moment on. He did not put an end date on the truce.

The announcements on Monday come as Russia prepares to celebrate its most important secular holiday with a traditional military parade on Moscow’s Red Square pared down due to what officials say are concerns over possible Ukrainian attacks. Ukraine has been launching drone attacks deep inside Russia to counter its more than 4-year-old invasion.

They also follow a familiar pattern of previous attempts to secure ceasefires — most recently around Orthodox Easter — that had little to no impact.

The Defense Ministry said if Ukraine attempts to disrupt Saturday’s celebrations, Russia will carry out a “massive missile strike on the center of



Kyiv.” It warned the civilian population there and employees of foreign diplomatic missions of “the need to leave the city promptly.”

Zelenskyy responded by saying that while Kyiv has not received any official requests for a truce, in the time left until midnight on Wednesday “it is realistic to ensure” that a ceasefire takes effect. He urged the Kremlin “to take real steps to end their war, especially since Russia’s Defense Ministry believes it cannot hold

a parade in Moscow without Ukraine’s goodwill.”

For years, the Kremlin has used the pomp-filled Victory Day parade to showcase its military might and global clout, and it has been a source of patriotic pride.

But this year, the parade in the Russian capital will take place without tanks, missiles and other military equipment for the first time in nearly two decades. Some of the smaller parades that are held elsewhere across the country have also been pared down or even canceled for security reasons.

Speaking at a summit with European leaders in Armenia on Monday, Zelenskyy said that the Russian authorities “fear drones may buzz over Red Square” on May 9. “This is telling. It shows they are not strong now, so we must keep up the pressure through sanctions on them,” he said.