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## Fuel Prices Hiked Again

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel prices were increased across the country on Saturday, marking the third fuel price hike in the last 10 days amid rising global crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions in West Asia. State-run oil companies raised petrol prices by 87 paise per litre and diesel prices by 91 paise per litre. In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 99.51 per litre, while diesel has risen to Rs 92.49 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol prices climbed to Rs 108.49 per litre and diesel to Rs 95.02 per litre. Kolkata also witnessed a sharp increase, with petrol priced at Rs 110.64 per litre and diesel at Rs 97.02 per litre. The repeated hikes have raised concerns among commuters, transport operators and businesses already facing increasing operational costs. Experts warned that rising fuel prices could further increase transportation expenses and add to inflationary pressure on essential goods and services. A day earlier, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had assured that there was no shortage of petrol or diesel in the country and urged the public to avoid panic buying. The ministry said fuel supplies remain stable and are being closely monitored to prevent disruptions. Officials maintained that the price revisions were necessary to offset rising import costs and maintain fuel supply stability amid volatile global energy markets.



## Not Targeting India

Rubio clarifies on New US Green Card Rules



New Delhi: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the new US green card rules are not specifically aimed at India but are part of a broader immigration overhaul. Rubio stated that the reforms were introduced to address growing concerns over illegal immigration and alleged misuse of the green card system. He said the changes may initially create inconvenience but would eventually make the immigration process more efficient and stable. Under the new policy announced by the Trump administration, most green card applicants will now have to return to their home countries to complete the process, except in extraordinary cases. The changes are expected to impact temporary visa holders, including H-1B professionals, international students, researchers, and tourists currently living in US.

## China Mine Blast Kills 90

Beijing: At least 90 people were killed after a massive gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in northern China's Shanxi province, marking the country's deadliest mining disaster in nearly 17 years. The explosion occurred on Friday evening at the Liushenyu coal mine in Qinyuan county while 247 workers were underground. According to Chinese state media, emergency authorities were alerted after a carbon monoxide sensor inside the mine was triggered shortly before the blast. The mine is operated by the Tongzhou Group and preliminary investigations have reportedly found "serious illegal violations" by the company. Chinese authorities said a rigorous investigation has been launched and those responsible would face strict punishment under the law. Rescue operations continued through Saturday, with hundreds of emergency personnel and medical teams deployed at the site. State media visuals showed rescue workers carrying stretchers from the mine as ambulances lined the area. At least 123 injured workers were shifted to hospitals, with several reported to be in critical condition. Some survivors described scenes of



panic underground, with smoke, toxic gas and workers struggling to breathe before losing consciousness. Chinese President Xi Jinping directed authorities to "spare no effort" in rescue and medical operations and ordered a full investigation into the disaster. Premier Li Qiang also called for strict accountability and improved workplace safety measures. The tragedy has once again highlighted safety concerns in China's coal mining industry despite years of tighter regula-

tions. Shanxi province remains the country's largest coal-producing region and has witnessed several major mining accidents over the years. Officials revealed that the Liushenyu mine had earlier been flagged by China's mine safety administration in 2024 over severe safety hazards, including dangerous gas levels. Investigations into the exact cause of the explosion are continuing.

### Modi Condolences

Indian PM Modi expressed condolences over the deaths caused by the coal mine blast in China's Shanxi Province and conveyed sympathies to Chinese President Xi Jinping and the people of China.

## TG Cabinet Clears Key Decisions

Hyderabad, May 23: The Telangana Cabinet chaired by Revanah Reddy approved several major decisions aimed at boosting infrastructure, public welfare, employment and long-term development across the State. One of the key decisions focused on preparations for the Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled in 2027. The government approved a budget allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for conducting the religious event on a grand scale and improving facilities for devotees. The funds will be utilised for construction of ghats, road connectivity, sanitation, drinking water supply and other infrastructure works at key pilgrimage centres. The Cabinet also approved the immediate release of Rs 300 crore to begin preliminary works and preparations. The meeting also cleared proposals

linked to national security infrastructure in Karimnagar district. Government land was allocated for establishing group centres related to the Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a move expected to strengthen institutional and security infrastructure in the region. The Cabinet further approved creation of new posts in the education and emergency services sectors. Additional staff positions were sanctioned for a government degree college and a proposed fire station to improve public services and create employment opportunities. Officials stated that the decisions taken during the Cabinet meeting would help strengthen infrastructure, improve governance and support Telangana's long-term development goals.



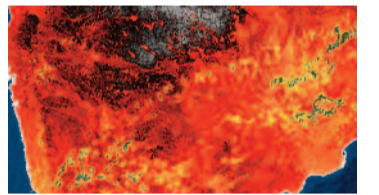
### Key Decisions:

- Godavari Pushkaralu preparations approved with Rs 1,000 crore allocation
- Rs 300 crore released immediately for Pushkar works and infrastructure
- Land allocated in Karimnagar

- for Assam Rifles, BSF and CISF group centres
- New posts sanctioned in education and emergency service departments
- Approval given for strengthening public infrastructure and employment generation

## 16 Die in Telangana Heatwave

Hyderabad, May 23: At least 16 people have died due to severe heatwave conditions across Telangana, prompting the State government to announce an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of the victims. According to Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, the deaths were reported from seven districts, including Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Warangal Urban, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Jogulamba Gadwal, Rangareddy and Suryapet. The Minister held an emergency review meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat on Saturday following warnings from the Meteorological Department that severe heatwave conditions are likely to continue till May 26. District collectors of Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Mulugu, Khammam, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Hyderabad and Rangareddy were directed to stay on high alert and implement precautionary measures to prevent further casualties. Officials were instructed to identify areas recording extreme temperatures and issue advance alerts to residents. Arrangements were also ordered for the supply of drinking water, buttermilk and ORS packets at bus stands, markets and other crowded public places, especially where daily wage labourers gather. The Minister said the intensity of summer heat has increased sharply due to the impact of the El Nino phenomenon and stressed that there should be no negligence in protecting human lives. He also appealed to elderly people, pregnant women, children and those with health issues to avoid stepping outdoors between 11 am and 4 pm unless absolutely necessary.



## Cyberabad Drug Bust

Hyderabad, May 23: Cyberabad Police intensified their anti-drug crackdown between April 1 and May 22, 2026, registering 61 cases under the NDPS Act and arresting 154 accused persons involved in narcotics trafficking and consumption. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (SOT) Shoban Kumar, the total value of drugs seized during the operation stood at ₹3.69 crore. The seizures included 559.618 kg of ganja worth ₹2.79 crore in 42 cases, 28.225 kg of ganja chocolates valued at ₹56,450 in two cases, 2.02 litres of hashish oil worth ₹25.25 lakh in five cases, and 317.6 grams of methamphetamine valued at ₹63.52 lakh in two cases. Police also registered 10 consumer-related cases involving 245 grams of dry ganja and 1.8 grams of MDMA, leading to the arrest of



24 persons. Cyberabad Police said the enforcement teams, along with Law and Order Police, are continuing intelligence-based operations and coordinated action against narcotics networks, with special focus on both traditional drugs and emerging synthetic substances. Officials stated that strict enforcement measures against drug trafficking and consumption would continue across the Cyberabad Commissionerate limits.

## NEET-UG Refund Portal Opens

New Delhi: National Testing Agency has opened refund portal for candidates who appeared in the cancelled NEET-UG 2026 exam held on May 3. Students can submit their bank account details on the official portal until May 27 to claim a refund of the examination fee. Candidates must provide account details, including IFSC code, and may also upload a cancelled cheque for verification. The refund process follows the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 over alleged paper leak and exam irregularities. Authorities have arrested 11 people in connection with the case. re-examination is scheduled to be held on June 21.

## Senior Advocate Killed

Hyderabad, May 23: Senior advocate Khaja Moinuddin was killed in a suspected targeted attack after a speeding vehicle rammed into him near his residence in Hyderabad's Masab Tank area on Saturday morning. According to police, the incident occurred under the Nampally Police Station limits when Moinuddin was about to enter his car outside his residence at Shanti Nagar. An unidentified vehicle allegedly hit him from behind at high speed before fleeing the scene. Initially treated as a hit-and-run case, the investigation later took a serious turn after police examined CCTV footage and other evidence. Investigators now suspect the incident may have been a planned attack linked to disputes over Waqf Board lands. Police officials said the footage circulating on social media appears to show the vehicle deliberately targeting the advocate. Secunderabad DCP Rakshitha Krishna Murthy said preliminary investigation points to the possible involvement of a land mafia allegedly connected to disputes over Waqf properties in Malakpet. Police said Moinuddin had been handling several sensitive matters relating to protection of Waqf lands and had opposed alleged encroachments. According to police sources, two persons linked to the land dispute are under suspicion and are currently being questioned. Officials said complaints had earlier been filed against certain individuals for allegedly threatening lawyers involved in property-related cases. Special police teams have been formed to trace the suspects. Meanwhile, Moinuddin's son Farhan alleged that a Congress leader was behind the attack.

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## EDITORIAL

## India's Oil Crisis

The ongoing crisis in West Asia, culminating in the closure of the Strait of Hormuz since early March 2026, has sent global crude prices soaring to a blistering \$144 a barrel. For India, a nation that imports nearly 90% of its crude oil requirements, this is not merely an external geopolitical event; it is a profound domestic shock. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal for citizens to shoulder the burden through austerity measures - curbing fuel consumption, reviving work-from-home models, and minimizing overseas travel-highlights the severity of the situation. Yet, while these palliative steps may offer temporary relief, they underscore a systemic fragility that we can no longer afford to ignore. The symptoms of this crisis are acutely visible and painfully familiar. The recent hikes in retail petrol and diesel prices mark the end of the government's ability to absorb the shock. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had been bleeding heavily, losing an estimated ₹1,000 crore daily before the price adjustments. For the average citizen, this translates directly into inflationary pain. Fuel costs cascade relentlessly into the price of food, transportation, and basic household goods. From a macroeconomic perspective, the situation is equally grim. Every major spike in crude oil inevitably widens our trade deficit, puts downward pressure on the rupee, and threatens fiscal stability. While the government has instituted stop-gap measures-prioritizing domestic gas supply, raising export levies on refined fuels, and attempting to diversify import sources to nations like Venezuela-these are defensive maneuvers, not structural solutions.

In the panic to keep the lights on and the engines running, there is a dangerous temptation to double down on other fossil fuels. The push to run imported-coal plants at full capacity to offset gas shortages is a prime example. While coal might act as a short-term shock absorber for the power grid, it reinforces long-term vulnerability. We still import over 240 million tonnes of coal annually, exposing us to the same international price volatility we are trying to escape, while simultaneously aggravating the severe public health costs of worsened air pollution. Similarly, promoting the transition from Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for household cooking misses the fundamental point. The subsidy burden for LPG, already budgeted at an astronomical ₹11,000 crore for FY2026-2027, is unsustainable in the current climate. However, swapping one imported fossil fuel for another does not shield us from global supply disruptions or price shocks. The 2026 crisis must serve as the catalyst for a radical pivot in our national energy strategy. The era of managing fossil fuel dependence must end; the era of eliminating it must begin. Over 96% of India's 378 million vehicles still run on internal combustion engines. Transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) is no longer just an environmental objective; it is a paramount national security imperative. Electric mobility fundamentally shifts our transport sector away from imported crude to domestically generated electricity. However, this transition demands more than subsidies for buyers. It requires massive, accelerated investments in charging infrastructure and the complete indigenization of supply chains.

## TG20 League to Begin in Telangana

Hyderabad Cricket Association has officially launched TG20, Telangana's first major franchise-based T20 cricket league, in a major boost to cricket development in the state. The announcement was made during the "TG20 Origins - Shape the Future" event held at ITC Kakatiya in Hyderabad in the presence of industrialists, corporate leaders, cricket administrators, franchise owners and media representatives. The inaugural season of TG20 will feature eight teams representing different regions of Telangana, including Hyderabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy. The league has been conceived as a long-term cricketing platform aimed at identifying and nurturing young talent from Telangana. Organisers said TG20 will provide emerging cricketers with exposure similar to leading franchise leagues in the country while also strengthening grassroots cricket across the state. The tournament is expected to feature Telangana players alongside experienced

domestic cricketers under professional coaching and management setups. The league is also likely to generate employment opportunities in areas such as sports management, broadcasting, hospitality and event operations. TG20 organisers are currently in talks with JioStar for live telecast on Star Sports Telugu and streaming on JioHotstar. Marriott Hotels will host the participating teams and officials during the tournament. Former Tamil Nadu Premier League CEO Prasanna Kannan has been appointed to oversee league execution, while TCM Sports Management Pvt Ltd will serve as the exclusive event management partner. HCA Secretary M. Jeevan Reddy described TG20 as a "defining moment" for Telangana cricket and said the league would help build a strong sporting ecosystem in the state. TG20 Governing Council Chairman V. Agam Rao said the league aims to combine sporting excellence, entertainment and commercial growth while creating a strong regional identity for Telangana cricket.



## Founding Franchise Owners

M/S Ushodaya Enterprises Pvt Ltd - Hyderabad	- Rs. 7,50,01,000
M/S Boorugu Infra/Pranava - Ranga Reddy	- Rs. 7,20,00,000
M/S Bain Global Resources Pvt Ltd - Warangal	- Rs. 6,55,00,000
M/S Bhurunda Infra Private Limited - Medak	- Rs. 6,33,33,369
M/S Kishore Infrastructures Pvt Ltd - Nalgonda	- Rs. 5,06,00,000
M/S EIPL Group & Tibarumal - Karimnagar	- Rs. 4,57,00,000
M/S Veerabhadra Steels - Mahabubnagar	- Rs. 4,50,00,000
M/S Anvita Group - Khammam	- Rs. 4,44,44,444

## Telangana Launches HILTP Portal

Hyderabad, May 23: The Telangana government has operationalised the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation Policy (HILTP) and launched a dedicated online portal to facilitate the relocation of polluting industries from Hyderabad's core urban region. D Sridhar Babu formally launched the portal after the government issued detailed implementation guidelines through GOMs No. 81. The Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation Policy, introduced through GOMs No. 27 in November 2025, aims to relocate industries functioning in densely populated urban areas and transform industrial land usage in the city. The policy specifically targets polluting industries located in 21 industrial parks and several standalone industrial units within Hyderabad's Core Urban Region (CURE). Officials said the initiative is aimed at reducing environmental pollution, improving urban planning and creating space for sustainable infrastructure development in Hyderabad. The policy is also expected to encourage industries to shift operations to modern industrial zones equipped with better facilities and environmental safeguards. As part



of the implementation framework, the State government approved special payment modules based on recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee. Industrial units applying under the scheme before June 30, 2026, will be allowed to pay an initial upfront Development Impact Fee (DIF) of 10 percent and will receive consideration based on existing SRO market rates. The newly launched digital platform enables eligible industries to submit applications online, monitor application status and track approvals without visiting government offices physically. Officials stated that the online system has been designed to ensure transparency, faster processing and

ease of access for industrial stakeholders. Applications can be submitted through the official TGIC portal. To assist applicants, the government has also established a dedicated support and grievance redressal mechanism. Stakeholders can raise complaints or queries through a structured ticketing system available on the portal. Additional assistance is also being provided through the HILTP support portal and a helpline service operating from Monday to Saturday. The government believes the policy will help reshape Hyderabad's industrial landscape while balancing industrial growth with environmental sustainability and planned urban expansion.

## CJP Alleges Crackdown On Platforms

New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has claimed that its website and social media accounts were taken down or hacked amid its campaign demanding accountability over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke alleged that the group lost access to its Instagram accounts, while its X account was withheld in India and its website became inaccessible. Dipke said action came after it launched an online campaign seeking the resignation of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Despite the alleged crackdown, group claimed its movement was growing and said over 10 lakh users had registered on its website before it went offline. The organisation also stated that it would continue its campaign through new platforms while urging supporters to remain peaceful.

## Modi Distributes 51,000 Job Letters

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed over 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited candidates under the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela, saying India's youth are driving the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. Addressing recruits through video conferencing, Modi said the Rozgar Mela reflects the Centre's commitment to creating employment opportunities and empowering the country's youth. He noted that India's young population and rapid technological progress were attracting global attention and partnerships. "The world is excited about India's youth and technological advancement.

Today, many countries want to become part of India's growth journey," the Prime Minister said. He highlighted that sectors such as clean energy, green hydrogen, critical minerals and sustainable manufacturing were expanding rapidly, creating new economic opportunities and jobs for young Indians. According to Modi, investments in infrastructure, technology and emerging industries are helping generate large-scale employment across the country. The Prime Minister also pointed to visible transformation in rural India due to improved connectivity, stating that farmers, traders and students were benefiting from new opportunities created by infrastructure development. Calling

public service a form of national service, Modi urged the newly appointed recruits to work with dedication and contribute to nation-building. He said Indian youth were making their mark globally and should bring the same spirit and energy into governance and administration. Modi also referred to agreements signed during his recent visits to countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, saying these partnerships would create more opportunities for Indian youth and strengthen the country's economic future. The 19th Rozgar Mela was organised at 47 locations across India. Newly recruited candidates will join several ministries



and departments, including the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services and Department of Higher Education. According to government figures, nearly 12 lakh appointment letters have been distributed through 18 Rozgar Melas held so far since the initiative was launched.

## Raj Kumar Gets Congress SC Cell Post

Jagitial: Doomala Raj Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of Jagitial District Congress SC Cell. The appointment letter was handed over by District Congress President Gajangi Nandayya at Gandhi Bhavan. Raj Kumar thanked the Congress leadership and said he would work for the welfare of SC communities and strengthen the party at ground level. Party leaders and workers congratulated him on appointment.

## Kishan Reddy Slams Delay In GE Projects

Hyderabad, May 23: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday expressed concern over the Telangana government's delay in responding to proposals involving nearly Rs 10,000 crore investments in green energy projects by central public sector undertakings. Speaking at the Renergine-2026 conference held in Hyderabad, Kishan Reddy said central PSUs including NLC India Limited and Coal India Limited had submitted proposals to the State govern-

ment last year for investments in solar, wind, pumped storage and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects. He stated that despite the proposals being sent several months ago, the Telangana government was yet to respond or allocate land for the projects. The Union Minister urged the State government to act quickly and utilise the investments for



Telangana's development. Kishan Reddy said the Centre was implementing a multi-dimensional strategy to strengthen India's energy security and reduce dependence on conventional fuel sources. Referring to global energy challenges and tensions in West Asia, he said India was rapidly expanding its renewable energy sector under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

## Gurindervir Sets New 100m National Record

Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh created history by clocking 10.09 seconds in the men's 100m final at the National Senior Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi, setting a new national record. Gurindervir broke the previous record of 10.15 seconds held by Animesh Kujur, who finished second in the race. The Punjab sprinter also became the first Indian athlete to run below 10.10 seconds. His timing is currently the second-fastest in Asia this season and also helped him qualify for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

## 40,000 Evacuated in California

Chemical Leak About 40,000 residents in Southern California were ordered to evacuate after a leaking chemical tank at a GKN Aerospace facility in Garden Grove raised fears of an explosion or toxic spill. Officials said the tank contained methyl methacrylate, a flammable chemical used in acrylic plastic production. Authorities warned the unstable tank could either rupture and spill thousands of gallons of chemicals or explode. Emergency crews expanded evacuation orders after conditions worsened on Friday. Schools were closed in affected areas, though no injuries or deaths were reported.

## HC Allows Vinesh In Asian Games Trials

New Delhi: Vinesh Phogat received relief from the Delhi High Court after it permitted her to participate in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials, observing that motherhood cannot be treated as a disability or a reason to deny professional opportunities to women athletes. A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya directed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to allow Phogat to compete in the trials scheduled for May 30 and 31. The court also ordered that the entire trial process be video-recorded and monitored by independent observers from the Sports Authority of India and the Indian Olympic Association. The court noted that the WFI's selection policy failed to consider Phogat's maternity-related break and post-partum recovery period, which coincided with the qualifying events required for eligibility. "Motherhood must be viewed as a natural and deeply significant aspect of life that deserves accommodation and institutional sensitivity," the court observed, adding that excluding athletes due to pregnancy or recovery violates constitutional principles of equality and dignity. The bench also criticised the language used by the WFI in a show-cause notice issued to Phogat, where her disqualification from the 2024 Summer Olympics final after a weigh-in issue was described as a "national embarrassment". The court termed the remarks "deplorable" and "vindictive", especially after the Court of Arbitration for Sport had noted there was no wrongdoing on her part. Phogat had challenged the WFI's Asian Games selection policy and related circulars, arguing that despite informing international and Indian sports authorities about her maternity break, she was unfairly rendered ineligible for selection events until June 2026.

## Iyer 100 Keeps PBKS Alive

Punjab Kings produced one of their most dominant batting displays of the IPL 2026 season as skipper Shreyas Iyer smashed a sensational unbeaten century to guide his side to a commanding seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium on Saturday night. Chasing a challenging target of 197, Punjab Kings completed the chase in just 18 overs, keeping their playoff hopes alive in dramatic fashion. The victory lifted PBKS to fourth place on the points table with 15 points, although their qualification now depends on the outcomes of the remaining league matches. The night, however, belonged entirely to Shreyas Iyer, who delivered a captain's innings under pressure and registered his maiden IPL century in style. Iyer remained unbeaten on 101 off just 51 deliveries, hammering 11 boundaries and five towering sixes in a breathtaking display of strokeplay. The defining moment came in the 18th over when Mohsin Khan bowled a slower delivery outside off stump. Iyer moved deep into the crease and launched it over cow corner for a massive six, bringing up both his century



and Punjab's emphatic victory. The PBKS dugout erupted in celebration as the skipper raised his bat to a standing ovation. Punjab's chase had begun nervously after Mohammed Shami struck with the very first ball of the innings, dismissing Priyansh Arya for a duck. Cooper Connolly briefly counterattacked with an aggressive cameo before Shami removed him too, leaving PBKS struggling at 22 for 2. At that stage, Lucknow appeared to have seized control of the contest. But what followed completely changed the momentum of the game. Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer stitched together

a match-winning partnership that dismantled the LSG bowling attack. Prabhsimran played fearlessly from the outset, smashing 69 off just 39 balls with clean hitting and aggressive intent. His attacking approach ensured the required run rate never became a concern. While Prabhsimran provided the early momentum, Iyer anchored the innings with remarkable composure and class. He rotated strike intelligently, punished loose deliveries and accelerated with perfect timing. Once settled, he dominated every bowler LSG threw at him. Mohammed Shami, who had given Lucknow an ideal start, was taken apart in the later overs as Iyer unleashed a series of boundaries and sixes. Arjun Tendulkar, Mohsin Khan and Digvesh Singh Rathi also struggled to contain the PBKS captain on a batting-friendly surface. The decisive assault came between the 15th and 18th overs when Punjab completely shifted into top gear. Iyer repeatedly cleared the ropes, turning a tense chase into a one-sided finish. The pressure quickly shifted onto Lucknow, whose bowlers ran out of answers.

TEAMS	P	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
1 RCB (I)	14	9	5	0	18	+0.783
2 GT (I)	14	9	5	0	18	+0.695
3 SRH (I)	14	9	5	0	18	+0.524
4 PBKS	14	7	6	1	15	+0.309
5 RR	13	7	6	0	14	+0.083
6 KKR	13	6	6	1	13	+0.011
7 CSK (E)	14	6	8	0	12	-0.345
8 DC (E)	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
9 MI (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.510
10 LSG (E)	14	4	10	0	8	-0.740

## Sensex, Nifty Gain on Easing Crude Prices



Indian stock markets posted moderate gains this week as easing crude oil prices and reports of indirect US-Iran talks boosted investor sentiment. The NIFTY 50 rose 0.32 per cent during the week to close at 23,719, while the BSE Sensex gained 231 points to settle at 75,415. The IT sector emerged as the top performer, supported by attractive valuations after recent corrections. Realty, cement, and private banking stocks also remained firm, while FMCG and consumer durable sectors lagged. Midcap stocks outperformed the benchmarks, with the Nifty Midcap100 index rising 1.36 per cent during the week. Analysts said investors remained cautious despite the gains, as concerns over inflation, global interest rates, and foreign investor outflows continued to weigh on market sentiment. Market participants are now closely watching India's April industrial output data, the RBI's June policy decision, and upcoming US inflation data for further direction.

## IOC Says No Fuel Shortage

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation on Saturday assured that there is no overall shortage of petrol and diesel in the country, stating that supply disruptions reported at some fuel stations were temporary and limited to a few locations. In a statement, the company said the outages were caused by local demand-supply imbalances and shifting sales patterns in select regions. IOC added that only a small number of outlets among its network of over 42,000 fuel stations had faced disruptions, while supplies remained normal across most pumps. The company attributed higher demand at certain outlets to increased diesel consumption during

the harvesting season, migration of customers from private fuel stations due to higher prices, and rising institutional purchases at public sector pumps. IOC said state-run oil marketing companies continue to maintain adequate fuel stocks nationwide and are closely monitoring the situation to ensure uninterrupted supplies. The clarification came on the same day that petrol and diesel prices were revised upward for the third time in 10 days. Petrol prices were increased by 87 paise per



litre, while diesel became costlier by 91 paise per litre amid rising global crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

## 14,000-Page Chargesheet Filed in Parliament Breach Case

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell has filed a nearly 14,000-page fourth supplementary chargesheet in the 2023 Parliament security breach under the UAPA before the Patiala House Court in New Delhi. The chargesheet includes allegations related to terrorist acts, criminal conspiracy, provoking riots and destruction of evidence against the accused involved in the Parliament security breach incident that took place on December 13, 2023. According to the prosecution, the supplementary chargesheet contains 13,967 pages and invokes multiple IPC sections along with

provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). During the hearing, accused Neelam Azad and Mahesh Kumawat appeared on bail, while other accused — Manoranjan D., Amol Dhanraj, Sagar Sharma and Lalit Jha — were produced from judicial custody. The defence objected to the filing of such a lengthy chargesheet while arguments on framing of charges were already in progress, calling it a "gross abuse of process of law." The court directed the prosecution to provide hard copies of the documents to the defence and posted the matter for further hearing on May 29.



The case relates to the major security breach inside and outside Parliament in which two accused allegedly jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery and released yellow smoke canisters, while two others protested outside Parliament with coloured smoke. Police have identified Lalit Jha as the alleged mastermind behind the conspiracy.

## Top Terror Operatives Attend Burhan Funeral

Islamabad: Several Pakistan-based terror operatives, including Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and Al-Badr leader Bakht Zameen Khan, reportedly attended the funeral of Pulwama attack mastermind Hamza Burhan in Islamabad, according to social media visuals and local reports. Burhan, also known as Arjumand Gulzar Dar, was buried a day after he was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Reports claimed that individuals linked to Pakistan's ISI were also present at the funeral ceremony. Videos circulating online showed heavily armed men carrying assault rifles and providing security during the funeral, indicating the presence of cadres linked to banned terror outfits. Burhan was accused of playing a key role in the 2019 Pulwama attack that killed over 40 CRPF personnel. India had designated him a terrorist in 2022 for his involvement in terror financing, recruitment and radicalisation activities linked to Al-Badr operations. According to reports, Burhan had been living in PoK under a false identity and was working as a teacher and principal at a private college in Muzaffarabad before he was attacked outside the campus. The funeral has once again drawn attention to alleged links between Pakistan-based terror groups and elements within the country's establishment, especially after similar scenes were reported during funerals of militants killed following India's Operation Sindoor in 2025.

## Azam Khan's Jail Term Enhanced to 10 Years

Rampur: A special MP-MLA court in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, enhanced the jail sentence of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan from seven years to 10 years in the dual PAN card case involving his son Abdullah Azam Khan. The court also increased the fine imposed on Azam Khan to Rs 5 lakh, while Abdullah Khan's penalty was raised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 3.5 lakh. The case relates to allegations that Abdullah Khan possessed two PAN cards with different dates of birth to become eligible for contesting elections. The prosecution argued that forged documents were used to secure the second PAN card as part of a larger conspiracy. The case was filed in 2019 following a complaint by BJP leader Akash Saxena. Both father and son were originally sentenced to seven years in jail in November 2025.

## Raghav Chadha Appointed Rajya Sabha Panel Chief

New Delhi: Raghav Chadha has been appointed Chairman of the Rajya Sabha's Committee on Petitions following the reconstitution of the panel by Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan. The committee was reconstituted on May 20 and includes members Jebi Mather Hisham, Harsh Mahajan, Gulam Ali, Mayankumar Nayak, Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Subhasish Khuntia, Rvwgwa Narzary, Sandosh Kumar P. and Shambhu Sharan Patel. An official notification confirmed Chadha's appointment as Chairman of the committee. The development comes shortly after Chadha and six other Rajya Sabha MPs switched from the Aam Aadmi Party to the



Bharatiya Janata Party, reducing AAP's strength in the Rajya Sabha from 10 members to three. In April, Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Vikram Sahney, Swati Malitwal and Rajinder Gupta joined the BJP, dealing a significant setback to AAP in the Upper House. Following the switch, Chadha met President Droupadi Murmu and alleged misuse of state machinery by the AAP-led Punjab government against MPs who defected to the BJP. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann criticised the defections, accusing the MPs of disrespecting the people's mandate and betraying Punjab.

## Bengal Govt Cuts Bakrid Holiday

Kolkata: The West Bengal government has revised the Bakrid holiday schedule, cancelling the earlier two-day break on May 26 and 27 and declaring only May 28 as a public holiday for Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid). The notification issued by the state Finance Department stated that the change was made after confirmation that Bakrid would be observed on May 28 this year. With this revision, May 26 and 27 will now be regular working days for government offices and institutions across the state. The move by the government led by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has sparked discussion over possible changes to other public holiday policies in West Bengal. Authorities have also directed police to ensure peaceful celebrations during the festival.



Aarna Vohra

## Rukmini slams AI images

Actress Rukmini Vasanth has strongly condemned the circulation of AI-generated images and videos falsely depicting her, stating that the content is fabricated and misleading. The Kantara Chapter 1 actress confirmed that legal and cybercrime action is being taken against those responsible. In an official statement, Rukmini clarified that the viral visuals, which show a woman in a blue bikini and allegedly linked to a photoshoot, are entirely fake. She urged the public not to share or engage with such manipulated content. "My team and I have come across certain AI-generated images being circulated online claiming to be me. I want to state clearly that these images are entirely fake and

fabricated," she said, calling the creation and distribution of such content a serious violation of privacy. She further added that the issue is being handled seriously and necessary legal steps are underway against the creators and distributors of the fake material. She also appealed to social media users to act responsibly online and avoid spreading misinformation. Rukmini has been vocal in the past about online impersonation cases and has previously warned fans about fake accounts misusing her identity to contact people under false pretences. The actress, who has worked across Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi films, gained wide recognition for her performance in Sapta Saa-



garadaache Ello – Side A & B. She will next be seen in upcoming projects including Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. Born to the late Colonel Vasanth Venugopal, an Ashoka Chakra awardee, Rukmini continues to be one of the rising names in South Indian cinema.

### Kattalan Cleared with A

Director Paul George's Malayalam pan-Indian action thriller Kattalan, starring Antony Varghese, has been cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with an 'A' certificate ahead of its worldwide release on May 28, 2026. The makers announced the certification through their official social media handle, confirming that the film is ready for release and building anticipation with the tagline "A for ACTION." Kattalan features an ensemble cast including Suneel, Dushara Vijayan, Kabir Duhan Singh, and Parth Tiwari in key roles. Telugu actor Sunil and Raj Tiradasu also play important characters in the film. The film is produced by Cubes Entertainments and presented by Shareef Muhammed. It has music composed by Ravi Basrur, with cinematography by Renadive and editing by Shameer Muhammed. Earlier, the makers had revealed details of the characters and confirmed the completion of shooting. The film has generated strong buzz among audiences due to its high-octane action and pan-Indian appeal. With its release just days away, Kattalan is expected to be one of the notable Malayalam action releases of the season.



### My Favorite is King: Roja



Former minister and actress Roja extended heartfelt birthday wishes to veteran actor Akkineni Nagarjuna, who has completed a remarkable 40-year journey in Indian cinema marked by versatile performances and a powerful screen presence. In her message, Roja referred to Nagarjuna as her "favorite hero" and praised his inspiring cinematic journey. She noted that his passion for films, continuous dedication, and a long list of blockbuster successes have served as an inspiration to generations of actors and audiences alike. She shared her wishes on social media, greeting him on his birthday and appreciating his contribution to the film industry. Roja described Nagarjuna as the "evergreen Manmadhudu," saying that no matter how many years pass or how many generations change, he continues to remain timeless in the industry. She concluded by wishing him many more happy birthdays ahead and a life filled with good health, happiness, and continued success.

## Dimri Says..

Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri has revealed that her character in the upcoming Netflix film "Maa Behen" was inspired by two women from her childhood neighbourhood who were unfairly judged by society. Speaking at the film's trailer launch, Triptii said the story resonated with her personal memories of two single women who lived independently but were socially ostracised due to prejudice and rumours. "When sir narrated the story to me, I remembered two women in my society who were single and lived alone. People used to judge them and keep us children away from them," she said. She added that those early impressions stayed with her over the years and influenced her decision to take up the role. "I felt I had to be part of this film. If I ever get a chance to apologise to them, this is it," she said. Maa Behen, a crime-comedy directed for Netflix, stars Madhuri Dixit Nene alongside Triptii Dimri. The film blends humour and mystery around a chaotic situation involving a mother and her two daughters. The story follows a family thrown into panic after discovering a dead body in their kitchen, forcing them to cover it up while dealing with nosy neighbours and escalating chaos. The film also features Dharna Durgaa, Ravi Kishan, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Arunoday Singh, and Shardul Bhardwaj in key roles, and is set to premiere on June 4 on Netflix.



## SKY's future under scanner

The future of India's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav is reportedly under serious review, with a section of the BCCI selection committee believed to be in favour of moving on from the out-of-form batter. However, the final decision is expected to rest with head coach Gautam Gambhir, whose strong backing of the player could influence the outcome. According to a senior BCCI source, most members of the selection panel are unconvinced about Suryakumar's place in the T20 side purely as a batter, given his prolonged dip in form over the past year. His position has come under increasing scrutiny since India's T20 World Cup triumph, with selectors now focusing on long-term planning. "It was initially thought that the IPL would help Suryakumar regain form like the previous season when he scored heavily. But there has not been any technical improvement," the source said. Suryakumar's recent numbers have added to concerns. In the last



phase of T20 cricket, he has managed only 210 runs from 12 innings at a strike rate of 148, with an average below 18, a sharp contrast to his reputation as one of the most explosive batters in the format. Selectors reportedly believe that opposition bowlers have found a pattern to contain him, particularly by targeting hard-length deliveries, against which he has struggled to adapt. "If a player cannot justify his place as a batter, it becomes difficult to retain him as captain," the source added, indicating growing resistance within the committee. However, the situation is complicated by head coach Gautam Gambhir's known confidence in Suryakumar. Their strong working relationship is seen as a key factor in team dynamics, and insiders suggest Gambhir may push to continue backing him despite the selectors' concerns. This has created a potential standoff between the coaching setup and the selection committee.

## Kohli Enjoys Aggressive Intensity: Irfan



Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan said Virat Kohli thrives on aggressive, Australian-style intensity on the field, adding that on-field banter is a natural part of high-pressure cricket. Pathan was reacting to the heated exchange between Kohli and Travis Head during an IPL match, calling such moments common in competitive games. He said Kohli's competitive nature and emotional approach reflect the spirit of top-level cricket, where intensity and rivalry often spill onto the field.

## Calls Grow to Replace Gaikwad

Chennai Super Kings' disappointing IPL 2026 campaign has triggered fresh debate over the leadership of skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, with former CSK player Subramaniam Badrinath suggesting a change in captaincy ahead of the next season. CSK, five-time IPL champions, failed to reach the playoffs this season after finishing with just 12 points from 14 matches. Their campaign was inconsistent, beginning with three consecutive losses and ending with another three defeats, despite a mid-season recovery that briefly kept them in contention. Following the team's exit, Badrinath expressed the view that

Gaikwad should be relieved of captaincy duties, arguing that it would help both the player and the franchise. "Ruturaj Gaikwad should not lead CSK. Sanju Samson should be made captain," Badrinath said on his YouTube channel. He added that Gaikwad's value as a top-order batter is more important to the team than his leadership role. According to Badrinath, removing leadership responsibility could help Gaikwad focus entirely on his batting, where he has been one of CSK's most consistent performers. "Ruturaj Gaikwad is a phenomenal T20 batter. Once captaincy pressure is removed, he will perform



even better," he said, adding that leadership changes have benefited several top players in the past. He also pointed out that not every cricketer can balance captaincy and batting effectively, citing examples of players who struggled under leadership roles while others flourished after stepping down. The comments have added to ongoing discussions within CSK circles about the team's future direction after an underwhelming season.

## Zee Eyes FIFA 2026 Rights

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) has emerged as a potential late contender for the FIFA World Cup 2026 media rights in India, as negotiations continue over the valuation of the global football event's broadcast deal. According to reports, Zee is exploring a deal worth around \$35 million, significantly lower than FIFA's earlier demand of nearly \$100 million for combined 2026 and 2030 tournament rights. The broadcaster is also in discussions alongside JioHotstar, while Sony and FanCode have opted out of the race. JioHotstar, which previously held the World Cup broadcast rights in India, is be-



lieved to be holding firm on a valuation of around \$20 million, creating a gap between buyer expectations and FIFA's revised price target of at least \$35 million. The development comes at a crucial time, with India still without an official broadcaster for the tournament and less than three weeks remaining before kickoff. Adding to speculation, Zee has reportedly begun expanding its sports broadcasting footprint with

the launch of seven new channels under the "Unite8 Sports" brand, including HD and Hindi-language variants. The move is being seen as a possible step toward strengthening its sports portfolio ahead of a major acquisition. Industry observers point out that limited commercial interest in India stems largely from scheduling challenges, as most FIFA World Cup 2026 matches—being hosted in the USA, Mexico and Canada—are expected to air in India during late-night and early-morning hours. This has reduced advertising appeal and overall revenue potential for broadcasters.