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THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

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700 Drunk Driving Cases

Hyderabad, May 24: Hyderabad and Cyberabad Traffic Police booked more than 700 drunk driving cases during special weekend enforcement drives aimed at improving road safety and curbing violations. According to Hyderabad Traffic Police, 438 motorists were caught driving under the influence of alcohol during a two-day drive conducted on May 22 and 23. Among them were 365 two-wheeler riders, 25 three-wheeler drivers and 47 four-wheeler drivers. Police said many offenders recorded high Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels, with five persons registering more than 300 mg/100 ml. Meanwhile, Cyberabad Traffic Police booked 294 drunk driving cases during a separate weekend drive. Most of the violations involved two-wheelers, followed by four-wheelers and three-wheelers. Officials said all offenders would be produced before the court and warned that strict action would be taken against those causing accidents while under the influence of alcohol. Police reiterated that drunken driving cases would be dealt with under a zero-tolerance policy.

Indiramma Bheema From June 2

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Sunday announced that the State government will launch the ambitious "Indiramma Bheema" insurance scheme across Telangana from June 2 as a State Formation Day gift to the people. Addressing a public meeting in Khammam district, Bhatti said the scheme aims to provide social and financial security to poor and middle-class families across the State. Under the initiative, nearly 1.15 crore families will receive insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh in the event of the accidental death of the head of the family. The Deputy Chief Minister described the scheme as one of the major welfare programmes of the Congress government and said it reflected the administration's commitment to protecting economically vulnerable households from financial distress during emergencies. Bhatti stated that the government was implementing welfare schemes with the objective of directly improving the living standards of weaker sections. He asserted that the Congress government remained committed to fulfilling every promise made during the Assembly elections and ensuring transparent delivery of ben-

efits. Highlighting women's empowerment initiatives, he said the government was extending large-scale interest-free loans to women's self-help groups and planned to provide financial support amounting to nearly ₹1 lakh crore in phases. According to him, strengthening women's financial independence was one of the key priorities of the State government. He further announced that a new programme to allot solar power plants to women's groups would be launched on May 27 at Rajupalem village in Madhira constituency. The initiative, he said, would help women's groups generate sustainable income while promoting renewable energy. The Deputy Chief Minister also outlined several welfare programmes currently being implemented by the State government. He said free rice distribution was benefiting around 1.06 crore families across Telangana, while the Gruhjayothi scheme was providing free electricity up to 200 units to nearly 53 lakh households. Bhatti added that under the Indiramma housing scheme, eligible beneficiaries were being provided financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for construction of houses. He said the government



was focusing on improving housing facilities for poor families and ensuring basic dignity and security for all sections of society. On the agriculture front, the Deputy Chief Minister assured farmers that the government would procure every grain of maize and paddy produced in the State at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He said the administration was committed to safeguarding farmers' interests and ensuring they did not suffer losses during procurement. Bhatti also accused opposition

parties of spreading false propaganda and misinformation regarding the government's welfare initiatives. He claimed that despite criticism, the Congress government was continuing to implement people-centric programmes aimed at supporting farmers, women, labourers and economically weaker communities. He urged people to support government's welfare agenda and said TG was moving towards inclusive development with social justice and public welfare as its primary focus.



Heatwave Continues For 3 Days

India Meteorological Department has warned that heatwave conditions are likely to continue in parts of Telangana over the next three days. According to the Meteorological Centre in Hyderabad, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph are also expected at isolated places across the State during the next seven days. Officials said light to moderate rain or thundershowers may occur in some areas during the same period, offering limited relief from the intense summer heat. Khammam recorded the highest temperature in the State at 44.8 degrees Celsius during the last 24 hours.

Iran Denies Nuclear Ambitions

Tehran: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday said Iran is ready to assure the international community that it is not pursuing nuclear weapons and does not seek instability in the Middle East. According to Iran's official news agency IRNA, Pezeshkian stated that Iran's position on nuclear weapons remained unchanged and accused Israel of fuelling unrest in the region. "We are ready to assure the world that we are not seeking nuclear weapons. Iran is not seeking unrest in the region," he said, adding that the "Zionist regime" was attempting to keep conflict and instability alive in West Asia. Referring to the ongoing diplomatic engagements between Tehran and Washington, the Iranian President said Iran would not compromise on its national dignity and sovereignty during negotiations. "We

and the negotiators will not compromise the country's honour and pride in any way," he asserted. Pezeshkian also said that all major decisions in Iran are taken within the framework of the Supreme National Security Council and with the approval of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Addressing economic concerns, the Iranian President said his government was focused on protecting the livelihoods of citizens despite ongoing challenges. He urged people to adopt energy-efficient practices and conserve fuel. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, during a joint press conference with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi, said "significant progress" had been made in diplomatic efforts involving the United States and



Iran. Rubio also reiterated US President Donald Trump's position that Iran must never possess nuclear weapons and hinted that positive developments regarding the Strait of Hormuz situation could emerge soon.

Stray Dogs Kill Girl

Lucknow: An 11-year-old girl was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur on Sunday morning while returning home from a vegetable field. The victim, identified as Swalia, had accompanied her father Naeem to farmland near the municipal corporation's e-bus charging station, where the family cultivated vegetables on leased land. After reaching the field, Naeem asked his daughter to return home and call her brother. While walking back through a deserted stretch, a pack of stray dogs reportedly chased and attacked the girl. The dogs dragged her to the ground and inflicted severe injuries before passersby rushed to the spot and drove them away. Locals immediately shifted the critically injured girl to the Government Medical College, where doctors declared her dead. The incident triggered grief and panic in the locality.

KTR Alleges Power Privatization Plot

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Sunday accused the Congress government in Telangana of planning to end free electricity for farmers through the introduction of prepaid power meters. Addressing a meeting of party functionaries in Amberpet, KTR alleged that the government intended to install prepaid electricity meters for agricultural motors and households as part of a move to gradually withdraw the free power scheme and privatise the electricity sector. He claimed the move was aimed at benefiting private corporate entities and said the BRS had earlier warned that free power would be under threat if Congress came to power. KTR recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had resisted pressure from the Centre to introduce prepaid meters during the BRS regime. The BRS leader urged the public to oppose the



proposed move and accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil several promises made during the elections. He also criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over housing demolitions, the proposed "Future City" project and the Musi River rejuvenation plans. KTR further announced that the party's membership drive would be conducted digitally and said cadre training programmes would soon be organised ahead of the upcoming local body elections.

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SCR Introduces New Weekly Trains

Hyderabad, May 24: South Central Railway will introduce three new weekly express trains connecting Telangana with Rajasthan and the Northeast, enhancing long-distance rail connectivity from the State. The Ministry of Railways approved the regularisation of existing special train services, with new weekly routes linking Hyderabad, Charlapalli and Kacheguda to Jaipur, Agartala and Sri Ganganagar. The Hyderabad-Jaipur Weekly Express will begin operations in July and pass through key stations including Secunderabad, Nizamabad, Nanded, Bhopal and Ajmer. The Charlapalli-Agartala Weekly Express will connect Telangana with major cities such as Vijayawada, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Agartala. Another service, the Kacheguda-Sri Ganganagar Weekly Express, will travel through important stations



including Akola, Jaipur and Bikaner before reaching Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar. Railway officials said the new services are expected to improve passenger convenience and strengthen connectivity between Telangana and northern as well as northeastern regions of the country.

TG To Celebrate Women's Week

Hyderabad, May 24: The Telangana government will organise "Women's Week" across the State from May 25 to 31 under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" initiative, focusing on women's empowerment, self-employment and economic development. Programmes including awareness seminars, exhibitions, health camps, cultural events and industrial showcases will be conducted by the Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare departments with support from SERP and MEPMA. Minister Seethakka said the government is working to transform women from welfare beneficiaries into entrepreneurs and wealth creators.

TGSRTC Launches 'Buslo Bharosa'

Hyderabad, May 24: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has launched a high-tech CCTV surveillance initiative titled "Buslo Bharosa" to enhance passenger safety in RTC buses operating across the erstwhile Adilabad district. The project was formally introduced by TGSRTC Managing Director Nagireddy in coordination with the Police Department. As part of the pilot phase, CCTV surveillance systems have been installed in nearly 175 buses in the region. According to TGSRTC officials, advanced cameras have been strategically placed to monitor key areas inside buses, including the driver's cabin, women-reserved seats, footboard sections and rear portions. The surveillance system records passenger movement and onboard activities, with live monitoring support linked to the RTC control room. Officials said the initiative is aimed at preventing thefts, harassment and suspicious activities while also helping authorities collect evidence quickly in case of accidents or other incidents. Passengers, especially women and elderly travellers, welcomed the move, stating that CCTV surveillance would improve safety and confidence during travel, particularly at night. TGSRTC authorities said the project is also expected to improve staff accountability and driving discipline. Following the pilot project's response in Adilabad, the Corporation plans to gradually expand the CCTV surveillance system to buses across Telangana.



EDITORIAL

Gen Z and SM Politics

Politics is no longer confined to rallies, party offices, television debates, or newspaper headlines. For Generation Z — the young people born roughly between the late 1990s and early 2010s — politics now unfolds on smartphone screens. Instagram reels, YouTube shorts, memes, podcasts, and trending hashtags have become the new political battlegrounds. In many ways, social media has transformed Gen Z from passive observers into active participants in public discourse. Yet, this transformation carries both democratic promise and serious risks.

Unlike previous generations, Gen Z consumes information at lightning speed. A 30-second reel explaining unemployment, inflation, climate change, or government policies can reach millions within hours. Political awareness no longer depends on reading lengthy editorials or watching primetime news. Young citizens today discover political narratives through creators, influencers, comedians, and independent commentators. This shift has democratized political communication. Anyone with a phone and internet access can express opinions, question authority, or mobilize support.

Social media has also given young people a sense of political identity. Online campaigns related to climate justice, women's safety, mental health, education reforms, or unemployment often gain momentum because Gen Z amplifies them aggressively. Hashtags become movements. Digital activism has allowed many issues ignored by mainstream politics to receive national attention. Young voters are no longer waiting for political parties to define conversations; they are shaping them themselves.

However, the rise of social media politics has also changed the nature of political engagement. Much of today's online activism is driven by emotions rather than facts. Viral content rewards outrage, sarcasm, and sensationalism more than balanced analysis. Political debates often turn into fan wars between supporters of different ideologies. Complex national issues are reduced to memes, short clips, or manipulated narratives designed to maximize engagement rather than understanding.

The algorithm-driven nature of social media creates another challenge. Platforms constantly show users content similar to what they already believe. As a result, many young people live inside digital echo chambers where opposing views are mocked instead of debated. This deepens political polarization and weakens democratic dialogue. In such an environment, misinformation spreads rapidly. Fake quotes, edited videos, and propaganda disguised as news can influence public opinion before facts emerge.

Political parties fully understand the power of Gen Z online. Today, every major party invests heavily in digital campaigns, influencer collaborations, meme pages, and targeted advertisements. Elections are increasingly fought not only on the ground but also through trends and narratives created online. A viral clip can shape public perception more effectively than a traditional speech. While this increases political participation, it also raises concerns about manipulation, data privacy, and the commercialization of political influence.

India-US Ties Gain Fresh Momentum

New Delhi, May 24: India and the United States on Sunday signalled renewed momentum in their expanding strategic partnership, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio expressing confidence that both countries would conclude a bilateral trade agreement soon, while External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted New Delhi's policy of maintaining strong relations across multiple global power centres. Following extensive bilateral talks in New Delhi, both leaders emphasised growing cooperation in trade, defence, energy, technology, critical minerals and counter-terrorism, underlining the increasing strategic importance of India-US ties in shaping regional and global stability. Rubio described India as one of Washington's most important strategic partners and dismissed suggestions that bilateral ties required any "reset" despite recent trade-related frictions. "This is about continuing to build on what is already a very strong strategic partnership," Rubio said, expressing optimism that both sides would soon finalise a trade agreement. He stressed that India and the

United States shared deep democratic values and common long-term interests, making the relationship fundamentally different from many other global partnerships. "We are the two largest democracies in the world. That alone creates enormous scope for cooperation," he said.

Rubio also highlighted India's growing strategic role in global affairs, saying only a few countries possess the economic and diplomatic influence necessary to shape major international outcomes. On economic cooperation, both sides acknowledged efforts to deepen commercial engagement as global supply chains undergo major realignments. Rubio noted that Indian companies had invested over USD 20 billion in the United States and said reforms in the US immigration system were global in nature and not directed specifically at India. Addressing concerns regarding H-1B, F-1 and J-1 visas, Rubio clarified that the ongoing modernisation of immigration policies applied worldwide. The US Secretary of State also underlined expanding cooperation in energy security and critical min-



erals, calling resilient supply chains a strategic necessity in the 21st century. On security issues, Rubio said both countries shared strong alignment in combating terrorism, noting that India and the US had both suffered from global terrorist networks. He further reiterated Washington's support for freedom of navigation and stable maritime commerce, particularly in the Strait of Hormuz region, while maintaining that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons. Speaking alongside Rubio, Jaishankar said India's foreign policy was based on "multi-alignment" rather than viewing global relations through a zero-sum approach. "We don't look at

international relations as a zero-sum game. India today has relationships with multiple major powers and regions simultaneously," Jaishankar said. He pointed out that India maintains strong ties with the United States, Europe, Russia, West Asia, Israel, Iran and Ukraine while balancing its broader strategic interests. Jaishankar said India's priorities in West Asia included regional stability, energy security, protection of the Indian diaspora and ensuring uninterrupted maritime trade routes. EAM also highlighted the renewal of the 10-year India-US major defence partnership framework and a new roadmap on underwater domain awareness.

Uttam Pushes Faster Paddy Procurement

Hyderabad, May 24: Telangana Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday directed officials to speed up paddy procurement operations across the state and ensure that farmers do not face any inconvenience at procurement centres. Stressing that every grain brought by farmers must be purchased at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the minister asked district administrations to complete the procurement process at the earliest. The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting held through video conference with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers, district collectors and senior officials participating from various districts. Officials informed the meeting that paddy cultivation this season covered nearly 141 lakh metric tonnes across Telangana. Out of this, the government has targeted procurement of 75 lakh metric tonnes through official procurement centres. So far, around 51 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has already been procured from farmers. To facilitate smooth procurement, the government has established 8,575 procurement



centres across the state. The minister said MSP payments worth Rs 8,749 crore have already been released directly into farmers' bank accounts, ensuring transparency and avoiding delays in payments. Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to closely monitor procurement operations and prevent irregularities at centres. He warned that strict action would be taken against middlemen, traders and rice millers found cheating farmers through illegal deductions in weight or quality checks. He also directed authorities to stop the illegal inflow of paddy, maize and sorghum from neighbouring states into Telangana procure-

ment centres. The minister emphasised that procurement should be completed by the end of this month and said the government was committed to protecting farmers' interests during the entire process. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka asked officials to deploy additional labourers and support staff at procurement centres to prevent delays in loading, unloading and transportation of paddy stocks. He stated that unlike previous years, the present government was ensuring quicker payments to farmers without forcing them to wait for months. The state government reiterated that farmer welfare remains a top priority.

Pumpkin-Sized Tumour Removed

New Delhi: Doctors at Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology successfully removed a massive 20-cm kidney tumour from a 53-year-old man from Kurnool through a complex surgery, saving his life. The patient, P Mabu Khan, was admitted to the hospital with severe abdominal swelling, weakness. Medical tests revealed a huge tumour in the right kidney, which had spread across almost the entire right side of the abdomen and displaced nearby organs. A multidisciplinary medical team led by Dr Purna Chandra Reddy and Dr Rajesh Kumar Reddy performed a complex radical nephrectomy on April 20. Doctors said the tumour had completely replaced the kidney and caused heavy internal bleeding while pushing the intestines, pancreas and liver from their normal positions. The surgical team successfully removed the cancerous kidney without damaging surrounding vital organs.

Rahul Slams Centre Over NEET Row

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday intensified his attack on the Narendra Modi-led Centre over the alleged NEET paper leak controversy, accusing the government of failing students and allowing a "paper leak mafia" to function unchecked. In a post on X, Rahul said lakhs of students and parents were worried about the credibility of the medical entrance examination while the government was more focused on "saving itself" politically. He alleged that the future of nearly 22 lakh students was being pushed into uncertainty due to repeated examination irregularities. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha demanded the resignation of Union Education



Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and called for a foolproof system to prevent future paper leaks. He said the Congress

party would continue its protests until accountability was fixed and stronger safeguards were introduced. Rahul also claimed that organised cheating networks were thriving under the current system and accused the government of remaining silent despite growing public anger. Referring to protests organised by the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) in Hyderabad, he said the agitation reflected the frustration of students across the country. The NEET controversy has emerged as a major political issue, with opposition parties demanding transparency and strict action over the alleged irregularities in one of India's largest competitive examinations.

BJP Targets Karnataka Govt

Nitin Nabin on Sunday alleged that the Karnataka government had turned into an "ATM of the Delhi Congress," accusing the ruling Congress administration of neglecting governance and development. Addressing reporters in Bengaluru, the BJP leader claimed that the Siddaramaiah-led government was functioning under pressure from the Congress high command and was more focused on internal politics than public welfare. He alleged that power struggles within the Congress had affected administration in the State and said development activities had suffered during the government's tenure.

CJP Campaign Reaches SC

New Delhi: A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court over the viral Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) campaign, raising concerns about alleged misuse and monetisation of courtroom remarks on social media. The petition, filed by advocate Raja Choudhary, argued that oral observations made during court hearings are increasingly being converted into memes, viral content and commercial campaigns without proper context.

Terror Hideout Busted

Security forces busted a terrorist hideout and recovered a huge cache of explosives in Baramulla during a joint counter-terror operation on Saturday. The operation was carried out in the Nilsar Kandi area of Chandoosa by Baramulla Police along with the 52 Rashtriya Rifles, CRPF's 53 Battalion and SSB's 2 Battalion based on specific intelligence inputs. During the search operation, forces recovered 14 Soviet-made OG-7V fragmentation rounds meant for rocket-propelled

grenades (RPGs) and nine PG-7P propellant boosters concealed in plastic containers and tubes. Police said the recovery helped avert a possible terror threat and marked a major success in ongoing anti-terror operations in North Kashmir. The operation continued for nearly six hours to sanitize the area and rule out further threats. Later, the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad safely destroyed the explosive materials on-site following standard safety procedures. A case has been reg-



istered under the Explosive Substances Act and Arms Act at Chandoosa Police Station, and investigation is underway.



Archer Powers RR Into Playoffs

Jofra Archer delivered a sensational all-round performance as Rajasthan Royals defeated Mumbai Indians by 30 runs in a crucial IPL 2026 clash at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday, sealing their place in the play-offs. In a must-win encounter, Rajasthan Royals showed nerves of steel to post a challenging total of 205/8 after being asked to bat first. Archer played a game-changing cameo of 32 runs off just 15 balls, helping RR recover strongly during the final overs. Dhruv Jurel also contributed with a valuable 38-run knock to strengthen Rajasthan's innings. Mumbai Indians bowlers initially managed to keep things under con-

control, but RR accelerated brilliantly in the death overs. Shardul Thakur and Deepak Chahar picked up two wickets each for MI, but the home side failed to contain Rajasthan's aggressive finish. Chasing 206, Mumbai Indians suffered an early collapse due to Archer's fiery spell. The English pacer dismissed Rohit Sharma for a duck and then cleaned up Naman Dhir with a brilliant delivery. MI quickly slipped to 38/4, putting immense pressure on the middle order. Despite the early setbacks, Suryakumar Yadav fought back with a superb 60 off 42 balls. He received support from Will Jacks, who smashed 33 runs from 18 deliveries, and captain Hardik Pandya, who added a quick 34. The partnership between Suryakumar and Hardik briefly revived

Mumbai's hopes. However, Archer returned at the perfect moment and dismissed Hardik Pandya with a crucial breakthrough, shifting momentum firmly back in Rajasthan's favour. RR bowlers maintained tight control in the final overs. Nandre Burger, Yash Raj Punj, and Brijesh Sharma chipped in with important wickets as Mumbai Indians were restricted to 175/9 in 20 overs. Suryakumar Yadav's dismissal in the 18th over effectively ended Mumbai's chase, as the five-time champions failed to recover from the mounting required run rate. With this victory, Rajasthan Royals secured the fourth and final playoff spot with 16 points from 14 matches. They will now face Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator at New Chandigarh on Wednesday. The defeat also ended Mumbai Indians' IPL 2026 campaign, while Rajasthan Royals completed a remarkable turnaround to keep their title hopes alive.



DC End Season With Win

Delhi Capitals wrapped up their IPL 2026 campaign with a convincing 40-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on Sunday night. Despite the win, both teams were eliminated from the playoff race earlier in the day after Rajasthan Royals defeated Mumbai Indians. Asked to bat first by KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane, Delhi Capitals got off to an attacking start through KL Rahul and Abhishek Porel. The duo added 40 runs quickly before Porel was dismissed for 22 off 18 balls by Saurabh Debey. Young batter Sahil Parakh continued the momentum with an aggressive 24 off 17 deliveries before Sunil Narine removed him. Rahul then took control of the innings, reaching his half-century in style with clean hitting all around the ground. Delhi skipper Axar Patel supported Rahul with a composed knock as the pair guided DC beyond the 100-run mark. Rahul's explosive innings ended at 60 off 30 balls after being dismissed by Anukul Roy. Axar continued to anchor the innings and added valuable runs alongside David Miller. The South African batter contributed 28 runs, while Axar scored 39 before falling to Varun Chakravarthy. Ashutosh Sharma then provided a late flourish with an unbeaten cameo as Delhi finished strongly at 203/5. Defending the total, Delhi struck early when Lungi Ngidi dismissed Finn Allen after a brisk start. However, Rahane kept Kolkata in the chase with an attacking innings, bringing up a well-made half-century. Manish Pandey also chipped in with 25 runs as KKR stayed competitive in the middle overs. The turning point came when Kuldeep Yadav produced a su-

IPL 2026 POINTS TABLE

| POS | TEAM | MATCHES | WON | LOST | POINTS | NRR |
|-----|----------|---------|-----|------|--------|--------|
| 1 | RCB (Q) | 14 | 9 | 5 | 18 | +0.783 |
| 2 | GT (Q) | 14 | 9 | 5 | 18 | +0.695 |
| 3 | SRH (Q) | 14 | 9 | 5 | 18 | +0.524 |
| 4 | RR (Q) | 14 | 8 | 6 | 16 | +0.189 |
| 5 | PBKS (E) | 14 | 7 | 6 | 15 | +0.309 |
| 6 | DC (E) | 14 | 7 | 7 | 14 | -0.651 |
| 7 | KKR (E) | 14 | 6 | 7 | 13 | -0.147 |
| 8 | CSK (E) | 14 | 6 | 8 | 12 | -0.345 |
| 9 | MI (E) | 14 | 4 | 10 | 8 | -0.584 |
| 10 | LSG (E) | 14 | 4 | 10 | 8 | -0.740 |

QUALIFIED TEAMS

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru
- Gujarat Titans
- Sunrisers Hyderabad
- Rajasthan Royals

PLAYOFF FIXTURES

QUALIFIER 1
RCB vs GT

ELIMINATOR
SRH vs RR

RR SEAL PLAYOFF SPOT!

Rajasthan Royals defeated Mumbai Indians by 30 runs in a must-win clash. Jofra Archer starred with an all-round performance, taking 3 wickets and scoring a quick 32, helping RR secure the final playoff spot.

perb spell. He first removed Cameron Green cheaply before dismissing Rahane for 63 off 39 balls. On the very next delivery, Kuldeep sent back Rinku Singh for a golden duck, putting Delhi firmly in control. Axar Patel dismissed Tejaswi Singh, while Rovman Powell fought briefly with a 29-run knock. Mitchell Starc also joined the wicket-taking spree by dismissing Anukul Roy and Kartik Tyagi in quick

succession. Ngidi completed his three-wicket haul by removing Varun Chakravarthy as Kolkata Knight Riders were bowled out for 163. Kuldeep Yadav and Lungi Ngidi starred with three wickets each, while Delhi's all-round performance ensured they ended their season positively. The Capitals finished with 14 points, while KKR's disappointing campaign also came to an end without a play-off spot.

Massive Fire Guts L&T Office

Jayashankar Bhupalpally, May 24: A massive fire broke out at the camp office of construction giant L&T in Ambat Palli village of Mahadevpur mandal on Sunday, completely destroying the office premises within minutes and reducing important materials to ashes. According to local reports, the fire spread rapidly due to strong winds, leaving employees and nearby residents in panic. Several valuable project-related documents, office records and important files stored inside the camp office were completely burnt in the blaze. The exact financial loss caused by the incident is yet to be estimated. Engineering officials who conducted a preliminary inspection suspect that the fire may have started from a

nearby agricultural field where paddy crop residue was being burnt by farmers. Officials believe strong winds may have carried the flames towards the L&T camp office, causing the fire to spread quickly across the premises. Soon after receiving information, police and local authorities rushed to the spot and initiated rescue and control measures. Fire personnel managed to bring the flames under control after intense efforts, preventing the fire from spreading further to nearby structures. Police have registered a case and



launched an investigation into the incident. Authorities are examining whether the fire was purely accidental or if any deliberate foul play was involved. Further details regarding the extent of damage and possible causes are expected after the completion of the official inquiry.

Post-Covid Hip Damage Rising

Post-Covid Hip Damage Rising Among Young Indians

Experts warn of 40% rise in surgeries among young adults due to AVN and early arthritis

WHAT IS AVN?
Avascular Necrosis (AVN) occurs when blood supply to the hip bone is disrupted, causing bone tissue death and eventual joint collapse.

KEY REASONS (POST-COVID)

- High-dose or prolonged steroid use
- Post-Covid inflammatory response
- Reduced physical activity and delayed treatment
- Underlying vascular or metabolic conditions

SURGEONS ADVISE

- Early diagnosis is crucial
- Timely MRI evaluation helps
- Joint-preserving treatment possible in early stages
- Do not ignore persistent hip or groin pain

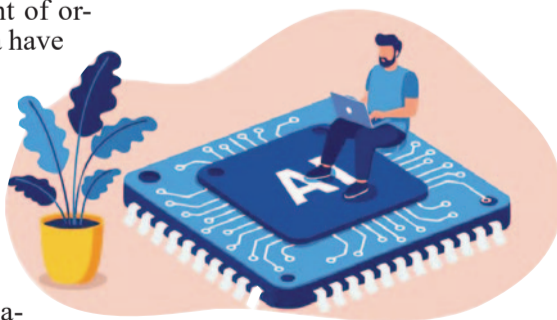
40%

RISE IN HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERIES

AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

AI Skills Gap Worries Firms

Nearly 45 per cent of organisations in India have identified AI, digital and data skills as their biggest workforce challenge, according to the SHRM India Skill Intelligence Report 2026. The report said companies are struggling to build future-ready talent as artificial intelligence and digital transformation rapidly reshape workplaces. Around 54 per cent of organisations also reported only moderate or low urgency towards AI investments. Apart from AI-related skills, green and ESG capabilities emerged as another major concern, with 41 per cent of organisations reporting a significant talent gap in the sector. The report noted that only a small number of companies currently possess advanced ESG talent capabilities. It further highlighted that nearly 60 per cent of learning and development budgets are still focused on digital self-paced content and classroom training, raising concerns about the effectiveness of current upskilling strategies. On gig workforce adoption, the report found that most organisations are hesitant due to concerns over skill quality and career continuity rather than regulatory issues. Achal Khanna said India is at a crucial stage in workforce transformation and stressed that organisations must build scalable future-ready skills to stay competitive. Johnny C Taylor Jr. said India has the opportunity to become a global benchmark in developing resilient and skilled talent due to its young workforce and growing digital ecosystem.



Youth Held Over Terror Links

Medchal, May 24 (Tricolour Estate): Medchal police arrested a youth for allegedly trying to establish links with terrorist organisations, including Pakistan's ISI. The accused, identified as Jayeed Khan from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, was reportedly working at a hotel in Medchal. Police said he had been following extremist groups on social media platforms and was attempting to contact them for some time. During surveillance of his online activity, investigators allegedly found efforts to connect with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Based on the findings, police detained and later arrested him. Officials also seized a fake firearm from his possession. Further investigation is underway.



Nikki Tamboli

Swayambhu VFX Buzz Grows

Actor Nikhil Siddhartha's upcoming historical film Swayambhu is creating strong buzz for its massive visual effects scale and grand cinematic vision. The film features an extensive post-production process with over 750 CG artists working on nearly 2,700 VFX shots, aiming to deliver a large-scale visual experience. The makers say the project is designed to bring a rich historical world to life with advanced technology and detailed world-building. Early promotional content, including the teaser and the first track Ra Ra Dhevara, has already received strong audience re-

sponse, boosting expectations for the film. The teaser alone crossed millions of views online and has been widely praised for its visuals and action sequences. The makers have also released behind-the-scenes visuals showing close collaboration between the team and VFX artists to ensure high-quality output. The film is being positioned as one of the most ambitious projects in Nikhil Siddhartha's career. Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, the film features music by Ravi Basrur and cinematography by KK Senthil, adding to its technical strength. The project is scheduled for a worldwide release in Summer 2026.



Salman on Why He Avoids Politics

Salman Khan once shared the humorous reason why he does not contest elections, saying he doubts even his own family would vote for him. During an appearance on The Kapil Sharma Show, he responded to a question about celebrities entering politics. Salman said he does feel like contesting elections at times, but quickly realises he might not even win a small internal election in his own building. In his trademark witty style, he explained that even if he contested for the position of society secretary in his apartment building, he would likely lose, as he might not secure enough votes from his own family members living in different flats. The actor's light-hearted comment drew attention for its honesty and humour, reflecting his self-deprecating take on popularity and public life.



Jana Nayagan may Release June



Chennai: Tamil superstar and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay's final film Jana Nayagan is now reportedly eyeing a June 19, 2026 release, according to listings on ticketing platforms, though the makers are yet to make an official announcement. The political action drama was originally scheduled for a January 9 release but was delayed due to pending certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The film has been awaiting clearance for nearly five months, leading to uncertainty around its theatrical debut. Recent updates on platforms like BookMyShow and District have suggested a June release window, increasing anticipation among fans. However, the producer has clarified that the film is still awaiting censor certification and an official release date will be announced only after approval. Jana Nayagan features a star-studded cast including Mamitha Baiju, Pooja Hegde, Prakash Raj, Bobby Deol, and Gautham Menon. Reportedly mounted on a ₹500 crore budget, the film is expected to be Vijay's final appearance before stepping away from cinema.

Real Bonds Do not exist Today

Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel has said that "innocence and real bonds" no longer exist in today's Bollywood, reflecting on her early days in the industry. The actress shared a throwback picture from the Phuket shoot of Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai, featuring her co-star Hrithik Roshan, where the duo is seen enjoying a casual dinner during filming. Posting the image on social media, Patel expressed gratitude for the friendships she formed during her early career, saying such genuine relationships are rare in the current film industry. "Innocence n real bonds that don't exist in today's Bollywood times between co stars! blessed 2 have created such bonds n friendships that last forever," she wrote. In a separate post, the actress also commented on increasing online trolling of Indian celebrities, stating that public figures in India face harsher criticism from their own people compared to Hollywood stars in their countries.



Iran Shifts World Cup Base to Mexico

Tehran: Iran's football team will reportedly shift its 2026 FIFA World Cup training base from the United States to Mexico after FIFA approval, according to Iranian FA president Mehdi Taj. The team, originally assigned Tucson in Arizona, will now be based in Tijuana near the US-Mexico border. The move comes amid security concerns and ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, though FIFA has not yet officially confirmed the change. Iran is set to play its group matches in Los Angeles and Seattle, including clashes against New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt. Officials said the new base offers better travel convenience for match venues compared to the earlier US location. Iran is currently preparing for the tournament in Turkey while also dealing with visa-related uncertainties and diplomatic complications involving several squad members.



Haddin praised Iyer's performance

Brad Haddin praised Shreyas Iyer's performance, saying "In these matches, you want your best players to stand up. These are the matches where everything is on the line. For the last couple of days, the captain had that look in his eye. He wanted to be the one that made the difference and turned things around and he gave us an opportunity to play in the finals. You got a long way to see a better innings and a better captain's knock than that." He further added "He wanted to be the one to make the difference and that's what you want from your leaders, whether it's for IPL or for your country. You want your leaders owning those big moments and that's what he did."

India Becoming Cricket Powerhouse

Rohit Sharma has said he wants India to become the "powerhouse of world cricket," adding that the country is already among the best in modern-day cricket across formats. Speaking at a Mumbai Indians event, Rohit highlighted India's strong recent performances in ICC tournaments and youth competitions, saying the overall structure of Indian cricket is moving in a positive direction. He noted that consistent success over the past few years shows how far the team and system have progressed. Rohit also spoke about how the game has evolved, especially in limited-overs cricket, where even traditionally good scores are no longer consid-

ered safe due to aggressive batting approaches. He credited modern players for being more fearless and innovative, which has raised the overall standard of the sport. Reflecting on his long career, the former India captain said failures and setbacks have played an important role in shaping his mindset. He also explained how captaincy taught him to prioritise team success over individual performance. Rohit further advised young cricketers to enjoy the game without excessive pressure, stressing that passion and freedom in early years are key to long-term growth in sport.



Manu to Lead 22 Member Squad

New Delhi: The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has announced a star-studded 22-member squad for the upcoming ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany, locking in a powerful blend of Olympic veterans and breakout young talent for the prestigious tournament running from May 24 to 31. Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker is set for a demanding schedule as the headline act of the contingent. Bhaker, alongside world championship medallist Esha Singh, will be the only Indian athletes starting in two individual pistol events. Bhaker is also slated to compete in the mixed



team pistol event. The tournament—traditionally considered the blue-riband event of the international shooting calendar—will feature 696 athletes from 80 countries. Action begins Tuesday

at the iconic shooting range in Munich, kicking off with the Women's 25m Pistol Precision Stage, Men's 10m Air Pistol, and the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions.