

## Telangana CM asks RTC unions to prepare action plan on merger, polls

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday, May 1, asked employee unions of state-run Telangana State Road Transport Corporation to draw up an action plan on their demands, including the corporation's merger with the government. Reddy, who met the representatives of the unions, State Transport Minister Ponnampallabharani and officials here Friday evening, assured that the government would fulfill the pay revision demand of the employees. He also agreed to the unions' demands of payment of wages for the three days when the employees struck work recently and to withdraw the cases filed against them, an official release said. He said the Congress government made appointments and also increased the number of buses in the corporation.



## Christian leaders slam 'despicable' Israeli assault on French nun in occupied al-Quds

Condemnations pour following an assault by an extremist Israeli settler on a French nun, as attacks on Christian and Muslim clergy and holy sites are on the rise across the occupied territories. Bishop William Shomali, the vicar general of the Latin Patriarchate in al-Quds, said on Friday that he had watched video footage of the incident, describing it as "painful, alarming and extremely serious." "The nun is physically frail. The attacker shoved her forcefully from behind, causing her to fall to the ground after her head struck a raised stone tile. He then returned and stepped on her. A young Israeli man of Russian origin intervened and pulled him away, though his identity is unknown," he added.

## TELANGANA GOVT TO GIVE 2BHK HOUSES TO THOSE DISPLACED BY HYDRABAD LAKE WORKS

HYDRABAD chief said that the measure was taken to ensure that the poor do not suffer injustice due to bigwig encroachers.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 01

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has decided to sanction double-bedroom houses to the poor who were displaced during the restoration of lakes, Hyderabad Disaster Management and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRABAD) Commissioner AV Ranganath said on Friday, May 1.

Holding a meeting with those who lost their homes during the restoration of Sunnam Tank



in Madhapur and Ramanthapur Tank in Uppal, the HYDRABAD chief said that the measure was taken to ensure that the poor do not suffer injustice due to bigwig encroachers.

HYDRABAD is currently trying to determine the

number of huts affected with the help of Google Maps and satellite images to rule out any possibility of irregularities, Ranganath said.

"We are collecting the numbers of those who were residing before July

19, 2024 (HYDRABAD formation date). The Chief Minister has suggested that the same policy be followed in all the places where tanks have been restored in the city," the Commissioner said.

### Governor assures dialogue after group flags forced relocation of Chenchus

Hyderabad: A delegation of the Chenchu Solidarity Forum (CSF) on Friday, May 1, met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and urged him to intervene against what it said was the unconstitutional.

## LPG PRICE HIKE

### Rahul attacks Modi government, SAYS INFLATION HEATS UP AFTER ELECTIONS, NEXT WAR ON PETROL & DIESEL

The Democratic News New Delhi, May, 01

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has hit out at the central government over the steep hike in the price of commercial LPG cylinders, calling it an 'election bill' imposed on the people. He said in a statement on social media platform 'X' that it was already warned that inflation would increase af-



ter the elections and this is what is happening now. Rahul Gandhi wrote that today the price of a commercial gas cylinder was in-

creased by Rs 993, which is the biggest increase in a single day. He said that since February till now, there has

been an increase of Rs 1380 in just three months, which is about an 81% increase. According to him, this will

have a direct impact on the lives of the common people, especially those who are connected with daily business. He further said that the burden on the kitchens of tea sellers, dhabas, hotels, bakeries and confectioners will increase and eventually its impact will reach the people's plates. Rahul Gandhi warned that after

gas, the next attack may be on petrol and diesel, which will further increase inflation.

Meanwhile, the Congress party, while calling the Modi government anti-people, said in its social media statement that the burden of inflation is being continuously put on the people and the recent increase in the price of commercial cylinders is proof of this. The Congress claimed that the prices of cylinders have been continuously increased in the last few months, which has put a total burden of thousands of rupees on the people. On the other hand, the Congress party has also called the Modi government anti-people on this issue.

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## V Hanumantha Rao Appointed as BC Welfare Advisor, Meets CM Revanth Reddy at MCRD

V Hanumantha Rao meets CM Revanth Reddy at MCRD after appointment as BC Welfare Advisor. MPs Vem Narender Reddy and Anil Kumar Yadav attend.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 01

V Hanumantha Rao, who was recently appointed as the State Government Advisor for BC Welfare and Development Affairs, met A Revanth Reddy at MCRD in Hyderabad in a significant development highlighting the government's focus on backward class welfare. The meeting gained importance as it brought together key political figures to discuss strategies and coordination on issues affecting Backward Classes (BCs) in the state.

The interaction was attended by Members of Parliament Vem Narender Reddy and Anil Kumar Yadav, along with several other senior leaders. Their presence underscored the priority being given to BC welfare



and development initiatives by the state leadership. The gathering also reflected a broader effort to ensure alignment between policymakers, elected representatives, and advisory bodies.

During the meeting, discussions were held on a range of topics related to BC welfare, including ongoing schemes, development programs, and potential policy interventions aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of backward

communities. Hanumantha Rao's appointment as advisor is seen as a strategic move to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of welfare initiatives, as well as to provide expert guidance to the government on issues concerning BC communities.

Sources indicated that the meeting also focused on enhancing coordination between different departments and leaders to ensure that welfare measures reach

the intended beneficiaries effectively. Emphasis was reportedly placed on identifying gaps in existing programs and exploring new approaches to accelerate development in backward regions and communities.

This marks one of the first key engagements for Hanumantha Rao after assuming his advisory role, signaling an active start to his responsibilities. The discussions are expected to continue in the coming days, with further consultations and follow-up meetings likely to shape the roadmap for BC welfare and development in Telangana.

The meeting at MCRD concluded on a positive note, with leaders expressing commitment to work collectively towards the upliftment of backward classes.

## 'PENTAGON IS LYING' NETANYAHU'S GAMBLE COST US FOUR TIMES OFFICIAL ESTIMATE, ARAGHCHI SAYS



The Democratic News Tehran, May, 01

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says the Pentagon is lying about the financial toll of the war on Iran, noting that the aggression has directly cost the United States \$100 billion so far—four times the official estimate.

"The Pentagon is lying. Netanyahu's gamble has directly cost America \$100b so far, four times what is claimed," Araghchi wrote on X Friday.

"Indirect costs for U.S.

taxpayers are FAR higher. Monthly bill for each American household is \$500 and rising fast," he added.

"Israel First always means America Last," he said, referring to the Israeli role in dragging the US into a war of aggression against the Iranian nation.

His comments come as the Pentagon's \$25 billion cost estimate faces mounting scrutiny from multiple quarters.

According to a CNN report citing three unnamed sources familiar with internal assessments,

the figure presented by a senior Pentagon official to lawmakers on Wednesday significantly underestimates the true financial burden.

The sources revealed that the \$25 billion figure excludes extensive damage inflicted on US military bases across the region during Iran's defensive strikes.

When reconstruction and replacement of destroyed assets are factored in, one source noted, the cost likely ranges between \$40 billion and \$50 billion.

## BENGAL: EC ORDERS REPOLLING AT 15 BOOTHS IN SOUTH 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT ON MAY 2



Kolkata: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday, May 1, ordered a repoll at 15 polling stations spread across two Assembly constituencies in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, declaring the votes cast at those booths on April 29 void and fixing May 2 as the date for fresh polling. In a communiqué addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, the ECI said the decision was taken on the basis of reports received from the returning officers and observers of 142-Magrahat Paschim Assembly constituency and 143-Diamond Harbour Assembly constituency. The fresh poll, to be held between 7 am and 6 pm, covers 11 polling stations in Magrahat Paschim and four in Diamond Harbour.

## Iran demands reparations from six Arab states for enabling US-Israeli Aggression

The Iranian ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations has renewed the call for holding to account the states participating in the unjustified US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic. Amir-Saeid Iravani made the remarks in a letter addressed to the UN chief and the Security Council president on Thursday in response to anti-Iran letters sent by six Arab countries, including, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, to the world body. "The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates once again its clear and consistent position that all States whose internationally wrongful acts have played a role .



## Most advanced US warship retreats as war on Iran breaks American Navy

The USS Gerald R. Ford, the largest and most expensive aircraft carrier ever built by the United States, has been forced to withdraw from West Asia after 309 days of continuous deployment in support of the unprovoked US terrorist war against Iran. The \$13 billion leviathan is returning

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## LEADER VOWS TO DEFEAT ENEMY IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL WARS FOLLOWING IRAN'S VICTORY ON BATTLEFIELD

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has vowed that the Iranian nation will defeat the enemy in the cultural and economic spheres as well, following the victory on the military battlefield.



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei made the remarks on a Friday message on the occasion of Teacher's Day and Labor Day. "Now that the Islamic Republic of Iran, after more than forty-seven years of struggle, relying on divine grace, has proven to the world a part of its remarkable capability in the military battle against the enemies of its progress and excellence, it must also disappoint and defeat them in the phase of economic and cultural jihad," he wrote. "Teachers will be the most influential link in the cultural battle, and workers will be among the most effective elements in the economic battle—so much so that it can be claimed that these two serve as the backbone of the arenas of culture and economy," he said.

On May 2, Iran marked National Teachers' Day, which coincides with the martyrdom anniversary of legendary Iranian scholar Ayatollah Morteza Mutahhari. Meanwhile, International Workers' Day, also known as May Day, is marked on May 1 every year. Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the country's progress hinges on "the twin pillars of knowledge and labor," and called for practical support for both groups. Teachers, he said, carry the "grave responsibility" of teaching skills, nurturing insight, and shaping the identity of the

next generation. "Students will reflect, like a mirror, the behaviors and words of their teachers," he added. Turning to workers, the Leader described the workplace as an arena "as wide as the country itself." He said hard work and commitment are the "pillars of any great success." Ayatollah Khamenei warned officials that occasional verbal tributes are not enough. "Just as the Iranian nation has shown worthy support for their military forces, it is fitting that they also demonstrate strong backing for teachers and workers," he said.

He called for greater interaction between families and school administrators, and urged citizens to prioritize domestically manufactured goods to support local workers. He also appealed to business owners, particularly those with struggling enterprises, to "avoid layoffs as much as possible" and to regard every worker as a "source of wealth" for their operation, with government support. Reflecting on Iran's emergence as a military power, the Leader expressed hope that by strengthening Iranian-Islamic identity through teachers and prioritizing domestic goods produced by workers, the country would continue "toward the peaks of progress and excellence."

## IRAN REJECTS US 'SELF-DEFENSE' CLAIM, CALLS STRIKES 'PURE AGGRESSION'

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has forcefully rejected Washington's justification for the aggression it launched against the Iranian nation, dismissing US claims of self-defense.

Taking to X on Friday, spokesman Esmail Baghaei condemned new justifications issued by the US State Department. Questioning the premise of Washington's military actions, Baghaei asked, "Self-defense against what? Was there any 'armed attack' by Iran to justify 'self defense'?" He emphatically noted the answer is "Definitely not," adding, "So this was absolutely NOT 'self-defense' — it was an act of AGGRESSION against the nation of Iran." The spokesman's comments were triggered by an April 21 State Department release in which legal adviser Reed Rubinstein detailed the administration's rationale. Rubinstein claimed that the United States is engaged in the war "at the request of and in the collective self-defense of its Israeli ally, as well as in the exercise of the United States' own inherent right of self-defense." The criminal US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders. The strikes also targeted the country's vital economic and civilian infrastructure, claiming the lives of over

3,300 Iranians, according to the latest data. However, Rubinstein's invocation of self-defense contrasts sharply with internal US military assessments. During a congressional briefing just one day after the aggression commenced, Pentagon staff acknowledged to attendees that Iran was not planning to strike US forces or bases in West Asia unless Israel attacked Iran first. This acknowledgment drastically undercuts false allegations from the administration of US President Donald Trump, which claimed Iran was planning pre-emptive strikes against American assets. Furthermore, the State Department's admission clarifies that Washington entered a war of aggression against Iran on behalf of the Israeli regime. This candid disclosure directly contradicts President Trump, who has repeatedly insisted that Israel had nothing to do with his decision to spark another war in West Asia. Trump has continually complained online about the circling narrative. On the social media platform Truth Social, he recently claimed, "Israel never talked me into the war with Iran." Despite the



president's denials, US involvement was reportedly arranged following a February 11 meeting between Trump, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and several US and Israeli officials in the White House Situation Room. Reports indicate it was Netanyahu's direct influence and subsequent pressure campaign that thrust America into the war. In response to the initial strikes, Iranian armed forces launched daily missile and drone operations targeting locations in the Israeli-occupied territories, as well as US military bases across the region.

## Iran demands reparations from six Arab states for enabling US-Israeli Aggression

The Iranian ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations has renewed the call for holding to account the states participating in the unjustified US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Amir-Saeid Irvani made the remarks in a letter addressed to the UN chief and the Security Council president on Thursday in response to anti-Iran letters sent by six Arab countries, including, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, to the world body. "The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates once again its clear and consistent position that all States whose internationally wrongful acts have played a role in the United States' and the Israeli regime's aggression against its sovereignty and territorial integrity must be held accountable," he said. Irvani also stressed that the Persian Gulf littoral states are under an obligation to make full reparation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including compensation for all material and moral damage caused by their internationally wrongful acts. Attempting to distort the factual and legal context, the aforesaid countries falsely attributed responsibility for the war to Iran, which has been the target of the savage war of aggression, he added.

# Shia cleric injured in explosion near Damascus shrine: Report

A prominent Shia preacher was critically injured on Friday in a grenade explosion near the Sayyida Zaynab shrine south of Damascus, according to a report. A Britain-based monitoring group, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), said the attack targeted Sheikh Farhan Mansour, a member of the Shia sect's scholarly body and a Friday sermon preacher. According to the group, the attack occurred after Mansour left the shrine. Sources cited by SOHR said a hand grenade was thrown into his car near the Safir al-Zahra hotel. The explosion left Mansour with "very critical injuries," and he was taken to a hospital, with his fate still unknown. Security forces later imposed a strict cordon around the site of the blast, the monitor added.

(HTS) militants, confirmed that a grenade attack had taken place in the area and said investigations were underway to identify the suspect. It did not report any casualties or injuries. The attack comes amid rising sectarian tensions in Syria since the fall of the government of former president Bashar Assad in late 2024. Minority communities have faced increasing violence, including targeted massacres of Alawites and deadly clashes in Druze-majority areas. Religious sites have also been targeted. In June, the Mar Elias Church in Damascus was hit by a bombing attack. The Sayyida Zaynab shrine, located south of the capital, is among the most important Shia holy sites. It is believed to house the tomb of Zaynab, the granddaughter of the Prophet Muhammad and daughter of Imam Ali (peace be upon them).



## GERMANY'S VICE CHANCELLOR SLAMS TRUMP, DEMANDS SWIFT END TO IRAN WAR

Germany's vice chancellor has strongly criticized US President Donald Trump over his anti-Iran strategy and called on him to end the war of aggression against Iran as quickly as possible. Lars Klingbeil told a Labor Day event in the western town of Bergkamen on Friday that Trump had wrongly assumed the war against Iran would be over within just a few days.

"I think he really believed this would be a matter of two or three days, and then everything would be fine. He now bears the responsibility for ensuring that this war on Iran ends quickly," Klingbeil said. Klingbeil held the US president directly accountable for the political repercussions

and massive economic fallout resulting from the war against Iran. He also defended Chancellor Friedrich Merz against recent criticisms from Trump. "We really don't need any advice from Donald Trump. He should take a look at the mess he's created. He should ensure that serious peace talks are now held with Iran," Klingbeil said. "And I say this especially in light of the past few days, when he has been making comments about the German federal government and the chancellor," he added. On Tuesday, Trump verbally attacked Merz after the top German official blasted Trump's war on Iran, further straining ties between the allies.

## 'Digital Apartheid': Meta lets Israeli settlers profit from terror attacks against Palestinians

Meta Platforms, the American company that runs and owns social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, allows Israeli settler groups to profit from anti-Palestinians content, while blocking monetization for the accounts of Palestinians and limiting their reach, a report says.



Meta Platforms, the American company that runs and owns social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, allows Israeli settler groups to profit from anti-Palestinians content, while

blocking monetization for the accounts of Palestinians and limiting their reach, a report says. A new investigation by the Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media (7amleh) found that

extremist Jewish groups such as the Hilltop Youth, sanctioned by the US, UK, and other nations for their involvement in violent attacks on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, continue to generate revenue through Facebook and Instagram. The report presented samples of monetized Israeli pages that "promote illegal outposts, justify settler violence, mock Palestinian victims, call for forced displacement, or celebrate destruction and genocide in Gaza." Meta's moderation systems still permit these groups, which use platforms to organize and fundraise for illegal settlement activities, to receive revenue despite committing violence and violating the company's own policies. Meanwhile, Palestinian accounts of well-known journalists and human rights advocates are subject to systematic censorship and

"digital erasure." 7amleh documented thousands of instances where Palestinian accounts were shadow-banned, restricted, or permanently deleted for showing the reality of life under Israeli occupation. This discrepancy creates a "monetization blockade" that prevents Palestinian creators from earning revenue based on their geographic location. "This reality creates a dual system: on one hand, Palestinian digital and economic participation is suppressed; on the other, pages that promote settlement activity, violence, and incitement against Palestinians are financially rewarded," the report concluded. By allowing sanctioned groups to profit while suppressing the narratives of those reporting from the ground, Meta is accused of facilitating a "digital apartheid" in West Asia.

## Poll: Most Americans believe US aggression against Iran was a 'mistake'

A recent poll has found that most Americans believe that using the US military against Iran was a mistake, and that the war will make things worse in the United States. According to an ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll conducted using Ipsos' KnowledgePanel, about 6 in 10 Americans say that it was a mistake to go to war against Iran, while just over one-third say it was the right decision. The percentage of Americans who say the Iran war was a mistake (61%) is far higher than the 26% of Americans who said the US going to war with Iraq was a mistake in a March 2003 ABC/Post poll shortly after the US invasion of the Arab country, but far closer to the 64% who reached to this conclusion after it had gone on for nearly four years in

January 2007. Most Americans see potential risk in the US aggression against Iran, including an increased chance of the US economy slipping into a recession (60%) and weakening relationships with US allies (56%). As gas prices have reached a four-year high because of the war, half of Americans expect gas prices to increase even more in the upcoming year, 4 in 10 say they are not as well off as they were when President Donald Trump returned to power and nearly a quarter say they are falling behind financially. The poll also showed that few Americans, only 19%, say the US war in Iran this year has been successful, while 39% believe it has not been successful and 41% say it is too soon to tell.

## SPAIN SUMMONS ENVOY, OTHERS BLAST ISRAELI KIDNAP OF GAZA AID FLOTILLA CREW



Spain's Foreign Ministry has summoned the chargé d'affaires at the Israeli embassy in Madrid to protest the occupying regime's attack on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters and the abduction of pro-Palestine activists. The Spanish Foreign Ministry announced in a statement on Thursday that it had summoned Dana Erlich to convey its "strongest condemnation" for the interception of the "Sumud 2" aid convoy. Israeli naval forces targeted vessels from the Global Sumud Flotilla's Spring 2026 mission, which aimed to break Israel's blockade on Gaza and deliver essential aid, off the coast of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea.

# Delhi Capitals Register Their Highest Successful Chase, Beat Rajasthan Royals By 7 wickets

KL Rahul and Pathum Nissanka turned a steep chase into a statement performance, their fluent half-centuries eclipsing Riyan Parag's stirring 90 and steering Delhi Capitals to a seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in their IPL clash here on Friday. Parag answered a barrage of criticism with a blistering 50-ball 90 that hauled the Royals to a competitive 225 for six. Yet Delhi Capitals responded with authority, Rahul and Nissanka laying the foundation for a successful pursuit

as they cruised to 226 for three. This was DC's highest successful chase in the IPL. Their previous best was 210 against LSG in Vizag in 2025. Overall, it's the 8th-best in IPL history. KL Rahul and Pathum Nissanka. The duo added 102 runs in just 9.3 overs, setting the tone early. Rahul began cautiously before shifting gears, eventually bringing up his half-century in 27 balls. Nissanka, meanwhile, impressed with his pull shots, smashing three sixes before falling to Ravindra



Jadeja. Rahul then stitched a crucial 61-run stand with Nitish Rana (33), keeping the chase firmly on track. However, both departed in quick succession, leaving DC needing 49 off 26 balls. Ashutosh Sharma and Tristan Stubbs held their nerve at the death, guiding the side home with composure. Earlier, Rajasthan Royals posted 225 for six, powered by skipper Riyan Parag's superb 90. Under pressure after a lean patch, Parag weathered an early wobble before taking on Kyle Jamieson with a

flurry of boundaries that shifted momentum. He reached his fifty in 32 balls and shared a 102-run stand with Dhruv Jurel (42). Parag continued to dominate, even producing a stunning forehand-like six off T Natarajan. He later added 53 runs with Jadeja (20) before falling to Mitchell Starc, who finished with key wickets. A late blitz from Donovan Ferreira (47 off 14) gave RR a strong total, but it ultimately proved insufficient. The win lifted DC to sixth in the standings, while RR

## 'BIT MORE PRESSURE TODAY': AYUSH SHETTY OPENS UP ON INDIA'S STATEMENT WIN VS CHINESE TAIPEI



Star Indian men's singles shuttler Ayush Shetty has admitted that the pressure on the team ahead of the

Thomas Cup quarterfinals was a bit more, adding that it eased on him as his seniors gave him a 2-0 lead to

play with while facing All England champion Lin Chun-Yi. After playing a key role in India's

3-0 quarterfinal victory over Chinese Taipei, Ayush said that the team believes it can reclaim the Ayush bagged a brilliant 21-16, 21-17 victory over Lin Chun-Yi in the second singles to seal the contest. "We believe that we can go all the way. It has always been like this. We have a solid team and everyone believes that we can do it," Ayush said while speaking to BWF. Comparing the knockout clash to the group stage, Ayush admitted there was added pressure but credited India's early momentum for easing the situation. "Yesterday was the group stage, but today there was a bit more pressure. Being 2-0 up made it a bit easier. I think I played with confidence and I am happy to win for the team," Ayush said. The star shuttler added that his

strategy was to stay aggressive and deny his opponent chances to dictate play. "He (Lin) is an All England champion and has a really strong attack. The plan was to attack more and not give him many chances and I think I executed that pretty well," Ayush said. Playing the first singles, Lakshya Sen saved two match points to script an 18-21, 22-20, 21-17 victory over the world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen to set the tone. Lakshya credited a change in mindset and a more proactive approach for his brilliant comeback victory, saying that he stopped 'overthinking' and trusted his instincts in the crucial moments. Ayush Shetty leads India past Chinese Taipei at Thomas Cup, defeating Lin Chun-Yi as the team targets reclaiming

## D Gukesh's Giddy Reaction To Vaishali's Candidates Triumph: 'I Screamed When Akka Won'

When two of India's brightest chess stars share a moment, it's bound to feel special. Reigning World Champion Gukesh D stated that he couldn't hide his excitement after R Vaishali clinched the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament, booking her place at the Women's World Championship later this year. "I Just Screamed" Vaishali's win in Cyprus was a breakthrough moment, and Gukesh was glued to it. "I was following Vaishali Akka's game and I just screamed when she won," he said during a felicitation event in Chennai. He didn't stop there. "Huge congrats to Vaishali Akka. Since the 2024 Candidates, I've always been amazed by the character she

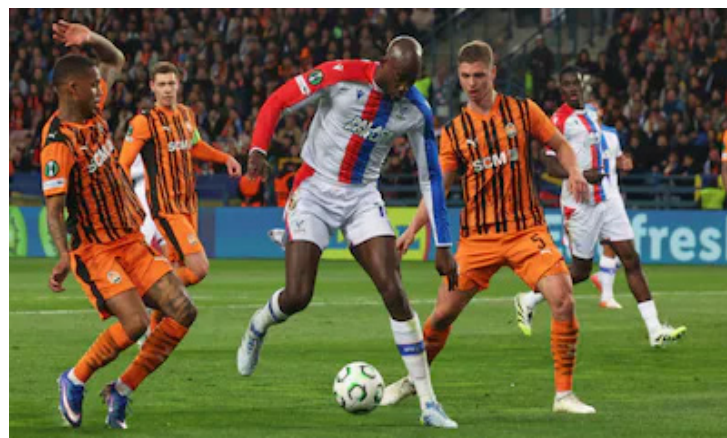
shows in any tournament. And I'm really glad that we both can fight for the World Championship." Vaishali, calm as ever, had a light response ready. "I hope we both will win (the World Championship) and we'll have yet another celebration," she said, drawing laughter and applause from the crowd. A Title Sealed Under Pressure By Vaishali Facing a must-win situation in the final round of the 2026 Women's Candidates, Vaishali delivered with the white pieces, defeating Kateryna Lagno in the final round. She finished on 8.5 points, edging Bibisara Assaubayeva by half a point in a tight finish. And by doing so, she booked herself a clash with reigning champion

## NBA Finds A Fix For Tanking? '3-2-1 Lottery' Plan Proposed To Curb Mess - Report

For years, NBA fans have complained about 'tanking'. And now, the league seems set to draw a line in the sand and stand on business. According to ESPN's Shams Charania, the NBA has presented a new draft reform proposal, dubbed the "3-2-1 lottery," to all 30 teams in an effort to curb the growing issue. Why the League Is Stepping In Tanking (losing intentionally to secure better draft odds) has become increasingly visible, especially after the All-Star break. And this season, it reached a tipping point. Five teams — Washington Wizards, Indiana Pacers, Utah Jazz, Memphis Grizzlies and Brooklyn Nets — all posted winning percentages below .180 after the break, something never seen before. The league even fined the Jazz \$500,000 for "conduct detrimental to the league" after questionable player usage late in games. How the "3-2-1 Lottery" Works The proposed system reshapes draft odds to discourage finishing at the bottom. The lottery pool expands from 14 to 16 teams, including play-in losers. All 16 teams enter the draw, rather than weighting only the worst records

## Conference League Semi-Final: Crystal Palace Trump Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 In Poland

Crystal Palace took a giant step towards the UEFA Conference League final in their first season of European football with a 3-1 win over Shakhtar Donetsk in the first leg of their semi-final on Thursday. Goals from Ismaila Sarr, Daichi Kamada and Jorgen Strand Larsen in Poland put the Eagles in command of the tie, despite a spirited performance from the Ukrainian league leaders. Shakhtar have remained remarkably competitive in European football despite their long exile from Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict with Russia. However, the vast difference in resources between the sides was evident when Strand Larsen, who joined Palace for a club-record £48 million (\$65 million) in February, came off the bench to give last sea-



son's FA Cup winners a two-goal cushion late on. "It's a nice half-time lead, but not more," said Palace manager Oliver Glasner. "It was a huge impact from the bench. So overall we're very

pleased with the performance, but it's just the first step." Palace made a dream start, taking the lead after just 21 seconds. Jean-Philippe Mateta and Yeremy Pino combined neatly before the

former played in Sarr, who fired home his 18th goal of the season, eight of which have come in the Conference League. Arda Turan's side then pinned back their Premier League opponents for the rest of the first half and were rewarded early in the second period. Oleh Ocheretko slotted home the equaliser from close range after Palace failed to clear a corner. The goal, however, jolted Glasner's men back into life. Dmytro Riznyk produced a brilliant double save to deny Sarr and Mateta, before the French striker struck the post from a long throw. Shakhtar failed to heed the warning and, from Chris Richards' next throw into the box, the ball broke kindly for Kamada, who drilled under Riznyk. Chasing another equal-

iser, Shakhtar were then picked off on the counter-attack. Kamada picked out Strand Larsen, who coolly cut inside and chipped the onrushing Riznyk for his fourth goal since joining from Wolves. Before their shock win over Manchester City in last season's FA Cup final, Palace had never won a major trophy in their history. Now they are favourites to add a second in 12 months, with Rayo Vallecano or Strasbourg awaiting the winners in the final in Leipzig on May 27. "This is just an amazing group of people, of men, of characters and it's with such a big great spirit," added Glasner, who will leave Palace at the end of the season. "There's such a great togetherness and we always believe in us."

## NOTTINGHAM FOREST PIP ASTON VILLA AS BRAGA HAVE EDGE OVER FREIBURG

Nottingham Forest beat Aston Villa 1-0 in the UEFA Europa League semi-final first leg, while S.C. Braga edged SC Freiburg 2-1 with a stoppage-time winner.



Nottingham Forest moved closer to a historic European final with a 1-0 victory over Aston Villa in the first leg of

their UEFA Europa League semi-final. Chris Wood was the match-winner, converting a second-half penalty after a costly handball by Lucas Digne at the City Ground. The decisive moment came in the 71st minute when Digne raised his arm to block a cross that had been kept in play, triggering a VAR review and the award of a penalty. Wood calmly converted from the spot, scoring his fifth goal of an injury-hit season and giving Forest a narrow lead ahead of the return leg. "It's nice to have the advantage but going to Villa Park will be a tough game. They're good at their place," Wood said. "It's small moments that can potentially change games. Thankfully it went in our favour tonight." Forest, now unbeaten in nine matches in all competitions under Vitor Pereira, have balanced their European run with a

climb away from domestic relegation trouble. Reaching the final in Istanbul would be their first major continental showpiece since their golden era under Brian Clough. Villa, led by Unai Emery, created early chances through Youri Tielemans and Ollie Watkins but failed to make the breakthrough. Despite late attacking substitutions, they could not break down a resolute Forest defence. In the other Europa League semi-final, S.C. Braga claimed a dramatic 2-1 win over SC Freiburg. Goals from Demir Ege Tknaz and Mario Dorgeles overturned an equaliser by Vincenzo Grifo, with the winner arriving in stoppage time. "Even after we conceded, the team prevailed. We missed a penalty and still managed to win," Braga coach Carlos Vicens said. "The team never stopped wanting to win... And we got the reward in the form of a 2-1 victory.

## No Handshake! Palestine Football Chief Refuses To Share Stage With Israel's VP, FIFA Head Caught Off Guard

Palestinian football federation president Jibril Rajoub refused to stand alongside Israel FA vice-president Basim Sheikh Suliman in a heated moment at the FIFA Congress on Thursday. Both men were called to the stage by FIFA president Gianni Infantino, but Rajoub declined to move closer to the Arab-Israeli official. Infantino placed his hand on Rajoub's arm and gestured for him to approach Suliman, but Rajoub refused. Asked what Rajoub said when he declined, Palestinian FA vice-president Susan Shalabi, who was in the room, told Reuters: "I cannot shake the hand of someone the Israelis have brought to whitewash their fascism and genocide. We are suffering." Infantino then took the stage and said: "We will work together, president Rajoub, vice-president Suliman. Let's work together to give hope



to the children. These are complex matters." Speaking to Reuters after the Congress ended, Shalabi said Infantino's attempt to have Suliman and Rajoub

shake hands showed little consideration for the Palestinian FA chief's speech, in which he again appealed for Israeli clubs not to base teams in West Bank settlements.

## Mouth-Covering, Walk-Offs Now Mean Automatic Red Cards At 2026 FIFA World Cup

# TELANGANA CM ORDERS TIMELY SUPPLY OF STUDY MATERIAL IN GOVT SCHOOLS



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure the timely supply of all essential educational materials to students in government schools. Reddy held a review meeting on the centralised procurement of educational materials on Thursday, April 30, which will be distributed to students enrolled in institutions run by the state's Education Department, as well as the BC, Minority, Tribal and SC Welfare departments. He said the centralised procurement policy was introduced as the earlier system, where departments independently handled procurement and supply operations, lacked uniformity. He said instances of malpractice and misappropriation of funds had come to light when departments independently managed the supply of materials, mainly uniforms and notebooks, a press release said. The chief minister warned that such irregularities would not be tolerated under any circumstances and stressed that the centralised procurement system should enhance accountability. He said the government's main objective was to benefit students. He directed officials to ensure that all materials, including notebooks, trunk boxes, plates, glasses, tracksuits, bed sheets, school bags, ID cards and uniforms, are of high quality.

## AAP gov't Confidence Motion passes in Punjab Assembly

Chandigarh: The Confidence Motion moved by the Bhagwant Mann government was unanimously passed in the Punjab Assembly on Friday, May 1, and AAP MLAs reaffirmed that they stand like loyal soldiers of the party. This comes days after seven Rajya Sabha MPs of the Arvind Kejriwal-led party defected to the BJP.

During the special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha here, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann moved the Confidence Motion. There are rumours that AAP will be finished and its MLAs would switch sides, and such rumours create an illusion in people's minds, CM Mann said in the House while moving the motion.

With the opposition MLAs not present in the House when the motion was taken up, it was unanimously passed in their absence. "We built the party with hard work and we stand by Kejriwal like a rock," the Punjab CM further said. In the 117-member Punjab Assembly, AAP enjoys an overwhelming majority with 94 MLAs, while 16 belong to the Congress, one BSP, three SAD, two BJP and one Independent.

## Telangana Dy CM Bhatti assures support to family after CPRO Madhusudhan's death

Bhatti also assured job support for Madhusudhan's B.Tech graduate son, Venkat Suraj.

The Democratic News  
Hyderabad, May ,01

Telangana deputy chief minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday, May 1, visited the residence of late CPRO Maraboyina Madhusudhan in Miryalaguda and assured full support to the bereaved family, describing the deceased as a man of strong values and unwavering professional commitment. Expressing deep sorrow, Bhatti said Madhusudhan's dedication to journalism and his perspective towards society made him an inspiration to many. "His loss is not just for the family, but a personal loss to me as well," he said while consoling family members.

During the visit, Bhatti interacted



with Madhusudhan's wife Jyothi and mother Parvathamma, offering condolences and encouragement. Responding to the family's concerns,

the deputy CM assured that Jyothi, currently working on deputation as a coordinator with the Telangana Open School Society (TOSS) in Hyderabad, would be supported in securing a permanent transfer to Hyderabad or Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The family also sought assistance for Madhusudhan's son, Venkat Suraj, who has completed his B.Tech. Bhatti assured that he would personally take responsibility for helping the young man find a suitable job in a corporate company.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the deputy CM said the family would be cared for like his own and urged them to approach him directly for any future needs.

## Telangana govt seeks elephant from Karnataka, Kerala for Muharram procession

In Hyderabad, the practice of carrying the Alam on an elephant on the 10th of Muharram (Ashura) is a 17th-century Golconda-era tradition and continues yearly.

The Democratic News  
Hyderabad, May ,01

The Telangana Waqf Board on Thursday, April 30, submitted a letter to the Principal Secretary of the Minorities Welfare Department asking for a permanent arrangement of an elephant for the Muharram procession in the state. The Waqf Board suggested that since the state government is facing difficulties in

procuring a trained elephant for the Muharram, Gyavri Shareef and Bonalu processions every year, it should consider procuring it from Karnataka or Kerala, either by buying it or by asking the neighbouring states to gift it to Telangana. Moreover, the Waqf Board had sent a letter to the state government on July 8 last year, requesting the Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) to write to their counterparts in Karnataka and

Kerala, asking for two trained elephants, a male and a female, either through sale or gift, the letter added. Meanwhile, Telangana High Court advocate and a member of the Shia Companions Organisation, Syed Ali Jaffry, has said that this action was long overdue as his organisation had submitted a proposal for the same to All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi in September last year.

## CV ANAND TAKES CHARGE AS TELANGANA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE



The Democratic News  
Hyderabad, May ,01

Indian Police Service (IPS) officer CV Anand on Friday, May 1, took charge as Telangana's new Director General of Police. However, Anand

asked police officials not to pay the customary courtesy visit and to concentrate on maintaining law and order. The DGP said he would meet them at an appropriate time.

This move marks a shift from long-standing practice

in the police department. Usually, officers visit the state headquarters to greet a new DGP. Anand replaces B Shivadhar Reddy, who served as the DGP for seven months. CV Anand appointed DGP

Anand was appointed DGP on April 28. He will serve as the head of Telangana police and will receive an apex scale pay of Rs 2,25,000. His appointment will come into effect on the day he assumes charge. Anand, a 1991-batch IPS officer, earlier served as Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and twice held the post of Hyderabad city Police Commissioner.

## Senior Journalists Felicitated on Appointment to Media Accreditation Committees

The Democratic News  
Hyderabad, May ,01

A felicitation ceremony was organised at the Sada-e-Hussaini Urdu Daily branch office in Darulshifa to honour journalists from Hyderabad and Rangareddy, Telangana, and various districts on their appointment as members of Media Accreditation Committees.

On the occasion, Syed Jaffer Hussain, Editor of Sada-e-Hussaini Daily, felicitated Mohammed Rafiuddin Gouri, senior journalist and State General Secretary of the Telangana Journalists Association (TJA), who has been appointed as a member of the Hyderabad Media Accreditation Committee. Dr. Syed Ikramullah Hussaini, President of TJA Rangareddy



District, was also honoured for his appointment as a member of the Rangareddy District Media Accreditation Committee. Both were presented with ceremonial shawls as a mark of recognition. Several senior journalists attended the event, including Mohammed Khaleel Ahmed, M.A. Wali Hafiz, Mohsin Ali, Baqar Ali,

President of TJA Hyderabad, and Syed Ahmed Hussain, Editor of Safer Mail Daily.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jaffer Hussain expressed confidence that the newly appointed members would discharge their responsibilities effectively and work towards the welfare and advancement of the journalistic community.

## Restaurant bills are about to get more expensive in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The next time you go to a restaurant in Hyderabad and check the menu to order, brace yourself. The prices are likely to increase.

## TELANGANA MIN URGES JOURNOS TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION BY MAY 10

Hyderabad: Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Telangana's minister for Information and Public Relations, on Thursday, April 30, urged eligible journalists to apply for accreditation cards by May 10, stating that the process is being expanded to cover more media professionals across the state. The minister said instructions have been issued to district collectors to begin the distribution of accreditation cards in all districts from Friday, May 1. He was speaking in Hyderabad after distributing accreditation cards to several journalists at an event organised by the Information Department, in the presence of K Srinivasa Reddy. Highlighting changes in the accreditation process, the minister said that while there was scope to issue cards to around 32,500 journalists during the previous government, only 23,352 were granted accreditation. Expansion to benefit over 45,000 journalists: Ponguleti He added that the current government has expanded the system to benefit over 46,000 journalists. So far, around 2,800 accreditation cards have been approved, he said, adding that the issuance of cards will be a continuous process.

## NIZAMABAD FARMERS PROTEST AGAINST DELAY IN RABI PADDY PROCUREMENT

According to Dharpally PACS, the procurement agency in Yellareddipally village, the reason for delay was shortage of gunny bags, hamalis, lorries, and delay in allotment of paddy lots to rice mills.



Tension prevailed at the Paddy Procurement Centre (PPC) in Yellareddipally village of Indalwai mandal of Nizamabad district on

Friday, May 1, as farmers observed a sit-in protest on the road against the inordinate delay in the procurement of paddy for the Rabi market-

ing season. The farmers blocked the road and cooked food there, raising slogans against the state government, chanting "CM down down," and set a heap of paddy on fire. One of the farmers, reportedly the sarpunch's husband, doused himself in diesel. The police prevented him from taking any extreme step. The farmers demanded Nizamabad Rural MLR Bhoopathi Reddy come to the PPC and resolve the issues. According to Ranjith, staff assistant at the Dharpally Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS), the root cause of the protest was indeed the delay in procurement.

"The IKP procured around 4,000 to 5,000 bags and then stopped pro-

curing. Ours (PACS) PPC is still running, but there is a shortage of gunny bags, lorries and hamalis," he said.

Ranjith said that despite PACS purchasing 20,000 gunny bags, there was still a need for at least 30,000 more to meet the demand.

He also noted that the hamalis who have to lift the paddy were not showing much interest in working under the prevailing high temperatures, and the lorries to transport the procured paddy from the

PPC to the rice mills were also limited. Above all, he said that allotment of paddy lots to the rice mills also needed to be made swiftly to avoid further delays. "By now, 75 per cent of paddy should have

been procured. Naturally the farmers are depressed over the delay in procurement," Ranjith said.

The Telangana Civil Supplies Department had announced procuring 10.2 lakh tonne paddy for the Rabi 2025-26 season as of Thursday, April 30.

So far, the state government has purchased 4.50 tonne fine variety and 5.50 tonne coarse variety of paddy.

The state government has already released Rs 500.20 crore in payments for the procured paddy directly to over 1 lakh farmers across the state, according to a statement released by the Civil Supplies Department on Thursday.

## NO CHARGESHEET DESPITE 350 QUESTIONED IN PHONE TAPPING CASE: RS PRAVEEN KUMAR

BRS leader alleges political targeting in phone tapping case, claims pressure to name KCR, KTR and Harish Rao; seeks probe based on technical evidence.

The Democratic News  
Hyderabad, May ,01

RS Praveen Kumar, state general secretary of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, on Thursday, April 30, alleged that no chargesheet has been filed in the phone tapping case despite around 350 individuals being questioned so far. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, he accused chief minister A Revanth Reddy of attempting to implicate political leaders under the guise of the case. He said the case was registered based on a complaint by a police officer at the Panjagutta Police Station and demanded that the investigation be conducted strictly on technical evidence. Praveen Kumar alleged that a



second Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted with the intention of targeting BRS leaders, including K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), KT Rama Rao (KTR), and T Harish Rao.

He further claimed that pressure is be-

ing exerted on officials to include their names in the chargesheet. BRS leader alleges political targeting in phone tapping case, claims pressure to name KCR, KTR and Harish Rao; seeks probe based on technical evidence. Hackers from Bengaluru brought to carryout phone tapping: Kumar He also alleged that hackers from Bengaluru have been brought in to carry out phone tapping and demanded that a separate SIT be constituted to investigate these claims. Additionally, he accused authorities of hacking CCTV cameras at the residences of some political leaders. He urged IPS officers to function in accordance with the law and conduct a fair and evidence-based investigation into the case.

## TELANGANA DEPT OF HERITAGE OFFERS CERTIFICATE COURSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY, MUSEOLOGY

The Department of Heritage Telangana is offering month-long online certificate courses on Museology and Archaeology, designed to introduce foundational and practical knowledge in: Museology (museum studies) and Archaeology. The courses will start from June 15 in the evenings. The medium of instruction will be English.

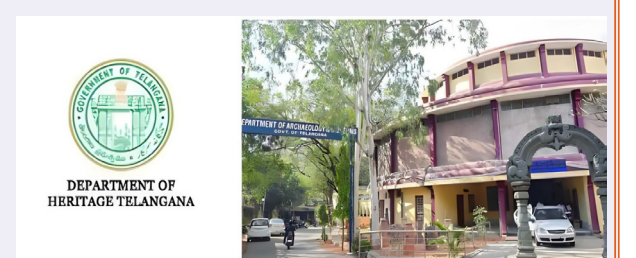
The program offers 50 seats on a first-cum-first-served basis. Graduates in any stream, or those pursuing a degree program, are

eligible to apply.

The fee for each programme is Rs 3,000 for graduates and Rs 2,000 for students currently pursuing a degree, upon submission of a valid ID card.

Payment is online or through net banking, which should be addressed to The Director, Department of Heritage; Account number-4239000100119934; IFSC Code- PUNB0423900; at Punjab National Bank, Basheerabad Branch.

For more details, contact Course Coordinator Dr P



Nagaraju, Deputy Director, Museums, at archaeology-dht@gmail.com via email, or 9849905722/ 9849905723 by phone. Either graduates

in any stream of studies, or those pursuing a degree program are eligible to apply for these courses.